



CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL
SUCCESSOR AGENCY AND
PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

City of Sierra Madre
Memorial Park Bandshell
222 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

The meeting was (1) streamed live on the City's Website at www.cityofsierramadre.com, (2) streamed live on Foothills Media website at <http://www.foothillsmedia.org/sierramadre>, and (3) broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum).

The public was provided with the opportunity to make comments by emailing their comments by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting to PublicComment@cityofsierramadre.com.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. Acting City Clerk Laura Aguilar called the roll.

Present: Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss and Council Members Edward Garcia, Kelly Kriebs and Robert Parkhurst

Staff Present: Gabe Engeland, City Manager
Aleks Giragosian, City Attorney
Miguel Hernandez, Assistant City Manager
Laura Aguilar, Acting City Clerk/Administrative Services Manager
Rodrick Armalin, Police Chief
Brent Bartlett, Fire Chief
James Carlson, Management Analyst
Vincent Gonzalez, Planning and Community Preservation Director
Clare Lin, Associate Planner
Oscar Milan, IT Manager
Christian Delgado, Senior Network Administrator
Jen Peterson, Administrative Analyst

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INSPIRATION

Boy Scout Troop 110 presented the flag and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Parkhurst delivered the inspiration and spoke of International Woman's Day. He also mentioned a book written by Joan Frederick titled *Unsung Heroines*. The book is about the modern Priscillas, 200 Extraordinary Women of Sierra Madre.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Arizmendi requested a change to the order for the presentations, asking that the Sierra Madre Fire Department present before New Urban West.

Acting City Clerk Aguilar stated that the representative from the Red Cross would not be able to attend the meeting.

Mayor Arizmendi asked for approval of the agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss moved to approve the agenda.

Council Member Kriebs seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the agenda as amended was passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL FOR READING RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Mayor Arizmendi asked for a motion to read resolutions and ordinances by title only and waive further reading.

Council Member Kriebs moved to approve reading resolutions and ordinances by title only and waive further reading.

Council Member Garcia seconded the motion.

The motion to approve reading resolutions and ordinances by title only and waive further reading was passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Arizmendi asked for approval of the minutes of the Council meeting of February 23, 2021.

Council Member Kriebs made two corrections to the second paragraph on page 6 of the minutes.

Council Member Garcia requested that his statement be amended on page in the fifth paragraph of page 6 of the minutes.

Council Member Parkhurst moved to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of February 23, 2021 as amended.

Council Member Garcia seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of February 23, 2021, as amended, was passed by unanimous vote.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Kriebs: Attended the Senior Community Commission meeting last week. The Commission would like to make a presentation at a future meeting.

Council Member Parkhurst: Attended the Planning Commission meeting on March 4 and also attended the Clean Power Alliance meeting on March 4. Council Member Parkhurst noted that while we are closer to opening back up, we are still in a pandemic, and asked the public to continue to wear masks, and social distance.

Council Member Garcia: Attended Opening Day for Sierra Madre Little League. Council Member Garcia also informed that Pasadena Unified School District would be repopulating the schools soon.

Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss: Announced that he attended the meeting of the Library Board of Trustees where they formed committees to move forward with plans to repair, renovate, and expand the Library. He also noted that he is excited to see so many people in attendance at tonight's meeting and is encouraged by the residents getting involved in local government.

Mayor Rachelle Arizmendi: Recognized International Women's Day on March 8th, and that March is Women's History Month. The Mayor also mentioned the Unsung Heroines book and mentioned that Pat Alcorn is one of the Priscillas and thanked her for contributions to the City over the decades.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Arizmendi opened the meeting for public comment on items not on the agenda.

Acting City Clerk Aguilar noted that the City had not received any e-mail comments for items not on the agenda.

Seeing no one come forward, the Mayor closed public comments for items not on the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

1. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION DECLARING MARCH "RED CROSS MONTH"

Mayor Arizmendi read the proclamation.

2. PRESENTATION BY SIERRA MADRE FIRE CHIEF BRENT BARTLETT ON THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS PROJECT

3. PRESENTATION BY NEW URBAN WEST ON THE PROPOSED MONASTERY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT 700 N. SUNNYSIDE AVENUE

Jonathan Frankel delivered the presentation, which included architectural presentations by Architects Adele Chang and John Vandavelde.

