

**CITY OF SOUTH GATE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

8/24/2021 - Minutes

I. Call To Order/Roll Call With Invocation & Pledge

CALL TO ORDER Al Rios, Mayor called a Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

INVOCATION Bishop Ismael Martin del Campo, Empower Apostolic Assembly Church

PLEDGE OF

ALLEGIANCE Aaron Krisman, Police Sergeant

ROLL CALL Carmen Avalos, City Clerk

II. City Officials

PRESENT Mayor Al Rios, Vice Mayor Maria del Pilar Avalos, Council Member Maria Davila, Council Member Denise Diaz and Council Member Gil Hurtado; Interim City Manager Chris Jeffers, City Attorney/Special Legal Counsel Raul F. Salinas

LATE City Treasurer Gregory Martinez arrived at the dais at 7:05 p.m.

III. Meeting Compensation Disclosure

IV. Proclamations, Certificates, Introductions And Ceremonial Actions

1. Introduction Of Promoted Employees

The City Council allowed staff to introduce the new and promotional full-time employees hired or promoted during July 2021.

2. Receive And File Presentation On The West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor Project By Metro

The City Council unanimously received and filed a presentation from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) on the West Santa Ana Transit Corridor Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) released for public review and comments on August 2, 2021, by motion of Council Member Hurtado and seconded by Council Member Davila.

Roll Call: Mayor Rios, yes; Vice Mayor Avalos, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council

Member Davila, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes

V. Comments From The Audience

Henry Gonzalez invited Council to South Gate Park Diamonds 9 and 10 to honor the academic achievements of the students that are part of the South Gate Youth Football Team. He also asked for clarification on the Vice Mayor's comment at the last meeting when she asked, "How much the youth team is willing to put in?"

Andrea Paulino, Hollydale Resident, spoke on the homeless encampment on Southern Avenue between Garfield Avenue and Karmont Avenue. When it was reported she was told that it is not City property and will be reported to the proper authorities.

Mr. Dominguez thought the budget presentations were excellent and would there be a camera so when people comment they can be seen. He believes that hiring people with a military background as a police officer is a mistake and is there any possibility for the substation at El Paseo coming back.

Mr. Velasquez stated that he would also like to see a camera system installed in the Chambers for the meetings. He also invited the Council and members of the public to the 1-year anniversary social of the South Gate Kiwanis Club.

Robert Montalvo spoke about the Parks budget and encouraged the people who did not support the budget should visit the Parks to see the activities that happen there. He believes that there should be discussions on the City Clerk's position but now is not the right time. We need to focus on the priorities of the City and address the concerns of the residents first.

Cindy Esquivel thanked the Police Department for the extra patrols at the park. It hasn't solved the problems, but it has helped. She supports the Police Department for hiring ex-military personnel because they already have the needed training.

Liz Ruiz asked when the 710 entrance on the Firestone side going to be finished. Ms. Ruiz submitted a letter about the City Clerk's position to be read at the last City Council Meeting and she feels that it was not adequately presented. It is a disservice to the public that the City Clerk is allowed to summarize what she believes the writer is trying to convey. She preceded to read her letter into the record.

South Gate Resident spoke about racing on City streets near City Hall and the Police Department. She would also like to have a pilot program where the officers would walk the main streets and talk to the people and business owners about the needs of the community.

Carmen Avalos read the following email into the record.

Natalie Amezcua asked what the follow up procedures are for residents' complaints and concerns. She also does not support the conversion of the golf course into a football field and would like to see this consideration of a football field placed on the ballot.

VI. Reports And Comments From City Officials

Art Cervantes, Public Works Director stated that Firestone Boulevard project is a two-part project that includes the widening of the bridge and realigning the onramp. The first phase is complete, and the second phase is in the design stage. Construction for phase 2 is not likely to start until the summer of 2023.

Mr. Cervantes and Mr. Jeffers, Interim City Manager explained the process of working with Los Angeles County regarding the debris left from the homeless encampment on Southern Avenue.

Chris Jeffers, Interim City Manager updated Council on the talks with Los Angeles Unified School District regarding allowing the Aztec Football team to use their facilities.

Interim Chief of Police Arakawa stated that the El Paseo substation is still being used by the Crime Impact Team and he will contact the caller about the speeding on California Avenue. He added that the South Gate Police Department has a bike patrol program that is deployed in the business districts and Coffee with a Cop is this week.

Carmen Avalos, City Clerk updated everyone on the Recall Election and the change of the City's election date change.

Chris Jeffers, Interim City Manager stated that this Thursday the Assembly floor will be taking action on SB9, which is bill that will allow multiple units to be build on single family lots. The City has previously objected to this bill and staff is preparing another letter of opposition. For consent item number 6 the City Manager requested that the side letter agreement with PMA be approved the other two side letter agreements can be consider by the City Council for approval.

Council Member Hurtado spoke on the lack of maintenance of the County properties that is causing issues with snakes and homeless people near the Thunderbird Villa and the riverbed. There are several areas around the City that are having issues with illegal dumping. We need to address these areas.

Council Member Hurtado attended the Independent Cities Finance Authority where they approved the refinancing of a project that they manage to provide low-cost housing for the seniors.

