

**PARAMOUNT CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2016**

City of Paramount, 16400 Colorado Avenue, Paramount, CA 90723

CALL TO ORDER:

The adjourned meeting of the Paramount City Council was called to order by Mayor Tom Hansen at 5:01 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, 16400 Colorado Avenue, Paramount, California.

**ROLL CALL OF
COUNCILMEMBERS**

Present: Councilmember Gene Daniels
Vice Mayor Daryl Hofmeyer
Mayor Tom Hansen

Absent: Councilmember Peggy Lemons
Councilmember Diane J. Martinez

It was moved by Vice Mayor Hofmeyer and seconded by Councilmember Daniels to excuse Councilmembers Lemons and Martinez. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmember Daniels
Vice Mayor Hofmeyer, Mayor Hansen
NOES: None
ABSENT: Councilmembers Lemons, Martinez
ABSTAIN: None

STAFF PRESENT:

John Moreno, City Manager
John E. Cavanaugh, City Attorney
Kevin Chun, Assistant City Manager
Christopher Cash, Public Works Director
David Johnson, Com. Serv. & Recreation Director
Karina Liu, Finance Director
Maria Meraz, Public Safety Director
William Pagett, City Engineer
Clyde Alexander, Acting Assistant Finance Director
Chris Callard, Public Information Officer
Steve Coumparoules, Management Analyst
Danny Elizarraras, Management Analyst
Yecenia Guillen, Asst. Com. Serv. & Recreation Director
Margarita Gutierrez, Finance Supervisor
Sarah Ho, Assistant Public Works Director
John King, Planning Manager
Wendy Macias, Public Works Manager
Jonathan Masannat, Management Analyst
Janene Ottaiano, Human Resources Manager

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CF 10.3

There were none.

REPORTS

1. PUBLIC HEARING
ORDINANCE NO. 1062
(Introduction)
Readopting the Los
Angeles County Traffic
Code
CF 98.1

City Manager Moreno explained that items 1 and 2 were related, and were addressed every year. Public Safety Director Meraz noted that this item was to make sure that the City's Traffic Code was up to date and mentioned that the first reading was at the January Council meeting.

Mayor Hansen opened the public hearing. There being no one in the audience wishing to testify, it was moved by Vice Mayor Hofmeyer and seconded by Councilmember Daniels to close the public hearing. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmember Daniels
Vice Mayor Hofmeyer, Mayor Hansen
NOES: None
ABSENT: Councilmembers Lemons, Martinez
ABSTAIN: None

It was moved by Vice Mayor Hofmeyer and seconded by Councilmember Daniels to read by title only, waive further reading, introduce Ordinance No. 1062, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT AMENDING SECTIONS 29-1 AND 29-1.1 OF THE PARAMOUNT MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING INCORPORATION OF THE COUNTY TRAFFIC CODE," and place it on the next regular agenda for adoption. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Daniels
Vice Mayor Hofmeyer, Mayor Hansen
NOES: None
ABSENT: Councilmembers Lemons, Martinez
ABSTAIN: None

2. PUBLIC HEARING
ORDINANCE NO. 1063
(Introduction)
Readopting the Los
Angeles County Health
and Safety Code
CF 61.23

Public Safety Director Meraz stated that this item was to make sure that the City's Health and Safety Code was up to date and mentioned that the first reading was at the January Council meeting.

Mayor Hansen opened the public hearing. There being no one in the audience wishing to testify, it was moved by Councilmember Daniels and seconded by Vice Mayor

Hofmeyer to close the public hearing. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmember Daniels
Vice Mayor Hofmeyer, Mayor Hansen
NOES: None
ABSENT: Councilmembers Lemons, Martinez
ABSTAIN: None

It was moved by Vice Mayor Hofmeyer and seconded by Councilmember Daniels to read by title only, waive further reading, introduce Ordinance No. 1063, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT AMENDING SECTIONS 24-1 AND 24-6 OF THE PARAMOUNT MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING INCORPORATION OF THE COUNTY HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE," and place it on the next regular agenda for adoption. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmember Daniels
Vice Mayor Hofmeyer, Mayor Hansen
NOES: None
ABSENT: Councilmembers Lemons, Martinez
ABSTAIN: None

3. RECEIVE AND FILE
Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department 2015
Year-End Review
CF 79

City Manager Moreno introduced Captain Allen Castellano for the yearly Sheriff's Department review of public safety.