Mayor Arizmendi asked if the City Council had any questions for Mr. Frankel. Council Member Kriebs asked Mr. Frankel to share about any upcoming public outreach events. Mr. Frankel shared that there were information boards available to view this evening, and that he was available for any questions. He also shared that there are events coming up with the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation and the Kiwanis.

Council Member Garcia stated that he attended Wednesday's virtual meeting, and inquired about the trip analysis study methodology. Mr. Frankel stated that the study was produced by Fehr & Peers. Council Member Garcia asked if the analysis was based on what could be built or what will likely be built? Mr. Frankel stated that the study represents a likely scenario.

Council Member Parkhurst inquired about the timeline for the public review of the Environmental Impact Report, and when the Planning Commission would review it. Mr. Frankel stated that the Planning Commission review would take place prior to the City Council consideration. Council Member Parkhurst inquired about the plan to reduce greenhouse gases in the homes. Mr. Frankel stated that the EIR will include the carbon footprint, and expects that new home construction far more sustainable, as each home will have solar, be EV ready. He stated that sustainability will be addressed in the building design and EIR process.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss inquired about the buffer zone on the west side of the proposed development. Mr. Frankel responded that the width of the rear yards would vary in size. He stated that the developer is working to determine how to push homes on the west as far away from existing homes as possible. Mr. Frankel stated that the developer has explored several options and will be addressing privacy concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss noted that, on the Carter side of the development, the egress had been changed to exit only, and inquired when and why that change was made. Mr. Frankel stated that it was a result of the traffic study, which demonstrated the need for only a single point of entry access, which will be on Sunnyside.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss inquired about the number of two story homes that are planned. Mr. Frankel stated that the developer is still working on that.

Council Member Garcia inquired about plans to upgrade Bailey Canyon Park. Mr. Frankel responded that they are continuing talks with City staff.

Mayor Arizmendi called for a brief recess of the City Council meeting at 5:17 P.M., due to technical difficulties with the transmission of the meeting.

Mayor Arizmendi reconvened the City Council at 5:28 P.M.

Mayor Arizmendi stated that it is not typical to open public comment for presentation items but that she would make an exception in this case because several people in the audience were asking to speak.

Public Comment for presentation by New Urban West, Inc. proposed development project at 700 N. Sunnyside Avenue

Matt Bryant
635 Edgeview

Mr. Bryant stated that he has not seen the project EIR or the Specific Plan. Mr. Bryant expressed concerns about the project.

Alex Arieta

West side

Mr. Arieta voiced concerns about increased fire risk and response to wildfires.

Clive Stoff

Gatewood Ln.

Mr. Stoff spoke of concerns about the increased traffic on Sunnyside. He encouraged the City Council to reconsider the project.

Jae

Sierra Madre

Spoke in opposition to the project.

Deirdre Murphy

601 Woodland Dr.

Ms. Murphy spoke in opposition to the project.

Mike Lee

Sierra Madre

Mr. Lee stated that the additional properties might be a benefit, adding new neighbors and family.

Susan Neuhausen

Grove St.

Ms. Neuhausen felt that the project does not meet the spirit of Sierra Madre. She felt that the zoning should remain the same and encouraged the construction of a private school or assisted living instead.

Deb Sheridan

Valle Vista Dr.

Ms. Sheridan voiced concerns about the massing of the proposed designs.

Debbie Ross

297 W. Carter Ave

Ms. Ross felt that the designs do not fit theme or flavor of Sierra Madre. She encouraged keeping the zoning the same, suggesting residential care facility instead of new homes.

David Gordon

Fairview Ave

Mr. Gordon spoke against the architectural style, stating that the site is remarkable and deserves something of tremendous architectural quality.

Shirley Moore

Ms. Moore voiced concerns with density, lack of water and increase in traffic.

Yvette Del Corazon

673 Brookside Ln.

Ms. Del Corazon voiced concerns about traffic and environmental impact.

Gary Hood

N. Baldwin

Mr. Hood inquired if the Planning Commission will review the residential designs. He encouraged the City Council to reconsider the Planning Commission's role in the design review process. He requested that the Council consider an additional firefighter on the engine company.

