



APPROVED: 3/2/2021

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

January 18, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Mora called the meeting to order via teleconference at 4:09 P.M

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members present: Councilmembers Sarno, Trujillo, Zamora, Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez, and Mayor Mora.

Members absent: None.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

CITY COUNCIL

NEW BUSINESS

4. Establishment and Implementation of a Restaurant Assistance Grant Program not to Exceed \$250,000 (Planning)

Recommendation:

- Approve the Establishment and Implementation of a Restaurant Assistance Grant Program not to Exceed \$250,000; and
- Establish, with the assistance of the consultant firm of Michael Baker International, a marketing plan (optional) and grant program guidelines and requirements for the Restaurant Assistance Grant Program; and
- Appropriate up to \$250,000 from General Fund Revenues to implement the Restaurant Assistance Grant Program.

Director of Planning, Wayne Morrell introduced Senior Management Analyst, Maribel Garcia to provide a presentation on Item No. 4. She introduced a finalized list of 61 establishments that were eligible for financial assistance for Council's review. The list consisted of 236 entries but was minimized after certain establishments failed to meet the required criteria. Director of Planning, Wayne Morrell provided additional information on the list and introduced Kristine Gaa from Michael Baker International to answer additional questions.

Ms. Gaa stated that attestations could be required in order for the City to track how the establishments will be using the monies moving forward. She added that monies could be specified to be used in whatever way Council directs.

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez asked if businesses within the City that do not have a current business license would be ineligible to receive assistance.

Director of Planning, Wayne Morrell stated that there are businesses on the final list that

do not have a current business license.

Councilmember Sarno and Councilmember Zamora expressed that they believe that businesses that have not been compliant with keeping up-to-date business licenses should be excluded from receiving assistance, not including those for this current fiscal year due to COVID-19.

Director of Finance, Travis Hickey provided information on the typical process of issuance of a business license.

Ms. Gaa reiterated that because the money is coming from General Funds, Council can be more flexible with the guidelines on who can receive monies. Director of Planning, Wayne Morrell stated that Council has the option to abide by separate guidelines if they choose.

Councilmember Sarno suggested that the City reach out to specific restaurants and have them list their overhead costs in an itemized manner. Ms. Gaa recommended for the City not to reach out directly because of the implication that if the City reaches out directly, it might be perceived that they will be guaranteed money. Instead she suggested that each business submit an application on their own.

City Attorney, Ivy M. Tsai stated that hand-picking businesses might open Council up to claims of discrimination, and it is recommended to have established criteria for businesses and then inform them of the grant availability.

Discussion ensued amongst Council and directed staff to remove additional businesses that are considered "chains" and "grab-and-go" locations, and Council directed staff to only include businesses that fall within a certain geographical boundary. Ms. Gaa recommended for staff to vet the businesses that fall within that geographical boundary, and to only send communications to said businesses to avoid conflict. Council directed the geographical area as follows: 605 Freeway at Los Nietos Rd, moving south along the 605 Freeway until Florence Avenue, moving east along Florence Avenue until Bloomfield Ave/Santa Fe Springs Rd, moving north along Bloomfield Ave/Santa Fe Springs Rd until Los Nietos Rd, and moving west along Los Nietos Rd until the 605 Freeway, with a maximum of \$25,000 per business based on demonstrated need through documentation, having a current business license, and will remain open up to one year upon receiving grant funding.

It was moved by Councilmember Zamora, seconded by Councilmember Sarno, to approve the Establishment and Implementation of a Restaurant Assistance Grant Program not to Exceed \$250,000, establish, with the assistance of the consultant firm of Michael Baker International, a marketing plan (optional) and grant program guidelines and requirements for the Restaurant Assistance Grant Program, and appropriate up to \$250,000 from General Fund Revenues to implement the Restaurant Assistance Grant Program, by the following vote:

Ayes: Sarno, Trujillo, Zamora, Rodriguez, Mora
Nayes: None
Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS

5. Consideration of an Amendment to the Agreement with Michael Baker International Inc., in an Amount Not to Exceed \$30,000, for Consultant Services Relating to a Restaurant Grant Assistance Program (Planning)

Recommendation:

- Approve Amendment No. One to the Agreement with Michael Baker International, Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$30,000, to assist the City with a Restaurant Grant Assistance Program.
- Authorize the City Manager or designee to execute and administer the Agreement.
- Appropriate up to \$30,000 from General Fund Revenues.

Director of Planning, Wayne Morrell provided a brief presentation on Item No. 5. Ms. Gaa stated that the actual amount would be significantly less than \$30,000 due to the reduction of eligible restaurants. City Attorney Ivy M. Tsai stated that a revised recommendation was not to exceed \$30,000, and allow the City Manager to approve a revised proposal from Michael Baker International, and for any difference in the revised proposal to be potentially applied to the grant funding.

It was moved by Councilmember Sarno, seconded by Councilmember Zamora, to approve Amendment No. One to the Agreement with Michael Baker International, Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$30,000, to assist the City with a Restaurant Grant Assistance Program, authorize the City Manager or designee to execute and administer the Agreement, and appropriate up to \$30,000 from General Fund Revenues, along with staff recommendations, by the following vote:

Ayes: Sarno, Trujillo, Zamora, Rodríguez, Mora
Nays: None
Absent: None

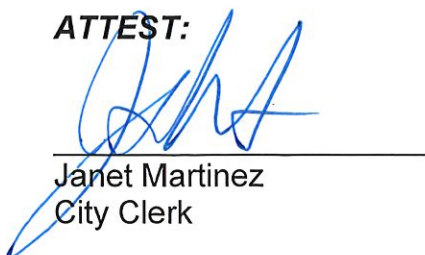
6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Mora adjourned the joint meeting at 5:42 p.m.



John M. Mora
Mayor

ATTEST:



Janet Martinez
City Clerk

3/2/21
Date