



CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL
SUCCESSOR AGENCY AND
PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY

Tuesday, June 11, 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 6:31 p.m. City Clerk Sue Spears called the roll.

Present: Mayor John Harabedian, Mayor Pro Tem John Capoccia, and Council Members Rachelle Arizmendi and Denise Delmar

Absent: Gene Goss (excused)

Also Present: Gabe Engeland, City Manager
Holly Whatley, Assistant City Attorney
Laura Aguilar, Assistant City Clerk
James Carlson, Management Analyst
Chris Cimino, Director of Public Works
Vincent Gonzalez, Planning & Community Preservation Director
Hillary Guirola-Leon, Accounting Manager
Miguel Hernandez, Human Resources Manager
Jim Hunt, Interim Police Chief
Colby Konisek, Finance Director
Clarissa Lowe, Recreation Coordinator
Kurt Norwood, Interim Fire Chief
Jose Reynoso, Utility Services Director
Rebecca Silva-Barrón, Community Services Manager
Christine Smart, City Librarian
Sue Spears, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Arizmendi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED:

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

Council Member Arizmendi moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Council Member Delmar seconded the motion to approve.

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

Noes: None

Absent: Gene Goss

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Harabedian asked for the approval of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 28, 2019 and Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting of May 30, 2019.

Mayor Harabedian made a correction to a name listed as talking about Measure W in the Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting of May 30, 2019.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of May 28, 2019 as presented and the Special City Council Meeting of May 30, 2019 as amended.

Council Member Arizmendi seconded the motion to approve both minutes.

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

The motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of May 28, 2019 as presented and the Special City Council Meeting of May 30, 2019 as amended was passed by a vote of four (4) yes votes and one (1) absent.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

- A. Mayor John Harabedian reported that (1) the SM Chamber of Commerce hosted a Town Hall Meeting regarding the Downtown assessment district ballots currently being circulated and also included a City Budget overview, (2) he thanked Staff for their participation and the SM Chamber of Commerce for hosting the event, (3) he attended the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) Board Meeting last week on behalf of Sierra Madre, and (4) because Southern California Edison has raised its rates (for the 4th time this year), CPA rates have also risen, as CPA rates are tied to So. Cal Edison rates.
- B. Mayor Pro Tem John Capoccia reported that he (1) attended the COG - Water & Tech Committee meeting today, at which Measure W implementation was discussed and (2) will be attending a "lobbying session" in Sacramento next week in support of AB1093 – Financial Capability Analysis (to put financial analysis/parameters around stormwater permits).
- C. Council Member Rachelle Arizmendi did not make a report.
- D. Council Member Denise Delmar did not make a report.
- E. Council Member Gene Goss was absent.

1. PRESENTATIONS:

PRESENTATION – INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY SWORN-IN SIERRA MADRE POLICE OFFICER RAMON DEL REAL

Police Chief Hunt introduced Sierra Madre Police Department's newest Police Officer, Ramon Del Real, who comes to Sierra Madre with a great deal of public safety experience. The City Council Members welcomed Officer Del Real to the Sierra Madre community.

PRESENTATION – RECOGNITION OF LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS MADE BY SIERRA MADRE POLICE OFFICER JOE LAZCANO

Mayor Harabedian spoke about an incident on May 27, 2019, at which the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to a 911 Call of an unresponsive baby on E. Alegria. He said that SM Police Officer Joe Lazcano responded, performed life saving measures (CPR), and the baby was revived.

Mayor Harabedian presented Officer Lazcano with a "Certificate of Recognition" and congratulated him on his excellent work.

PRESENTATION – SIERRA MADRE CIVIC CLUB DONATIONS TO VARIOUS COMMUNITY GROUPS

Marcia Bent, Sierra Madre Civic Club Past President, spoke about (1) the SM Civic Club's annual philanthropy presentations being made tonight, (2) letting the entire community know about the good work done by the Sierra Madre Civic Club over the last 75 years, and (3) the SM Civic Club celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. The following community organizations were presented with individual philanthropy grants from the Sierra Madre Civic Club, with their representatives accepting the check:

