

**MINUTES
VERNON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 4305 SANTA FE AVENUE**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Vernon Police Department Honor Guard presented the colors and led the Flag Salute.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Leticia Lopez, Mayor
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
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
Lily Hernandez, Assistant to the City Administrator

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION

Council Member Ybarra moved and Council Member Merlo 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. Swearing-In Ceremony for Police Sergeant**

Recommendation: Administer the Oath of Office to Sergeant Jose Ramos.
City Administrator Fandino presented the staff report.

Police Chief Sousa presented the staff report and introduced Sergeant Jose Ramos.

City Clerk Pope administered the Oath of Office.

2. City Administrator Report

Recommendation: Receive presentation on various topics including: New Business Welcome; Business Community Events; Vernon Development Activity; Tree Canopy Improvement Efforts; Partners in Homelessness Outreach; Program and Service Announcements; and Community Engagement

Assistant to the City Administrator Hernandez presented the report.

CONSENT CALENDAR**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.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

3. Meeting Minutes

Recommendation: Approve the November 15, 2022 Regular City Council meeting minutes.

4. Conduct of Meetings via Teleconference Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361

Recommendation: Ratify the findings in Resolution No. 2021-36 authorizing continued conduct of City Council and all other City legislative body meetings via teleconference, in accordance with Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361), due to continued public health and safety concerns caused by COVID-19.

5. Operating Account Warrant Register

Recommendation: Approve Operating Account Warrant Register No. 99, for the period of October 30 through November 12, 2022, totaling \$6,647,316.29 and consisting of ratification of electronic payments totaling \$6,396,087.46 and ratification of the issuance of early checks totaling \$251,228.83.

6. Public Works Department Monthly Report

Recommendation: Receive and file the October 2022 Building Report.

7. Professional Services Agreement with Sespe Consulting, Inc.

Recommendation: Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Sespe Consulting, Inc., in substantially the same form as submitted, for environmental compliance and remediation technical

- consulting services for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$300,000 over a three-year term.
8. **Verizon Communications Service Connection Type Change**
Recommendation: Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute Verizon's Scope of Work for the transition to its 10 Mbps service for an amount not-to-exceed \$26,501.40 for a three-year period.
 9. **Purchase Order with D&R Office Works, Inc.**
Recommendation: Approve the issuance of a Purchase Order to D&R Office Works, Inc. for the purchase, delivery and installation of office furniture for the Vernon Police Department report writing room and Records Division, in an amount not-to-exceed \$78,238.75.
 10. **On-Call Graffiti Abatement Services**
Recommendation: A. Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute a Services Agreement with Apply the Pressure Group, in substantially the same form as submitted, for a three year term in an amount not-to-exceed \$600,000 for on-call graffiti abatement services; and B. Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute a Services Agreement with Graffiti Protective Coatings, Inc., in substantially the same form as submitted, for a three year term in an amount not-to-exceed \$600,000 for on-call graffiti abatement services.
 11. **Arbor Day Proclamation and Application for Tree City USA 2022**
Recommendation: A. Proclaim December 6, 2022 as Arbor Day in the City of Vernon; and B. Authorize the Public Works Department to submit an application to the Arbor Day Foundation for Vernon to be certified a Tree City USA for 2022.
 12. **Amendment No. 1 to the Services Agreement with Harper & Associates Engineering, Inc.**
Recommendation: A. Approve and authorize the City Administrator to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Services Agreement with Harper & Associates Engineering, Inc., in substantially the same form as submitted, in an amount not-to-exceed \$50,000 for Coating Inspection Services for Six Above Ground Steel Reservoirs; and B. Authorize a contingency amount of \$15,000 in the event of unforeseen changes or delays in the project and grant authority to the City Administrator to issue amendments for an amount up to the contingency amount, if necessary.
 13. **Final Parcel Map No. 83466 for Torrance Logistics Company, LLC**
Recommendation: A. Find that the proposed action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15315, because the project consists of the division of property in urbanized areas zoned for residential, commercial, or industrial use into four or fewer parcels, the division is in conformance with the General Plan and zoning, no variances or exceptions are required, all services and access to the proposed parcels to local standards are available, the parcel was not involved in a division of a larger parcel within the previous two years, and the parcel does not have an average slope greater than 20 percent; B. Find that Final Parcel Map No. 83466 is in substantial conformance with Tentative Parcel Map No. 83466; and C. Direct staff to submit

Final Parcel Map No. 83466 for Torrance Logistics Company, LLC, located at 2709 37th Street, to the Los Angeles County Recorder for recordation.

