

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL
SUCCESSOR AGENCY AND
PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY



Tuesday, September 24, 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 6:34 p.m. City Clerk Sue Spears called the roll.

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Gabe Engeland, City Manager
Aleks Giragosian, Deputy City Attorney
Laura Aguilar, Assistant City Clerk
James Carlson, Management Analyst
Chris Cimino, Director of Public Works
Miguel Hernandez, Human Resources Manager
Jim Hunt, Interim Police Chief
Colby Konisek, Finance Director
Kurt Norwood, Interim Fire Chief
Jose Reynoso, Utility Services Director
Christine Smart, City Librarian
Rebecca Silva-Barrón, Community Services Manager
Sue Spears, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Arizmendi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

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

Council Member Delmar moved to approve the agenda as presented.

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

REPORT ON THE CLOSED SESSION – SEPTEMBER 24, 2019:

Deputy City Attorney Giragosian reported that the City Council met regarding real property negotiations related to the City poles located at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. (in Sierra Vista Park) and that direction was provided to the property negotiator.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Harabedian asked for the approval of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of September 10, 2019.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia noted that the word "legal" should be stricken from his Council Member Report. There were no other corrections noted.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of September 10, 2019 as amended.

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: None
Abstain: Council Member Rachelle Arizmendi

The motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of September 10, 2019 as amended was passed by a vote of four (4) yes and one (1) abstain.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

- A. Mayor John Harabedian agreed that (1) the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast was great & well attended and (2) the "Pooch Parade" was fun and he was happy to be involved with it. He expressed kudos to the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club on an excellent Pancake Breakfast.
- B. Mayor Pro Tem John Capoccia (1) reported that he met with the Senior Community Commission this afternoon at a productive meeting, (2) relayed that comments made by Chairperson Joanne Williams and Vice-Chair Anita Thompson were very effusive in their praise of City Staff members, Rebecca Silva-Barrón, Rosemary Garcia, Lawren Heinz, and Clarissa Lowe, (3) expressed that it is great to hear how well they work together, get things done, and enjoy themselves while doing so, (4) said that it is one of the many reasons that he is proud to live in Sierra Madre and serve on the City Council, and (5) congratulated Staff on the great job that they are doing.
- C. Council Member Rachelle Arizmendi (1) recognized that there were many amazing community activities in Sierra Madre this past summer and thanked Staff and all those who contributed to those events and (2) reported that she and Mayor Harabedian attended the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast, which was a lot of fun and included a "Pooch Parade", and (3) congratulated the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club on a successful event.
- D. Council Member Denise Delmar did not make a report.
- E. Council Member Gene Goss reported that he was invited as a guest and attended last week's Sierra Madre Library Foundation Board Meeting and is looking forward to hearing tonight's presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

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

- Leslie Ziff, Sierra Madre, spoke about the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library's "Harvest Festival" on September 27, 2019 and encouraged people to buy tickets, as the ticket sales monies are used to support programs at the SM Public Library.
- Deborah Taylor Clapp, Sierra Madre, said that (1) she lives in Sierra Court Cottage, (2) residents were given eviction notices by the new property owners to move out by 11-22-19, and (3) she is requesting that the City Council implement a rent control ordinance in Sierra Madre.
- Deborah Taylor Clapp, Sierra Madre, read a statement written by Sophie Kessler (who was in attendance), Sierra Madre, regarding her love of Sierra Madre and Sierra Court Cottages and the stress of being forced to move.
- Dennis Burton, Sierra Madre, said that he is upset with being forced to move and is requesting that the City Council create ordinances regarding rent control and relocation fees for those being evicted in this manner.
- Diane Burton, Sierra Madre, spoke about her love of Sierra Madre and is requesting that the City Council create ordinances regarding rent control and relocation fees.
- Michael Gittelman, Sierra Madre, requested that the City Council adopt ordinances regarding rent control and relocation fees.