- City of Sierra Madre - Mt. Wilson Trail Race – Charlie Bell, Trail Maintenance, Clarissa Lowe, SM Recreation Coordinator, Pete Siberell, MWTR Director, & Bob Spears, Trail Maintenance/MWTR Committee
- Convalescent Aid Society – East Pasadena – Dawniese Williams, Office Operations Manager
- Creative Arts Group – Kristin Naran, Executive Director
- Reading is Fundamental - Pasadena Chapter – Sharon Lefler, SM Civic Club Member
- Sierra Madre Civic Club Beautification Committee/Wistaria Vine – Joan Crow, Beautification Committee Member, SM Civic Club
- Sierra Madre Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – Amber Moyers, President, and Robert Gjerde, Past Vice President
- Sierra Madre Community Foundation - 4th of July Committee – Jim Annes, President
- Sierra Madre Community Foundation - Fletcher Fund – Charlie Bell, Trail Maintenance, Pete Siberell, MWTR Director, & Bob Spears, Trail Maintenance/MWTR Committee
- Sierra Madre Elementary School PTA – Michael Schmidt, President
- Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society – Leslie Ziff, President
- Sierra Madre Pioneer Cemetery Association – Bill Sullivan, Vice President
- Sierra Madre Playhouse – Estelle Campbell, Managing Director
- Sierra Madre Public Library – Christine Smart, City Librarian
- Sierra Madre Rose Float Association – Gwen Robertson, Vice President
- Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team – Barbara Fortini, President, and Jeffery Moore, Secretary

Sierra Madre Civic Club Members in attendance at the meeting were as follows: Nancy Beckham, Mary Lou Caldwell, Carol Cerrina, Judie Cimino, Alice Clark, Jean Coleman, Joan Crow, Marlene Enmark, Birgitta Gerlinger, Jill Girod, Patricia Krok, Sharon Lefler, Jeanne Martin, Sue Quinn, Gwen Robertson, Darlene Traxler (Philanthropy Chairperson), and Jane Zamanzadeh.

Gwen Robertson, Sierra Madre Rose Float Association Vice President, presented a framed color photograph of the 2019 Sierra Madre Rose Float, "*Harmony's Garden*," which won the Director's Trophy. Mayor Harabedian accepted the photograph on behalf of the City. The photograph will be hung in the SM City Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

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

- David Gordon, Sierra Madre Playhouse, announced that the next production (begins June 15) is a musical, "*Dames at Sea*," which will be followed by "*The Joy Luck Club*," in July and August. He encouraged people to purchase tickets online.
- Shannon King, Sierra Madre Library Board of Directors, spoke about the wide range of "*Sierra Madre Public Library Super Summer*" activities that have already begun.
- Carol Canterbury, Sierra Madre, spoke about yesterday's bear incident and suggested a community informational meeting about dealing with bears/wild animals.
- Brant Wassall, Sierra Madre, requested assistance in his dealing with his allegedly negligent landlord.

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.

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 19-30 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS – Recommendation that the City Council adopt Resolution 19-30 for approval of payment of City warrants in an aggregate amount of \$800,240.68.

Mayor Harabedian asked if any Member of the Council had questions on Consent Item (a). Council members did not ask any questions.

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

Council Member Arizmendi made a motion to approve Consent Item (a) as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia Council Member seconded the motion to approve.

Ayes: Mayor John Harabedian, Mayor Pro Tem John Capoccia, and Council Members Rachele Arizmendi and Denise Delmar

Noes: None

Absent: Gene Goss

Abstain: None

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

1. **PUBLIC HEARINGS - CONSIDERATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 ANNUAL CITY BUDGET - CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 19-26 ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BUDGET - CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 19-27 APPROVING THE GANN APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 - CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 19-28 APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 FEE SCHEDULE - CONSIDERATION OF PFA RESOLUTION NO. 73: ADOPTING THE PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BUDGET - Recommendation that the City Council conduct a public hearing to receive testimony regarding the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 City budget and consider Resolutions 19-26; 19-27; 19-28, and PFA Resolution 73 for approval.**

Mayor Harabedian opened this item for Public Hearing.

City Manager Engeland, Finance Director Konisek, and Accounting Manager Guirola-Leon reported on this item that included a PowerPoint titled, "*City of Sierra Madre Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Proposed Budget*," with the recommendation that the City Council approve the following:

- Resolution 19-26 adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget and appropriating the amounts projected.
- Resolution 19-27 approving the GANN Appropriation Limits for 2019-2020.
- Resolution 19-28 approving the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Fee Schedule.
- Resolution 19-29 of the City and the former Community Redevelopment Successor Agency adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and appropriating the amounts budgeted.
- PFA Resolution 73 adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget by the Public Financing Authority.

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

Council Members asked questions regarding specific budget line items, budget transfers, cost savings that produced an overall budget surplus, and revenue from external sources, which were explained by City Manager Engeland, Finance Director Konisek, and Accounting Manager Guirola-Leon, including how to track the budget items per governmental accounting principles and how the budget document is organized.