Council Member Diaz attended the Vector Control meeting. She thanked the City Manager for his hard work on a Resolution that will be presented to the Los Angeles Division regarding the slow response of Union Pacific and the clean up process of their property.

Council Member Davila thanked the City Manager and Council Member Diaz for their work on the Resolution and mentioned that due to conflict in her schedule she will not be able to attend Coffee with a Cop.

Vice Mayor Avalos also thanked the City Manager and Council Member Diaz for their work on the Resolution and attended a recognition ceremony for residents fighting cancer at Dodger Stadium with the Police Department.

Mayor Rios reported that the Census report came out and the Southeast Cities had at

least a 2,000 person decrease. As a result, we could possibly lose a congressional district. The redistricting process starts after the census and the new districts will be out with the next election

VII. Consent Calendar Items

Agenda Items 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 were unanimously approved by motion of Council Member Davila and seconded by Council Member Diaz. Item 6a was pulled from the agenda and was not discussed at this meeting.

Roll Call: Mayor Rios, yes; Vice Mayor Avalos, yes; Council Member Diaz, yes; Council Member Davila, yes; Council Member Hurtado, yes

3. Amendment No. 1 To Contract No. 2020-55-CC With Southstar Engineering & Consulting, Inc For Construction Management Services For Garfield Ave., Imperial Hwy, And Firestone Blvd./Otis St

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

- a. Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 2020-55-CC with Southstar Engineering & Consulting, Inc., for additional construction management and inspection services for the construction of street improvements on Garfield Avenue from South City Limit to Jefferson Avenue and Imperial Highway from West City Limit to East City Limit, City Project No. 413-ST, Federal Project No. STPL-5257(030), the Firestone Boulevard and Otis Street Improvements, and the Imperial Highway Center Median, City Project No. 496-ST, Federal Project No. HSIPL-5257(032), in an amount not-to-exceed \$83,975; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

4. Amendment No. 5 To Contract No. 3081 With Willdan Engineering For Design Services For The Boulevard Project

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during Consent Calendar

- a. Amendment No. 5 to Contract No. 3081 with Willdan Engineering to fund preparation of design and construction documents for the Firestone Boulevard Regional Corridor Capacity Enhancements, Alameda Street to Hunt Avenue, Phase II, City Project No. 476-TRF, in an amount not- to-exceed \$92,282; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 5 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

5. Amendment No. 1 To Contract No. 3563 With Mark Thomas & Company, Inc For Design Services For The Long Beach Boulevard Street Improvements Project

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

- a. Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 3563 with Mark Thomas & Company, Inc., to provide additional engineering services and to extend the term of the agreement through December 31, 2023, retroactively effective to August 26, 2020, for the Long Beach Boulevard Street Improvements Project, City Project No. 515-ST, for an amount not to exceed \$67,850; and
- b. Authorized the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 1 in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

6. Side Letter Agreements (3) With Police Management Association, Municipal Employees Association And Professional Mid-Management Association

The City Council unanimously approved B, C, and D during Consent Calendar. Item 6a was pulled from the agenda and was not discussed at this meeting.

- a. Approving Side Letter of Agreement (Contract No. 2021-110-CC) with the South Gate Police Management Association (PMA) regarding accrued unused vacation, holiday compensatory time-off leaves;
- b. Approved Side Letter of Agreement (Contract No. 2021-111-CC) with the South Gate Municipal Employees Association (MEA) regarding accrued unused vacation, holiday, and compensatory time-off leaves;
- c. Approved Side Letter of Agreement (Contract No. 2021-112-CC) with the South Gate Professional Mid-Management Association (PMMA) regarding accrued unused vacation, holiday, compensatory time-off and administrative leaves; and
- d. Authorized the Mayor to execute the Side Letters of Agreements in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

7. Minutes

The City Council unanimously approved A and B during Consent Calendar.

- a. Regular Meeting minutes of July 27, 2021; and
- b. Special Meeting minutes of August 14, 2021.

VIII. Reports, Recommendations And Requests

8. Warrants

The City Council unanimously approved (except for Warrants Nos. 93439 and 93597 for additional information) by motion of Vice Mayor Avalos and seconded by Council Member Diaz.

- a. Check Nos. 93430, 93437, 93439, 93451, 93486 and 93504 from August 10, 2021; and
- b. Warrant Register for August 24, 2021

Total of Checks: \$3,474,441.03

Voids: \$ (10,240.20)

Total of Payroll Deductions \$ (435,946.10)

Grand Total: \$3,028,254.73

Cancellations: 90558, 93070, 93302, 864, 93680

IX. Adjournment

Mayor Rios unanimously adjourned the meeting in memory of Edgar H. Aranda and Joseph J. Herbert Casey, South Gate Residents at 11:05 p.m. and seconded by Vice Mayor Avalos.

PASSED and **APPROVED** this 14th day of September 2021.

For a signed copy of the minutes for this meeting please contact the City Clerk's Office:
8650 California Avenue, South Gate, California 90280
(323) 563-9510 * fax (323) 563-5411 * www.cityofsouthgate.org