- Carol Canterbury, Sierra Madre, thanked City Staff for showing “Invasion of the Body Snatchers” and said that the event was very successful.
- Shirley Moore, Sierra Madre, provided a written statement to Staff (prior to the meeting, not read at the meeting, and which will be included as part of Public Record) requesting that the City Council adopt ordinances regarding rent control and relocation fees.

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.

PRESENTATIONS:

P1 - PRESENTATION ON AIR QUALITY FROM THE SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (AQMD) GOVERNING BOARD:

Michael Cacciotti, South Coast AQMD Governing Board Member and City of Sierra Madre representative, delivered a presentation on air quality that included a PowerPoint titled, “*Air Quality Update for the City of Sierra Madre September 24, 2019*”, with the following topics:

- South Coast AQMD Background
- South Coast AQMD Air Monitoring
- The Challenges to Meeting Air Quality Health Standards
- Health Impacts
- Volkswagen Settlement (2019)
- Voucher Incentive Program (VIP)
- South Coast AQMD Incentive Programs
- South Coast AQMD’s Main Incentive Programs
- Residential EV Charger Incentive Program
- Commercial Electric Lawn & Garden Equipment Incentive & Exchange Program
- Residential Electric Lawn Mower Rebate Program
- Furnace Rebate Program
- Clean Air Investments in the City of Sierra Madre
- South Coast AQMD’s Mobile APP

Mayor Harabedian asked if any Member of the Council had questions of Mr. Cacciotti.

In response to a question from Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia regarding when lawn blower rebates would apply for residential use, Mr. Cacciotti invited MPT Capoccia to speak at any South Coast AQMD Board Meeting.

In response to a question from Mayor Harabedian regarding vehicle replacement and who gets the old car, Mr. Cacciotti said that the vehicles are usually scrapped, unless the vehicle is worth selling.

In response to a question from Council Member Goss regarding the SCAQMD paying a maximum of \$60,000 to replace a diesel truck and whether that pays the total cost of a new truck, Mr. Cacciotti said that he was not exactly sure, as it depends on the type of vehicle.

In response to a question from Council Member Goss regarding the electric blower charging time, Dan Mabe, President of American Green Zone Alliance, said that it takes about three hours to charge the battery, but that it can be charged off and on throughout the day.

Mayor Harabedian thanked Mr. Cacciotti for his presentation and expressed that the City of Sierra Madre is fortunate to have him as its representative on the SCAQMD Board.

P2 – ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

City Librarian Smart presented the “*Sierra Madre Public Library 2018-2019 Library Report*”, commenting that “throughout a year of significant change in the Library, its use and presence remains constant, and the love the Library thrives”. The PowerPoint included the following topics:

- Timely and Informative Programming
- Great Team of Staff and Volunteers, including Teen Volunteers
- Slogan – “Read – Discover – Connect”
- Grants/Donations totaling \$99,000+
- Statistics Overview
- 2018-2019 Successes
- 2019-2020 Goals

City Librarian Smart introduced Leila Regan, the City's newest Associate Librarian, who is serving as the SMPL's Youth Services Librarian and comes to Sierra Madre from the City of Monrovia.

P3 – PRESENTATION FROM THE SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Patricia Hall, Sierra Madre, made a presentation about the "Sierra Madre Library Foundation (SMLF) www.sierramadrelibraryfoundation.org":

