



**CITY OF SIERRA MADRE**  
**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL  
SUCCESSOR AGENCY AND  
PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020 - 6:30 pm**

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

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND CA GOVERNOR'S STAY AT HOME ORDER,  
THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM.**

**The meeting was streamed live on the City's Website at [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com)  
and broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum).**

**The public was provided with the opportunity to make comments by (1) emailing  
comments to [PublicComment@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:PublicComment@cityofsierramadre.com) by 6:00 p.m. on the day of the  
meeting or (2) calling into the meeting to provide their comments.**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor John Capoccia called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. City Clerk Sue Spears called the roll.

Present: Mayor John Capoccia, Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi, and Council Members  
Gene Goss and John Harabedian

Absent: None

Also Present: Gabe Engeland, City Manager  
Aleks Giragosian, Deputy City Attorney  
Laura Aguilar, Assistant City Clerk/Administrative Services Manager  
James Carlson, Management Analyst  
Chris Cimino, Public Works Director  
Christian Delgado, Senior Network Administrator  
Vincent Gonzalez, Planning and Community Preservation Director  
Hilary Guirola-Leon, Finance Director  
Oscar Milan, IT Manager  
Sue Spears, City Clerk

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INSPIRATION**

Mayor Capoccia led the Pledge of Allegiance and spoke about the week's events and the need (1) to listen to Black people because we do not know what we do not know, (2) to call out racism when we see it and not tolerate it, (3) for police reform, as we can do better, and (4) for criminal justice reform.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Mayor Capoccia asked for approval of the agenda.

Council Member Harabedian moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi seconded the motion.

City Clerk Spears called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the meeting agenda.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Capoccia asked for the approval of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 26, 2020.

Council Members Gene Goss moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 26, 2020, as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi seconded the motion.

City Clerk Spears called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the minutes.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 26, 2020, as presented was passed by a unanimous vote.

### **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Mayor John Capoccia (1) spoke about the rally of 200 people in Sierra Vista Park this week at which he was impressed and proud of Sierra Madre, with people wearing masks and caring about one another, (2) commended Police Chief Armalin on his effective communications with the community at the event, and (3) thanked City Staff for their Covid-19 response.

Mayor Pro Tem Rachelle Arizmendi (1) spoke about the rally where residents people could express their feelings passionately and peacefully, (2) reported that the last Quarantine Canteen took place, having served 4,500 meals in 2 ½ months and assisting local businesses, and (3) announced that Mike & Natasha Comer and Tom & Dawn Denison have been selected as this year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Grand Marshalls.

Council Member Gene Goss (1) commended Mayor Capoccia for his eloquent speech at the rally, as a model for the country, (2) complimented the SMPD for their response at the rally, and (3) spoke about hope on the horizon, with challenges ahead.

Council Member John Harabedian (1) thanked Mayor Capoccia for representing the City Council at the rally, an event that was heartwarming and where everyone felt comfortable and (2) reported that June 5, 2020 was National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Capoccia opened the meeting for Public Comment on items not on the agenda and the Consent Calendar Items. Public Comment via call-in was made by the following persons:

- Robert Nydam, Sierra Madre, commented on the conditional use permit approval for Alverno Academy to increase the student population by adding Grades K-8 in Fall 2020.
- Josefina Riley, Sierra Madre, expressed concern about the traffic on Liliano due to the Chantry Road Gate closure.
- Mary Ann Shinnick, Sierra Madre, expressed concern about the traffic on Arno due to the Chantry Road Gate closure.
- Dr. Jacob Fakhoury, Sierra Madre, expressed gratitude to the SMPD for its response at the Chantry Flats Gate and spoke about the neighborhood problems created due to the Chantry Flats Gate closure.
- Sheryl Cipolla, Sierra Madre, expressed concerns regarding the Planning Commission's approval of DRP 19-06 for the property located at 1910 Santa Anita Avenue.
- Margaret Fullinwider, Sierra Madre, expressed concern that Sierra Madre is paying the cost of policing the Chantry Road Gate closure.

