

**MINUTES
VERNON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 4305 SANTA FE AVENUE**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

FLAG SALUTE

City Administrator Fandino led the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Leticia Lopez, Mayor (via remote access)
Melissa Ybarra, Mayor Pro Tem
William Davis, Council Member
Carol Menke, Council Member
Diana Gonzales, Council Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Carlos Fandino, City Administrator
Arnold Alvarez-Glasman, Interim City Attorney
Lisa Pope, City Clerk
Scott Williams, Finance Director
Jim Enriquez, Interim Fire Chief
Abraham Alemu, Public Utilities General Manager
Fredrick Agyin, Health and Environmental Control Director
Michael Earl, Human Resources Director
Anthony Miranda, Police Chief
Dan Wall, Public Works Director

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra moved and Council Member Davis seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Finance/Treasury General Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Recommendation:

- A. Find the approval of the proposed action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Guidelines section 15273 and Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8), because CEQA does not apply to the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, and other charges by public entities for the purpose of meeting operating expenses and financial needs; and
- B. Adopt a resolution approving and adopting a General Fee Schedule for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Finance Director Williams presented the staff report.

In response to Council questions, Health and Environmental Control Director Agyin explained the increase in trash hauler and expedited fees.

Mayor Lopez opened the Public Hearing.

There being no speakers, Mayor Lopez closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION

Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra moved and Council Member Davis seconded a motion to: A. Find the approval of the proposed action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Guidelines section 15273 and Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8), because CEQA does not apply to the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, and other charges by public entities for the purpose of meeting operating expenses and financial needs; and B. Defer action on the General Fee Schedule for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and directed staff to review fees in January 2021. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION

Council Member Davis moved and Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

2. Approval of the Minutes

Recommendation:

Approve the May 5, 2020 Regular City Council meeting minutes.

3. Operating Account Warrant Register

Recommendation:

Approve Operating Account Warrant Register No. 45, for the period of April 19 through May 2, 2020, which totals \$9,677,280.62 and consists of ratification of electronic payments totaling \$9,266,721.47 and ratification of the issuance of early checks totaling \$410,559.15.

4. City Payroll Warrant Register

Recommendation:

Approve City Payroll Warrant Register No. 767, for the period of April 1 through April 30, 2020, which totals \$2,968,610.04 and consists of ratification of direct deposits, checks and taxes totaling \$1,933,925.29 and ratification of checks and electronic fund transfers (EFT) for payroll related disbursements totaling \$1,034,684.75 paid through operating bank account.

5. Fire Department Activity Report

Recommendation:

Receive and file the March 2020 Report.

6. Police Department Activity Report

Recommendation:

Receive and file the March 2020 Report.

7. Council Appointments to Outside Agencies

Recommendation:

A) Find that approval of the proposed action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review because it is an administrative activity that will not result in any direct or indirect changes in the environment and is therefore not a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15378;

B) Appoint delegates and alternates to outside agencies as follows:

a. California Contract Cities Association - Council Member Davis, delegate; and Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra, alternate;

b. Central Basin Water Association - Council Member Menke, delegate; and Council Member Davis and Vernon Public Utilities representative, alternate;

c. City Selection Committee - Mayor Lopez, delegate; and the remainder of the Council as alternate;

d. County Sanitation District #1 - Mayor Lopez, delegate; and Council Member Davis, alternate;

e. County Sanitation District #2 - Mayor Lopez, delegate; and Council Member Davis, alternate;

f. County Sanitation District #23 - Entire Council;

g. Gateway Cities Council of Governments - Council Member Davis, delegate; and Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra, alternate;

h. Independent Cities Association - Council Member Davis, delegate; and Council Member Menke, alternate;

i. Independent Cities Finance Authority - Mayor Lopez, delegate; and Council Member Gonzales, alternate;

j. Southern California Association of Governments - Council Member Menke, delegate; and Council Member Davis, alternate;

k. Southeast Water Coalition - Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra, delegate, and Mayor Lopez, alternate; and

l. Vernon Solid Waste Hearing Panel - Mayor Lopez, Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra and Council Member Menke; and

C) Adopt a resolution repealing Resolution No. 2019-13 related to City Council outside agency appointments.

8. Purchase Contract with Priority Building Services, LLC for COVID-19 Related Janitorial Services

Recommendation:

A. Find that approval of the proposed action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore is not a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines, Section 15378; and

B. Authorize the issuance of a purchase contract to Priority Building Services, LLC, for COVID-19 related janitorial services, in the form of porters, at a total not-to-exceed cost of 103,920 for one year (\$8,660/month), effective May 18, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lopez reordered the agenda to hear Item 10 prior to Item 9.

10. Services Agreement with the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County for Fire Protection, Paramedic and Incidental Services

Recommendation:

A. Find that the adoption of the proposed resolution is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") review, because it is an administrative action that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and, therefore, does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15378;

B. Adopt a joint resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, as the governing body of the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County ("LA County Fire") approving and accepting that there will be no exchange of property tax revenues resulting from the City of Vernon's annexation to LA County Fire; and

C. Adopt a resolution approving and authorizing the execution of a final services agreement with LA County Fire for the provision of fire protection, paramedic, and incidental services in the City of Vernon with a target conversion date of November 1, 2020.

City Administrator Fandino presented the staff report.

In response to Council questions, Los Angeles County Fire Chief Osby and Chief of Staff Aguirre discussed transportation of patients. Chief Enriquez explained ambulance service fees and response times. Human Resources Director Earl explained the transfer of sick leave for Vernon Firefighters. City Administrator Fandino discussed maintenance of facilities following transfer to LA County.