Karina Behr

847 Canyon Crest

Ms. Behr voiced concerns about increased fire danger and the impact on wildlife.

Tricia Searcy

734 Fairview Ave.

Ms. Searcy encouraged the City Council to consider other options for development. She voiced concerns about water, fire and traffic impacts and the responsibility of park maintenance costs.

Christopher Wheelock

Mr. Wheelock encouraged that the space be used for a native plant garden.

Seeing no one else come forward, Mayor Arizmendi closed the public comment and let the public know that they will have further opportunity to speak at future meetings.

Acting City Clerk Aguilar advised the Mayor that the City received three e-mails for public comment on this item. Ms. Aguilar read the comments received via email from:

Mary Skousen-Radford 775 Woodland Drive, Sierra Madre
Ottessa Moshf, 1736 Old Grove Road, Pasadena
Luke Goebel

City Manager Engeland stated that City staff has taken down all of the questions from this evening, and will forward to NUWI for response, and will also be commenting after release of EIR.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT CALENDAR

Acting City Clerk Aguilar gave the following reports under the Consent Calendar:

a) CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-16 APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS

It is recommended that the City Council approve payment of City Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$82,010.44; Sierra Madre Library Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$84.35; and Payroll Transfer in the aggregate amount of \$377,319.66; for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

b) ANNUAL HOUSING ELEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

It is recommended that the City Council receive and file the annual progress report for the Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) submitted to California Department of Housing and Community Development and Office of Planning & Research.

c) CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-13 TO APPROVE JOINING THE EMPLOYMENT RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (ERMA) JPA FOR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY COVERAGE

It is recommended that City Council approve Resolution 21-13, authorizing participation in the Employment Risk Management Authority (ERMA).

Mayor Arizmendi asked if any Council Members had questions on any of the Consent Items.

Council Member Parkhurst noted that Waterworks did not pay the pump repair bill; the City paid it.

Mayor Arizmendi opened public comment on the Consent Calendar items.

Seeing no one come forward, Mayor Arizmendi closed public comment and brought the matter back to the Council for a motion.

Council Member Kriebs made a motion to approve Consent Items as presented.

Council Member Garcia seconded the motion.

The motion to approve Consent Items as presented was passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 1439 REGARDING REGULATIONS REQUIRING RETROFIT OF UNREINFORCED MASONRY BUILDINGS AND RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM

It is recommended that the City Council introduce, waive reading in full, and authorize reading by title only of Ordinance 1439, repealing in its entirety Chapter 15.44 (Earthquake Hazard Reduction in Existing Unreinforced Masonry Buildings), and adding Chapter 15.44 (Earthquake Hazard Reduction in Existing Unreinforced Masonry Buildings and Risk Reduction Schedule), of Title 15 (Building and Construction) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code.

Director Gonzalez delivered the report and PowerPoint presentation.

The Council discussed the implementation of the enforcement timeline and the financial impact to businesses already affected by the pandemic.

Public Comment

Bob Spears
Planning Commissioner

Mr. Spears shared the history of the Unreinforced Masonry Ordinance, wherein he stated that the affected property owners have had ample time to comply with the thirty year old ordinance.

Lance Williams

Mr. Williams spoke in representation of an affected property owner on Baldwin.

Mr. Williams stated that when his client purchased the property five years ago, they were not made aware of this ordinance. He spoke of financial difficulties suffered due to the pandemic, and the financial impact of making the required repairs. He suggested a hardship extension on the timeline for compliance.

Mayor Arizmendi asked what he would consider a reasonable extension time.

Mr. Williams suggested an additional 6 months to a year

Dr. Hani Sami
147 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Dr. Sami noted that when he purchased and then renovated his property, he was never made aware of this ordinance.

Council Member Parkhurst inquired staff how it was possible that both of the property owners were not aware of the ordinance if it had been in place for 30 years.

Director Gonzalez responded that any issues with the building would have been in the title report if it had been recorded with seismic safety commission. He stated that the City's records are being updated and will be maintained going forward.

City Attorney Engeland read an emailed comment from Glyn Milburn, Director of Government Relations for YGreene Energy Fund in Petaluma, California.