Public Comment Emails from the following persons were received and filed as part of Public Record:

- Lon and Sheryl Cipolla, Sierra Madre - Planning Commission's approval of DRP 19-06 of property located at 1910 Santa Anita Avenue.
- Margaret Fullinwider, Sierra Madre - Sierra Madre is paying the cost of policing the Chantry Road Gate closure.
- Josefina Riley, Sierra Madre - hikers and trash near the Liliano neighborhood due to the Chantry Road Gate closure.
- Deb Sheridan, Sierra Madre - moment of silence in memory of George Floyd.
- Mary Ann Shinnick, Sierra Madre - traffic on Arno due to the Chantry Road Gate closure.

Mayor Capoccia asked if there were any other public comments had been submitted on items not on the agenda or the Consent Calendar items. No other call-in comments or other emails were received and Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment on items not on the agenda and the Consent Calendar items.

Mayor said that the traffic/parking issues at the Chantry Gate and Mt. Wilson Trailhead will be agendized for a future City Council Meeting, with the City Council seeking short-term and long-term solutions.

### **AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **1. CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

- a) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 20-38 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS - Recommendation that the City Council approve Resolution 20-38 for approval of payment of City warrants in the aggregate amount of \$110,330.86; Sierra Madre Library warrants in the aggregate amount of \$295.33; and payroll transfer in the aggregate amount of \$350,997.85; for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.
- b) FIRST TRANSIT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES – FIRST CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR ONE YEAR - Recommendation that City Council authorizes the City Manager execute an agreement extending the contract with First Transit, covering dates July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at an amount not to exceed \$155,900.
- c) CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 20-34, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE DECLARING COMPLIANCE WITH STATE MANDATED FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS FOR SCHOOLS AND MULTI-RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCIES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019 - Recommendation that the City Council read and adopt Resolution 20-34 by title only.
- d) RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES FOR THE SIERRA VISTA PARK PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT IN AN AMOUNT OF \$146,000 TO ALL AMERICAN ASPHALT - Recommendation that the City Council authorize the expenditure from the applicable Development Impact Fees for the construction costs to improve the parking lot at Sierra Vista Park.

Mayor Capoccia asked if any Council Members had questions on any of the Consent Items 1a – 1d. Rashidi Barnes, First Transit Director of Mobility as a Service, and Mgmt. Analyst Carlson responded to Mayor Capoccia's question.

Mayor Capoccia requested an analysis of the number of people using the service prior to the next contract extension.

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi made a motion to approve Consent Items 1a – 1d as presented.

Council Member Harabedian seconded the motion.

City Clerk Spears called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on Consent Items 1a – 1d.

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

Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

The motion to approve Consent Items 1a – 1d as presented was passed by a unanimous vote.

**2. PUBLIC HEARING - CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 20-30, ADOPTING “VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED” BASELINES AND THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR PURPOSES OF ANALYZING TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

Mayor Capoccia opened this item for Public Hearing.

Planning Director Gonzalez introduced Jolene Haynes, Senior Associate, Fehr & Peers, to report on this item with the recommendation that the City Council consider the adoption Resolution 20-30, which aligns with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments regional model “Vehicle Miles Traveled” Baselines and Thresholds of Significance for purposes of Analyzing Transportation Impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act. Ms. Haynes’ presentation included a PowerPoint titled, “City of Sierra Madre SB 743 Implementation.”

Mayor Capoccia asked if any Council Members had questions on this item. Planning Director Gonzalez and Ms. Haynes responded to Council Member questions.

Mayor Capoccia opened this Public Hearing for Public Comment. No call-in or email comments were received and Mayor Capoccia closed the Public Hearing on this item and brought the matter back for City Council discussion.

City Council discussion occurred and there was consensus to support adoption of the resolution as presented.

Council Member Harabedian made a motion to approve Resolution 20-30, as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi seconded the motion.

City Clerk Spears called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the motion.

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

Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

The motion to approve Resolution 20-30, as presented was passed by a unanimous vote.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING - CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 20-35 ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET; RESOLUTION 20-36 APPROVING THE GANN APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT FOR FY 20-21; RESOLUTION 20-37 APPROVING THE FY 20-21 FEE SCHEDULE; AND PFA RESOLUTION No. 74 THE PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 20-21 BUDGET**

Mayor Capoccia opened this item for Public Hearing.

