

**MINUTES
VERNON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022
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)
William Davis, Council Member (via remote access)
Judith Merlo, Council Member
Melissa Ybarra, Council Member

ABSENT:

Crystal Larios, Mayor Pro Tem

STAFF PRESENT:

Carlos Fandino, City Administrator
Angela Kimmey, Deputy City Administrator
Zaynah Moussa, City Attorney
Lisa Pope, City Clerk
Scott Williams, Finance Director
Fredrick Agyin, Health and Environmental Control Director
Michael Earl, Human Resources Director
Robert Sousa, Police Chief
Dan Wall, Public Works Director
Todd Dusenberry, Acting Public Utilities General Manager

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Council Member Merlo moved and Council Member Ybarra seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The question was called and the motion carried 4-0, Mayor Pro Tem Larios absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PRESENTATIONS**1. Proclamation Recognizing Retired Employee - James D. Moore**

Recommendation: Acknowledge and present a proclamation to retired employee James D. Moore, Electric Inspector, Senior, in recognition of his dedicated service to the City of Vernon.

City Clerk Pope read the proclamation. Council Member Merlo presented the proclamation to James D. Moore for his dedicated service to the City of Vernon.

CONSENT CALENDAR

City Clerk Pope noted that Council Member Davis would be abstaining from Item No. 11.

MOTION

Council Member Ybarra moved and Council Member Merlo seconded a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The question was called and the motion carried 4-0, Mayor Pro Tem Larios absent and Council Member Davis abstaining from Item No. 11.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

2. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: Approve the September 6, 2022 Regular City Council meeting minutes.

3. Operating Account Warrant Register

Recommendation: Approve Operating Account Warrant Register No. 94, for the period of August 14 through September 3, 2022, totaling \$17,816,079.22 and consisting of ratification of electronic payments totaling \$16,345,549.48 and ratification of the issuance of early checks totaling \$1,470,529.74.

4. City Payroll Warrant Register

Recommendation: Approve City Payroll Warrant Register No. 795, for the period of August 1 through August 31, 2022, totaling \$2,801,085.24 and consisting of ratification of direct deposits, checks and taxes totaling \$1,875,211.35 and ratification of checks and electronic fund transfers (EFT) for payroll related disbursements totaling \$925,873.89 paid through operating bank account.

5. Conflict of Interest Code (Statement of Economic Interests)

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2022-34 establishing a Conflict of Interest Code for all agencies, boards, commission, committees, designated City personnel and officials, and repealing Resolution No. 2022-01.

6. Fire Department Activity Report

Recommendation: Receive and file the July 2022 Fire Department Activity Report.

7. Police Department Activity Report

Recommendation: Receive and file the July 2022 Police Department Activity Report.

8. Quarterly City Housing Report

Recommendation: Receive and file the September 2022 Quarterly City Housing Report.

9. Change Order No. 17 to the Amended and Restated Services Agreement with Siemens Energy, Inc.

Recommendation: A. Find that approval of the proposed action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, because it is a government fiscal 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; to the extent the Services Agreement with Siemens Energy provides for facility and equipment maintenance or repairs, such work is categorically exempt from CEQA review, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, because the project consists of the maintenance, repair or minor alteration of existing structures, facilities, or equipment, and involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use; B. Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute Change Order No. 17 to the Amended and Restated Services Agreement with Siemens Energy, Inc. (Siemens Energy), in substantially the same form as submitted, to revise the Escalation Factor; and C. Approve the issuance of a blanket Purchase Contract in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for maintenance services and parts with Siemens Energy for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23.

10. 2021 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 2021 Power Source Disclosure Program Annual Report; and B. Approve the 2021 Power Content Label and authorize its submission to the CEC.

11. Permission for Absence

Recommendation: Excuse Council Member William Davis from attending meetings of the City Council and City Boards effective September 6, 2022 through October 31, 2022.

12. Supplemental to Blanket Purchase Contract LP-0725 with WCR Incorporated

Recommendation: A. Find that the proposed action is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, because the project consists of the maintenance, repair, or minor alteration of an existing facility and involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use; and B. Authorize a supplemental to Purchase Contract LP-0725 with WCR Incorporated in an amount not to exceed \$19,126.41 to cover full payment on the purchase contract for the repair, maintenance, and replacement of lube oil coolers and plate stacks at Malburg Generating Station during the scheduled Spring 2022 Outage.

13. Additional Funds for Interwest Consulting Group

Recommendation: Authorize staff to pay invoices totaling \$44,870.59 from Interwest Consulting Group for plan check services conducted prior to the term of the existing agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

14. West Santa Ana Branch Master Cooperative Agreement

Public Works Director Wall presented the staff report.

Meghna Khanna, AICP, LA Metro Senior Director, Countywide Planning and Development Mobility Corridors, provided an overview of the West Santa Ana Branch Project, including alignment within Vernon.

MOTION

Council Member Ybarra moved and Council Member Merlo seconded a motion to:
A. Find that approval of the proposed action is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act because this administrative action is not a project; and
B. Receive a presentation on the West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor Project (WSAB Project) by Metro Staff; and
C. Approve and authorize the City Administrator, to execute the Master Cooperative Agreement between the City of Vernon and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA or Metro), in substantially the same form as submitted, for the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of a portion of the WSAB Project.
The question was called and the motion carried 4-0, Mayor Pro Tem Larios absent.

ORAL REPORTS

City Council Reports on Activities (including AB 1234), Announcements, or Directives to Staff.

Council Member Ybarra reported on her attendance at the League of California Cities Annual Conference at a cost to the City of \$720.

City Administrator Reports on Activities and other Announcements.

City Administrator Fandino announced Career Day on October 5, 2022, and Halloween Spooktacular on October 27, 2022. He read a message received from a Vernon Community Fund Scholarship Recipient expressing gratitude to the Council.

RECESS

Mayor Lopez recessed the meeting to Closed Session at 9:21 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

15. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)
Jerry Chavez v. City of Vernon
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC719460

RECONVENE

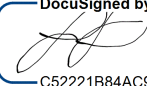
At 9:49 a.m., Mayor Lopez adjourned Closed Session and reconvened the regular meeting.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

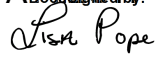
City Attorney Moussa reported the Council met in Closed Session, discussed the item on the agenda, and took no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lopez adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

DocuSigned by:

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LETICIA LOPEZ, Mayor

ATTEST:
DocuSigned by:

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LISA POPE, City Clerk
(seal)