MOTION

Council Member Menke moved and Council Member Gonzales seconded a motion to: A. Find that the adoption of the proposed resolution is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") review, because it is an administrative action that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and, therefore, does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15378; B. Adopt a joint resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, as the governing body of the

Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County ("LA County Fire") approving and accepting that there will be no exchange of property tax revenues resulting from the City of Vernon's annexation to LA County Fire; and C. Adopt a resolution approving and authorizing the execution of a final services agreement with LA County Fire for the provision of fire protection, paramedic, and incidental services in the City of Vernon with a target conversion date of November 1, 2020. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Mixed-Use Specific Plan and Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Preparation Request for Proposal

Recommendation:

- A. Find that the proposed action is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") review, because it is a continuing administrative activity that will not result in any direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15378. As indicated in the Staff Report, one goal of the proposed action is to solicit proposals for the development of a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for potential project(s), and any required environmental impact analysis will be conducted at the appropriate project phase; and
- B. Approve and authorize advertisement of the Mixed-Use Specific Plan and Program EIR Preparation Request for Proposal (RFP).

Public Works Director Wall and City Administrator Fandino presented the staff report.

MOTION

Council Member Menke moved and Council Member Gonzales seconded a motion to: A. Find that the proposed action is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") review, because it is a continuing administrative activity that will not result in any direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15378. As indicated in the Staff Report, one goal of the proposed action is to solicit proposals for the development of a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for potential project(s), and any required environmental impact analysis will be conducted at the appropriate project phase; and B. Approve and authorize advertisement of the Mixed-Use Specific Plan and Program EIR Preparation Request for Proposal (RFP). The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

11. Vernon Resident COVID-19 Stimulus Grant Program

Recommendation:

- A. Find that the approval of the proposed action is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and, therefore, does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15378; and
- B. Approve implementation of the Vernon Resident COVID-19 Stimulus Grant Program, in substantially the same form as submitted, with the objective of offering financial relief to Vernon residents experiencing hardship related to the COVID-19 crisis.

Administrative Analyst Figueroa presented the staff report.

City Clerk Pope read the letter from Marisa Olguin, Vernon Chamber of Commerce.

The Council discussed the proposed program including requirements, application process, amount and form of grants, and exclusion of City Council from the program.

MOTION

Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra moved and Council Member Gonzales seconded a motion to: A. Find that the approval of the proposed action is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and, therefore, does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15378; and B. Approve implementation of the Vernon Resident COVID-19 Stimulus Grant Program, providing \$1000 to each household (and sublessee), except the household of City Council Members, in either groceries (Food for Less gift card) or rent paid directly to landlord. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Amendment No. 1 to Grant Agreement with AltaMed Health Services Corporation for COVID-19 Screening/Testing

Recommendation:

A. Find that approval of the proposed action is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15378; and

B. Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Grant Agreement between the City of Vernon and AltaMed Health Services Corporation (AltaMed) in substantially the same form as submitted, granting an additional amount of \$125,000 to support AltaMed's COVID-19 screening/testing services in the Southeast Los Angeles Area.

City Administrator Fandino and Health and Environmental Control Director Agyin presented the staff report.

Jennie Carreon, Assistant Vice President Civic Engagement, AltaMed, explained the program and services provided to residents and Federal and County funding to health centers.

MOTION

Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra moved and Council Member Davis seconded a motion to: A. Find that approval of the proposed action is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15378; and B. Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Grant Agreement between the City of Vernon and AltaMed Health Services Corporation (AltaMed) in substantially the same form as submitted, granting an additional amount of \$125,000 to support AltaMed's COVID-19 screening/testing services in the Southeast Los Angeles Area. The question was called and the motion carried 4-1, Council Member Menke dissenting.

13. Services Agreement with S&S Labor Force Inc., dba JRM for Unarmed Security Guard Services

Recommendation:

A. Find that approval of the proposed action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines §15378; and

B. Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute a Services Agreement with S&S Labor Force Inc., dba JRM for unarmed security guard services, in substantially the same form as submitted, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$1,809,000 over the three-year term of the agreement, effective May 20, 2020.

Public Utilities General Manager Alemu presented the staff report.

MOTION

Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra moved and Council Member Gonzales seconded a motion to: A. Find that approval of the proposed action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines §15378; and B. Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute a Services Agreement with S&S Labor Force Inc., dba JRM for unarmed security guard services, in substantially the same form as submitted, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$1,809,000 over the three-year term of the agreement, effective May 20, 2020. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

ORAL REPORTS

City Administrator Reports on Activities and other Announcements

City Administrator Fandino provided an update on recent Police Department, Fire Department and Vernon Public Utilities activities; City Hall open to the public; and update on the YMCA services; and May 21, 2020 Meal Distribution event.

Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra stated she was working with staff on how to distribute meals to residents. Council Member Menke expressed disappointment with her name being on the flyer for the event, without her prior approval.

City Council Reports on Activities, Announcements, or Directives to Staff

In response to Council Member Menke, Interim City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman provided an overview of the decision in the case of *Petrovich Development Co. LLC v. City of Sacramento*.

RECESS

Mayor Lopez recessed the meeting to Closed Session at 11:41 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

14. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Government Code Section 54957.6

Agency Designated Representative: Carlos Fandino, City Administrator

Employee Organizations: Vernon Professional Firefighters Association, and Vernon Fire Management Association

RECONVENE

At 11:50 a.m., Mayor Lopez adjourned Closed Session and reconvened the regular meeting.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

Interim City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman reported that the Council met in Closed Session, discussed the item listed on the agenda and no reportable action was taken.


ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lopez adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.



LETICIA LOPEZ, Mayor

ATTEST:



LISA POPE, City Clerk
(seal)