

**MINUTES OF THE  
LAWNDALDE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
December 6, 2021**

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Pullen-Miles called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall council chamber, 14717 Burin Avenue, Lawndale, California.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor Pro Tem Pat Kearney, Councilmember Bernadette Suarez, Councilmember Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, Councilmember Sirley Cuevas

Other Participants: City Clerk Erica Harbison, City Attorney Gregory M. Murphy, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Lieutenant Lio, Los Angeles County Fire Department Battalion Chief Brian Kane, Interim City Manager Raylette Felton, Community Services Director Mike Estes, Municipal Services Director Michael Reyes, Acting Director of Community Development Jared Chavez, Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos, Public Works Director Julian Lee

**B. CEREMONIALS**

Councilmember Rhonda Hofmann Gorman led the flag salute and Pastor George Magdalany, Hope Chapel Hawthorne, provided the inspiration.

**C. PRESENTATION**

**1. Organics Recycling Program**

Presented by: Dawn Harris-Benton, Republic Services.

Councilmember Sirley Cuevas inquired if there's an additional fee for businesses and multi-family units for the container.

Dawn Harris-Benton, Republic Services, responded there's no additional fee.

Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles inquired if all food containers will go in the green bin.

Dawn Harris-Benton responded only if it is soiled with food.

Mayor Pro Tem Pat Kearney inquired if Republic Services will provide brown bags for food waste and if plastic grocery bags are recyclable.

Dawn Harris-Benton responded Republic Services does not have brown bags to provide and plastic bags can be recycled in a large combined amounts.

**D. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT**

- a. L.A. County Sheriff's Department Updates
- b. L.A. County Fire Department Updates

Lieutenant Lio summarized the recent law enforcement activities.

Brian Kane, Battalion Chief with L.A. County Fire Department, summarized the recent local emergency activities.

**E. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (Public Comments)**

Gary Adams, Resident, spoke about the progress of the parking issues on Mansel Ave.

Louis Lee II, President of Eubanks Conservatory of Music and Arts, spoke of a partnership with the City of Lawndale.

Jim Holland, One Legacy City Ambassador, spoke about 2022 Donate Life Float Rose Parade.

Randal Abram, Resident, spoke about a new direction for the City with the new acting City Manager and spoke about code issues in the City.

Griselda Sanchez, Community Outreach with FAME Assistance Corporation, spoke about assessments and non-profit work regarding smoking in multi-family housing.

Noah, Intern with FAME Assistance Corporation, spoke about the accomplishments towards the issues of tobacco smoke in multi-unit housing.

Nancy Wilcox, Co-Chair for South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness, spoke about the upcoming, January 26, 2022, homeless count and operation and commended staff Diane Parsley.

**F. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL**

The City Council and staff responded generally to the comments.

Councilmember Sirley Cuevas and Councilmember Rhonda Hofmann Gorman requested a traffic study for Mansel Ave.

Mayor Pro Tem Pat Kearney requested code and parking enforcement policy to be reinstated.

**G. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Items 2 through 5, will be considered and acted upon under one motion unless a City Councilmember removes individual items for further City Council consideration or explanation.

2. **Professional Service Agreement Extension with De Novo Planning Group**  
Recommendation: that the City Council approve to extend the professional service agreement with De Novo for the General Plan and Hawthorne Boulevard Specific Plan Update.

3. **Approval of Contract Services Agreement for Staff Augmentation Services with Transtech Engineers, Inc.**

Recommendation: that the City Council approve and authorize the City Manager to execute the Contract Services Agreement with Transtech Engineers, Inc. for staff augmentation services in an amount not to exceed \$45,000 in a form approved by the City Attorney.

**4. Accounts Payable Register**

Recommendation: that the City Council adopt Resolution No. CC-2112-049, authorizing the payment of certain claims and demands in the amount of \$393,058.18.

**5. Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Regular Meeting – November 15, 2021**

Recommendation: that the City Council approve.

Mayor Pro Tem Pat Kearney inquired on the funding for item No. 2.

Acting Director of Community Development Jared Chavez responded it is expected to use the complete funds for the General Plan.

