

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the La Mesa City Council  
Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, 8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa, California

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Mayor Arapostathis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: City Manager Garrett; City Attorney Sabine; Interim City Clerk Kennedy; Assistant City Manager Humora.

INVOCATION – COUNCILMEMBER ALESSIO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION – CITY ATTORNEY

There were no reportable actions.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

There were no comments.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN REPORTS

The Mayor, Council and staff made announcements and reported on various events taking place in the City. No action was taken.

PRESENTATION

PRESENTATION OF THE NEW BUSINESS GUIDE BY MJE MARKETING

Ms. Marlee Ehrenfeld, President and Chief Creative Officer, MJE Marketing, gave a brief presentation to unveil the newly designed business guide. Ms. Ehrenfeld reviewed the business leader feedback, goals, and the community profile.

Mr. Chris Biele, Public Relations Associate, MJE Marketing, provided a brief overview of recent articles about La Mesa and highlighted the outreach and public relations goals.

Following discussion, no action was taken.

ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Michael O'Connor, Valley Center, complained about a developer who used the names of various elected officials throughout the County in campaign material supporting Measure B, the Lilac Hills Ranch Specific Plan, in the November 2016 election. Mr. O'Connor spoke in opposition to the development project.

Ms. Amy Velenchenko, La Mesa, complained about speeding traffic on Stanford and said the street had been on the traffic calming list for 16 years. Ms. Velenchenko asked the Council to add the issue to the next agenda for discussion and to look at the traffic calming program.

Ms. Deanna Ayers, La Mesa, also complained about speeding traffic on Stanford and said the traffic calming program was not working. Ms. Ayers requested the issue be placed on the next Council agenda for discussion.

Ms. Mary England, President/CEO, La Mesa Chamber of Commerce, announced the Chamber's 9th annual Salute to Local Heroes event on Wednesday, February 22nd. Ms. England also highlighted the Chamber's various charitable programs benefitting seniors and military children.

Mr. Nick Marinovich, La Mesa, said Grossmont Center was an asset and spoke in support of a thoughtful approach to the development of the site. Mr. Marinovich also said how much he liked the City's website.

Mr. John Schmitz, President, Friends of the La Mesa Library, spoke of the success of the initial Second Saturday concert series at the library. Mr. Schmitz said a bigger library was needed and that a modern, spacious library would be a wonderful addition to a community village environment.

Ms. Veronica Herrera, La Mesa, complained about speeding vehicles on Harbinson, Stanford and Amherst, and said the speed bumps on Harbinson did not work and the striping was not very visible.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

(Items 1 through 6)

1. APPROVAL OF MOTION TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE TEXT OF ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS AT THIS MEETING

Approved.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 10, 2017

Approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR - Continued

3. RATIFICATION OF THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD'S APPROVAL OF DRB 16-19 AND ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN IMPROVEMENT AGREEMENT AND APPROVING THE SECURITY FOR DRB 16-19 (GWMP INVESTMENTS LLC) – A REQUEST TO STOCKPILE SOILS ON A VACANT SITE LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF COLONY DRIVE IN THE R3 (MULTIPLE UNIT RESIDENTIAL) ZONE

Ratified and Resolution No. 2017-004 was adopted.

4. RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO ORDER THE GRANT OF EASEMENT TO SAN DIEGO GAS AND ELECTRIC (SDG&E) FOR PUBLIC UTILITY PURPOSES THROUGH THE CITY OF LA MESA CIVIC CENTER

Resolution No. 2017-005 was adopted.

5. RESOLUTION APPROVING A LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LA MESA AND SAN DIEGO GAS AND ELECTRIC (SDG&E) FOR TEMPORARY USE OF THE OLD POLICE STATION SITE

Resolution No. 2017-006 was adopted.

6. RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF ITEMS FROM REGIONAL COOPERATIVE CARE PROGRAM (RCCP)

Resolution No. 2017-007 was adopted.

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Alessio and seconded by Mayor Arapostathis to approve Consent Calendar items 1 through 6.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor McWhirter, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Baber and Councilmember Parent

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

STAFF REPORT

7. 2016 SPECIAL EVENTS DEBRIEF AND COUNCIL CONSENSUS / DIRECTION ON FUTURE DOWNTOWN VILLAGE EVENTS

City Manager Garrett reviewed the three downtown village special events in 2016 that were sponsored and managed by the City – the Classic Car Show, Oktoberfest, and Shimmer, and provided a recap of each event and the City's expenses. City Manager Garrett said the Downtown Events Subcommittee requested the Council's consensus and direction on whether the City should continue to sponsor and manage these events or allow the La Mesa Village Association to take them over with certain terms and conditions.

STAFF REPORT – Continued

Mr. Peter Carzis, La Mesa, expressed his concern that the City has not received payment from the previous La Mesa Village Merchants Association for the 2015 Oktoberfest, and said four board members from the old Association were on the new La Mesa Village Association. Mr. Carzis said the City should not be involved in the Oktoberfest.

Mr. David Smyle, La Mesa, spoke in opposition to the City's involvement in the Oktoberfest, and said the funds should go towards fixing potholes, a new police officer, or traffic calming. Mr. Smyle asked whether the sale tax was reported properly by the event coordinator, and said the City should not be subsidizing the downtown area.

