

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

**December 6, 2016**

*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*

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**Call to Order**

Members present: Mayor Mary Sessom, Mayor Pro Tem George Gastil, Councilmember Jerry Jones, Councilmember Jennifer Mendoza, and Councilmember Racquel Vasquez.

Members absent: None.

City Staff present: Lydia Romero, City Manager, David De Vries, Development Services Director; Mike James, Assistant City Manager/ Public Works Director; James P. Lough, City Attorney; Lt. May, Sheriff's Department; and Chief Stowell, Fire Chief.

**Presentations**

Lydia Romero introduced New Heartland Fire and Rescue, Chief Colin Stowell.

**Public Comment**

Cynara Velazquez commented on Measure V along with possible businesses in the future.

Lani Stacks commented on animal welfare, pet stores, and the condition of birds at Lemon Grove Pets.

Michele Walter noted that she is an activist and seeking a ban on puppy mills and commented on the smell at the pet store.

John L. Wood commented on the possibility of installing speed humps and rumble strips in areas of speeding vehicles in Lemon Grove.

**1. Consent Calendar**

- A. Approval of City Council Minutes**  
November 15, 2016 Regular Meeting
- B. Ratification of Payment Demands**
- C. Waive Full Text Reading of All Ordinances and Resolutions on the Agenda**
- D. FY 2016-17 CIP Concrete Repair and Upgrade Program, Various Locations, Project (Contract No. 2017-06)**
- E. City Manager Employment Agreement Amendment- Lydia Romero**

**Action: Motion by Councilmember Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to approve the Consent Calendar with a correction to the November 15, 2016 meeting minutes noting Mayor Pro Tem Gastil's absence under item No. 3 passed, by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Sessom, Jones, Mendoza, Vasquez  
**Abstain:** Gastil

**Resolution No. 2016 - 3478** Resolution of the Lemon Grove City Council Awarding a Contract for the FY 2016-17 CIP Concrete Repair and Upgrade Program, Various Locations, Project (Contract No. 2017-06)

**Resolution No. 2016- 3479:** A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the 2016 Amended City Manager Employment Agreement with City Manager Lydia Romero

**2. Ordinance No. 442: Amending Title II (Administration and Personnel), Chapter 2.04 (City Manager) Reorganizing Authority of City Officers**

Public Speaker(s)

There were no requests from the public to speak.

**Action: Motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gastil, to adopt Ordinance No. 442 passed, by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Sessom, Gastil, Jones,  
**Noes:** Mendoza, Vasquez

**Ordinance No. 442:** An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California Amending Sections 2.04.060 (Power of Appointment and Removal) and 2.04.070 (Internal Relations and Coordination of Intergovernmental Services) of the Lemon Grove Municipal Code

**3. Letter of Support to Renew the City of San Diego's Variance Request Tentative Order No. R9-2017-0007**

Mike James reported that on November 1, 2016, District staff received a press release issued by the United States Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) regarding the City of San Diego's variance request to renew its variance from the secondary treatment requirements contained in section 301(b)(1)(B) of the Clean Water Act for the E. W. Blom Point Loma Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant and Ocean Outfall.

Sanitation District staff prepared this agenda item to express the support for the variance request and for the City of San Diego's Pure Water program as outlined in the variance request submitted to the EPA in January of 2015. The letter was prepared with Boardmember Jones' signature because he is currently the Board's designated representative to the Metro Commission/Metro Wastewater Joint Powers Authority.

Public Speaker(s)

John L. Wood commented on the benefits to the City of San Diego with a pure water program.

Councilmember Vasquez disclosed that she is employed by the City of San Diego, but not for the Pure Water Program and asked the City Attorney for an opinion regarding her weighing in on this item.

James Lough answered Councilmember Vasquez's question and stated that this item doesn't affect her income, so there is no conflict..