**A motion by Councilmember Bernadette Suarez to approve the consent calendar was seconded by Councilmember Cuevas and carried by a vote of 5-0.**

**H. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**6. Continuance of Public Hearing for an Appeal Request (Case No. 21-25) Appealing the Planning Commission's Decision to Deny Case No. 20-17 for the Development of a New 7,779 Square Foot Express Carwash Facility on a GC (General Commercial) Zoned Property Located at 15413-15425 Hawthorne Boulevard**

Recommendation: that the City Council continue the public hearing to January 18, 2022, for final consideration of the matter.

City Attorney Gregory M. Murphy provided the report for the above item.

The public hearing continued at 7:23 p.m.

Gary Adams, Resident, spoke in opposition to the proposed car wash project.

Nicole Kuklok-Waldman spoke about the continuation of the public hearing.

The public hearing was closed at 7:26 p.m.

**City Council reached a general consensus to continue the Public Hearing listed on Item No. 6 to the January 18, 2022 meeting.**

**I. ADMINISTRATION**

**7. Annual Reorganization of the City Council**

Recommendation: that the City Council appoint one of its members to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for a term beginning on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2022.

**A motion by Mayor Pro Tem Kearney to appoint Councilmember Rhonda Hofmann Gorman to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for a term beginning on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2022, was seconded by Councilmember Cuevas and carried by a vote of 4-0 with 1 abstention being Councilmember Rhonda Hofmann Gorman.**

**J. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Acting City Manager Raylette Felton spoke about developing a COVID-19 plan and comprehensive report, in compliance with Los Angeles County, for the reopening of the Community Center.

City Attorney Gregory M. Murphy presented a joint statement, Resignation of City Manager Kevin Chun for December 31, 2021

**K. ITEMS FROM CITY COUNCILMEMBERS**

**8. Mayor/City Councilmembers Report of Attendance at Meetings and/or Events**

Councilmember Suarez attended the South Bay Cities Council of Governments Legislative Committee meeting and Angel Tree Lighting city event and commended staff.

Councilmember Sirley Cuevas attended the Lawndale Smokefree Living seminar, General Plan and Hawthorne Boulevard Specific Plan meeting and inquired if it's probable to hold an in-person meeting in the future.

Acting Director of Community Development Jared Chavez responded the Housing Element will be presented to City Council at January 18, 2022 meeting.

Councilmember Sirley Cuevas went on to report her attendance of the State of Homelessness Panel Series, the South Coast Air Quality Management District 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Clean Air Awards, the Lawndale Angel Tree lighting and commended all staff for the work.

Councilmember Hofmann Gorman attended the California Contract Cities Association virtual meeting, the Angel Tree Lighting event and commended all staff.

Mayor Pro Tem Kearney attended the Assemblywoman Autumn Burke turkey giveaway event and Senator Bradford's, and attended the Angel Tree Lighting event, and spoke about the joint statement with the City Manager's for his resignation.

Mayor Pullen-Miles attended Angel Tree Lighting event, the Turkey Giveaway with Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce, spoke with Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell on Project Roomkey.

**L. CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:48 p.m. the City Council entered into Closed Session.

**9. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code sections 54956.9(d)(2) and (d)(3), because there is a significant exposure to litigation in one (1) case. The facts and circumstances giving rise to exposure to litigation are unknown.

**10. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation**

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1), to confer with legal counsel regarding litigation to which the City is a party. The title of such litigation is as follows: National Prescription Opiate Litigation (U.S.D.C. Case No. 1:17-CV-2804).

**11. Conference with Labor Negotiator**

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6, with the city manager, the city attorney and the City's negotiators, regarding labor negotiations with Local 1895, Council 36, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, representing the City's mid-management and classified employees.

**12. Public Employee Appointment**

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b), to determine whether to appoint an Interim City Manager.

**13. Public Employee Appointment**

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b), regarding the appointment of a City Manager.

At 9:20 p.m. the City Council entered back into open session.

**City Attorney Gregory M. Murphy reported that the City Council met in Closed Session to discuss the items listed on the Closed Session agenda. The City Council was updated on the Closed Session Items No. 9 and there was no reportable action taken. On Closed Session Item No. 10, the City Council gave direction to settle on specified items. Closed Session Item No. 11, no reportable action. Closed Session Item No. 12, the City Council has determined as of January 1, 2022, Acting City Manager Raylette Felton will be appointed as Interim City Manager.**

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

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Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Erica Harbison, City Clerk

Approved: 1/18/2022