



APPROVED: 09/07/2021

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

August 3, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Mora called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

Members absent: None.

3. **INVOCATION**

Councilmember Sarno led the invocation.

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Jasmine Rodriguez, Youth Leadership Committee Vice-Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The following persons spoke during Public Comments: Ronald Wilson and Leticia Vazquez-Wilson.

HOUSING SUCCESSOR

There were no items to be considered under the Housing Successor Agenda.

SUCCESSOR AGENCY

There were no items to be considered under the Housing Successor Agenda.

CITY COUNCIL

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda items are considered routine matters which may be enacted by one motion and vote. Any item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately by the City Council.

Minutes of the July 8, 2021 Special City Council Meetings (City Clerk)

Recommendation:

- Approve the minutes as submitted.

It was moved by Councilmember Zamora, seconded by Councilmember Sarno, to approve the minutes as submitted, by the following vote:

Ayes: Sarno, Trujillo, Zamora, Rodríguez, Mora

Nayes: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC HEARING

7. Alcohol Sales Conditional Use Permit Case No. 78 (Police Services)

Request for approval of Alcohol Sales Conditional Use Permit Case No. 78 to allow the operation and maintenance of an alcoholic beverage use involving the warehousing and distribution of alcoholic beverages at LA Gift Basket located at 13724 Borate Street within the Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) Zone. (LA Gift Baskets)

Recommendation:

- Open the Public Hearing and receive any comments from the public regarding Alcohol Sales Conditional Use Permit Case No. 78, and thereafter close the Public Hearing; and
- Approve Alcohol Sales Conditional Use Permit Case No. 78 subject to the conditions of approval contained in Resolution No. 9723 as "Exhibit A".
- Adopt Resolution No. 9723, which incorporates the City Council's findings and action regarding this matter.

Director of Police Services, Dino Torres provided a brief presentation on Item No. 7.

Council Member Sarno inquired whether these baskets would be picked up at the location or shipped.

Director Torres stated that they would be delivered.

Council Member Trujillo inquired whether the point of sale sales tax would be allocated to the City or if the location was a satellite location that would not sell to the public.

Director Torres noted he was unsure of the specifics but he did not anticipate a lot of sales.

City Manager Ray Cruz added that it was likely that they would have point of sale if they were to sell from the location.

Mayor Mora opened the public hearing at 6:16 p.m.

There were no speakers.

Mayor Mora closed the public hear at 6:16 p.m.

It was moved by Councilmember Trujillo seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez, to approve Alcohol Sales Conditional Use Permit Case No. 78 subject to the conditions of approval contained in Resolution No. 9723 as "Exhibit A" and adopt Resolution No. 9723, which incorporates the City Council's findings and action regarding this matter, by the following vote:

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

NEW BUSINESS

8. Appropriation of funds from City's Art in Public Places fund for City's Art Education grant Program for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (Community Services)

Recommendation:

- Approve the appropriation of funds from the City's Art in Public Places Fund (Activity 6350-6100)
- Authorize the distribution of monies as recommended by the Heritage Arts Advisory Committee to fund the City's Art Education Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Family & Human Services Manager, Ed Ramirez provided a brief presentation on Item No. 8.

It was moved by Councilmember Zamora, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez, to approve the appropriation of funds from the City's Art in Public Places Fund (Activity 6350-6100), and authorize the distribution of monies as recommended by the Heritage Arts Advisory Committee to fund the City's Art Education Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, by the following vote:

Ayes: Sarno, Trujillo, Zamora, Rodríguez, Mora

Nayes: None

Absent: None

COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTED ITEM

9. COVID-19 Memorial Area at Heritage Springs Park (Public Works)

Recommendation:

- Select location and approve establishment of COVID-19 Memorial Area at Heritage Park.

Director of Public Works, Noe Negrete provided a brief presentation on Item No. 9.

Council Member Sarno expressed concerned for the type of wood used and the maintenance required. Director Negrete added that it would be monitored for maintenance.