Captain Castellano said that 2014 had seen record lows in crime trends but that, due to a change in the law produced by Proposition 47, there was a significant impact on crime figures across the state in 2015. Property crimes increased, specifically, although the numbers were still very good over a 10-year period in Paramount with a total 26.53% drop.

The Captain introduced the Text-A-Tip program, noting that safe school campuses in the City were a priority and that, while crime is low on the school campuses themselves, students can still be victimized off campus. The Text-A-Tip program has been a helpful tool, he said, with 25 actionable tips sent by students last year.

He detailed the Special Assignment Team and other added resources and tools such as the auto license plate reader, the crime-predictor Pred Pol, and the fingerprinting program. The partnership with Paramount residents through Neighborhood Watch was noted, and he called for even greater participation.

Captain Castellano related that the biggest challenges for 2016 were reductions in property crimes and community awareness. He further explained the changes caused by Proposition 47, that it changed some felony crimes to misdemeanors, which has allowed drug addicts and other criminals out of prison and moved them away from prosecution. He said this has let criminals continue to commit crime, and even encourages some to commit more crimes. He closed by saying that deputies will continue to work diligently to fight these changes with proactive policing.

Councilmember Daniels asked what was the solution to the Proposition 47 problems? The Captain said reforms are needed in the law by the Legislature or through another ballot initiative. Also that it's a question of collecting the data related to the increases in crime since the proposition passed. Vice Mayor Hofmeyer asked if there was any move to re-introduce the proposition. Captain Castellano said there has been some talk of this, since every community in the state has been impacted. Vice Mayor Hofmeyer complimented the Captain and the deputies on their work, their response times, and their concerns for the community. The Captain said they were proud to be partners with the City.

The report was received and filed.

4. PUBLIC HEARING
ORDINANCE NO. 1065
(Introduction)
Amending in Full Chapter
11G of the Paramount
Municipal Code
Prohibiting All
Commercial Medical
Marijuana Uses in the
City, including Mobile
Dispensaries, and
Prohibiting Cultivation for
Medical Use by a
Qualified Patient or
Primary Caregiver, and
Amending Chapter 44,
Article I Establishing
Unlawful Uses
CF 22.5

City Manager Moreno said that the State had set a deadline for cities to address medical marijuana issues. Though that deadline has been rescinded, he said Paramount was still going ahead with the item.

City Attorney Cavanaugh said the item was updating and changing an existing ordinance. He gave a history of the medical marijuana issue dating back to 1996, including a question about cities adopting such laws and the impact of federal vs. state laws. In 2015, state law clarified what cities could and couldn't do. Now, Paramount was adding the prohibition of cultivating marijuana and also the existence of mobile dispensaries, and adding these prohibitions to the zoning code. It was not, he said, a position on medical marijuana itself. It was not criminalizing these issues, just prohibiting them, which would put in place a nuisance abatement approach to the acts. He said the Planning Commission had recommended approval of the item.

Vice Mayor Hofmeyer asked if the issue of medical marijuana would be on the State ballot eventually, and City Attorney Cavanaugh said that he thought it would be.

Mayor Hansen opened the public hearing. There being no one in the audience wishing to testify, it was moved by Vice Mayor Hofmeyer and seconded by Councilmember Daniels to close the public hearing. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmember Daniels
Vice Mayor Hofmeyer, Mayor Hansen
NOES: None
ABSENT: Councilmembers Lemons, Martinez
ABSTAIN: None

It was moved by Vice Mayor Hofmeyer and seconded by Councilmember Daniels to read by title only, waive further reading, introduce Ordinance No. 1065, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT AMENDING IN FULL CHAPTER 11G OF THE PARAMOUNT MUNICIPAL CODE PROHIBITING ALL COMMERCIAL MEDICAL MARIJUANA USES IN THE CITY, INCLUDING MOBILE DISPENSARIES, AND PROHIBITING CULTIVATION FOR MEDICAL USE BY A QUALIFIED PATIENT OR PRIMARY CAREGIVER, AND AMENDING CHAPTER 44, ARTICLE I ESTABLISHING UNLAWFUL USES," and place it on the next regular agenda for adoption. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmember Daniels
Vice Mayor Hofmeyer, Mayor Hansen
NOES: None
ABSENT: Councilmembers Lemons, Martinez
ABSTAIN: None

5. CONSIDERATION
Proposed 2016 Special
Events Schedule and
Modifications to Live Well
Paramount and Summer
Concert/Food Truck
Nights
CF 39

City Manager Moreno introduced Community Services and Recreation Director Johnson and said he was looking at changing two of this year's City events.