Mayor Harabedian expressed that the budget is more straightforward than in the past. City Manager Engeland said that the goal is to make the information more transparent and easier to understand, including the PowerPoint, so that a sophisticated financial analysis is not necessary. He added that the PowerPoint will be posted on the transparency portal, along with the Budget, in an attempt to make it as easy as possible to understand.

Council Members expressed that they were very impressed with the overall financial situation of the City, which has improved fairly dramatically over the last three years, and thanked City Manager Engeland and Staff for their dedication, expertise, insights, and diligence.

Mayor Harabedian opened this item for Public Comment.

- De Alcorn, Sierra Madre, expressed that he was impressed with the budget and commended the City Council Members, City Manager Engeland, and Staff on a job well done.
- David Gordon, Sierra Madre Playhouse, (1) congratulated the City Council Members, City Manager Engeland, and Staff on the budget, (2) expressed that Sierra Madre needs a boost to economic development, and (3) suggested the appointment of an official responsible for economic development.
- Shannon King, Sierra Madre Library Board of Directors, expressed (1) appreciation to the Council for considering additional Library Staff in the proposed 2019-2020 Budget and listed services to the community that can now be provided or reinstated and (2) that the proposed budget does not allow sufficient staff to reopen the Library on Fridays.

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

Mayor Harabedian and the City Council Members expressed kudos, credit, and congratulations to City Manager Engeland and Staff for their leadership, dedication and expertise in developing a fantastic budget, the budget process itself, and that this has been a collaborative process over the last three years, which required hard decisions along the way. Items highlighted were an increase in the FTEs, significant increase in water infrastructure investment, investment in capital projects, and the budget surplus.

Council Member Delmar made a motion to adopt Resolution 19-26, Resolution 19-27, Resolution 19-28, Resolution 19-29, and PFA Resolution 73 as presented.

Council Member Arizmendi seconded the motion to adopt the resolutions.

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

The motion to adopt Resolution 19-26, Resolution 19-27, Resolution 19-28, Resolution 19-29, and PFA Resolution 73 as presented was passed by a vote of four (4) yes votes and one (1) absent.

2. DISCUSSION - CITY OF SIERRA MADRE VOLUNTARY BAN OF THE USE OF GLYPHOSATE ON CITY PROPERTY - Recommendation that the City Council receive and file.

Utilities Director Reynoso reported on this item. The report was requested by Mayor Harabedian, is for City Council information, and no action is required.

Mayor Harabedian asked if any Member of the Council had questions on this item. No questions were asked.

Mayor Harabedian opened this item for Public Comment.

- Marguerite Schuster, Sierra Madre, commended Sierra Madre for its voluntary ban on the use of Round Up.

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

The report was received and filed.

3. DISCUSSION - CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS, NON-PROFIT GROUPS, AND ORGANIZATIONS FOCUSED ON THE ARTS – Recommendation that the City Council provide staff with direction.

City Manager Engeland reported on this item, with the recommendation that the City Council discuss and provide direction. Mayor Harabedian noted that (1) this issue was agendized at the request of three City Council Members, (2) there is a \$25,000 line-item for the arts in the budget, and (3) tonight is an initial discussion of the issue to establish a policy direction moving forward.

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

Council Member Delmar spoke that (1) it was her request that this be agendized to explore if there were monies that could be designated to helping non-profits that lean toward the historical preservation of Sierra Madre, (2) any grant should be designated as one-time, material and enduring, funds only, and not for anything ongoing, and (3) she does not want to put the City in the position where it is funding an organization and then has to take it away.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia expressed that (1) he is looking at this more broadly, and not just historical preservation, i.e. anything that enhances the livability and sustainability of Sierra Madre, (2) arts is a really important aspect of that sense of place, (3) he is unsure how to allocate the money/how much money, as around the corner another budget crisis might occur, (4) he wants to be cautious in not setting a precedent, as the future is undetermined, (5) this may be something we can do while we have the money, but if City budget circumstances change, this will be one of the first things to go, (6) it is difficult to say that this is more important than maintaining sidewalks/streets, planting trees, etc., and (7) he is not sure exactly how decisions regarding specific individual projects would be made, including the possibility of designating a SM community group and donating the money to them.

In response to a question by Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia, City Manager Engeland explained that Staff has not contact any outside organizations pending City Council discussion.

Council Member Arizmendi commented that (1) this is not unusual, as this is a budget line-item in larger municipalities, (2) it is great practice, (3) what we value and pride ourselves in Sierra Madre is really around this area, (4) while it is good that we have been able to designate monies now, it is a matter of the budget and priorities, and (5) there is a need be mindful that, from year to year, there are other priorities that must be considered so that a discussion about a line-item for arts will be needed each year.

