



**Wednesday, June 10, 2020**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Regular Meeting of the South Pasadena City Council was called to order by Mayor Joe on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 7:35 p.m., in the Council Chamber, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California. This meeting was held as a continuation of the regularly scheduled and noticed City Council meeting of June 3, 2020.

A brief introduction was provide by Mayor Joe of the procedures in place in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present via Zoom:** Councilmembers Cacciotti, Khubesrian, and Schneider; Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud; and Mayor Joe.

**Absent:** None

**City Staff Present:** City Manager DeWolfe (in attendance via Zoom); City Attorney Teresa Highsmith (in attendance via Zoom); Fire Chief Paul Riddle; Police Chief Joe Ortiz; and Chief City Clerk Ayala were present at Roll Call.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Marina Khubesrian, M.D. led the flag salute.

Following the flag salute, Mayor Joe read a pledge from City Council in light of the tragic death of George Floyd and the protests taking place across the Country.

**5. Reordering of and Additions to the Agenda**

Mayor Joe proposed the reordering of agenda items as follows:

- Item No. 17 – Presentation of Draft Budget for Review Prior to Adoption on June 17
- Item No. 16 – Discussion of Regulatory Changes to Allow AI Fresco Options
- Item No. 12 – Adoption of a Resolution Confirming an Annual Levy and Collection of Assessments for the Lighting and Landscaping Maintenance District (LLMD) for Fiscal Year 2020-21

- Item No. 13 – Designation of Rollin Craftsman Cluster Historic District (Project No. 2114-LHD)
- Item No. 15 – Approval of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Water Conservation Rebate Program in the Amount of \$115,000 (this will be the final action agenda item discussed during the meeting)
- Item No. 4 – Councilmember Communications (this will be the last agenda item heard at the end of the meeting)

## **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Prior to the start of Agenda Item No. 17, Mayor Joe, Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud, and City Manager DeWolfe provided comments, on behalf of the City, in response to the recent community concerns regarding the proposed budget, and budget processes.

### **17. Presentation of Draft Budget for Review Prior to Adoption on June 17**

Chief City Clerk Ayala announced that public comments were received via e-mail. Those public comments that were received for the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting were also compiled with those received for tonight's meeting.

Chief City Clerk Ayala and Kenia Lopez, Deputy City Clerk, read the public comments aloud.

- Lisa Munoz: Provided suggestions of where budgetary funds should be allocated.
- Joe Mathews: Expressed concerns for outsourcing the Community Services Department and the City's OPEB debt.
- Sean Malatesta: Expressed opposition for outsourcing the City's Community Services Department.
- Erik Gimmel: Expressed concerns for outsourcing the Community Services Department.
- Julie DeLucia: Expressed opposition of budgetary reduction to the Police and Fire Departments.
- Joanne Nuckols: Expressed concerns for outsourcing the Community Services Department.
- Meghan Kiser: Expressed concerns for outsourcing the Community Services Department.
- Nicki Paluga: Expressed concerns for budgetary increase to the Police Department and provided suggestions to where funds should be allocated.

- Lawrence Abelson: Expressed concerns for outsourcing the Community Services Department.
- Lawrence Abelson: Provided questions and suggestions on where budgetary funds should be allocated.
- Julie Pearson: Expressed concerns for outsourcing the Community Services Department.
- Brandon Yung, on behalf of South Pasadena Youth for Police Reform: Expressed concerns for the Police Department budgetary funds and provided suggestions of where funds should be allocated. (public comment was signed by 363 individuals)
- Liza Munoz: Expressed opposition to the Police Department budget and provided suggestions of where funds should be allocated.
- Ed Elsner: Expressed concerns for how the City has handled transparency on the City's draft budget presentations.
- Delaine Shane: Asked that City Council reconsider the Police Departments budget in light of the Black Lives Matter movement.
- WISSPA Board Members (Betty Emirhanian, Bianca Richards, Ellen Wood, Dollie Chapman and Lisa Roa): Asked that City Council address community concerns regarding the City's budget and provided suggestions for budget approval.
- Sierra Betinis: Expressed concerns for the Police Department budget and provided suggestions of where funds should be allocated.
- William Kelly: Expressed concerns regarding the City's budget and asked the budget be redone and to eliminate discrepancies.