City Manager Engeland and Finance Director Guirola-Leon reported on this item with the recommendation that the City Council consider approving the following: (a) Resolution 20-35 adopting the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget and appropriating the amounts budgeted, (b) Resolution 20-36 approving the GANN Appropriation Limits for 2020-2021, (c) Resolution 20-37 approving the 2020-2021 Fee Schedule; and (d) PFA Resolution No.74 adopting the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget by the Public Financing Authority.

Mayor Capoccia asked if any Council Members had questions on this item. City Manager Engeland and Finance Director Guirola-Leon responded to Council Member questions.

Mayor Capoccia opened this Public Hearing for Public Comment. No call-in or email comments were received and Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment on this item. Mayor Capoccia then closed the Public Hearing on this item and brought the matter back to the City Council for discussion.

Discussion took place and there was consensus to adopt the resolutions as presented. Council Member comments included the following: (1) City Manager Engeland and Staff are to be commended on the excellent state of the City’s finances, (2) this is good news for Sierra Madre, (3)

this is a testament to fiscally sound budgeting and zero based funding, (4) amazing, remarkable, and impressive budgeting, and (5) this kind of favorable budget news is not been shared from neighboring towns.

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-35 adopting the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget and appropriating the amounts budgeted, Resolution 20-36 approving the GANN Appropriation Limits for 2020-2021, Resolution 20-37 approving the 2020-2021 Fee Schedule; and PFA Resolution No.74 adopting the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget by the Public Financing Authority.

Council Member Goss seconded the motion.

City Clerk Spears called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the motion.

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

The motion to adopt Resolution 20-35, Resolution 20-36, Resolution 20-37; and PFA Resolution No.74 was passed by a unanimous vote.

**4. DISCUSSION - ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 20-39 AND AUTHORIZATION TO HAVE MAYOR SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENTS FOR THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE LOS ANGELES URBAN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM**

Management Analyst Carlson reported on this item with the recommendation that the City Council adopt Resolution 20-39 and authorize the Mayor to sign Cooperation Agreements for the City's CDBG program, as a straightforward item that comes up every three years.

Mayor Capoccia asked if any Council Members had questions on this item. No questions were asked.

Mayor Capoccia opened this item for Public Comment. No call-in or Email comments were received regarding the item so Mayor Capoccia closed Public Comment and brought the matter back to the City Council for discussion.

City Council discussion occurred there was consensus to adopt the resolution as presented.

Council Member Harabedian made a motion to adopt Resolution 20-39 and authorize the Mayor to sign cooperation agreements for the City of Sierra Madre's continued participation in the Los Angeles Urban County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Mayor Pro Tem Arizmendi seconded the motion.

City Clerk Spears called the names of each City Council Member to determine their individual vote on the motion.

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

The motion to approve adopt Resolution 20-39 and authorize the Mayor to sign cooperation agreements for the City of Sierra Madre's continued participation in the Los Angeles Urban County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program was passed by a unanimous vote:

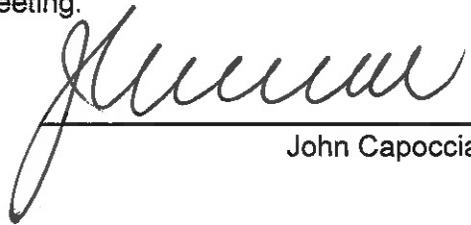
**NEW ITEMS PLACED FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:**

Mayor Capoccia asked the Council Members if there are any new items for future meeting agendas. No new items were suggested.

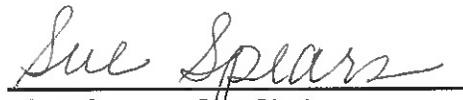
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Capoccia adjourned the meeting in memory of Phyllis Chapman, long time Sierra Madre Resident Historian, who died recently.

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 8:42 p.m. to a Special Meeting to be held on immediately following this meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Capoccia, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Spears, City Clerk