

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING (IN-PERSON AND VIDEO CONFERENCE)**  
**AGOURA HILLS CITY COUNCIL**  
Civic Center – Council Chambers  
30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, California 91301  
**Wednesday, September 14, 2022**  
**6:00 p.m.**

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

Mayor Lopez requested any applicants for the City Council vacancy appointment process check-in with staff in the Council Chambers foyer for further direction.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Weber.

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

Also Present were: City Manager Nathan Hamburger, City Attorney Candice K. Lee, Assistant City Manager Ramiro Adeva, Deputy City Manager Louis Adeva, Management Analyst Amber Victoria, Administrative Analyst John Treichler, Media Analyst Ericka Diaz, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Jessica Forte, Associate Civil Engineer Charmaine Yambao, Director of Finance Christy Truelsen, Director of Community Services Amy Brink, and City Clerk Kimberly M. Rodrigues.

**REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney Lee reported on the one City Council Closed Session item pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8. The City Council considered the item, direction was given to staff, and no reportable action was taken.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ACTION:** Councilmember Buckley Weber moved to approve the Agenda, as presented. Councilmember Weber seconded. The motion carried 4-0, by the following roll call vote:

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

**NOES:** None.

**ABSENT:** None

## **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL, SPECIAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE, & DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

In celebration of the City of Agoura Hills 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 40 Facts for 40 Years, Mayor Lopez presented one fact: the City of Agoura Hills is “full of magic”; it is the gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains, sprinkled with rural charm, and embodies small town living with big city heart. To showcase the lush hillsides and “magic” in the community, the 1984 City Council produced a postcard featuring two white unicorns and the caption: “*Some say there is magic in the Agoura Hills.*”

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Following distribution of the Agenda Packet, and prior to the City Council Meeting, written correspondence was received from the following person(s), forwarded to the City Council, and made available for public review.*

*Matthew Cohen, Agoura Hills*

The following person(s) provided live testimony (in-person):

Ben Suber, Agoura Hills

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

There were no public comments.

**ACTION:** Councilmember Buckley Weber moved to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 1-7, as presented. Councilmember Weber seconded. The motion carried 4-0, by the following roll call vote:

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

**NOES:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

1. Approve Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of April 13, 2022
2. Approve Minutes of the Special City Council Goal Setting Workshop of May 11, 2022
3. Approve Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of May 11, 2022
4. Approve Demand Warrant Register No. 878

5. Approve Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor, with CivicWell, to Host a CivicSpark Fellow to Assist with the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Implementation
6. Approve and Make AB 361 Findings for Special Brown Act Requirements for Teleconference Meetings
7. Approve Rejection of Claim for Damages – Sophia Shloss

### **DISCUSSION / ACTION**

8. Conduct Interviews of Qualified Applicants and Selection of Appointee to Fill Vacancy of City Council Seat and Consider the Adoption of **Resolution No. 22-2020**; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, APPOINTING AN INDIVIDUAL TO FILL THE CITY COUNCIL VACANCY CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILMEMBER LINDA L. NORTHRUP

Following the presentation of the staff report, Mayor Lopez opened the floor for public comments.

*Following distribution of the Agenda Packet, and prior to the City Council Meeting, written correspondence was received from the following person(s), forwarded to the City Council, and made available for public review.*

*In support of Applicant Murtaza Mogri:*

*Kathi and George Colman, Agoura Hills  
Laura Elkus Gross*

*In support of Applicant Penny Sylvester:*

*Jane and Steve Baird, Agoura Hills  
Linda Boyce, Oak View Ranch  
Kathy Chavez, Agoura Hills  
Lauren Crisafulli, Agoura Hills  
Tracy Friedl, Agoura Hills  
Laura and Michael Gallop, Agoura Hills  
Sholeh and Merhan Karbassioon, Agoura Hills  
Karen Zak Kent, D.D.S., Agoura Hills  
Chris and Connie Kokiousis  
Linda Beck Kuban, Agoura Hills  
David and Suzan LaFontaine, Agoura Hills  
Lisa and Scott Lorkis, Agoura Hills  
Cathy Prater, Agoura Hills  
Paula and Larry Roberts, Agoura Hills*

*Lesli and Bruce Stein, Agoura Hills  
Tristan Whitman, Agoura Hills  
Nigel and Claire Williams, Agoura Hills*

The following person(s) provided live testimony (in-person):

Angela Cutbill, Agoura Hills, in support of Applicant Penny Sylvester  
George Colman, Agoura Hills, in favor of Applicant Murtaza Mogri

The following person(s) provided live testimony (in-person):

Sherry Ferber, Agoura Hills, in support of Applicant Murtaza Mogri

Mayor Lopez made the following announcement: *"We'll now begin the interview process. As mentioned at the beginning of the meeting, all applicants will remain seated in the adjacent room until their name is called for an interview. A list of the 15 applicant names is on the Council Chambers screen. The City Clerk will announce each applicant name as it is dropped into the bowl. Names will be randomly drawn, one-by-one, for applicant interviews. The City Clerk will start by drawing two names. Staff will summon the first applicant to the Council Chambers and the next applicant will be placed in the queue. Each applicant will have three minutes to make their opening statement followed by ten minutes for the City Council to ask a series of questions. When the interview is complete, the applicant will return to the adjacent room. The City Clerk will continue to draw names until all applicants have been interviewed. If a name is called and an applicant is not present, the name or names will be set aside and called after the last name is drawn from the bowl. I will now defer to the City Clerk."*

City Clerk Rodrigues announced that prior to the meeting, prospective applicant, Aymeric Andrieu-Delille, had submitted a written request to withdraw and was removed from the interview process.

