



Wednesday, August 19, 2020
Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the South Pasadena City Council was called to order by Mayor Joe on Wednesday, August 19, 2020, at 7:36 p.m., in the Council Chamber, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

Mayor Joe opened the meeting by announcing that due to technical difficulties experienced with the City's equipment for live broadcasting of the meeting. Mayor Joe also announced the following: Councilmember Khubesrian's resignation; a brief description of the agenda items for the meeting; briefly described the new procedures set in place for public comments submitted; and the procedures in place in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

ROLL CALL

Present via Zoom: Councilmembers Cacciotti, 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); and Chief City Clerk Ayala were present at Roll Call.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Cacciotti led the flag salute.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

1. Acknowledgment of Councilmember Resignation

Mayor Joe provided a brief description of the item and its procedures.

City Council reached a concurrence to receive and file Dr. Marina Khubesrian's resignation from City Council effective August 18, 2020, as recommended by staff.

Chief City Clerk Ayala announced the public comments received and played a recording of the read comments.

Public Comments:

- Sam Burgess – Expressed a few words regarding Marina Khubesrian’s resignation and made suggestions regarding an appointment to the Councilmember vacancy.
- Patricia and Shalimar Duff – Expressed concern over unethical actions of the former City Councilmember, and asked City Council to conduct an independent investigation to promote the City transparency.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud expressed a few words regarding former Councilmember Khubesrian’s contributions to the City.

3. Approval of Updated Mayor’s List of City Council Liaison and Regional Group Appointments and Adoption of Updated Resolution No. 7674 Appointing Delegates, Representatives, and Alternates to Various Agencies and Organizations

City Council took this item out of order.

Chief City Clerk Ayala read the Mayor’s list of City Council Liaisons and Regional Groups appointments aloud.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND COUNCILMEMBER SCHNEIDER, CARRIED 4-0, to:

1. Approve the Mayor’s updated list of City Council Liaison and Regional Group Appointments to various commission, boards, and committees; and
2. Adopt updated **Resolution No. 7674** appointing delegates, representatives, and alternates as official representatives of the City of South Pasadena.

4. Review and Reaffirm Commitment to Code of Ethics and Conduct Policy

City Council took this item out of order.

Mayor Joe presented the item.

All four Councilmembers reached a consensus to review and reaffirm their commitment to the City’s Code of Ethics and Conduct Policy.

Chief City Clerk Ayala announced the public comment received and played their audio recording.

Public Comment:

- Ron Rosen – Provided suggestions on community members who would be a good fit for the City Council vacancy.

2. Procedure and Options for Filling City Council Vacancy

Matthew T. Summers, Assistant City Attorney, provided the staff report (City Attorney Highsmith was experiencing technical difficulties).

During City Council’s discussion on the item, questions and comments regarding the following were shared: procedures and options to filling the District 2 Councilmember vacancy; legal requirements to fill the vacancy; concerns regarding the length of the appointment; potential appointments to the vacancy; agreeable qualities of the appointees; appointees accountability during term; etc.

City Attorney Highsmith answered all questions accordingly.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND COUNCILMEMBER SCHNEIDER, CARRIED 3-1, to staff start the notification process tonight to inform the residents of South Pasadena, specifically those of District 2, that there a Council Vacancy exists, and that the City will be accepting applications for a decision to be made at the September 2nd City Council meeting for filling the remainder of former Councilmember Khubesian’s term ending December 2, 2020.


Recommendation:

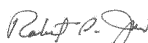
~~It is recommended that the City Council direct staff to bring back for Council consideration a procedure for appointment of a City Council member to an unexpired City Council term when a vacancy occurs.~~

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Joe announced the next Regular City Council meeting on August 19th.

There being no further business, Mayor Joe adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

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 Evelyn G. Zneimer
 City Clerk

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 Robert S. Joe
 Mayor