Mayor Harabedian voiced agreement with what has been said and noted that the inspiration for this was the request from the Sierra Madre Playhouse for \$8,000 for the marquee. He expressed (1) that City Council Members have thought about how they can be more helpful with the entire artistic community in Sierra Madre, starting with this line item, but more specifically helping organizations like the Sierra Madre Playhouse and other groups in town, (2) whether this City Council or future City Councils want to be the ones allocating the funds to specific projects or groups, and (3) should outside organizations be entrusted with allocating the funds.

Mayor Harabedian opened the meeting for Public Comment on this item.

- De Alcorn, Sierra Madre, warned the City Council Members to not be in a hurry to spend the arts monies and to be cautious in not setting a precedent.
- David Gordon, Sierra Madre Playhouse, requested \$8,000 from the arts monies for repair/replacement of the Sierra Madre Playhouse marquee.
- Leslie Ziff, Sierra Madre, expressed support for the arts in Sierra Madre .
- Michelle Zack, author, Altadena, Mayor Harabedian read a statement she submitted in support of the Sierra Madre Playhouse's request for City funds to restore its marquee.
- Christa Backstrom, Sierra Madre, Mayor Harabedian read a statement she submitted in support of the Sierra Madre Playhouse's request for City funds to restore its marquee.

Mayor Harabedian asked if anyone else would like to come forward 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 views expressed included the following: (1) the Sierra Madre Playhouse is a unique historic community landmark that we are proud of, (2) support for allocating \$8,000 to the Sierra Madre Playhouse to kickstart this line item, (3) there is a danger and need to be cautious, (4) the City Council should not be the body granting specific grants to specific organizations or specific projects, (5) there is a need to come back to discuss, develop, and adopt a general policy direction regarding specific arts, specific historical landmarks, etc., including whether community organizations should be given the money to allocate.

In response to a question by Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia, City Manager Engeland stated that this is a discussion item only to provide direction to Staff and that no vote could be taken on a specific item at this meeting.

Assistant City Attorney Whatley explained that (1) the California Constitution has a prohibition on gifts of public funds so that there is a limit that the City has to be careful of in that regard, (2) if the City spends funds, it has to be for a "public purpose," (3) the term "public purpose" is generally liberally construed, but the Council does need to make sure that it has a good developed record to make sure that "public purpose" is something that can withstand somebody taking issue with the decision, (4) with regards to City Council comments of not wanting to be in the position of doling out the monies, there is a need to be cautious, (5) whatever policy and procedures are developed and adopted must be ones that gets the benefit of the deference to the legislative decision about what is a "public purpose," (6) there is a value in having the City Council make those decisions because a court will defer to a city council more than it might defer to a non-legislative body, (7) it may be possible to craft some guidelines/policies that the City Council sets and then another person or entity can implement, but again there is a need to be cautious in doing so, (8) there is no number limit, the limit is that it must be for a "public purpose," (9) a historic building that is a feature in the Main Street in town can meet that "public purpose" standard, (10) in terms of the broader issues about what the City Council supports, the City Manager and City Attorney can help in building that policy, but it is necessary to keep in mind that any policy/procedures must operate within the boundaries of the CA Constitution, and (11) this may limit how much can be delegated to somebody else to make those choices in spending the monies.

In response to a question by Council Member Arizmendi regarding spending the \$25,000 line-item designated for the arts, City Manager stated that tonight is for high level policy discussions so that Staff can bring back recommendations based upon the direction received from the City Council that will include policy guidelines, including "public purpose" and "public benefit."

Staff was provided with direction and will make recommendations at the next City Council meeting.

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 Pro Tem Capoccia spoke about the need to conduct public outreach to help residents deal with bear safety and wildlife issues in general, as Sierra Madre is designated as a wildlife sanctuary city and there is a need to be more sensitive about the environment in which we live.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Harabedian asked for a motion to adjourn.

Council Member Arizmendi made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion to adjourn was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia.

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

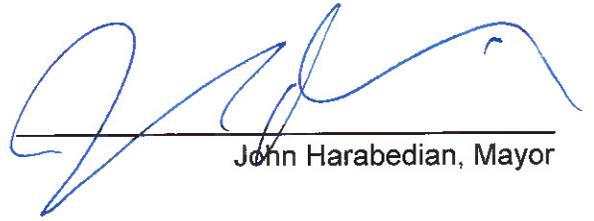
Noes: None

Absent: Gene Goss

Abstain: None

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

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 8:18 p.m. to a Regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, in the Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers.



John Harabedian, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:



Sue Spears, City Clerk