Based on the process above, City Clerk Rodrigues announced all applicant names, as they were initially dropped into the bowl, and, one-by-one, randomly drew and announced the name of each applicant (including the name of the next applicant who was placed in the queue) who were individually interviewed by the City Council in the following order:

1. Phillip J. Weireter
2. Tina Wilkie
3. Kathleen Glass
4. Eva Larson
5. Murtaza Mogri
6. Stephen Rishoff

7. Meril Platzer
8. David Horenstein
9. John Asuncion
10. Lynn Metrow
11. Gregory Eisenman
12. Penelope Sylvester
13. Brit Sharon
14. Adam McArthur

**The City Council recessed at 8:53 p.m. and reconvened at 9:07 p.m.**

Following the break, Mayor Lopez invited the applicants to join the City Council in the Council Chambers.

Assistant City Manager Adeva provided the next steps in the process and deferred to City Clerk Rodrigues.

City Clerk Rodrigues called upon each Councilmember to provide the name of their top applicant and received the following nominations:

- Councilmember Buckley Weber selected Penelope Sylvester;
- Councilmember Weber selected Penelope Sylvester;
- Mayor Pro Tem Anstead selected Murtaza Mogri; and
- Mayor Lopez selected Penelope Sylvester.

As there was majority support to appoint applicant, Penelope Sylvester, no further ranking from the City Council was required.

**ACTION:** Following discussion, Councilmember Buckley Weber moved to select Penelope Sylvester to be appointed to fill the vacancy on the City Council; adopt **Resolution No. 22-2020**, with the selected appointee's name, Penelope Sylvester, inserted; and, confirm the oath of office for the appointee will be administered at the beginning of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on September 28, 2022, allowing the newly sworn Member of the City Council to be seated at the dais at that time and participate in the remaining items of the Agenda that evening. Councilmember Weber seconded. The motion carried 4-0, by the following roll call vote:

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

**NOES:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

The City Council thanked all applicants for their participation in the process and congratulated Penelope Sylvester on her appointment to fill the vacancy on the City Council.

Councilmember Buckley Weber encouraged applicants to consider applying for other boards and commissions with the City or volunteer for upcoming City events.

### **COUNCIL, STAFF COMMENTS**

Deputy City Manager Celaya announced that September is National Preparedness Month and Saturday, September 24, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Community Room, staff would be hosting “Emergency Preparedness Saturday” to provide emergency information, including wildfire and earthquake preparedness and sidewalk CPR, and residents would have the opportunity to sign-up for the various alert notification programs offered through the City and County.

Director of Community Services Brink announced Reyes Adobe Days will be held October 7-9, 2023, and the City is seeking volunteers to assist with the event and provided information to sign-up with the Community Services Department.

Mayor Lopez spoke about Carter Brian Stone, a 15 year-old freshman offensive lineman on the Agoura High School Junior Varsity Football Team, who attended his first day of school on August 24, 2022, and the following day went in for routine surgery for a shoulder injury when doctors discovered an undiagnosed tumor on his heart, from T-cell leukemia and, tragically, he was pronounced deceased after being emergency airlifted to Children’s Hospital in Los Angeles. The day after his death, the Agoura High School Chargers played their second game of the year (21-7 against Ventura) and honored Carter by holding a moment of silence. They also wore his number (76) and the phrase “Be Like Carter” on their helmets and will continue to do so through the remainder of the season. Carter was known as the kind of kid who went the extra mile, he had a charming sense of humor, love of football and music, was incredibly kind and compassionate, and loved spending time with his family. At 15, he was just beginning to grow into the remarkable person he was becoming and will be truly missed by many. On behalf of the City Council and staff, Mayor Lopez extended sincere condolences to Carter’s parents, Brian and Danielle Stone, and their entire family, and respectfully requested the meeting be adjourned in memory of Carter Brian Stone.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Lopez announced the next Regular Meeting of the City Council would be held at 6:00 p.m., on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, in the Council Chambers of the Civic Center. Members of the public will have the opportunity to participate in-person in the Council Chambers or by remote video conferencing (Zoom).

**ACTION:** At 9:36 p.m., Councilmember Buckley Weber moved to adjourn the meeting in memory of Brian Carter Stone. Councilmember Weber seconded. The motion carried 4-0, by the following roll call vote:

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

**NOES:** None.

**ABSENT:** None.

Kimberly M. Rodrigues, MPPA, MMC  
City Clerk