

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the La Mesa City Council  
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.  
Parkway Middle School Auditorium  
9009 Park Plaza Drive, La Mesa, California

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From 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., members of the public were encouraged to visit informational displays regarding Emergency Preparedness, Neighborhood Watch, La Mesa e-gov, various Community Services programs such as La Mesa Urban Trails, Safe Routes to School, Walk-n-Roll Intergenerational program, and volunteer opportunities on City boards and commissions.

Mayor Arapostathis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mayor Arapostathis; Vice Mayor Baber; Councilmembers Alessio, McWhirter and Sterling.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: City Manager Witt; City Attorney Sabine; Assistant City Manager/Community Services Director Garrett; City Clerk Kennedy.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

TOWN HALL MEETING

A MEETING WITH THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS LA MESA  
AND ITS FUTURE

Mayor Arapostathis welcomed everyone to the meeting and made opening comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Robyn Gibson, La Mesa, complained about a house on Duggan Avenue that had been abandoned as a result of a fire. Ms. Gibson said there was trash and debris in the yard, as well as a problem with rats and other wildlife and asked for something to be done to clean up the property.

Ms. Linda Keene, La Mesa, also complained about the property and said there have been code compliance issues at the property for over four years.

Mr. Doug Tower, La Mesa, asked about the status of the proposed Depot Springs microbrewery and expressed his concern about noise from the outdoor music venue. Mr. Tower said outdoor music was not appropriate in that location.

Mr. John Schmitz, La Mesa, suggested code enforcement efforts be enhanced and complained about illegal signs and banners along Lake Murray Boulevard. Mr. Schmitz also complained

about the maintenance of city facilities, particularly the municipal swimming pool; asked about the status of the Civic Center Master Plan; and spoke about the need for a new library.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS – Continued

Ms. Pam Ciborowski, El Cajon, spoke about the proposed Depot Springs microbrewery and asked whether those in attendance knew of the size and scope of the project. Ms. Ciborowski also asked about the status of the project redesign, and stated the options available to the neighborhood if problems arose.

Mr. Thomas Mitchum, El Cajon, complained about delivery trucks coming and going at all hours from the Souplantation near his home and asked about the status of his earlier complaint about the problem.

Ms. Cindy Shaughnessy, La Mesa, complained about the accumulated trash beside the roadway and in the bushes along Fletcher Parkway. Ms. Shaughnessy also complained about the handrails along the walkway between Parkway Drive and Fletcher Parkway and said they were damaged and needed to be repaired.

A male resident complained about the problem of water coming out of the cracks in the slurry seal on Glen Street and said the street was in poor condition. He also complained about the condition of Palm Avenue and the metal plates in the street due to the construction projects.

Ms. Alice Knotts expressed her concern about the Depot Springs project and the antiquated noticing system. Ms. Knotts said the notices were written in legalese and the City should use email, twitter and Facebook to send out notices. Ms. Knotts also said a six to eight foot solid wall in back of the Souplantation would help with the noise from the trucks.

Mr. Joe Glidden, La Mesa, spoke about building a new library and asked what the City was doing to get funding.

Ms. Ann Tower, La Mesa, said the playground at La Mesita Park was run down and in need of repair.

Mr. Brad Boswell, La Mesa, spoke about the increase in crime and asked what the City was doing with the allocation of its resources. Mr. Boswell asked whether the Sheriff had its own intelligence agency and what was being done to combat subversive groups. Mr. Boswell also said there was a radical Imam on the border of La Mesa.

Ms. Phyllis Porter, San Diego, asked for more parking to be provided at the YMCA.

Mr. Peter Soutowood, La Mesa, asked whether the walkability study had been completed and if there had been any follow up by the City.

Mr. Nicolas Van Dyke, La Mesa, complained about speeding traffic and requested speed bumps be installed on El Paso Street. Mr. Van Dyke also said the street was very dark and asked about getting street lights installed.

Ms. Polly Kanavel, La Mesa, said she liked the Police Department's new Facebook page. Ms. Kanavel complained that the La Mesa Police Department was not able to transfer calls to the Sheriff from unincorporated areas. She also complained about the Police Department's handling of non-emergency calls and about dogs not allowed on school fields.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS - Continued

A female resident spoke of her concerns with the impact of the Depot Springs project on traffic in the area. She said the Police Department was very responsive and asked why the number of dogs was increased to five.

Mr. Mark Papenfuss, La Mesa, complained about the poor condition of Park Plaza Drive.

Ms. Suda House, La Mesa, thanked City Manager Witt for his explanation of the Park Station project at a recent La Mesa Conversation meeting. Ms. House said she supports a 500 foot notification for proposed projects and suggested using social media to enhance notification efforts.

Ms. Bonnie Baranoff, La Mesa, asked the Council to hold more Town Hall meetings and expressed her thanks for the improvements in the downtown village. Ms. Baranoff also spoke in support of a new library.

Senior staff members responded to each question and concern from the speakers.

The Mayor and Members of the City Council made closing comments.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Arapostathis adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Mary J. Kennedy, CMC  
City Clerk