Council Member Trujillo inquired whether the bench would have any specifics regarding City residents. Director Negrete stated that nothing personalized would be added to the existing design with the City seal.

Council Member Zamora inquired whether there could be an additional location for consideration such as the Clarke Estate where the memorial could be placed to avoid vandalism. He suggested the parking location by the vacant spot before entering the Clarke Estate.

Council Member Sarno suggested the Reading Garden at the City library.

Council Member Trujillo noted that people that rent the Clarke Estate might not take care of the memorial.

Council Member Sarno stated that the Clarke Estate is nice but not everyone will be able to see and access it.

Council Member Zamora noted that anywhere near City Hall would be ideal.

Council Member Trujillo suggested the Memorial Park. She inquired whether all memorials should be kept at the same location. Director Negrete stated that it comes down to security, and that Heritage Park was suggested because of the presence of park rangers along with the aesthetics that it offers.

Council Member Sarno inquired whether there would be a memorial wall or whether it would just be a bench. Mayor Mora inquired whether a QR code could be added to the bench that would direct to a virtual memorial wall to avoid adding names each time. City Manager Ray Cruz stated that there would be information provided regarding the virtual memorial wall during Item No. 10.

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez inquired about the size of the bench. Director Negrete stated it can sit two persons comfortably.

Council Member Zamora suggested to place it inside the City Library to allow kids and everyone else a conversation on the history of Santa Fe Springs during the pandemic.

Council Member Trujillo inquired whether there is room at the Serenity Garden area at the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center. Director Negrete stated that it would not be ideal due to the size of the area and the limited access.

Council Member Zamora and Sarno suggested to place it at the City library for the time being.

It was moved by Councilmember Zamora, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez, to place the memorial bench in the City library, by the following vote:

Ayes: Sarno, Trujillo, Zamora, Rodríguez, Mora

Nayes: None

Absent: None

10. CITY MANAGER'S AND EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS

- City Manager, Raymond R. Cruz spoke about the City's CalPERS obligations and the issues statewide agencies have suffered with regarding their finances. He noted that the City is obligated to reach a 6.8% discount rate or higher. He added that several cities have already issued pension obligation bonds. The City's Finance Department is reviewing the potential use of pension obligation bonds and will bring forward additional information in the near future.
- Public Relations Specialist, Raelene Barraza spoke about adding a COVID-19 virtual memorial wall to the City's website. She stated the memorial wall is dedicated for Santa Fe Springs residents and employees whose lives were taken by the coronavirus. Additional information would be circulated on the City's social media pages and quarterly newsletter.

- Council Members made comments. Council Member Zamora inquired what steps the City would take to obtain authorization from the proper parties to place names and pictures on the memorial wall. City Manager Ray Cruz added that they will coordinate with the City Attorney to establish the necessary requirements.
- Director of Public Works, Noe Negrete spoke about the safety ball field lights and video cameras installed at Los Nietos Park. Council inquired about adding signage that recording is under progress. Police Captain Aaron Ruiz and Director of Police Services Dino Torres provided feedback on sign. Director Negrete stated that they would work alongside Police Services and City Attorney's offices to coordinate placing appropriate signage. Council thanked staff for the installation of lights and cameras.
- Director of Public Works also spoke about the Water Main Leak and Repair on Lakeland Road. Lastly, he spoke about services and remembrance of former Public Works employee Jim Piloto who served the City for 36 years.
- Director of Planning, Wayne Morrell spoke about a couple of businesses in the City. He highlighted Romero's Food Products, Inc. is one of the business that distribute product to large companies such as Walmart and Costco. He also spoke about FoodPharma, and noted that it is manufactured in our city and sold by Trader Joe's. He also spoke about McKesson, they distribute around the world and they make the product in the City. Lastly, he spoke about Golden State Storage; they are currently expanding into a two story location.
- Director of Police Services, Dino Torres spoke about the local schools reopening. He noted that Public Safety will be working with schools to make sure that everyone is safe. Council Member Zamora requested for the flyer to be in both languages, English and Spanish.
- Fire Chief, Brent Hayward spoke about the COVID-19 rate within the past 60 days. He also spoke about a Fire-Rescue crew who was dispatched to the Dixie Fire in Plumas County. Lastly, he spoke about a sanitary supply donation from United Pumping.
- Director of Finance and Administrative Services, Travis Hickey spoke about the American Rescue Plan Act. He noted that starting April 1, 2021 City's were able to apply for reimbursement. The City submitted a reimbursement and received round \$9,000.00 and expects the amount to go up. He noted the amount will cover the payroll taxes and time off. Lastly, he announced that auditing has begun and will be meeting with the Audit Subcommittee.
- Director of Community Services, Maricela Balderas spoke about the haunted house. She noted the bid opening will be held the Council Chambers. It will operate from October 28 to 31. She also announced that the Aquatic Center was reopened on August 2nd for aquatic activities and programs. She also announced that the Family & Human Services division will host the annual Back-to-School backpack distribution program via drive-thru at the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center on August 6. Lastly, she announced the Community Services Department will be partnering with the Los Angeles County Public Health Department to have a free COVID-19 vaccination clinic