Finance Director Karen Aceves provided pre-recorded PowerPoint budget presentations (by all directors) for the City Budget Overview. The PowerPoint Budget Presentation were presented as follows: Fire Department, Finance Department, Police Department, Planning Department, Library Department, Management Services Department, Public Works Department, and Community Services Department.

City Council had various questions and comments throughout the presentations regarding the budgets for each department. City Council question and comment subject matter included the following:

- Fire Department: Future use of goats; response to medical vs. fire emergencies, etc.
- Finance Department: OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits); long-term pension obligations; OpenGov; department staffing, etc.

At this point of the meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud suggested, in the interest of time, that some of the items as reordered by Mayor Joe at the beginning of the meeting be continued to a future meeting.

City Council agreed to continue Item Nos. 13, 14, and 15 to a future meeting.

- Police Department: Community Training and Prevention programs; Police Department organizational chart; Police vehicle inventory, Police Department employee compensation; homeless and mental health services; Police Officer retention; Humane Society animal control contract; crossing guards; etc.

Councilmember Cacciotti asked the Police Department budget be reviewed by the Public Safety Commission so that they may provide recommendations. A second was provided by Councilmember Schneider.

Mayor Joe made a motion to provide direction to the City Manager to request that the Police Chief assign an appropriate police department representative as a resource to work with a subcommittee of the Public Safety Commission to review Police Use of Force policies. A second was provided by Councilmember Schneider.

- Planning Department: General Plan; permit tracking system; local architect letter praising the Planning Department; new department technology; new revenue sources; updates on two current projects; etc.
- Library Department: No-contact pick-up service; classes offered to the public; etc.
- Management Services Department: PIO services; technology to assist with PRA requests, department structure; etc.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud asked City Manager DeWolfe to provide a cost-estimate for part-time PIO contracted services.

Councilmember Schneider requested information on the legal costs associated with responding to PRA requests

- Public Works Department: Water production and associated costs; water system infrastructure; longer term planning for Public Works related systems; grants; previously approved projects status; etc.
- Community Services Department: Part-time staffing; summer programs; Dial-A-Ride; City hosted special events; oppositions to outsourcing Community Services; etc.

The appropriate staff responded to City Council questions and comments accordingly throughout the presentations.

General Comments were provided by City Council regarding: resident budget surveys; concerns over the Management Services Department budget; Finance Commission budget presentation; outsourcing department functions; City audits; etc.

Councilmember Schneider proposed a continuance to the budget for 60-90 days. A second was provided by Councilmember Cacciotti.

City Attorney Highsmith clarified when such a motion would be appropriate and that direction could be provided to the City Manager to bring the item back at a future meeting for consideration.

City Council requested the budget be reviewed by the Finance Commission and City Treasurer Gary Pia, before being presented to City Council for adoption.

## **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **16. Discussion of Regulatory Changes to Allow AI Fresco Options**

Verbal Staff Report

Margaret Lin, Manager of Long Range Planning and Economic Development, provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

City Council had questions and comments regarding: temporary permits to use parking lots and alley ways; cement barricades; CDBG funds; etc.

Joanna Hankamer, Director of Planning and Community Development, Kanika Kith, Planning Manager, and Manager Lin provided responses accordingly.

Chief City Clerk Ayala and Deputy City Clerk Lopez read the public comment aloud.

Public Comment:

- Karan Raina: Expressed support for the AI Fresco initiative and provided suggestions to promote social distancing.
- Raju Ceerla: Expressed the need to allow businesses to operate during the pandemic.
- Dean Serwin: Expressed support for the AI Fresco initiative and suggested removing traffic lanes on Mission St.
- Madeline Di Giorgi: Expressed support for the AI Fresco initiative.
- Michelle Hammond: Expressed support for AI Fresco initiative and suggested breaking the initiative into two phases.

- Laurie Wheeler: Expressed support for the Al Fresco initiative and provided suggestions regarding safety measures.
- Lawrence Abelson: Expressed support for the Al Fresco initiative, concerns for the implementation process, and suggested the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission provide input.
- Sam Zneimer: Expressed support for the Al Fresco initiative and suggested the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission provide input.