Discussion

Mayor Arizmendi stated that while she is concerned with the timeline of compliance, and safety, she is also concerned with the financial burden on the property owners. She stated that she would be amenable to allow the compliance timeline to be tied with the lifting of the emergency declaration.

Council Member Parkhurst stated that he appreciates that this is a good time to retrofit the properties while they are vacant, but understands that there is a lack of revenue. He stated that it makes sense to tie the compliance timeline to lifting the State of Emergency.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss felt that 30 years to comply is long enough. He stated that he cannot endorse lengthening the timeline. Mayor Pro Tem Goss stated that he has sympathy for the property owners' hardship, but that the City's primary responsibility is to provide safety.

Council Member Kriebs inquired if it is possible to allow the Director to consider economic hardship to grant an extension, which City Attorney Giragosian stated that it would be allowed.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss moved to adopt Ordinance 1439 as presented.

Mayor Arizmendi seconded the motion.

Aye - Mayor Arizmendi, Mayor Pro Tem Goss, Council Member Parkhurst

Nay - Council Member Garcia, Council Member Kriebs

Abstain - none.

Motion carried 3-2-0

2. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 1440 RECOMMENDING AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 17.34 (AFFORDABLE HOUSING) OF TITLE 17 (ZONING) OF THE SIERRA MADRE MUNICIPAL CODE

It is recommended that the City Council introduce, waive reading in full, and authorize reading by title only of Ordinance 1440, amending Chapter 17.34 (Affordable Housing) of Title 17 (Zoning) of the Sierra Madre Municipal Code to conform to the State Density Bonus Law.

City Attorney Giragosian delivered the report and PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Arizmendi asked the Council if they had any questions. Seeing none, the Mayor opened the Hearing for public comment.

Seeing no one come forward, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing and brought the matter back to the Council for discussion.

Hearing no questions from the Council, Council Member Garcia made a motion to adopt Ordinance 1440 as presented.

Council Member Parkhurst seconded the motion.

The motion to approve Ordinance 1440 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

DISCUSSION

1. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 21-14 ADOPTING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE AND SIERRA MADRE PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION; AND RESOLUTION 21-15 AMENDING THE CLASSIFICATION PLAN AND SALARY MATRIX

It is recommended that the City Council approve Resolution 21-14, adopting the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Sierra Madre and the Sierra Madre Professional Firefighters Association and Resolution 20-15 Modifying the City of Sierra Madre Classification Plan and Salary Matrix

Assistant City Manager Hernandez delivered the report.

Council Member Garcia inquired about the cost of living calculations.

Council Member Parkhurst inquired about the salary steps.

Mayor Arizmendi opened the matter for public comment. Seeing no one come forward, the Mayor closed public comment and brought the matter back to the Council for discussion.

Council Member Garcia stated that he is thrilled to reach an agreement with the firefighters and likes the use of the longevity bonus to retain our great talent.

Council Member Parkhurst thanked all who were involved in this agreement.

Mayor Pro Tem Goss stated that this is a great move forward and a win/win for everyone.

Mayor Arizmendi thanked the members of the Fire Department for their service.

Council Member Kriebs moved to approve City Council Resolution 21-14 adopting the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Sierra Madre and Sierra Madre Professional Firefighters Association, and approve City Council Resolution 21-15 amending the Classification Plan and Salary Matrix.

Council Member Parkhurst seconded the motion.

The motion to approve Resolutions 21-14 and 21-15 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

NEW ITEMS PLACED FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

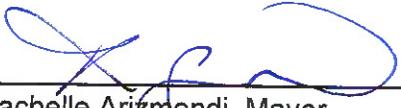
Council Member Kriebs requested a report from the Senior Commission.

Council Member Parkhurst requested a presentation on PACE.

Council Member Garcia requested that the City Council discuss reinstating youth commissioners on the Community Services, and possibly other, Commissions.

ADJOURNMENT

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 7:23 P.M. to a meeting to be held on March 23, 2021.



Rachelle Arizmendi, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:

Jennifer Peterson
Administrative Analyst

Minutes reviewed by:



Laura Aguilar
Acting City Clerk