

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

May 2, 2017

The City Council also sits as the Lemon Grove Housing Authority, Lemon Grove Sanitation District Board, Lemon Grove Roadway Lighting District Board, and Lemon Grove Successor Agency

Call to Order

City Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Racquel Vasquez, Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Mendoza, Councilmember David Arambula, Councilmember Jerry Jones, and Councilmember Matt Mendoza

City Council Members Absent:

None.

City Staff Present:

Lydia Romero, City Manager, Lt. Scott Amos, Sheriff's Department David De Vries, Development Services Director; Daryn Drum, Susan Garcia, City Clerk; Division Fire Chief; Mike James, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director; James P. Lough, City Attorney.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lemon Grove Cub Scout Pack 108 provided the Flag Presentation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes to the Agenda

Councilmember Jones requested that item 1. E Resolution Approving Limitations on the Two-Year EDCO Corporation Rate Schedule be pulled from the Consent Calendar for discussion

Public Comment

Eric Lund, San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce, provided the City Council with their 2016 Annual Report.

John L. Wood commented on the vehicle speed meter on Central Avenue and thanked the City's Public Works Department for their quick removal of items he reported.

Lani stacks commented on a bird in the Lemon Grove Pet Store and Senator John McCain's war time imprisonment.

Jean Baber invited those in attendance to a Helix High School band fundraising event in the Lemon Blossom Hall on May 6.

Mayor Vasquez noted that Ms. Westford is speaking on Consent Calendar item 1. H.

Meena Westford, Metropolitan Water District, provided an overview of their investments, rates, efforts during the drought, along with differences with the San Diego County Water Authority. Ms. Westford asked if she would be allowed to return to provide additional detail and urged the City Council to consider both sides before adopting the proposed resolution.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza recommended that the Consent Calendar item 1.H Resolution in support of the San Diego County Water Authority not be adopted and the City Council is provided more time to understand what is proposed.

1. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of City Council Minutes

April 18, 2017 Regular Meeting

B. Ratification of Payment Demands

C. Waive Full Text Reading of All Ordinances and Resolutions on the Agenda

D. Rejection of Claim

F. Parks Make Life Better!® Branding Campaign

G. Rejection of Claim

Action: Motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember J. Mendoza, to approve the Consent Calendar items 1. A, B., C. D. F. and G. passed, by the following vote:

Ayes: Vasquez, Arambula, Jones, J. Mendoza, M. Mendoza

1. E Resolution Approving Limitations on the Two-Year EDCO Corporation Rate Schedule

Councilmember Jones noted that there was a newspaper report regarding the City of La Mesa EDCO rate increase as a Proposition 218 process.

James Lough stated that Proposition 218 provides for public notice of government fees and EDCO is a private franchise. He added that the City Council is not approving their rates.

Action: Motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember J. Mendoza, to approve the Consent Calendar items 1. E. passed, by the following vote:

Ayes: Vasquez, Arambula, Jones, J. Mendoza, M. Mendoza

2. Wastewater Rate Case

On April 18, 2017, the Lemon Grove Sanitation District Board introduced and conducted the first reading of Ordinance No. 28 that will establish a rate increase not to exceed 5.75 percent for a five-year period. If adopted, the new rates for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 will take effect July 1, 2017.

Public Speaker(s)

Leonard Kettong provided the City Council with a letter that provided an overview of the City's zoning code and requested that the City Council consider a rate setting method based on actual water use records.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza stated that it is her understanding the ordinance sets the rate. She noted that the staff report summary states there will be an increase of 5.75 and thought they would be making that decision during budget discussions.

Mike James answered that from a budgeting stand point it is staff's recommendation to move forward with the 5.75 increase for fiscal years 2017-18. The reasoning, working with the consultant, the anticipated year end expenditures are tied to the total need for July 1 and to move forward year one. He added that in future years the process will become more revised and expenditures matched-up with revenue needs.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza stated that the consultant NBS took the previous budgeted figure and inflated it and they did not have an opportunity to see actual expenditures, she was hoping to see. She has no problem approving the ordinance, but is unclear if this is set in stone if the sewer charge will increase by 5.75 beginning July 1, 2017.

James Lough stated that this goes on the property tax rolls approximately by August 10. The assumption is that it will be 5.75, if during budget review it could be changed before it goes on the tax rolls, but is almost never done the first year. A change could be made there is a budget process.

Mayor Vasquez clarified that this sets the rate at 5.75, but if during the annual budget review process the sewer rates could either be reduced or set at the proposed rate case.

James Lough the rate case is based on what you are going to do and what is in the Sanitation District Capital Improvement Projects budget. He confirmed that increases to the sewer rates could be reviewed during the annual budget process.

Lydia Romero added that has been the past practice of the Sanitation District staff to evaluate the rates and will only to charge the rate payer the amount needed for operation and meet the obligations with Metro JPA.

Councilmember M. Mendoza noted that recommendation of 5.75 was to not go to a higher rate in consideration of pure water. He expressed concern with the City of San Diego pure water construction costs.

Mike James answered that is correct and if staff can recommend a lower rate this will be a priority. Depending on pure water construction the cost difference.

Action: Motion by Board Member Jones, seconded by Board Member Arambula, to adopt by title Ordinance No. 28 passed, by the following vote:

Ayes: Vasquez, Arambula, Jones, J. Mendoza
Noes: M. Mendoza

3. Community Advisory Commission

Lydia Romero stated that discussion of this item is to establish the preferred method to conducts interviews for the 16 Community Advisory Commission applicants.

Public Speakers spoke in favor of establishing Community Advisory Commission:

Mark Roback
Humbert Cabera
Tom Clabby

After the discussion, staff was given direction to move forward with the Community Advisory Commission, contact the applicants, schedule possible interviews on an off regular City Council meeting Tuesday in June, and bring back an agenda item at the first meeting in June to discuss the Planning Commission.

City Council Oral Comments and Reports on Meetings Attended at the Expense of the City. (GC 53232.3 (d))

Councilmember Jones attended meetings of the East County Chamber government affairs, National Association Real Estate Brokers, Metro Tac/Metro Finance, Water Reliability Coalition, and the grand reopening of the Lemon Grove skate park.

Councilmember Arambula attended the Celsius opening and a Heartland Communications JPA meeting.

Councilmember M. Mendoza nothing to report

Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza toured Heartland Communications facility and attended the Celsius opening and SANDAG Transportation meeting, and participated in the community clean-up event.

Mayor Vasquez attended Celsius opening, Earth Day celebration where she was presented with the Earth Keeper award, SDSU Sage Symposium, Fair and Affordable Housing event, grand reopening of the Lemon Grove skate park, SANDAG City Selection Committee for the Coastal Commission, Black American Political Association of California where she was presented with the Female Elected Official of the Year award, Healthy Kids day, she presented a Proclamation to Clark Atlanta University, and a LAFCO meeting where email policy was discussed and asked if a similar policy could be on a future agenda.

City Manager and Department Director Reports

David De Vries reported that the next community clean up event will be held on July 22, 2017.

Lydia Romero attended the Girl on Girl event at the Lemon Grove Academy and will be attending the San Diego City Managers retreat.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Housing Authority, Sanitation District Board, Lemon Grove Roadway Lighting District Board, and the Lemon Grove Successor Agency the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Susan Garcia

Susan Garcia, City Clerk