**Action: Motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza, to approve the letter of support and direct staff to submit the letter to the EPA, Region IX prior to the public comment period ending on December 21, 2016 passed, by the following vote:**

**Ayes: Sessom, Gastil, Jones, Mendoza, Vasquez**

**4. Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement for Heartland Communications Facility Authority Agreement**

Lydia Romero reported that the City of Lemon Grove is a member of the Heartland Communications Facility Authority, a joint powers authority (JPA) that provides fire and emergency medical dispatch services to member and contract agencies. The original agreement was entered into in 1986 and last amended in 2013.

The changes in the amended agreement were agreed to by the Management Advisory Committee and Board of Chiefs, and unanimously approved by the Heartland Communications Facility Commission at their meeting of November 3, 2016.

Ms. Romero noted that the most important elements of amended agreement are:

Member agencies are committing to a seven year term expiring June 30, 2023.

Introduction of a weighted voting system for “any CalPERS financial issue of the Authority.”

The debt, liabilities, and obligations of the JPA are further defined. Withdrawing agencies are required to pay their pro rata share of all outstanding obligations.

To minimize the disproportionate administrative burden of small agencies, a minimum fee based on a threshold call volume (500 calls per year) will be assessed.

Clarification of quorum requirements to specify a majority of members, rather than those in attendance, is required for action.

Clarification of dissolution language to include “winding down” cost.

Public Speaker(s)

There were no requests from the public to speak.

**Action: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Gastil, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to adopt the resolution passed, by the following vote:**

**Ayes: Sessom, Gastil, Jones, Mendoza, Vasquez**

**Resolution No. 2016- 3480** Resolution of the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California Authorizing the City of Lemon Grove to Approve and Sign the Amended and Restated Heartland Communication Facility Authority Joint Powers Agreement

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

Councilmember Jones reported on a recent a Metro Wastewater meeting and met with City staff and Dexter Wilson regarding the Pure Water Program. He expressed appreciation to Mayor Sessom for her years of service to the City.

Councilmember Mendoza attended a meeting of the Mexican American Business Professionals, reported on the Point in Time count of the homeless population, and expressed appreciation to the City's employees for their efforts with the Annual Community Bonfire. She also expressed appreciation to Mayor Sessom service and for appointing her to the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Vasquez reported on a recent LAFCO meeting. She attended the Annual Community Bonfire with appreciation to City staff for their efforts and thanked Mayor Sessom for her service.

Mayor Pro Tem Gastil attended a MTS meeting and noted that he will continue to serve on the FACT committee. He attended the Annual Community Bonfire and expressed appreciation to City staff for their efforts and thanked Mayor Sessom for her service. Stated that he enjoyed serving on the City Council and appreciates the City's staff, with special thanks to the City Attorney.

Mayor Sessom attended the Annual Community Bonfire and expressed appreciation to City staff, the Sheriff's Department, and Fire Department for their efforts. She provided advice to the new City Council.

### **City Manager and Department Director Reports**

David De Vries expressed appreciation to Mayor Sessom. He reported that the Downtown Village Specific Plan Expansion community workshop will be held on December 10 between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Mike James expressed appreciation to Mayor Sessom and Mayor Pro Tem Gastil.

Chief Stowell expressed appreciation to Mayor Sessom and added that he is looking forward to working with the City Council.

Lt. May reported on a recent Sheriff's Department event where approximately 80 shopping carts were recovered. He expressed appreciation to Mayor Sessom for her service.

Lydia Romero expressed appreciation to Mayor Sessom and Mayor Pro Tem Gastil for the opportunity to serve as the City Manager.

James Lough expressed appreciation to Mayor Sessom and noted that he will be administering the oath of office to the newly elected officers.

Corinne Russell expressed appreciation to Mayor Sessom.

Councilmember Jones expressed appreciation to Mayor Pro Tem Gastil for his service.

Councilmember Vasquez expressed appreciation to Mayor Pro Tem Gastil for his service.

### **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 7:05 p.m.

*Susan Garcia*  
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Susan Garcia, City Clerk