

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – VIDEO CONFERENCE
AGOURA HILLS CITY COUNCIL
Civic Center – Council Chambers
30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, California 91301
Wednesday, August 11, 2021
6:00 p.m.

The City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Weber.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Buckley Weber.

Present were: Mayor Denis Weber, Mayor Pro Tem Deborah Klein Lopez, Councilmember Chris Anstead, Councilmember Illece Buckley Weber, and Councilmember Linda L. Northrup.

Also Present were: City Manager Nathan Hamburger, City Attorney Candice K. Lee, Deputy City Manager Louis Celaya, Community Development Director Denice Thomas, Senior Planner Jessica Cleavenger, Planning Consultant Joyce Parker-Bozylinski, Acting Director of Public Works Kelly Fisher, Acting City Engineer Charmaine Yambao, Director of Community Services Amy Brink, Director of Finance Christy Truelsen, Administrative Analyst John Triechler, and City Clerk Kimberly M. Rodrigues.

REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session was held.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Councilmember Buckley Weber moved to approve the Agenda, as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Lopez seconded. The motion carried 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Mayor Weber, Mayor Pro Tem Lopez, and Councilmembers Anstead, Buckley Weber, and Northrup.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL, SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE, & DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

National Wildlife Federation, California, Executive Director Beth Pratt, provided a Wildlife Crossing update and Sheik Moinuddin, representing Caltrans, answered questions from the City Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following person(s) provided live testimony (via Zoom):

Murtaza Mogri, Agoura Hills
Martha Rising, Agoura Hills
Claudia Zate, Agoura Hills

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no public comments.

Councilmember Northrup pulled Item No. 5 for discussion. Following a question and answer period, the item was added back to the Consent Calendar for consideration.

Due to COVID-19 and the Delta variant, several Councilmembers reported they would not be attending the League of California Cities annual conference in Sacramento and would be available for the September 22, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting. By City Council consensus (*Weber, Lopez, Anstead, Buckley Weber, Northrup*), Item No. 7 was postponed and pulled from the Consent Calendar.

ACTION: Councilmember Northrup moved to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 1-6 and 8, as presented. Councilmember Buckley Weber seconded. The motion carried 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Mayor Weber, Mayor Pro Tem Lopez, and Councilmembers Anstead, Buckley Weber, and Northrup.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

1. Approve Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of June 23, 2021
2. Approve Demand Warrant Register No. 855
3. Approve Treasurer's Report for June 2021
4. Approve Award of Contract for Agreement for Contractor Services, with Executive Services Facilities, Inc., for Janitorial Services for Agoura Hills City Hall and the Reyes Adobe Historical Site

5. Award of Contract for Agreement for Consultant Services, with FlameMapper, LLC, for Software, On-Demand Modeling Assistance during Emergency Situations, and the Installation and Maintenance of Beacon Boxes around Agoura Hills
6. Approve the Exchange Agreement, with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), to Exchange Federal Surface Transportation Program-Local (STP-L) and Highway Infrastructure Program Funds with Flexible LACMTA STP-L Transportation Funds
7. **Item Postponed and Pulled from Consent Calendar** - Approve Amendment to City Council 2021 Meeting Schedule - Cancellation of Regular City Council Meeting of September 22, 2021
8. Adopt **Resolution No. 21-1982**; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING A 2021 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

PUBLIC HEARING

9. Conduct a Public Hearing and Introduce, Read by Title Only, and Waive Further Reading of **Ordinance No. 21-456**; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING ARTICLE IX (ZONING) OF THE AGOURA HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE TO UPDATE ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT REGULATIONS CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

Following presentation of the staff report by Planning Consultant Joyce Parker-Bozylinski, Mayor Weber opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 p.m.

The following person provided live testimony (via Zoom):

Michelle Wright

There being no further public comments, Mayor Weber closed the Public Hearing at 7:36 p.m.

ACTION: Following deliberations, Mayor Pro Tem Lopez moved to introduce, read by title only, and waive further reading of **Ordinance No. 21-456**, *“with the additional comments from Councilmember Northrup that we come back at a later time with some additional design standards.”* Councilmember Anstead seconded. The motion carried 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Mayor Weber, Mayor Pro Tem Lopez, and Councilmembers Anstead, Buckley Weber, and Northrup.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

10. Conduct a Public Hearing and Introduce, Read by Title Only, and Waive Further Reading of **Ordinance No. 21-457**; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING ARTICLE I (GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE AGOURA HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 5 REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION REGULATIONS CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT and Adopt **Resolution No. 21-1984**; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION FINES AND PENALTIES PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 21-457 REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION REGULATION

Following presentation of the staff report, Mayor Weber opened the Public Hearing at 7:20 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mayor Weber closed the Public Hearing at 7:21 p.m.

