

**PARAMOUNT CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
JULY 7, 2020**

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

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Paramount City Council was called to order via teleconference by Mayor Peggy Lemons at 6:02 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, 16400 Colorado Avenue, Paramount, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilmember Isabel Aguayo led the pledge of allegiance.

INVOCATION: Pastor Grady Jones, New Commandment Baptist Church delivered the invocation.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCILMEMBERS: Present: Councilmember Isabel Aguayo
Councilmember Laurie Guillen
Councilmember Vilma Cuellar Stallings
Vice Mayor Brenda Olmos
Mayor Peggy Lemons

STAFF PRESENT: John Moreno, City Manager
John E. Cavanaugh, City Attorney
Andrew Vialpando, Assistant City Manager
Heidi Luce, City Clerk
John Carver, Planning Director
Adriana Figueroa, Public Works Director
Karina Liu, Finance Director
Rebecca Bojorquez, Management Analyst
Steve Coumparoules, Management Analyst
Yecenia Guillen, Asst. Com. Serv. & Rec. Director
Andres Gonzalez, Recreation Coordinator
Elida Zaragoza, Information Technology Specialist

PRESENTATIONS

1. **PRESENTATION**
Welcoming the City of Paramount to the SELACO Workforce Development Board
CF 39.7, 62.37
SELACO WDB Policy Board Chair Jeff Wood; Vice Chair Sonny Santa Ines and Executive Director Yolanda Castro welcomed the City of Paramount as a new member of the SELACO Workforce Development Board.

2. PROCLAMATION Mayor Lemons, on behalf of the City Council, Park & Recreation Month proclaimed July as Park & Recreation Month and CF 39.13 expressed appreciation to the Community Services & Recreation Department staff members for their dedication and leadership.

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT UPDATES

- CF 10.4 City Manager Moreno responded to oral and written comments made by Raquel De Casas; Tracy Raglane; Christopher Kelly; John Valdivieso; Victoria Casas; Mike Radis; Alba Pont; and Gail Rosales at the June 16, 2020 City Council meeting.

Additionally, at Mayor Lemon's request, City Attorney Cavanaugh explained the categories of violations related to illegal fireworks and provided an overview of the remedies available to address illegal fireworks.

He also explained the categories of vehicle code violations associated street racing incidents and provided a comprehensive update on the efforts the City Attorney's office is pursuing to address the concerns raised by the public relating street racing which include, creating a taskforce to address street racing specifically and the drafting of proposed ordinances to address street illegal street racing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- CF 10.3 The following individuals addressed the City Council and provided public comments: Leor Alpern, World Energy; Raquel De Casas; Gerald Cerda; Gurdeep Kaur; Richard Griffin; Jaime Lopez; Adriana Garcia; Andrew Mondragon; Kirian Perez; and Alfredo Banuelos. Additionally, the following individual provided written public comments via e-mail: Jose De Leon.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Vice Mayor Olmos and seconded by Councilmember Cuellar Stallings to approve the consent calendar items below. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Aguayo, Guillen,
Cuellar Stallings; Vice Mayor Olmos;
and Mayor Lemons
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
June 2 and June 16, 2020
Approved – see above.
4. Register of Demands
CF 47.2
Approved – see above.

OLD BUSINESS

5. ORAL REPORT
Review of Homeless Efforts
CF 69.14
Management Analyst Coumparoules gave the report and presented a PowerPoint presentation.
6. ORAL REPORT
Update on Paramount Business Recovery Efforts
CF 78
Assistant City Manager Vialpando gave the report and presented a PowerPoint Presentation
Recreation Coordinator Gonzales presented a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the Business Resources page on the City's website.

In response to Vice Mayor Olmos' inquiry regarding outreach to the business community regarding the outdoor dining program, Assistant City Manager Vialpando stated the staff personally visited many of the restaurants in the community.

Mayor Lemons expressed concern regarding the liability and risks associated with the outdoor dining program and suggested installing bollards. In response, Assistant City Manager Vialpando

explained that the approval process involves public works, public safety and planning department review of the locations prior to approval and applicants are required to maintain liability insurance.

