



CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL
SUCCESSOR AGENCY AND
PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 - 6:30 pm

Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor John Harabedian called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. City Clerk Sue Spears called the roll.

Present: Mayor John Harabedian, Mayor Pro Tem John Capoccia, and Council Members Denise Delmar and Gene Goss

Absent: Rachelle Arizmendi

Also Present: Gabe Engeland, City Manager
Teresa Highsmith, City Attorney
Laura Aguilar, Assistant City Clerk
Brent Bartlett, Fire Captain
James Carlson, Management Analyst
Chris Cimino, Director of Public Works
Vincent Gonzalez, Planning & Community Preservation Director
Miguel Hernandez, Human Resources Manager
Jim Hunt, Interim Police Chief
Chuck Kamchamnan, Police Sergeant
Colby Konisek, Finance Director
Jose Reynoso, Utility Services Director
Christine Smart, City Librarian
Rebecca Silva-Barrón, Community Services Manager
Sue Spears, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INSPIRATION:

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia (1) led the Pledge of Allegiance, (2) said that tomorrow is the 18th anniversary of the 9/11/2001 Terrorist Attack, which greatly affected our nation, (3) asked for a moment of silence in memory of the 3,000 people who died in the attack, 400 first responders who died that day, and 450 first responders who have since died, and (4) announced that, tomorrow at 6:45 a.m., the members of the Sierra Madre Fire Department will hold a ceremony at the SM Fire Station and invited people to attend.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

Mayor Harabedian asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Council Member Goss seconded the motion.

Ayes: Mayor John Harabedian, Mayor Pro Tem John Capoccia, and Council Members Denise Delmar and Gene Goss

Noes: None

Absent: Rachelle Arizmendi

The motion to approve the agenda as presented was passed by a vote of four (4) yes and one (1) absent.

REPORT ON THE CLOSED SESSIONS – JULY 23, 2019 AND SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

City Attorney Highsmith reported that the City Council met in Closed Session (1) to receive a briefing from legal counsel on a matter of anticipated/potential litigation, with direction provided to the City

Attorney and no action was taken and (2) met with its real property negotiator to review a proposal for the purchase/sale (the City is in negotiation with the owners of the Monastery) of the property listed at 700 N. Sunnyside, Sierra Madre, and no action was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Harabedian asked for the approval of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of July 23, 2019.

Council Member Goss moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of July 23, 2019 as presented.

Council Member Delmar seconded the motion.

Ayes: Mayor John Harabedian, Mayor Pro Tem John Capoccia, and Council Members Denise Delmar and Gene Goss
Noes: None
Absent: Rachelle Arizmendi

The motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of July 23, 2019 as presented was passed by a vote of four (4) yes and one (1) absent.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

- A. Mayor John Harabedian reported that (2) the Sierra Madre Women's Club is hosting an event, "Jazz Under the Stars," on 11/2/19 at Corfu Restaurant, with proceeds going to the Sierra Madre Police and Fire Departments and (2) customers will see a reduction in their electricity bills because the Clean Power Alliance has reduced its rates (rates that are lower than the Southern California Edison is charging its customers).
- B. Mayor Pro Tem John Capoccia reported that (1) Mayor Harabedian has announced that he is running for LA County Board Supervisor, that he is a future leader who will benefit everyone, and encouraged people to spread the word and make a donation to his campaign, (2) the Water Committee of the SGCOC had a presentation on a study of the sources of bacteria polluting our waterways, (3) the Upper SG Water District has been purchasing surplus water from the California State Water Project to increase its reserves, and (4) there is still a need to continue to conserve water.
- C. Council Member Rachelle Arizmendi was absent.
- D. Council Member Denise Delmar commented that she likes the newly refurbished audience chairs in the City Council Chambers.
- E. Council Member Gene Goss did not make a report.

PRESENTATION TO SIERRA MADRE FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 5216:

Mayor Harabedian announced that (1) the Sierra Madre Fire Department has recently unionized and become an official local of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Sierra Madre Local 5216, (2) this does not happen very often and is a special moment, and (3) we are honored to host the following guests recognizing this achievement: Frank Lima, Division 10 Vice President of IAFF, Dominick Bei, President of Santa Monica Fire Fighters Local 1109, and Darryl Roberts, President of Chula Vista Fire Fighters Local 2180.

Frank Lima addressed the City Council and presented a certificate documenting the assignment of Local 5216 to the Sierra Madre Fire Department. Captain Brent Bartlett, President of Sierra Madre Local 5216, accepted the certificate and expressed (1) gratitude to the City Council and Staff for their support during this process, (2) the commitment of the Sierra Madre Fire Department to provide the best service possible to the community, (3) that the SMFD is excited about the future, and (4) thanked IAFF for its support.