Councilmember Schneider requested the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission review the item. Second provided by Councilmember Cacciotti.

City Council provided direction to staff to begin the implementation of Phase 1 and have Phase 2 be heard by City Council after review by the Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **12. Adoption of Resolution No. 7658 Confirming an Annual Levy and Collection of Assessments for the Lighting and Landscaping Maintenance District (LLMD) for Fiscal Year 2020-21**

Shahid Abbas, Director of Public Works, provided a staff report.

Mayor Joe opened public hearing at 11:46 p.m.

Chief City Clerk Ayala announced no public comment were submitted for this item.

Mayor Joe closed the public hearing at 11:46 p.m.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, CARRIED 5-0, to adopt **Resolution No. 7658** confirming the annual, levy and collection of assessments for the Lighting and Landscaping Maintenance District (District) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21.

### **13. Designation of Rollin Craftsman Cluster Historic District (Project No. 2114-LHD)**

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Council conduct a public hearing and adopt a Resolution taking the following actions:

- ~~1. Find that the properties in the Rollin Craftsman Cluster, including 1500, 1506, 1507, 1510, and 1512 Rollin Street, qualify under criteria (1), (4), (7), and (11) of the South Pasadena Municipal Code Section 2.63(b), for designation of a historic district; and~~
- ~~2. Designate the Rollin Craftsman Cluster Historic District~~

Item No. 13 was continued to the next Regular City Council Meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

### **~~1. Coronavirus Update and Discussion~~**

Mayor Joe requested the presentation be skipped for this City Council meeting. City Council agreed.

### **2. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS**

City Attorney Highsmith provided a Closed Session report for the Special Closed Session Meeting held on June 7, 2020 at 4 p.m. City Attorney Highsmith reported that direction was provide on a matter of Anticipated Litigation and no action was taken on the matter.

#### **A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL— Anticipated Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)**

Number of Potential Cases: 1

City Attorney Highsmith also provided a Closed Session report for the Special Closed Session Meeting held on June 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

City Attorney Highsmith reported the following:

Item A – City Council received a briefing by the City’s Labor Negotiator regarding intentional labor negotiations with the City’s bargaining unions.

Item B – City Council received a briefing by the City Attorney regarding Existing Litigation for the appeal case of the Green v. City of South Pasadena.

#### **A. Labor Negotiations**

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Conference with Labor Negotiators regarding labor negotiations with the following groups:

- Unrepresented Management Employees
- South Pasadena Police Officers’ Association
- South Pasadena Firefighters’ Association
- South Pasadena Public Service Employees’ Association
- South Pasadena Public Service Part Time Employees’ Association

City Negotiators: City Manager Stephanie DeWolfe; Interim Human Resources Manager Michael Casalou

**B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—Existing Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)**

Name of Case: *Green v. City of South Pasadena*

**3. Public Comments - General**

Mayor Joe announced public comments were received in writing via e-mail from the following individuals on general topics. Comments received included those received prior to June 3<sup>rd</sup> and would be uploaded to the Additional Documents of the meeting and become part of the final meeting record.

Chief City Clerk Ayala and Deputy City Clerk Lopez read the public comment aloud.

- Robert Conte: Asked that the City address the overgrown vegetation on abandoned properties.
- Ed Lee: Asked the City to continue to find solution to the budget shortfalls that will not impact the South Pasadena Little Leagues.
- Bianca Richards: Commended the City for its Housing Element Virtual Community Workshop on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> and thanked City staff.
- Pete Kutzer: Expressed concerns regarding the 45-foot height limit on new buildings.
- Marqel Armani Lee: Asked the City commit to the Police Use of Force Project and provided steps as to how the City can do this.
- Delaine Shane: Expressed concerns for the City's finances and asked City Council to approve a Resolution of Continuing Appropriations.
- Susan Sulsky: Expressed support in City Council approving a Resolution of Continuing Appropriations, and requested an audit be conducted by the California State Auditor.
- Maureen Whitman: Expressed concern regarding the outsourcing of the Community Services Department.
- Jeremy Ding: Asked that direction be provided by City Council to the Public Safety Commission on the issues they would like to be advised on.
- Elizabeth Bagasao: Provided various requests to City Council regarding actions they should take to improve the quality of their public service.
- Jan Marshall: Expressed concern for the City's 2020-2021 Fiscal Year budget and staff handling it.



