

**MINUTES
VERNON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 4305 SANTA FE AVENUE**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Lopez led the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Carlos Fandino, City Administrator (via remote access)
Arnold Alvarez-Glasman, Interim City Attorney (via remote access)
Lisa Pope, City Clerk (via remote access)
Scott Williams, Finance Director (via remote access)
Abraham Alemu, Public Utilities General Manager (via remote access)
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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Los Angeles County Fire Chief Pappas introduced herself and offered to be of assistance to the Council and community.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation on Transition Plan for the Exide Facility

Recommendation: No action required by City Council. This is a presentation only.

Roberto Puga, P.G., Trustee, PathForward Consulting, Inc., presented a PowerPoint outlining the purpose of the trust, transition plan, decontamination and deconstruction and next steps.

In response to Council questions, Mr. Puga discussed the goal to leave the site in safe, controllable condition. He anticipated completion by the end of 2021. He stated the available funds would only permit addressing structures not subsurface contamination. He discussed the potential sale and assumption of liability; funds available; value of property and site clean-up cost estimate.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Menke pulled Item No. 9.

MOTION

Council Member Menke moved and Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, with the exception of Item No. 9. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

2. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: Approve the November 3, 2020 Special and Regular City Council meeting minutes.

3. Operating Account Warrant Register

Recommendation: Approve Operating Account Warrant Register No. 56, for the period of October 18 through October 31, 2020, which totals \$11,106,222.76 and consists of ratification of electronic payments totaling \$10,844,643.29, ratification of the issuance of early checks totaling \$261,579.47 and voided Check Nos. 606307, 606382 totaling \$100,000.00.

4. City Payroll Warrant Register

Recommendation: Approve City Payroll Warrant Register No. 773, for the period of October 1 through October 31, 2020, which totals \$3,092,832.24 and consists of ratification of direct deposits, checks and taxes totaling \$2,034,715.45 and ratification of checks and electronic fund transfers (EFT) for payroll related disbursements totaling \$1,058,116.79 paid through operating bank account.

5. Fire Department Activity Report

Recommendation: Receive and file the August 2020 Report.

6. Police Department Activity Report

Recommendation: Receive and file the September 2020 Report.

7. 2019 Power Source Disclosure Program Annual Report and Power Content Label

Recommendation: A. Ratify the submission to the California Energy Commission (CEC) of the attestation signed by Vernon Public Utilities' General Manager, of the veracity of the 2019 Power Source Disclosure Program Annual Report; and
B. Approve the 2019 Power Content Label and authorize its submission to the CEC.

8. Access, License and Reimbursement Agreement with the Water Replenishment District for Destruction of Well No. 5

Recommendation: A. Find that the proposed action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3), the general rule that CEQA only applies to activities that may have a significant effect on the environment, for the reason that any construction that occurs in the future, relying on this approval, would be subject to CEQA review at that time and the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) would be the lead agency, with oversight by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB); and
B. Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute an Access, License and Reimbursement Agreement with WRD, in substantially the same form as submitted, for the purpose of destroying Well No. 5, in an amount sufficient to fund twenty percent of the final costs of destroying Well No. 5 as well as an equal split (1/5) of shared costs included in the Well Destruction Program Project, currently estimated to be in the amount of \$43,000, for a term of twenty years.

The following item was pulled from the consent calendar for individual consideration:

9. Request to Extend Electric Consumption Hurdle Date from rPlanet Earth Los Angeles, LLC

Recommendation: Approve and authorize the City Administrator to grant the request from rPlanet Earth Los Angeles, LLC (Customer) to adjust the established Electric Consumption Hurdle date from January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2022 as a one-time-only exception.

Public Utilities General Manager Alemu explained the recommendation for a one-year extension and potential budget impacts.

MOTION

Council Member Menke moved and Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra seconded a motion to approve and authorize the City Administrator to grant the request from rPlanet Earth Los Angeles, LLC (Customer) to adjust the established Electric Consumption Hurdle date from January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2022 as a one-time-only exception. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

10. Services Agreement with BLX Group LLC for Financial Advisory Services (Continued from November 3, 2020)

Recommendation: Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute a services agreement with BLX Group LLC for Financial Advisory Services, in substantially the same form as submitted, in an amount not to exceed \$600,000, for a three-year agreement effective November 3, 2020 for financial advisory services.

Finance Director Williams presented the staff report.

