

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE,
CALIFORNIA HELD JULY 13, 2021**

1.

Mayor Vargas called the City Council, meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. via Zoom in City Hall Offices, 4455 W. 126th Street, Hawthorne, California.

ROLL CALL-Present: Councilmembers Monteiro, Patterson, Reyes English, Valentine, Mayor Vargas.
Absent: None.

2.

Councilmember Reyes English gave the evening's invocation. Senior Deputy City Clerk Avalos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.

Under oral communications, no one expressed a desire to be heard.

4.

CITY CLERK'S CONSENT CALENDAR

5.

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro, that the reading of the City Council minutes of the regular meeting of March 23, 2021 and the special meetings of March 30, 2021, April 7, 2021, April 13, 2021, April 15, 2021 and April 19, 2021 be waived and that they be approved and adopted.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Monteiro, Patterson, Valentine, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: Councilmember Reyes English

6.

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro, to waive full readings of resolutions and ordinances on July 13, 2021's agenda.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Monteiro, Patterson, Reyes English, Valentine, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.

7.

The City Treasurer submitted a financial statement regarding warrants.

Warrants Nos.: 3594-194841; 474139-474370; 61654-61969

Warrant Totals: \$1,533,725.43 \$2,247,318.75; \$831,434.09

Warrant Nos.: 10749-10750;

Warrant Totals: \$6,922.12

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro, that the following warrants, properly audited and signed, be paid.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Monteiro, Patterson, Reyes English, Valentine, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.

8.

BIDS. (None at this time)

9.

RESOLUTIONS

10.

RESOLUTION NO. 8286

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING 24-HOUR RESTRICTED PARKING, SATURDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF 116TH STREET FROM GREVILLEA AVENUE TO 85 FEET WEST OF HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD.

Councilmember Reyes English moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro, to table this item.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Monteiro, Patterson, Reyes English, Valentine, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.

11.

RESOLUTION NO. 8290

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA AMENDING A CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT FOR APPOINTED AND ELECTED OFFICIALS.

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro, that Resolution 8290 be approved and adopted.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Monteiro, Patterson, Reyes English, Valentine, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.

13.

ORDINANCES

14.

ORDINANCE NO. 2223 (2nd Reading)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) AND RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT APPLICATION NO. 2021ZA01 TO AMEND TITLE 17 OF THE HAWTHORNE MUNICIPAL CODE, SECTION 3.3 (DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS) CONTAINED IN APPENDIX B (DESIGN GUIDE FOR HIGHEST DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AND MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT) IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW AND MAKING FINDINGS IN SUPPORT THEREOF.

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Reyes English, that Ordinance 2223 be approved and adopted.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Monteiro, Patterson, Reyes English, Valentine, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.

15.

GENERAL MATTERS

16.

Overview of The American Rescue Plan Act Funding

Based on the U.S. Department of Treasury report, the City of Hawthorne is to receive \$30.5 million under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), of which \$15.2 million will be received by the end of July 2021. The deadline for spending the funds is December 31, 2026. Finance Director Lopez and Barry Foster from HDL gave a summary of possible options on how the funds could be used. The City Council gave various recommendations including sewer system upgrades, helping small businesses, reimbursement for COVID losses, fixing city-owned properties, food assistance, helping the homeless, investing in the community, improve city workforce, city reimbursement, vaccination programs and help with utility payments

17.

Appoint Interim Human Resources Director Irma Youssefieh as the City's labor negotiator with respect to the Hawthorne Executive Group ("HEG"), Hawthorne Municipal Employees' Association ("HMEA"), Hawthorne Police Management & Supervisory Group ("HPMSG") and Hawthorne Police Officers' Association ("HPOA")

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro, to appoint Interim Human Resources Director Irma Youssefieh as the City's labor negotiator with respect to the Hawthorne Executive Group ("HEG"), Hawthorne Municipal Employees' Association ("HMEA"), Hawthorne Police Management & Supervisory Group ("HPMSG") and Hawthorne Police Officers' Association ("HPOA")

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Monteiro, Patterson, Reyes English, Valentine, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.

18.

CITY MANAGER'S CONSENT CALENDAR

The Interim City Manager, Von Norris, presented the following agenda and requested approval of the indicated recommendations:

19.

Approve Acceptance of Approximately 216 Square Feet Easement for Sidewalk Purposes at 12410 Wilkie Ave.

20.

Approve Progress Payment #3 in the Amount of \$159,275 Due to United Storm Water, Inc. of Industry, CA for Street Inlet Improvement Project – Phase 2 (Project #20-07).

21.

Approve Progress Payment #4 in the Amount of \$237,234.46 to Sialic Contractors Corporation dba Shawnan of Downey, CA for Project #20-12, Prairie Ave Improvement Project Phase II.

Mayor Vargas moved seconded by Councilmember Monteiro to approve items 19 through 21 of the City Manager's consent calendar.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Monteiro, Reyes English, Patterson, Valentine, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.

22.

Approve the selection of LDM Associates, Inc. (LDM) as the consultant for the administration of the CDBG & HOME programs as well as the Construction Management and other services that fall under the umbrella of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development federal funding from 7/13/2021 to 6/30/2026. 1. Approve the proposal with LDM for a period of five years from 7/13/2021 to 6/30/2026 to provide professional services necessary to administer and implement the CDBG & HOME Investment Partnership Programs. As well as provide professional Construction Management Services necessary to administer and implement the CDBG & HOME Investment Partnership Housing Rehabilitation Programs and other programs that are eligible for federal grant funding through HUD. 2. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to create, execute, amend, and keep record of documents necessary to administer a Professional Services Agreement with LDM for the initial year 7/13/2021 to 6/30/2022.