- Ron Rosen: Provided comments regarding potential Brown Act violations on Closed Session Agendas and asked City Council to assure the public is sufficiently informed.
- Yvette Becerra: Expressed concerns for outsourcing the Community Services Department
- WISPPA Board Member (Betty Emirhanian, Bianca Richards, Ellen Wood, Dollie Chapman, and Lisa Roa): Provided comments regarding the City's current public comment guidelines and expressed concerns for changes on the City's website.
- Brandon Yung on behalf of the South Pasadena Youth for Police Reform: Provided suggestions for changes regarding the policing systems and its effect on Black American community members.
- Scott Parker: Expressed opposition for outsourcing the Community Services Department if there are costs associated with using the fields at Orange Grove and Arroyo Parks.
- Riley Collins: Provided comments regarding South Pasadena Police Department accountability, records of officer misconduct, drug detecting dogs, etc.
- Tiffany Holmes: Expressed concerns regarding the Police Department's budget and provided suggestions of where funds can be allocated.
- Linda Krausen: Thanked Sheila Pautsch, Director of Community Services, and the Public Works Department for responding to calls regarding the property located at 1107 Grevillea Street Park.
- Beverly Biber: Expressed concerns for the City's current 45-foot building height limit.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### 6. City Manager Communications

City Manager DeWolfe had no reports.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Joe pulled Item No. 11 for individual discussion.

Councilmember Cacciotti pulled Item No. 18 for individual discussion.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, CARRIED 5-0, to approve Consent Calendar Items Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10.

**7. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on April 15, 2020**

The minutes for the Regular City Council meeting on April 15, 2020 were approved as presented.

**8. Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting on April 29, 2020**

The minutes for the Special City Council meeting on April 29, 2020 were approved as presented.

**9. Approval of Prepaid Warrants in the Amount of \$161,696.27; General City Warrants in the Amount of \$895,418.66; General City Warrant Voids in the Amount of (\$449.00); Supplemental ACH Payments in the Amount of \$25,085.48**

City Council approved the Warrants in the Amount of \$161,696.27; General City Warrants in the Amount of \$895,418.66; General City Warrant Voids in the Amount of (\$449.00); Supplemental ACH Payments in the Amount of \$25,085.48.

**10. Award Sole Source Purchase of Motorola APX 8500 All Band Mobile Radios in the Amount of \$25,050**

City Council:

1. Authorized the purchase of three (3) Motorola APX 8500 All Band Portable Radios in the amount of \$25,050; and
2. Authorized a single sole source purchase pursuant to South Pasadena Municipal Code (SPMC) Section 2.99-29(19).

**ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT**

**11. Discretionary Fund Requests Mayor Robert Joe (\$2,000), Mayor Pro Tem Diana Mahmud (\$3,000) and Councilmember Marina Khubesrian (\$3,000), for a Combined Total of \$8,000 for the True North Polling Survey Professional Services Agreement**

Chief City Clerk Ayala and Deputy City Clerk Lopez read the public comment aloud.

Public Comment:

- Jan Marshalls: Expressed opposition to the approval of use of discretionary funds to fund the True North Polling contract.
- Josh Albrektson: Thanked Mayor Joe, Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud, and Councilmember Khubesrian for their support on polling.
- Alan Ehrlich: Expressed opposition to the approval of use of discretionary funds to fund the True North Polling contract.

- Susan Sulsky: Expressed concerns for the allocation of funds and provided alternatives to surveying.

Recommendation

~~It is recommended that the City Council approve Discretionary Fund requests by Mayor Joe in the amount of \$2,000, Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud in the amount of \$3,000, and Councilmember Khubesrian in the amount of \$3,000, for a combined total of \$8,000 for the True North Polling Survey Professional Services Agreement.~~

Mayor Joe motioned to have the item pulled from the City Council agenda. A second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud.

