

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: JANUARY 12, 2011

TO: MAYOR AND HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: KIMBERLY RODRIGUES, CITY CLERK

**SUBJECT: CONSIDER THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND
 THE START TIME OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

In recent years, various members of Council, staff, and the community have voiced their desire to commence the Council meetings at an earlier start time. It is felt that, by holding the Council meetings at an earlier hour, it may increase public participation and more attentiveness by all for items towards the latter part of the agenda.

The meeting start time of 7:00 p.m. was established when people had no other alternative than to come to the Council Chambers to watch a Council meeting. With the advancement of technology, it is now possible for people to watch City Council meetings at home via live web streaming (Granicus) or view the taped version that is broadcast on Cable TV the following day.

The average time that it takes to conduct Council business at a regular City Council meeting has been approximately two hours, however, meetings can run much later, when necessary. The proposed amendment to start Council meetings at 6:00 p.m. would allow certain members of the public to attend Council meetings who may not do so due to the late start and/or end time of Council meetings.

The earlier 6:00 p.m. start time would resolve several issues:

1. Members of the public who decide to forego attending Council meetings due to the late start and end time of meetings.
2. Working adults and students who may have considered attending a Council meeting, but once at home find themselves too tired to get back into their vehicles and drive to the Council Chambers.
3. Parents of young children who may have to leave the Council meeting early, before their items are considered, as they would have to put their children to bed or deal with other parental matters before the meeting ends.
4. Shifting the start time of the meeting back one hour will provide a reduction in staff overtime between the end of the work day and the start of the Council meeting.

The City Attorney has prepared an ordinance amendment, for Council's consideration, to address the change in the start time, including updates to any cross references in the Agoura Hills Municipal Code.

No amendments are required for the bylaws of both the Financing Authority and Redevelopment Agency as they indicate that their "...*regular meetings shall be held at the time and place of the regular meetings of the City Council*".

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council consider amending the start time of the regular City Council meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. If the Council concurs to make this amendment, the motion would be to introduce, read by title only, and waive further reading of Ordinance No. 11-382. The ordinance would then be brought back for adoption, by Consent Calendar, at the January 26, 2011 meeting, and the new 6:00 p.m. start time would be effective within 30 days, beginning with the first regular City Council meeting in March.

Attachment: Ordinance No. 11-382

ORDINANCE NO. 11-382

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, OF ARTICLE II OF THE AGOURA HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE ESTABLISHING THE TIME FOR REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the City Council of the Agoura Hills is required by law to take formal action to establish the time and place of regular meetings of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that holding regular meetings of the City Council earlier in the evening would promote public participation and attendance, as well as provide greater administrative efficiency.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 2203 of Chapter 2 of Article II of the Agoura Hills Municipal Code is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows.

“2203. Council meetings.

Regular meetings of the Agoura Hills City Council shall be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the hour of ~~7:00 p.m.~~**6:00 p.m.**, or if any such day is a holiday, then the meeting scheduled on such day shall be held in the council chambers on the next succeeding day which is not a holiday.”

SECTION 2. Any and all additional references to the time of regular meetings of the City Council in the Municipal Code or other official City documents and publications shall be changed to reflect the new starting hour of 6:00 p.m., following the effective date of this Ordinance. The City Manager and City Clerk are hereby directed to cause such time change to be made and to publicize the time change to the community.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk of the City of Agoura Hills shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause the same or a summary thereof to be published and posted in the manner required by law. This Ordinance shall go into effect on the 31st day after its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED, this ____ day of January, 2011, by the following vote to wit:

AYES: ()
NOES: ()
ABSENT: ()
ABSTAIN: ()

Harry Schwarz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly M. Rodrigues, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Craig A. Steele, City Attorney