- August 2018 - Meeting to determine the documents needed to establish a foundation. Committee members included Tony Buckner, Bart Doyle, Patricia Hall, Rich Proctor, Rob Stockly, & Fred Wesley. A request was made to the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library for a loan of \$20,000 to cover the costs related to establishing the SMLF, which was granted.
- October 2018 - The Mission Statement, By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation, and all application to the appropriate CA State and Federal Authorities, including the 501(c)(3) determination, were completed. As part of the process, the IRS requires officers be named on the application. As a result, interim SM Library Foundation officers were appointed until such time as a SMLF Board can be in place.
- January 2019 –Periscope Designs was contracted to create a SMLF website, logo, brochures, and response cards. Conflict of Interest document was drawn and signed by all.
- April 2019 - An event was held at the Sierra Madre Public Library to introduce the SMLF to the community and the website: www.sierramadrelibraryfoundation.org went live on-line.
- Community meetings/presentations have been held and others are scheduled to make people aware of issues facing the SM Library and talk about possible solutions, including a new library. The priority for the community meetings/presentations are the Sierra Madre schools, followed by Sierra Madre community groups, organizations, and service clubs.
- May 2019 – Approval from the IRS was received of the Sierra Madre Library Foundation's status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
- June 2019 – A Request for Proposal (RFP) was written for the Library design to be sent to recommended architectural firms, with three firms responding.
- July 2019 – Interviews of the three architectural firms were conducted by a committee that included, Library Board Trustee Rod Spears, a member of the SM Library Foundation, a member of the Friends of the SM Library, among others. The firm PBWS was chosen, with the cost for their services totaling \$120,000.
- The Friends of the SM Library voted to allocate \$120,000 plus \$10,000 for possible overrides or additional expenses. The Friends of the SM Library have contracted with PBWS for the design of the SM Library. City Librarian Smart and representatives from the SML Foundation and Friends of the SM Library have been meeting with the PBWS architects to help plan the design. Public meetings have been scheduled for community input into the design.
- The SML Foundation's plan is to continue outreach programs in the community and start raising funds when a decision has been made into how the Library's various problems will be solved.
- No matter what the decision is, the SM Library must have a Foundation.
- The community input meetings are not a Foundation project nor a Friends project, it is a community project to meet the needs of the people of this community for adults as well as children. That is why the input from members of the community is invaluable. The SM Library is a space for the community.
- October 12, 2019 – is the date of the next Library Public Forum to receive community input and the public is invited.

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

In response to a question by Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia regarding how the community meetings are being publicized, City Librarian Smart said that notices are just now going on-line and will include a social media push, articles in the Mt. View News, flyers posted around town, posted on the Library's website, and notices to individual groups in Sierra Madre.

In response to a question by Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia whether the community meetings will include input into the Library design, City Librarian Smart said that, with the help of the Friends, Foundation, and Library Staff, who are on the Client Team working directly with PBWS to coalesce into what will be

a great idea and a plan, but nothing will move forward without the input and feed back from the community and the group wants to make sure that everyone has a moment to take a look at the plan, including the Planning Commission, who will be invited to attend the community meetings as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia asked what will happen in the future when the design is determined, with the goal of replacing the current Library with a new Library and coming to the City Council with a very specific proposal. Ms. Hall said that (1) the original purpose of the Library Foundation is to raise money to equip the new Library, including technology, etc., (2) the process takes a feasibility study to determine how much the Library Foundation can raise, (3) the reason there is no current Foundation Board is that you cannot ask people to be on a Foundation Board unless they know why they are there, (4) the criteria to be on the SM Library Foundation Board is \$10,000, by either paying or raising the \$10,000.

In response to a question by Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia regarding who is putting together the formal proposal/presentation for the new Library, Ms. Hall said that the Library Trustees, Library Foundation Board, and Friends of the SM Library have made the decision of the need to build a new Library. Rob Stockly added that the Friends of the SM Library are hiring the architect so that they can bring before the City Council the proposed new Library project, because we cannot ask for community financial support without a project. Ms. Hall continued that the architects are doing a design of the layout of the floorplan/space, but not the exterior building design. Mr. Stockly said that (1), from the layout design, an estimated cost of the new Library can be determined and (2) their plan is to come to the City Council in January 2020 with the amount of money to be raised through a parcel tax vote in November 2020.

Council Member Arizmendi suggested that, in addition to Town Hall Forums, that presentations are done at existing community groups and organizations.