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Mayor Vargas, to approve item 22 of the City Manager's consent calendar.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Monteiro, Reyes English, Patterson, Valentine, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.

23.

CITY ATTORNEY'S CONSENT CALENDAR

24.

Claim of Peter Wang for Age Discrimination, Disability Discrimination, Racial Discrimination, Harassment, False Imprisonment, Defamation, etc.

Councilmember Reyes English moved, seconded by Councilmember Valentine, to bring back item 24 into closed session at the July 27, 2021 City Council meeting. .

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Monteiro, Patterson, Reyes English, Valentine, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.

25.

Claim of Nancy J. Myska for Personal Injuries allegedly arising from a collision with the door of a city-owned vehicle.

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro, to Deny item 25 of the City Attorney's consent calendar.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Monteiro, Patterson, Reyes English, Valentine, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.

26.

Settlement of the lawsuit brought by Aprel Johnson-Gabriel.

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro, to Approve item 26 of the City Attorney's consent calendar.

27.

Settlement of *Ronnie Brown v. City of Hawthorne, et al* for \$35,000.

Councilmember Reyes English moved, seconded by Councilmember Valentine, to bring back item 27 into closed session at the July 27, 2021 City Council meeting.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Monteiro, Patterson, Reyes English, Valentine, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.

28.

CITY COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

29.

Providing a Status from the City Attorney's Office (Patterson)

This item was addressed through a legal confidential so no further discussion was needed.

30.

Request to Support Law Enforcement Agencies Serving LA Metro Bus and Train Lines and Against Defunding Public Safety (Reyes English)

City Council gave unanimous directive in support of item 30.

31.

. ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

City Treasurer **Fallon** reported on bonds due, taking care of funds with Bank of the West and re-purchasing CDs.

Senior Deputy Clerk **Avalos** gave a legislative update regarding the recall election of Governor Gavin Newsom and District Attorney George Gascón.

Councilmember **Reyes English** thanked everybody who has been helping move our city along especially with businesses. Requested that a closed session be considered to discuss personnel matters. Requested a report on the cannabis program and the status of three entities that were selected. Thanked the departments for their efforts regarding parking issues, bulky items, tree trimming, and infrastructure, particularly on Prairie. Would like departments to start thinking now about their top five needs, which would be paid from the ARPA allocation dollars. Requested an agenda item to discuss fireworks and its potential future.

Councilmember **Patterson** thanked the community for tuning in and appreciates the public's feedback. Thanked staff for their hard work. Asked that we pick up where we left off regarding the selection of a consultant for the cannabis ordinance. Requested that when it comes to the ARPA funds, that we invest in our community.

Councilmember **Monteiro** thanked the community for joining us. Thank the departments head, the interim City Attorney Robert Kim and the interim City Manager Von Norris for their hard work. Spoke about investing in the city workforce and the community. Thanked Chief Ishii for the fireworks report and hopes everyone stayed safe. Thanked the homeless taskforce and the providers and church leaders that attended today's meeting. Thanked the Dodgers Foundation for Dodger Day at Holly Park and for the giveaways they provided. Spoke on the farmer's market attendance and encouraged the community to attend the next farmers market on July 31st. Encourage the community to conserve energy by using their appliances at night and to keep an eye Flex Alerts. Directed the City Manager and Public Works director to create a sidewalk handicap parking space at the corner of 141st Street and Hawthorne Blvd.

Councilmember **Valentine** thanked the police department for the 4th of July recap, specifically Lieutenant Amy Yoshida. Would like to hear from our citizens if fireworks should continue to be allowed in the city. Spoke in opposition of Senate Bill 9, which has to do with zoning. Thanked staff for their hard work. Thanked her Council colleagues for their ARPA suggestions and hopes the funds are distributed for the mutual benefit of all residents in the city. Directed the Interim City Manager to look into setting a date for Employee Appreciation Day.

Mayor **Vargas** congratulated the Von Norris and the Parks and Recreation staff for the improvements at Ramona Park and Holly Park. Spoke on the situation in Cuba and extended his support to the Cuban people. Spoke on the homeless situation and how we need to help them, possibly with AROA funds, but at the same time we need to enforce the law and protect our residents and children.

32.

Mayor Vargas called for oral comments. No one indicated a desire to be heard.

Mayor Vargas recessed the City Council meeting at 8:17 pm. to conduct a **Closed Session:** CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Subdivision (a) of Section 54957.6 of the California Government Code. Name of Labor Negotiator(s): Interim City Manager Von Norris and Interim Human Resources Director Irma Youssefieh re: the Hawthorne Executive Group (“HEG”), Hawthorne Municipal Employees’ Association (“HMEA”), Hawthorne Police Management & Supervisory Group (“HPMSG”) and Hawthorne Police Officers’ Association (“HPOA”).

Mayor Vargas called the City Council meeting back to order at 9:31 p.m. following recess with all Councilmembers present. The Interim City Attorney stated that the labor negotiators had been instructed.

33.

Mayor Vargas adjourned the regular meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Carmen Avalos
Senior Deputy City Clerk