14. Grant Deed Dedicating in Fee a Portion of the Property Located at 4201 Fruitland Avenue

Recommendation: A. Find that accepting the Grant Deed is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c) because acceptance of the grant deed for public right-of-way purposes is not a “project” that may have a significant effect on the environment; and B. Adopt Resolution No. 2022-44 accepting the Grant Deed of a portion of the property located at 4201 Fruitland Avenue (APN 6304-027-025).

NEW BUSINESS

15. Amendment No. 1 to the Solid Waste Nonexclusive Franchise Agreement

Health and Environmental Control Director Agyin presented the staff report.

Randy Terrell, Athens Services, commended the Environmental Health Department for its proposal and indicated support for the ordinance.

Gary Clifford, Executive Vice President of Athens Services, indicated support for the proposed ordinance.

City Attorney Moussa indicated an amendment on Page 18 of Amendment No. 1

MOTION

Council Member Ybarra moved and Council Member Davis seconded a motion to: A. Introduce and conduct the first reading of Ordinance No. 1289 to Grant Amendment No. 1 to the Nonexclusive Franchise Agreement for Commercial Solid Waste Collection; and B. Direct staff to schedule second reading and adoption for the December 20, 2022 City Council meeting. The question was called and the motion carried 4-0, Mayor Pro Tem Larios absent.

16. Adoption of California Building Codes by Reference

Public Works Director Wall presented the staff report.

In response to Council questions, Public Works Director Wall stated the proposed ordinance does not affect previous builds.

MOTION

Council Member Ybarra moved and Council Member Merlo seconded a motion to: A. Find that the proposed action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, because it is general policy and procedure-making activity that is unrelated to any specific project, which must undergo separate CEQA review, and that will not result in direct physical changes or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a “project”

as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15378; B. Conduct first reading and introduce Ordinance No. 1290 amending Title 15, Building and Construction, to adopt the 2022 California Building Standards Code and 1997 Uniform Code for Abatement of Dangerous Buildings by reference; and C. Direct staff to schedule a public hearing on December 20, 2022, for the second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 1290. The question was called and the motion carried 4-0, Mayor Pro Tem Larios absent.

17. Fund Allocation, Eligibility, and Criteria for Vernon CommUNITY Fund Grants

Assistant to the City Administrator Hernandez presented the staff report.

In response to Council questions, Assistant to the City Administrator Hernandez explained the proposal to allow outside entities to contribute to the scholarship program.

MOTION

Council Member Ybarra moved and Mayor Lopez seconded a motion to: A. Introduce and conduct first reading of Ordinance No. 1291 amending Vernon Municipal Code Sections 2.48.090, 2.48.100 2.48.110 and 2.48.130 relating to the Vernon CommUNITY Fund; and B. Direct staff to schedule second reading and adoption for the December 20, 2022 City Council meeting. The question was called and the motion carried 4-0, Mayor Pro Tem Larios absent.

18. City Council Appointments to Outside Agencies

City Clerk Pope presented the staff report.

MOTION

Council Member Ybarra moved and Council Member Merlo seconded a motion to appoint Leticia Lopez to the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District Board of Trustees for a two-year term. The question was called and the motion carried 4-0, Mayor Pro Tem Larios absent.

ORAL REPORTS

City Administrator Reports on Activities and other Announcements.

City Administrator Fandino announced the Holiday Tree Delivery to Vernon Elementary; the City's Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 8, from 5:00pm – 7:00pm on the City Hall Lawn; Huntington Park's Annual Holiday Parade on December 10; Soccer Ball Giveaway and Operation Santa on December 14; and Employee Recognition and Holiday Celebration on December 15.

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

None.

RECESS

Mayor Lopez recessed the meeting to Closed Session at 9:48 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

19. 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

20. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)
Title: General Manager of Public Utilities

RECONVENE

At 12:09 p.m., Mayor Lopez adjourned Closed Session and reconvened the regular meeting.

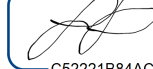
CLOSED SESSION REPORT

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 12:09 p.m.

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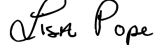


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LETICIA LOPEZ, Mayor

ATTEST:

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LISA POPE, City Clerk
(seal)