Council Member Gonzales expressed concern and suggested the Council review the other proposals.

Council Member Menke asked if BLX assisted in the creation of the note against the City's Tehachapi property. Jeff Higgins, BLX Group, stated the Council and City Administration made the decisions regarding the sale of the property and BLX only reviewed how the rating agencies would view the sale of the land. Craig Underwood, President of BLX, confirmed that BLX had no involvement in the Tehachapi property. He stated Eric Fresch was never an employee of BLX.

MOTION

Mayor Lopez moved and Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra seconded a motion to approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute a services agreement with BLX Group LLC for Financial Advisory Services, in substantially the same form as submitted, in an amount not to exceed \$600,000, for a three-year agreement effective November 3, 2020 for financial advisory services. The question was called and the motion carried 3-2, Council Member Menke and Council Member Gonzales dissenting.

11. **Software as a Service Agreement with Tyler Technologies for a Citywide Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software System, Hosting, Implementation, and Support**
Recommendation: Approve the Software as a Service Agreement with Tyler Technologies, Inc., in substantially the same form as submitted, for the purpose of an upgrade from the current Tyler ERP system (Eden) to a comprehensive ERP software system, which would include modules for Munis, EnerGov, Digital Health Department (DHD), and the Munis Utility Billing Customer Information System (CIS), with funds reserved for a project management consultant in an amount not-to-exceed \$3,439,726 for a three (3) year term.

Finance Director Williams presented the staff report.

In response to Council questions, Finance Director Williams explained the cost for project management consulting; estimated two years for full deployment; and proposed funding sources. City Administrator Fandino suggested staff bring back a more refined project scope and specific budget allocations.

Mayor Lopez suggested seeking additional grant opportunities.

Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra requested options excluding use of reserves and spreading the cost over three years.

MOTION

Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra moved and Mayor Lopez seconded a motion to table the item and directed staff to bring back specific budget allocations, including options to spread the project over three years and/or not utilize reserves. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

12. Professional Services Agreement with Northwest Electrical Services, LLC to Perform Technical Design, Controls, Automation and Analytical Services

Recommendation: A. Find that award of the proposed agreement is in the best interests of the City and, therefore, exempt from the competitive selection process pursuant to Section 2.17.12 (B)(2) of the Vernon Municipal Code; and B. Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Northwest Electrical Services, LLC in substantially the same for as submitted, for a term of three years, effective November 17, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$2,644,782, to provide technical design, controls, automation, construction and analytical services and equipment for the Public Utilities Department.

Public Utilities General Manager Alemu presented the staff report.

In response to Council questions, Public Utilities General Manager Alemu stated the City confirmed the materials costs were appropriate.

MOTION

Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra moved and Mayor Lopez seconded a motion to: A. Find that award of the proposed agreement is in the best interests of the City and, therefore, exempt from the competitive selection process pursuant to Section 2.17.12 (B)(2) of the Vernon Municipal Code; and B. Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Northwest Electrical Services, LLC in substantially the same form as submitted, for a term of three years, effective November 17, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$2,644,782, to provide technical design, controls, automation, construction and analytical services and equipment for the Public Utilities Department. 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, Fire and Public Utilities activities. He presented the recently completed renovations on the street island on Bandini Boulevard near the 710 Freeway. He announced the installation of the COVID vaccination trailers.

Health and Environmental Control Director Agyin reported that USC would be moving in within the next 2 weeks and the Council will be provided a tour. He discussed the status of the vaccine trails.

City Administrator Fandino reported on the Water Well 15 Rehabilitation Project completion; indicated digital signatures would be utilized; and announced Operation Santa on December 17, 2020.

Chief Miranda explained the virtual drive thru plans for Operation Santa.

City Administrator Fandino provided a reminder to protect personal property in vehicles. He announced the Vernon CommUNITY Grant Fund Committee meeting on November 18, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

City Council Reports on Activities (including AB1234), Announcements, or Directives to Staff.

Mayor Pro Tem Ybarra requested an update on the City's purchase versus providing its own water.

CLOSED SESSION

13. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EVALUATION

Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)

Position: City Administrator

Deferred

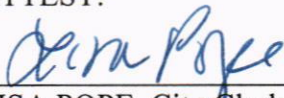
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lopez adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.



LETICIA LOPEZ, Mayor

ATTEST:



LISA POPE, City Clerk
(seal)