Council Member Goss commented that top-flight people are making a huge commitment of their time and reputations for the new Library, it is being taken very seriously and professionally, with a fantastic work product so far, and expressed confidence that the project plan will be something special, because they are doing it the right way and something we can all be proud of.

Mayor Harabedian emphasized that someone from the group needs to step up and take the lead (to be the quarterback) to move this forward to hit timelines in a really efficient way. He said that he would like to see the Library proposal brought to the City Council in December 2019, to get a parcel tax vote on the November 2020 ballot

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- a) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 19-48 APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS - It is recommended that the City Council approve Resolution 19-48 for approval of payment of City warrants in an aggregate amount of \$248,838.56; Library warrants in an aggregate amount of \$8,429.64; and payroll transfer in the aggregate amount of \$332,279.82 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.
- b) SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT 2018 WATER DELIVERY PAYMENT - It is recommended that the City Council approve the expenditure of \$518,400 for 1,296 acre-feet of water delivered to Sierra Madre Spreading Grounds for the calendar year 2018.
- c) CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO ISSUE AN RFP FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - It is recommended that the City Council authorize a Request for Proposals for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Street Improvement Project
- d) CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 19-52 AMENDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR FULL-TIME FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES - It is recommended that the City Council adopt Resolution 19-52 amending the Terms and Conditions of Employment for full-time employees.

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

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.

Council Member Delmar made a motion to approve Consent Items 1a – 1d as presented.

Council Member Arizmendi seconded the motion.

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

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

DISCUSSION:

2a. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO FILL A PARTIAL TERM ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Assistant City Clerk Aguilar reported on this item regarding the appointment to the Planning Commission to fill the current vacancy for a term ending on June 30, 2021, from the two applications received.

Mayor Harabedian invited the applicants, in alphabetical order, to make a statement to the City Council and each did so:

- Cole Butler
- Margaret (Peggy) Dallas

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.

Discussion occurred and there was consensus that both candidates were extremely well qualified to serve on the Planning Commission. Mayor Harabedian asked for the City Council members to state their vote, which resulted in the following tally:

- Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia – Cole Butler
- Council Member Arizmendi – Margaret Dallas
- Council Member Delmar – Margaret Dallas
- Council Member Goss – Cole Butler
- Mayor Harabedian – Cole Butler

Mayor Harabedian made a motion to appoint Cole Butler to the Planning Commission to fill the vacancy for a term ending June 30, 2021.

Council Member Goss seconded the motion.

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

The motion to appoint Cole Butler to the Planning Commission to fill the vacancy for a term ending June 30, 2021 was passed by a unanimous vote.

Cole Butler then addressed the City Council and said that she would like to postpone her appointment to the Planning Commission for now and stated that she would apply to serve on the Planning Commission the next time there is an advertised vacancy.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia made a motion to appoint Margaret Dallas to the Planning Commission to fill the vacancy for a term ending June 30, 2021.

Council Member Delmar seconded the motion.

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

Absent: None
Abstain: None

The motion to appoint Margaret Dallas to the Planning Commission to fill the vacancy for a term ending June 30, 2021 was passed by a unanimous vote.

2b. DISCUSSION – CONSIDERATION OF CITY COUNCIL SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1093, AUTHORED BY ASSEMBLYMEMBER BLANCA RUBIO

Management Analyst Carlson reported on this item with the recommendation that the City Council discuss and consider supporting AB 1093, as Mayor Harabedian and Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia requested that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion.

Mayor Harabedian credited and thanked Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia and Management Analyst Carlson for continuing to bring this issue forward, which is the acute cost burden, particularly for disadvantaged communities, of compliance with the municipal separate storm sewer system permits.

Mayor Harabedian asked if any Member of the Council had questions on this item, with the only question being why this has not been done sooner.

Deputy City Attorney Giragosian added that this legislation was passed by the Legislature and is currently enrolled so that it is before the CA Governor and the CA Governor can choose to veto it or sign it, with a deadline to do so of October 13, 2019.

