

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

April 18, 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, Councilmember David Arambula, Councilmember Jerry Jones, Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Mendoza, and Councilmember Matt Mendoza

City Council Members Absent:

None.

City Staff Present:

Lydia Romero, City Manager, Lt. Scott Amos, Sheriff's Department; Stephanie Boyce, Management Analyst; David De Vries, Development Services Director; Greg McAlpine Deputy Fire Chief; Miranda Evans, Management Analyst; Mike James, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director; and James P. Lough, City Attorney.

Pledge of Allegiance

Changes to the Agenda

Lydia Romero added introduction of the City's new Finance Manager.

Presentations

Mayor Vasquez conducted the swearing in of two members of the NAACP Youth Council.

Lydia Romero introduced Auggie Matt, Finance Manager.

Maureen Stapleton, San Diego County Water Authority General Manager, provided a presentation of water issues, water reliability, and overview of their operations.

Public Comment

Paul Stuart commented on the City's property dedication requirement in order to remodel his residence.

Mark Grayck, Helix Water District Board Member, reported on potential funds related to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Mark Horton expressed concern related to activity in the parks, skate park, and suggested reopening the Recreation Center for the City's youth.

Brian Bernier commented on the condition of Palm Avenue and he suggested a stop sign be installed.

Lani Stacks commented on the condition of animals in Lemon Grove Pet Store.

John L. Wood commented on the number of times he has spoken to the City Council on the speed of vehicles on his street, suggested methods of slowing the vehicles, and the Sheriff's Department response to incidents.

Cynthia Bernier expressed appreciation for the equipment at the Berry Street dog park. She commented on the vehicle speeds on Palm Avenue.

1. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of City Council Minutes

April 4, 2017 Regular Meeting

B. Ratification of Payment Demands

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

D. Preparation and Submittal of the Urban Greening Grant Program Application

E. Legislative Update

F. Financial Audit Services Agreement

G. Rejection of Claim

Action: Motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Arambula, to approve the Consent Calendar passed, by the following vote:

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

Resolution No. 2017- 3501: Resolution of the Lemon Grove [City Council] Approving the Application for Grant Funds for the California Climate Investments Urban Greening Program]

Resolution No. 2017- 3502: Resolution of the Lemon Grove City Council Authorizing Execution of an Agreement between the City of Lemon Grove and Van Lant & Fankhanel, LLP to Provide Financial Auditing Services

2. Wastewater Rate Study

Mike James reported that the Lemon Grove Sanitation District (District) is considering a rate increase, establishing new reserve funds and establishing funding goals for each reserve fund is due to the acceleration of the City of San Diego's Pure Water Program. With the recent unilateral actions taken by the City of San Diego, all participating agencies in Metro Wastewater Commission/Joint Powers Authority are realizing significant cost increases.

NBS Governmental Finance Group (NBS) according to Proposition 218, created and mailed a public notice on March 3, 2017 which was distributed at least 45 days prior to the public hearing date. The notice was sent to all district users in English and Spanish.

Mr. James noted that the District would need a majority (50% +1) 3412 written protests to prevent the rate increase. Presently, 66 written protests have been received out of a total of 70; 4 were not valid, one was a duplicate, one was had no parcel or address identification, and two were submitted via email or fax which are invalid forms to submit a protest.

Kim Boehler, NBS Governmental Finance Group, provided an overview presentation of the following:

- Financial Plan Funding Priorities,
- Operations & Maintenance
- Sewer Revenue Requirements vs. Revenue Under Existing and Increased Rates
- Capital Improvement Program
- Sewer Main Maintenance Projects
- Capital Improvement Program with \$75,000 in FY 2021/22 for a new Rate Study

- Revenue Requirements
- Projected Cash Balance without adjustment to Rates
- Reserve Fund Target
 - Operating Reserve
 - Capital Reserve Fund
 - Rate Stabilization Reserve
 - Pure Water Reserve
 - Connection Fee Reserve
- Proposed Rate Adjustments
- Projected Cash Balance vs. Reserve Target

Mayor Vasquez stated that if anyone had written protests to submit, City staff members Miranda Evans and Stephanie Boyce are in the audience available to receive protests.

Mayor Vasquez opened the public hearing.

The following citizens spoke in opposition to the rate increase:

Carl Finster
 Kimberly McMurray-Cathcant
 Dino Resler
 Angles Nelson
 Mark Gracyk, Helix Water District Board Member
 Cynthia Bernier
 Richard Sells

Action: Motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Arambula, to close the public hearing passed, by the following vote:

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

James Lough stated that there are 6822 parcels in the City within the District and 3412 protest votes of would be necessary to stop the process. As of 2 minutes ago, 74 protests have been received; also received was one was a duplicate, one was had no parcel or address identification, and two were submitted via email or fax which are invalid forms to submit a protest.

Action: Motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember J. Mendoza, to accept the results of the protest count passed, by the following vote:

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

Action: Motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember J. Mendoza, to waive further reading and introduce Ordinance No. 28 passed, by the following vote:

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

Noes: M. Mendoza

Ordinance No. 28: An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 27 of the Lemon Grove Sanitation District Describing Methods for Calculating Sewer Use Charges

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

Councilmember Jones attended and reported on a Regional Water Quality Board and SANDAG meetings.

Councilmember Arambula attended and reported on a MTS Board meeting.

Councilmember M. Mendoza had no reports.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza attended and reported on Heartland Fire Training Facility and Heal Zone meetings. She attended the Lemon Grove Cross Walk and the Lemon Grove Soroptimist Awards dinner.

Mayor Vasquez attended and reported on the Lemon Grove Soroptimist Awards dinner and an East County Regional Mayors meeting with discussion of resolving the homeless issues in the East County. She reported on special meeting on the Downtown Village Specific Plan Expansion.

City Manager and Department Director Reports

David De Vries reported that the Community Cleanup to be held on Earth Day, April 22 registration begins at Civic Center Park at 8:30 a.m.

Deputy Chief McApline reported on recent changes to Heartland Fire and Rescue medical aid response processes and added that San Miguel Fire has joined the Heartland Communications JPA.

Lydia Romero reported on the Lemon Grove Soroptimist meeting and noted that April 29th is the grand reopening of the skate park.

Mike James reported that the spring curbside collection for Lemon Grove seniors and disabled residents will be held on April 26 and 27th.

Closed Session

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: Two Cases

Closed Session Report: No reportable action was taken.

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 8:58 p.m.

Susan Garcia

Susan Garcia, City Clerk