at Heritage Park on August 6, and will have Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson options available. It will be advertised in social media.

11. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Recognition of the 2021 Independence Day Event Sponsors (Community Services)

Community Services Supervisor, Leanne Iezza provided a brief presentation on Item No. 11. Carlos Gallardo from Farmers & Merchants Bank was present to be recognized for their donations to the event.

12. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

No appointments were made.

13. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sarno thanked Director of Public Works, Noe Negrete for allowing council to participate in Jim Piloto's service celebration. He also thanked Municipal Services Manager Kevin Periman for the installation of lights at Los Nietos Park.

Councilmember Trujillo noted she spoke with Mary Piloto, Jim Piloto's wife. She also acknowledged and thanked staff for the lights. She expressed her concern about National Night Out as neighboring cities are hosting the event and inquired whether it can be celebrated in the City again. Director of Police Services, Dino Torres and City Manager Ray Cruz stated they would look into it.

Councilmember Zamora spoke about Jim Piloto and his family. He acknowledged staff for stepping in during Jim Piloto's absence. He also acknowledged Director Negrete and his staff for allowing council to participate. Lastly, he thanked staff for all their help in keeping the City running.

Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez acknowledged staff for all their help and thanked Jim Piloto for his 36 years of service. She also spoke about the COVID-19 virtual memorial wall and added she was happy to hear we are doing something for the residents. She noted that a resident continues to reach out to her to ask who the Fire-Rescue Department first responders were that assisted her as she wants to personally thank them for their excellent service. She added that the Little Lake City School District Board of Trustees had a backpack distribution event and was happy to see residents receiving supplies.

Mayor Mora spoke about how much he appreciates staff and their dedication to the City. He also acknowledged the strike team and wished them a safe return home. He spoke about attending the backpack distribution program that was hosted by the school district and was delighted to see the students receive the necessary supplies once they return to school. Lastly, he thanked staff for coordinating the COVID-19 memorial bench and virtual wall.

CLOSED SESSION

- 14. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL EXISTING LITIGATION**
(Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.9(d)(1))

Name of case: City of Santa Fe Springs v. SFS Hospitality, LLC, Case No. 20STCV33264

CLOSED SESSION

15. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

(Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957(b)(1))

TITLE: City Manager Evaluation

Mayor Mora recessed the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Mayor Mora reconvened the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

16. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

City Attorney, Ivy M. Tsai provided a report on both Closed Session Items: Direction was given to staff and no reportable action was taken.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mora adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m. in memory of former employee Jim Piloto.



John M. Mora
Mayor

ATTEST:


Janet Martinez
City Clerk

9/7/21
Date