ACTION: Following deliberations, Councilmember Northrup moved to introduce, read by title only, and waive further reading of **Ordinance No. 21-456**. Councilmember Buckley Weber seconded. The motion carried 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Mayor Weber, Mayor Pro Tem Lopez, and Councilmembers Anstead, Buckley Weber, and Northrup.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

COUNCIL, STAFF COMMENTS

Councilmember Northrup spoke about the passing of Pamela Endo and extended her sympathy and condolences to the Endo family.

Councilmember Buckley Weber suggested the first letter, under the new 2021 legislative platform, be issued to the Wildlife Conservation Board in support of the \$20 Million grant for the wildlife crossing over the 101 Freeway.

Mayor Weber made the following statement: *“My comments really are based on what happened at the last Council meeting and, so, I’m going to offer an apology, and my apology, my sincere apology to my fellow Councilmembers and the community for something that took place and has caused tension and division. What was intended to be a conversation and advice with an upset business owner, who was involved with an enforcement action with the City, led to some information that was mistakenly shared and ultimately caused my colleagues being targeted by the anger and frustration of individuals that disagree with the City’s action and for this to have happened, I’m truly, truly, sorry. Looking back, it was something that should not have happened. As a member of this Council, I should have been more aware of my actions and words and how*

it affected our community. I've been part of the City for 35 years and while we can differ on votes, my role as a Councilmember requires me to be united in our approach with dealing with difficult situations for the betterment of the whole community. I've enjoyed my time on the Council for over two decades and this community has come to expect all of us to work together to preserve the quality of life they want for our City. I am, again, I'm sorry for my lapse in judgement and want to recommit to maintaining the kind of working relationship we all want and need. I sincerely hope with this apology we can continue in a manner that become representative of Agoura Hills. So, thank you for listening."

Mayor Pro Tem Lopez made the following statement: *"I would like to respond to the issues of the last Council meeting and my comments. I am one of the newest members of the City Council. Mayor Weber has been a member of the Council for 25 years. This was not his first Closed Session and not his first litigation and so to say that he should know better than to share information from a Closed Session, allegedly, is an understatement and that the owners of Cronies, what they shared with the community, claimed to have known so many specifics from that Closed Session meeting, combined with what Mayor Weber just asserted, it certainly seems to indicate a breach of the Brown Act. Because of this breach, members of our Council, specific members of our Council, myself being one of them, experienced physical threats against us. We experienced online harassment. We experienced gathering in our Chambers of people who self-proclaimed to be unvaccinated and unmasked during a global pandemic, which is part of the reason why I left and had to take it remotely because I had a family event coming up. Some of my Councilmembers experienced a little bit of harrowing heckling on the dais and what I saw was a complete breakdown of protocols at our last meeting which included our Mayor who was, I don't feel, able to keep order in the Chambers and this is serious. When we get sworn in, we take an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and I share with the people who were at that meeting last time, I've got my own copy (shows document) so don't worry about that. And, while we all make mistakes and we all need to be gracious and generous with each other when we make mistakes, it's important to appropriately own mistakes and I've always been very, very proud of our Council for being able to disagree respectfully and civilly without ever throwing each other under the bus and that changed. And that immense shift is what I wish Mayor Weber might have recognized a little bit more in his comments just now. So, personally, and on behalf of many constituents who reached out to me after our last meeting and the Acorn article that covered it, I don't feel that Mayor Weber should be the face of Agoura Hills. I think he should step down as Mayor for his last remaining months. This isn't about me, it's not about my title, I don't care what the title is or anyone else on this Council except his right now. Because our Mayor is the spokesperson and the face of our town and right now the face of our town is being looked at for Brown Act violation and amplifying the voices of those who don't follow health orders and, as we saw from the last meeting, with all due respect to the speaker during public comment, we're not name-calling here, we're not throwing out the terms "anti-vaxer" and this or that, these are people who are self-proclaimed disbelievers of COVID, disbelievers of vaccines, and that puts our residents at risk. There have been 25,000 deaths in this County and to bring that into our Chambers and into our City I think is very, very serious and something that can't just be wished away by an apology. So, I'm not comfortable that this is the face of Agoura Hills right now. I've shared with Mayor Weber that I think he should step down as Mayor. I don't believe in frivolous recalls and things like that, but, again, as the face, I just think that's the appropriate way to take ownership of this. So, I will continue to represent members of our community who are serious about public health, serious about following the law. I've made my request and, you know, we'll have to take it going forward if there's going to be any formal Brown Act violations going forward. Thank you."*

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Weber announced the next Regular Meeting of the City Council would be held at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 25, 2021, in the Council Chambers of the Civic Center. It is anticipated the meetings will be held by video conference and in-person attendance by the public in the Council Chambers will not be permitted.

ACTION: At 8:37 p.m., Councilmember Buckley Weber moved to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Lopez seconded. The motion carried 5-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Mayor Weber, Mayor Pro Tem Lopez, and Councilmembers Anstead, Buckley Weber, and Northrup.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

Kimberly M. Rodrigues, MPPA, MMC
City Clerk