Mr. Aaron Dean, Chairman of the La Mesa Village Association, and business owner, spoke in support of the City's involvement in the 2016 Oktoberfest and the investment in the Downtown Village Streetscape Project. Mr. Dean also spoke regarding the formation of the new Association and said it was structured differently than the previous organization. Mr. Dean said the Village Association looked forward to working with the City on special events in the future.

Ms. Katie Halvin, La Mesa business owner, spoke in support of the City's involvement and investment in the downtown village.

Mayor Arapostathis read a written statement card from Ms. Deanne Ross expressing her thanks and appreciation to the City for taking on the 2016 Oktoberfest, and said the event helped keep her in business.

Mr. Peter Soutowood, La Mesa resident and member of the La Mesa Village Association, said the whole city benefited from what has been happening in the downtown village and spoke in support of the various downtown events and the new Association.

Mayor Arapostathis read a written statement card from Ms. Dolores Buller expressing her support for the Oktoberfest and indicated its importance to her business not only during the event, but also throughout the year.

Council discussion regarding the Classic Car and Bike Show ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Baber to direct Staff to offer the Classic Car and Bike Show to someone other than the City.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor McWhirter, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Baber and Councilmember Parent

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

Council discussion regarding the Oktoberfest ensued.

STAFF REPORT – Continued

ACTION: Motioned by Councilmember Alessio and seconded by Councilmember Baber to request the La Mesa Village Association complete a special event application for the 2017 Oktoberfest under terms and conditions to be negotiated, including but not limited to, the number of beer gardens and cost recovery; however, all negotiations were subject to providing a full accounting, agree to a security payment, and maintain and improve the authentic German festival experience and the walkability of the event.

Under discussion, Mayor Arapostathis offered a substitute motion to request the La Mesa Village Association complete a special event application for the 2017 Oktoberfest under certain terms and conditions, not limited to A) provide a full accounting of income and expenses that could be audited by the City at its discretion; B) maintain the 2016 event footprint, including keeping the venue walkable by managing the location of vendors; D) agree to a security payment guarantee for the City's cost recovery; and E) maintain and improve the authentic German festival experience and continue to recruit quality vendors. Councilmember Alessio seconded the motion.

Mayor Arapostathis then called for the vote.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor McWhirter, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Baber and Councilmember Parent

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Motion passed.

Council discussion regarding the City's annual Shimmer event ensued.

ACTION: Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to maintain City sponsorship of the Shimmer event and to move the date to earlier in the holiday season.

Council discussion regarding the Holliday in the Village event ensued.

ACTION: Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that the La Mesa Village Association would continue to sponsor the Holiday in the Village events.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Mayor and Council reported on various outside boards, commissions and committee meetings they attended. No action was taken.

AB 1234 REPORTS (GC 53232.3(d))

Councilmember Baber reported on his attendance at a League of California Cities Policy Committee meeting in Sacramento on January 19, 2017, regarding Housing and Community Development.

AB 1234 REPORTS (GC 53232.3(d)) – Continued

Councilmember Parent reported on his attendance at the League of California Cities New Mayors and Councilmembers Academy in Sacramento, January 18 – 20, 2017.

COUNCIL INITIATED

8. AFFORDABLE HOMES BONUS PROGRAM – COUNCILMEMBER ALESSIO AND COUNCILMEMBER PARENT

Councilmember Parent gave a brief overview of Assembly Bill 2501 that promoted affordable housing by providing certain concessions and incentives to developers. Councilmember Parent said he and Councilmember Alessio thought the City should take the first steps to do an implementation ordinance as required by the legislation. He asked for the Council's approval to form an ad hoc subcommittee, and appoint himself and Councilmember Alessio, to develop a draft ordinance for the Council's review and consideration in order to implement the legislation

Councilmember Alessio said the legislation provided a streamlined process that hopefully would encourage people to take advantage of in order to achieve the goal of having more affordable housing.

Mr. Nick Marinovich, La Mesa, spoke in support of the establishment of the subcommittee, but said the legislation had the potential of being a real drain on staff resources and asked whether a fee could be imposed on the developers to recover staff costs.

Council discussion ensued.

ACTION: Motioned by Mayor Arapostathis and seconded by Councilmember Baber to approve the request to form an ad hoc subcommittee to address the issue, and appoint Councilmembers Alessio and Parent to the subcommittee.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Mayor Arapostathis, Vice Mayor McWhirter, Councilmember Alessio, Councilmember Baber and Councilmember Parent

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

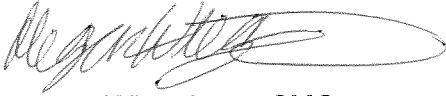
Motion passed.

CITY ATTORNEY REMARKS

There were no remarks.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Arapostathis adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m. in memory of long-time La Mesa resident Mr. Gordon Jones, and in honor of his many years of service to the community as a former President of the La Mesa Historical Society, a member of the City's Historic Preservation Commission, and his numerous contributions to the Lamplighters Theatre.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan Wiegelman', enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

Megan Wiegelman, CMC  
City Clerk