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.

Discussion occurred and there was consensus to support AB 1093, authored by Assembly Member Blanca Rubio.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia made a motion to send a letter to the CA Governor in support of AB 1093.

Council Member Delmar seconded the motion.

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

The motion to send a letter to the CA Governor in support of AB 1093 was passed by a unanimous vote.

2c. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO CLEAN POWER ALLIANCE BOARD

Mayor Harabedian said that he has served as the City's appointed representative on the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) Board for the last two years and is seeking the appointment of other City Council Members to serve in his place. The current alternate is Management Analyst Carlson. Mayor Harabedian is recommending that the 1st alternate be a City Council Member instead.

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 the representative must be a City Council Member, Mayor Harabedian said that the Joint Power Authority says that the Board Member must be a City Council Member and that the alternate can be Staff Member, but that two City Council Members are preferred.

Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia volunteered to serve as the lead representative. Council Member Arizmendi said that she would serve as an alternate, along with Management Analyst Carlson.

Mayor Harabedian made a motion to appoint to the CPA Board Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia as the lead representative, Council Member Arizmendi as the 1st alternate, and Mr. Carlson as the 2nd alternate.

Council Member Delmar second the motion.

Mayor Harabedian opened this item for Public Comment.

- Robert Parkhurst, Sierra Madre, spoke about the importance of the CPA and expressed appreciation that the City Council is taking this issue seriously and making it a priority.

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 vote on the motion.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to appoint to the CPA Board Mayor Pro Tem Capoccia as the lead representative, Council Member Arizmendi as the 1st alternate, and Mr. Carlson as the 2nd alternate was passed by a unanimous vote.

2d. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 19-49 PLANNING FOR CLIFORNIA MINIMUM WAGE AND AMENDING PART-TIME AND CONFIDENTIAL-EXEMPT CLASSIFICATION PLAN AND SALARY MATRIX

Human Resources Manager Hernandez reported on this item with the recommendation that the City Council adopt Resolution 19-49 modifying the part-time hourly wages in the City's Classification Plan and Salary Matrix – (1) for 2019 increasing the hourly rate for the part-time dispatcher position and (2) for 2020 to reflect the upcoming California minimum wage increase, and (3) the Confidential-Exempt salary matrix increasing positions, which were inadvertently not included in the previous COLA adjustment of 2.1%, approved by the City Council at the June 26, 2018 Council Meeting.

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

Discussion occurred and there was consensus to support approval of Resolution 19-49.

Mayor Harabedian made a motion to approve Resolution 19-49 as presented.

Council Member Delmar seconded the motion.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to approve Resolution 19-49 as presented was passed by a unanimous vote.

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 asked if an application for the Senior Community Commission had been received. Assistant City Clerk Aguilar said that no application to serve on the Senior Community Commission has been received.

Council Member Delmar proposed that the City Council consider changing the policy that required that three applications must be received before the appointment selection comes before the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Harabedian asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mayor Harabedian made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Goss.

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

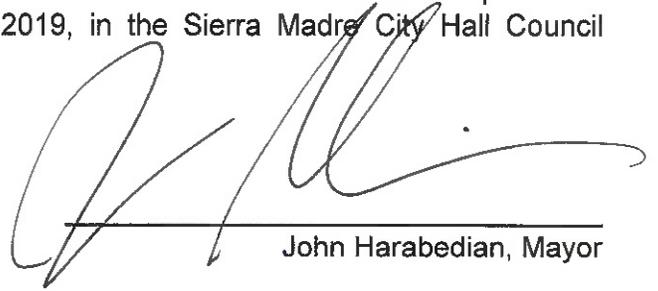
Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

The motion to adjourn was passed by a unanimous vote.

THIS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 8:28 p.m. to a Regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, in the Sierra Madre City Hall Council Chambers.



John Harabedian, Mayor

Minutes taken and prepared by:



Sue Spears, City Clerk