Mr. Lima also recognized Gary Hood, long time Sierra Madre resident and who was a Los Angeles Fire Captain for 28 years, as the inventor of the Personal Alert System (PAS) Device, which has saved the lives of countless fire fighters.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mayor Harabedian opened the meeting for Public Comment on items not on the agenda.

- Pat Alcorn, Sierra Madre, announced that the Friends of the Sierra Madre is having a “Harvest Festival” on September 27, 2019, at Alverno Heights Academy, with the Premiere Event (\$80/ticket) beginning at 6:00 p.m. and the Main Event (\$60/ticket) beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Judy-Webb Martin, Sierra Madre, announced that the SM Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club is having a Pancake Breakfast (\$6/ticket) on September 21, 2019, in Memorial Park from 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Karen Rowinsky, Sierra Madre, read a statement written by Sierra Madre resident Deb Sheridan regarding the “epidemic of gun violence in our country” and a 2016 California law, “Gun Violence Restraining Order”, also known as the “Red Flag Law”, allowing family members and law enforcement to work with the courts to temporarily remove any guns and prevent the purchase of new guns by individuals who pose a significant risk to harm themselves or others. In the statement, Ms. Sheridan requested that the City Council publicize the “Red Flag Law.”
- John Hiller, Sierra Madre, introduced Steve Licata, Arcadia, who spoke about the Bahai faith.

Mayor Harabedian asked if anyone else would like to come forward to speak on items not on the agenda. Seeing no one come forward, Mayor Harabedian closed Public Comment.

Mayor Harabedian commented that most people are unaware of the “Red Flag Law” and that we should follow-up with Police Chief Hunt for a City Council presentation at a future City Council Meeting.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

City Clerk Spears gave the following reports under the Consent Calendar:

- ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 19-45 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS - Recommendation that the City Council approve Resolution 19-45 for approval of payment of City warrants in an aggregate amount of \$472,074.36; Library warrants in an aggregate amount of \$3,804.38; and payroll transfer in the aggregate amount of \$696,525.87 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2020.
- ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 19-46 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS - Recommendation that the City Council approve Resolution 19-46 for approval of payment of City warrants in an aggregate amount of \$303,168.57; Library warrants in an aggregate amount of \$9,961.13; and payroll transfer in the aggregate amount of \$348,816.08 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.
- ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 19-47 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS - Recommendation that the City Council approve Resolution 19-47 for approval of payment of City warrants in an aggregate amount of \$150,116.31; Library warrants in an aggregate amount of \$1,777.65; and payroll transfer in the aggregate amount of \$391,097.79 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.
- TREASURER’S REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31, 2019 - It is recommended that the City Council receive and file the Treasurer’s Report.
- RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #1 TO THE 2019 WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$226,850 - It is recommended that the City Council approve Change Order #1 to the construction contract previously awarded to Big Ben, Inc. in the amount of \$226,850.00 for the inclusion of 700’ of 10” water main in Woodland Drive and Alta Vista Drive to the 2019 Water Main Replacement Project.

Mayor Harabedian asked if any Member of the Council had questions on Consent Items 1a – 1e.

Mayor Harabedian opened the meeting for Public Comment on the Consent Items. Seeing no one, Mayor Harabedian closed Public Comment and brought the matter back to the Council for discussion. No additional discussion occurred.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia made a motion to approve Consent Items 1a – 1e as presented.

Council Member Delmar seconded the motion.

Ayes: Mayor John Harabedian, Mayor Pro Tem John Capoccia, and Council Members Denise Delmar and Gene Goss

Noes: None

Absent: Rachelle Arizmendi

The motion to approve Consent Items 1a – 1e as presented was passed by a vote of four (4) yes and one (1) absent.

2. PUBLIC HEARING - CITIZENS OPTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY (COPS) GRANT FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

Mayor Harabedian opened this item for Public Hearing.

Sgt. Kamchamnan reported on this item that included a PowerPoint titled, “COPS/SLESF – Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) and Supplemental Law Enforcement Service Funds (SLESF)”, with the recommendation that the City Council accept the \$150,000 in anticipated funds from the COPS grant program and authorize appropriations and expenditures as follows below:

1	Additional supplemental services	\$ 23,466
2	FAST – Foothill Air Support Team (helicopter services)	12,724
3	FSET – Foothill Special Enforcement Team - (currently serving Claremont, Glendora, La Verne, and Monrovia)	20,000
4	ICI Radio System	12,810
5	Supplemental Officers (LAPD Part-Time Officers)	81,000
	TOTAL	\$ 150,000

Mayor Harabedian asked if any Member of the Council had questions on this item.

In response to a question from Council Member Goss regarding a SWAT situation, Sgt. Kamchamnan said that it better and more expeditious to have the FSET respond because FSET will always respond when asked and LA County SWAT has request situation protocols, which take more time and response is not guaranteed.