NEW BUSINESS

7. PUBLIC HEARING
ORDINANCE NO. 1131
(Introduction)
Approving Zoning
Ordinance Text
Amendment No. 17,
Establishing Regulations
for Art in Public Places on
Private Land Citywide
CF 39.20, 109 ZOTA 17

Planning Director Carver gave the report and presented a PowerPoint presentation.

In response to Vice Mayor Olmos, Planning Director Carver explained that there is no requirement that the artists reside in Paramount and the design proposals will be reviewed by the Development Review Board with the ability for decisions to be appealed to the City Council.

In response to Councilmember Cuellar Stallings' inquiry regarding proposed locations for art installations, Planning Director Carver noted that focus areas could include, Paramount Blvd. and Alondra Blvd.; the central business district; the downtown area; and the industrial corridor.

Councilmember Aguayo inquired as to what types of temporary events are included in this ordinance. In response, Planning Director stated that pop up art events and musical or theatrical performances are some of the temporary art installations proposed.

In response to Councilmember Guillen regarding the process for approving art installations on private property, Planning Director Carver explained that design proposals, which may include various expressions of art, will be reviewed by the Development Review Board with the ability for decisions to be appealed to the City Council.

Mayor Lemons opened the public hearing and asked if there is any testimony for or against this item. City Clerk Luce reported that there were no requests to speak or comments submitted via e-mail either for or against the item.

There being no public testimony, it was moved by Vice Mayor Olmos and seconded by Councilmember Aguayo to close the public hearing. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Aguayo, Guillen,
Cuellar Stallings; Vice Mayor Olmos;
and Mayor Lemons

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

It was moved by Councilmember Aguayo and seconded by Councilmember Cuellar Stallings to read by title only, waive further reading, and introduce Ordinance No. 1131, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT SETTING FORTH ITS FINDING OF FACT, AND APPROVING ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT NO. 17, AMENDING CHAPTER 44, ARTICLE I, SECTION 44-1 (DEFINITIONS), AND ADDING ARTICLE XXVIII OF THE PARAMOUNT MUNICIPAL CODE, ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR ART IN PUBLIC PLACES ON PRIVATE LAND CITYWIDE." The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Aguayo, Guillen,
Cuellar Stallings; Vice Mayor Olmos;
and Mayor Lemons

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

8. PUBLIC HEARING
Assessment of Charges
for Delinquent Refuse
Collection
CF 86.1

Public Works Director Figueroa gave the report.

Mayor Lemons opened the public hearing and asked if there is any testimony for or against this item. City Clerk Luce reported that there were no requests to speak or comments submitted via e-mail either for or against the item.

There being no public testimony, it was moved by Councilmember Cuellar Stallings and seconded by Councilmember Aguayo to close the public hearing. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Aguayo, Guillen,
Cuellar Stallings; Vice Mayor Olmos;
and Mayor Lemons

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

It was moved by Vice Mayor Olmos and seconded by Councilmember Cuellar Stallings to authorize the City Manager to submit the Calendar Year 2019 delinquent refuse collection charge list to the Los Angeles County Auditor/Controller. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Aguayo, Guillen,
Cuellar Stallings; Vice Mayor Olmos;
and Mayor Lemons

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

9. APPROVAL
Award of Contract for
Construction of the
Arterial Street
Resurfacing
Improvements Project for
Fiscal Year 2020 (City
Project No. 9030)
CF 96 2020 CIP 9030

Public Works Director Figueroa gave the report and presented a PowerPoint presentation.

It was moved by Councilmember Cuellar Stallings and seconded by Councilmember Aguayo to approve the plans and specifications, award the contract for construction of the arterial streets resurfacing improvements project for Fiscal Year 2020 to Palp, Inc., Long Beach California, in the amount of \$1,512,338, and authorize the Mayor or her designee to execute the agreement. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Aguayo, Guillen,
Cuellar Stallings; Vice Mayor Olmos;
and Mayor Lemons