Community Services & Recreation Director Johnson laid out a list of this current year's events, from the PEP auction in April through Thanksgiving and the holiday events, noting that most would be the same as last year. The annual health, education, and arts fair was given a name change to Live Well Paramount and the 5K run would have changes to its course. Also, music and food options were being added to the fair. During the summer months, Food Truck Fridays were being moved to Thursdays and during different hours and a series of musical concerts were being added.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Hofmeyer and seconded by Councilmember Daniels to approve the proposed dates for

the upcoming proposed 2016 special events schedule and approve the proposed changes to the summer concert/food truck nights and the Live Well Paramount, except for the final date selection for the Live Well fair. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmember Daniels
Vice Mayor Hofmeyer, Mayor Hansen
NOES: None
ABSENT: Councilmembers Lemons, Martinez
ABSTAIN: None

6. ORAL REPORT
Paramount Urban
Renovation Wayfinding
Signs
CF 106.1

City Manager Moreno said that a new team of consultants would be presenting their ideas for the signing program for the downtown district.

Public Works Director Cash said the new signs were for the downtown remodeling project. The previous concepts had not been well-received so a new consultant had been hired, who the City had worked with before.

Mr. Wayne Hunt of Hunt Designs, Inc. said his company has worked with 40 other cities on such projects. The proposals they were showing at the meeting would have two design schemes and three color combinations. They would tell the story of the city. Public Works Director Cash said they would also be used for new entry signs throughout the city.

Councilmember Daniels asked if there are other cities with vertical signage. Public Works Director Cash mentioned that the City of Downey recently did a vertical monument sign on Firestone Boulevard.

There was a general discussion about how many signs would be placed downtown and other aesthetic issues. The Council agreed on a sign design, to be reviewed with models made of the signs at the March meeting. Color selection was also deferred until the March meeting.

7. RECEIVE AND FILE
FY 2016 Midyear Budget
CF 28.1

City Manager Moreno introduced Finance Director Liu who would review the financial numbers through the first half of the current fiscal year.

Finance Director Liu related that there was now a projected budget surplus of about \$156,000 through the end of this fiscal year for the General Fund, which is much higher than the original projection of \$8,600. There was also a projected deficit of approximately \$2 million for Restricted Funds and approximately \$641,000 for the Water Fund. She reviewed

the City's sales tax revenue history and discussed the impact of the Utility Users Tax (UUT) due to the passage of Measure P. Overall, there is a 65% jump in UUT revenues compared to the prior year. She also provided an overview of other revenues and expenditures and highlighted new Midyear Budget projects and expenditures.

The Water Department revenues have not been enough to improve the system and meet production cost increases in light of the statewide drought. She said an 8% rate increase was proposed, the first since 2012, and that even with the hike in rates Paramount would still have the fourth lowest average water rates when compared to 14 other water utilities in the region.

Vice Mayor Hofmeyer asked why there had not been earlier action related to raising rates in light of the large deficit. Mr. Moreno said that staff wanted to see what effect the drought would have on water issues, and added that in the future he would be in favor of less impactful rate changes.

Councilmember Daniels asked how the 8% increase would affect the deficit. Ms. Liu replied that the increase would produce an additional \$500,000 over the next fiscal year.

It was moved by Councilmember Daniels and seconded by Vice Mayor Hofmeyer to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2016 Midyear Budget. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmember Daniels
Vice Mayor Hofmeyer, Mayor Hansen
NOES: None
ABSENT: Councilmembers Lemons, Martinez
ABSTAIN: None

Vice Mayor Hofmeyer asked if a letter would be sent to all rate payers about the increase. Mr. Moreno said there was a standardized letter that would go out, and Ms. Liu said it would take two months' worth of billing cycles to reach each customer. Councilmember Daniels asked if the letter would explain why the increase was necessary, and City Attorney Cavanaugh said it would relate that this is not a revenue enhancer but, rather, needed to maintain the water system.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF

There were none.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Hansen adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m. to a meeting on March 1, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

\s\ Tom Hansen

Tom Hansen, Mayor

ATTEST:

\s\ Christopher Callard

Christopher Callard, Public Information Officer
for Lana Chikami, City Clerk