Mayor Harabedian opened this item for Public Comment. Seeing no one, Mayor Harabedian closed Public Comment and brought the matter back to the Council for discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia expressed that the FSET is a tremendous opportunity for the SMPD officers, as it enhances their ability to serve the community and provides them with additional training.

Discussion occurred and there was consensus to accept the funds and expenditures as recommended.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia made a motion to accept the COPS funds and approve the appropriations and expenditures as recommended.

Council Member Delmar seconded the motion.

Ayes: Mayor John Harabedian, Mayor Pro Tem John Capoccia, and Council Members Denise Delmar and Gene Goss

Noes: None

Absent: Rachelle Arizmendi

The motion to accept the COPS funds and approve the appropriations and expenditures as recommended was passed by a vote of four (4) yes and one (1) absent.

3. DISCUSSION – COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM RESTRUCTURE

Community Services Manager Silva-Barrón reported in this item with the recommendation that the City Council suspend the Community Garden Program during the months from October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 to allow staff to clean, measure, rebuild, and implement new policy and regulations. It is also recommended that the City Council authorize Staff to explore alternate locations for the Community Garden Program.

Mayor Harabedian asked if any Member of the Council had questions on this item.

In response to a question by Council Member Goss as to whether any prospective new locations have been identified, City Manager Engeland responded no, but that doing a search is part of the due diligence process.

In response to a question by Council Member Delmar as to whether the current active participants were notified that this item was going to be on tonight's City Council agenda, City Manager Engeland said that, while there was no formal postcard notification, participants do know about it, as some were notified as they came into the City Hall and others were notified when they were in the Garden itself.

In response to a question by Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia regarding "if there is a better location, then why do the work", City Manager Engeland explained that the impetus for the replotting of the Community Garden is (1) that there have been a number of complaints about individual plot access being blocked, (2) the pathways in between plots are not traversable, and (3) there are immediate issues which need to be remedied, including the installation of a functional oven over one plot which people use and routinely BBQ in the Community Garden, all of which are untenable situations to allow to continue. He added that one of the Community Garden members verbally assaulted and intimidated a City Staff member and under the City's current rules and regulations, there was very little ability to take any action.

Mayor Harabedian opened this item for Public Comment.

- Gary Hood, Sierra Madre, suggested that the City implement a hydrophilic garden for the Community Garden.
- De Alcorn, Sierra Madre, suggested that part of Goldberg Park be used for the Community Garden.

Mayor Harabedian asked if anyone else would like to speak on this item. Seeing no one, Mayor Harabedian closed Public Comment and brought the matter back to the Council for discussion.

Discussion occurred and there was consensus for the Staff proposals, as it is needed and reasonable.

Council Member Goss made a motion to (1) approve the suspension of the Community Garden Program during the months from October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 to allow staff to clean, measure, rebuild, and implement new policy and regulations and (2) authorize Staff to explore alternate locations for the Community Garden Program.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia seconded the motion.

Ayes: Mayor John Harabedian, Mayor Pro Tem John Capoccia, and Council Members Rachelle Arizmendi, Denise Delmar, and Gene Goss

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to (1) approve the suspension of the Community Garden Program during the months from October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 to allow staff to clean, measure, rebuild, and implement new policy and regulations and (2) authorize Staff to explore alternate locations for the Community Garden Program was passed by a vote of four (4) yes and one (1) absent.

NEW ITEMS PLACED FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

Mayor Harabedian asked the members of the City Council if there are any new items for future meeting agendas.

Mayor Harabedian said that future items will be a presentation by the Clean Power Alliance and the "Red Flag Law".

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Harabedian asked for a motion to adjourn.

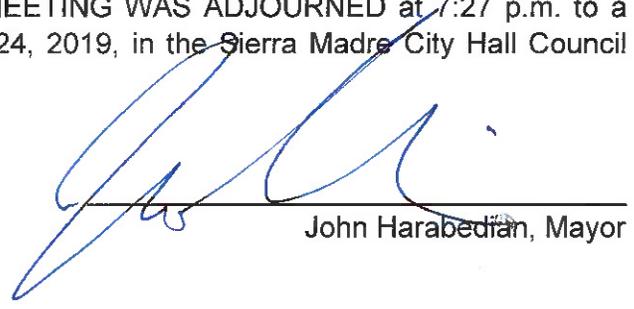
Council Member Goss made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia.

Ayes: Mayor John Harabedian, Mayor Pro Tem John Capoccia, and Council Members Denise Delmar and Gene Goss
Noes: None
Absent: Rachelle Arizmendi
Abstain: None

The motion to adjourn was passed by a by a vote of four (4) yes and one (1) absent.

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 7:27 p.m. to a Regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, in the Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers.



John Harabedian, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:



Sue Spears, City Clerk