**18. Discretionary Fund Request from Councilmember Dr. Richard Schneider in the amount of \$6,000 for a First Cut Scaled Drawing of the 710 Loop on Ramp**

Councilmember Cacciotti spoke regarding resident traffic concerns and requested a sketch of the project be provided.

Chief City Clerk Ayala and Deputy City Clerk Lopez read the public comment aloud.

Public Comment:

- Lawrence Abelson: Provided comments regarding traffic concerns in the City.
- John Vandercook: Expressed support for the first cut scaled drawing of a Loop Ramp for the State Route 110.
- Joanna Nuckols: Expressed support for the first cut scaled drawing of a Loop Ramp for the State Route 110.
- Kim Hughes: Expressed support for the first cut scaled drawing of a Loop Ramp for the State Route 110.
- Sam Zneimer: Expressed support for the first cut scaled drawing of a Loop Ramp for the State Route 110.

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, CARRIED 5-0, to approve Discretionary Fund requests by Councilmember Richard Schneider for a first cut scaled drawing sketch of a Loop Ramp for the State Route 110, from northbound Fair Oaks Avenue to southbound Arroyo.

Additional Documents were considered in the motion to clarify the correct state highway name on the staff report and amend it to read as follows:

SUBJECT: Discretionary Fund Request from Councilmember Dr. Richard Schneider in the amount of \$6,000 for a First Cut Scaled Drawing of a Loop Ramp for the State Route 110, also known as the Arroyo Seco Parkway

## **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **14. Approval of the First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with True North Research, Inc., to Design, Conduct, and Analyze a Professional Poll for a Total Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$24,950**

Chief City Clerk Ayala and Deputy City Clerk Lopez read the public comment aloud.

#### Public Comment:

- Sally Kilby: Expressed support for the first amendment of the True North Research, Inc. contract.
- Jan Marshall: Expressed opposition for the item and provided reasons for the opposition.
- Josh Albrektson: Expressed concerns regarding the City's potential building height limits.
- Madeline Di Giorgi: Expressed support for the first amendment of the True North Research, Inc. contract.
- Felix Gutierrez: Expressed opposition on the item and provided comments on how residents can express public opinion.
- Ciena Valenzuela-Peterson: Expressed support for the first amendment of the True North Research, Inc. contract.
- Joanne Nuckols: Expressed opposition for the item and provided alternatives to where expenses can go to.
- Lindsey Kuwahara: Expressed support for the first amendment of the True North Research, Inc. contract.
- Alan Ehrlich: Expressed opposition for the item and concerns regarding the contractor and potential polling topics.
- Karen Yung: Expressed support for the first amendment of the True North Research, Inc. contract.
- Addison Foord: Expressed support for the first amendment of the True North Research, Inc. contract.
- Jack Donovan: Expressed opposition for the item and concerns regarding the City's building height limit.

Recommendation

~~It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute the first amendment to the Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with True North Research, Inc. (True North) to expand the scope of services and modify the timeline to conduct a professional poll for a total not to exceed amount of \$24,950.~~

Mayor Joe motioned to pull this item from the City Council Meeting agenda. A second was provided by Councilmember Cacciotti.

Mayor Joe motioned to direct staff to bring an item for City Council action to formally rescind the previous City Council action taken on May 6<sup>th</sup> to approve the True North Research, Inc. polling contract. A second provided by Councilmember Cacciotti.

Discussion was held by City Council regarding building height limits, polling, etc.

Councilmember Khubesrian motioned to have an AirBnB item brought to City Council to consider for placement as a ballot measure. A second was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud.

**15. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Water Conservation Rebate Program in the Amount of \$115,000**

Recommendation

~~It is recommended that the City Council approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 water conservation rebates and programs in the amount of \$115,000 funded from the existing Water Efficiency Fund.~~

Item No. 15 was continued to the next Regular City Council Meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**5. Councilmembers Communications**

There were no communications provided by City Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Joe adjourned the meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:03 a.m.

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*Evelyn G. Zneimer, Esq.*  
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Evelyn G. Zneimer  
City Clerk

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Robert S. Joe  
Mayor