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

10. APPROVAL Public Works Director Figueroa gave the report
Authorization to Execute the Exchange Agreement and Assignment of Federal Surface Transportation – Local Funds with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority CF 61.22, 43.1122
- It was moved by Councilmember Cuellar Stallings and seconded by Vice Mayor Olmos to approve and authorize the Mayor or her designee to execute the exchange agreement and assignment of Federal Surface Transportation Program – Local Funds in the amount of \$752,041 with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:
- AYES: Councilmembers Aguayo, Guillen, Cuellar Stallings; Vice Mayor Olmos; and Mayor Lemons
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
11. RESOLUTION NO. 20:024
Amending the Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021 Budget CF 28.1
- Public Works Director Figueroa gave the report on the budget amendment pertaining to the City’s street resurfacing project (City Project No. 9031) and Public Safety Director Lopez gave the report on the budget amendment pertaining to Measure H – Homeless Plan Implementation Grant.
- a) Budget Amendment to Modify Appropriations for Project No. 9031 for Fiscal Year 2020 CF 28.1, 96 2020 CIP 9031
- Having heard both reports, it was moved by Councilmember Cuellar Stallings and seconded by Councilmember Guillen to read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 20:024, “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET.” The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:
- b) Budget Amendment to Modify Appropriations for Measure H – Homeless Plan Implementation Grant for Fiscal Year 2020 CF 28.1, 69.14
- AYES: Councilmembers Aguayo, Guillen, Cuellar Stallings; Vice Mayor Olmos; and Mayor Lemons
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmembers

Councilmember Guillen thanked the individuals that spoke during public comment for their thoughtful comments and stated that she is always open to dialogue and share ideas even if there are differing ideas, because that is how people grow. She further expressed her continued concern regarding illegal fireworks because it is an issue of great concern to the community. In response to the public comments regarding social injustice and police brutality, she commented that she is willing to have a dialog and invites residents to contact her directly. She commented further that collaboration is the best way to address community issues and she will continue to fight for Paramount residents.

Councilmember Cuellar Stallings commented that she received many complaints regarding illegal fireworks and she sincerely empathizes with the concerns raised. She stated that she looks forward to participating in the community summit on the issue and coming to a conclusion on the issue. She also express her condolences to the Diaz family who lost their daughter in an accident on the 4th of July. Lastly, she wished Vice Mayor Olmos, her husband Danny and 90 year-old resident Manny Martinez a very happy birthday.

Vice Mayor Olmos reported that there are over 900 positive cases of COVID-19 in Paramount. She suggested that staff use the City's website, social media and message boards to remind residents of the importance of practicing social distancing and wearing face masks. She also noted that there will be testing sites available in Paramount in July. In response to the public comments regarding social injustice, she stated that we all want to fight injustices and as elected officials in Paramount, it is our collective job to fight for Paramount residents.

Councilmember Aguayo suggested that the City do more to get information out to residents so they can be informed about the issues facing the City. In

response to the public comments regarding social injustice, she stated that she is open to discussion and willing to listen. Lastly, She wished Vice Mayor Olmos and Councilmember Cuellar Stallings a very happy birthday.

Mayor Lemons thanked the other Councilmembers for their thoughtful comments; noting that when addressing complicated issues, like fireworks and street racing, it is about trying to create balance and make the best decisions for the community. In response to the public comments regarding social injustice, she stated that she has received many messages both positive and critical. She commented that it is very difficult sum up such a deeply personal issue in a tweet or Instagram post and answers to complicated issues like this require thoughtful, deliberate discussion to guide real solutions.

Staff

City Manager Moreno reported that the message boards positioned throughout the City currently display COVID-19 related messages in both English and Spanish; and new COVID-19 message signs will be posted at the parks by the end of the week.

In response to the social injustice issues previously discussed, City Manager Moreno clarified that the “Unity in the Community” effort was started by Pastor Grady Jones in 2016; and in the role of facilitator, the City revived those efforts which primarily involve the clergy and the members of the community.

In response to comments regarding cities negotiating lower rates for Sheriff’s services, he stated that cites cannot individually negotiate rates and if cities are lowering rates, it is done by eliminating deputies.

Lastly, he commended City staff for working hard during these difficult times to improve the lives for Paramount residents and wished a very happy birthday to Councilmember Cuellar Stalling and Vice Mayor Olmos.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lemons adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m. to a meeting on July 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

/s/ Peggy Lemons

Peggy Lemons, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Heidi Luce

Heidi Luce, City Clerk