



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**February 6, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber - 1243 National City Boulevard
National City, CA**

Present:

- Councilmember Bush**
- Councilmember Molina**
- Councilmember Rodriguez**
- Vice-Mayor Yamane**
- Mayor Morrison**

Others Present:

- Benjamin A. Martinez, City Manager**
- Barry J. Schultz, City Attorney**
- Shelley Chapel, City Clerk (*via Zoom*)**
- Carlos Aguirre, Acting Deputy City Manager/Housing Authority Director**
- Walter Amedee, Management Analyst III**
- Molly Brennan, Administrative Services Director**
- Chris Garcia, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor**
- Danielle Ghio, Acting City Librarian**
- Brian Hadley, Building Official/Acting Director of Community Development**
- Alex Hernandez, Chief of Police**
- Robert Hernandez, Battalion Chief**
- Tonya Hussain, Executive Secretary**
- Martha Juarez, Asst. Director of Engineering/Public Works**
- Stephen Manganiello, Director of Engineering/Public Works, City Engineer**
- Sergio Mora, Fire Chief**
- Martin Reeder, Planning Manager**
- Richard Romero, Assistant City Attorney**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of National City was called to order at 6:05 p.m. via teleconference and in the Council Chamber, located in City Hall, 1243 National City Boulevard, National City, California.

2. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Bush, Molina, Rodriguez, Yamane, Morrison

Interpretation in Spanish provided by Carlos Diaz and Luisa Diaz de Leon.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Councilmember Bush led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. INVOCATION

Delivered by Joe Mendoza.

ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

7. PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITION

7.1 Introduction of New City Employees

Police Chief Hernandez introduced Police Dispatcher Reona Bowles and Police Officer Christina Soto. Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Ruben Huerta recognized Equipment Mechanic II Marcos Pesqueira who was not able to attend. Administrative Services Director Brennan stated that new Accounting Assistant Adriana C. Barajas would be introduced at the March Council meeting. Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Chris Garcia introduced Custodian Jessica Gomez.

ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

5. PRESENTATION - STAFF REPORT

5.1 Presentation - Update on Local Emergency Caused by Severe Rainstorm and Flooding

City Manager Ben Martinez introduced the item and recognized youth Roberto Sotello and the Sotello family. A PowerPoint Presentation was provided by Assistant Director of Engineering/Public Works Martha Juarez, Fire Chief Sergio Mora, Director of Engineering/Public Works City Engineer Stephen Manganiello, Battalion Chief Robert Hernandez, Acting Deputy City Manager/Housing Authority Director Carlos Aguirre, Management Analyst III Walter Amedee, and Management Analyst II Myra Pina.

Ten (10) in-person public comments were received from Juan Antonio Vasquez, Hal Malinski, Cynthia Fuller Quinonez, Sherry Gogue, Maria Aleman, Eriq Vargas, Jocelyn Lopez, Janice Reynoso, Anthony Avalos, and Luis Vasquez Gama.

Councilmember Bush left the dais at 7:20 p.m. and returned at 7:22 p.m.

One (1) virtual comment was received from Gemma Cabato Padrigan.

One (1) written comment was received from Ted Godshalk.

Recommendation: Receive Report and Presentation. Provide Direction to Staff through the City Manager.

ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

13.1 POLICY 105 REQUEST - Consideration of Ordinance Exercising Police Power - Evictions Requested by Councilmember Rodriguez

One (1) in-person comment received from George Ching. One (1) virtual comment received from Jennifer Monterroso.

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Bush to add the item to the February 20, 2024 City Council meeting agenda.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Morrison excused the interpreters at 8:13 p.m.

Mayor Morrison called for a recess at 8:13 p.m. and all returned at 8:27 p.m.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Three (3) speakers provided in-person comments and two (2) people provided virtual comment. There was one (1) written comment.

In-Person Comment:

Geoffrey Schrock
Rob Umana
Randi Castle

Virtual Comment:

Becky Rapp
Barbara Gordon

Written Comment:

Ted Godshalk

8. REGIONAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS (Limited to Five (5) Minutes each)

Councilmember Rodriguez reported on the business of the SANDAG Public Safety Committee.

Councilmember Bush announced that MTS would provide free transit passes for those impacted by the recent flood.

Councilmember Molina provided an update on the recent SANDAG Board meeting.

Vice-Mayor Yamane provided an update on San Diego Community Power and Sweetwater Authority Finance & Administration Committee.

Mayor Morrison provided information on the Sweetwater Authority.

Port of San Diego Commissioner Sandy Naranjo provided a report on the recent Board Meeting.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Bush, seconded by Vice-Mayor Yamane to approve Consent Calendar Items 9.1, 9.2, and 9.4 through 9.9 with Item 9.3 pulled from the agenda by staff.

9.1 Approval of Reading by Title Only and Waiver of Reading in Full of Ordinance on this Agenda

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

9.2 Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes.

Approve and file.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Item pulled from the agenda by staff.

9.3 Acceptance of State Active Transportation Grant Funds for the Construction Phase of the Central Community Mobility Enhancements Project, CIP No. 19-23.

Adopt a Resolution Entitled, "Resolution of the City of National City, California, 1) Authorizing the Establishment of an Appropriation of \$1,095,000 and a Corresponding Revenue Budget for the Construction Phase of the Central Community Mobility Enhancements Project, CIP 19-23, Reimbursable through the State Active Transportation Program Approved by Caltrans; and 2) Committing to Providing a Local Match in the Amount of \$442,000."

9.4 Project Close-Out and Notice of Completion for the National City Street Resurfacing Project FY 21/22, CIP No. 22-19.

Adopted Resolution No. 2024-08.

Adopt a Resolution Entitled, "Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, 1) Accepting the Work Performed by Eagle Paving Company, Inc. for the National City Street Resurfacing Project FY 21/22, CIP No. 22-19; 2) Ratifying Change Order Work in the Amount of \$15,166.39 and Approving the Final Contract Amount of \$2,398,563.39; 3) Ratifying the Release of Retention in the Amount of \$119,928.17; and 4) Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Notice of Completion."

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 9.5 Semi-Annual Report – Boards, Commissions, and Committee Attendance Report – Includes Third and Fourth Quarter of 2023.

Receive and file.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 9.6 Warrant Register #21 for the period of 11/17/23 through 11/23/23 in the amount of \$335,847.62.

Ratify Warrants Totaling \$335,847.62

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 9.7 Warrant Register #22 for the period of 11/24/23 through 11/30/23 in the amount of \$5,071,548.14.

Ratify Warrants Totaling \$5,071,548.14

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 9.8 Warrant Register #23 for the period of 12/01/23 through 12/07/23 in the amount of \$3,085,699.94.

Ratify Warrants Totaling \$3,085,699.94

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 9.9 Warrant Register #24 for the period of 12/08/23 through 12/14/23 in the amount of \$2,634,970.15

Ratify Warrants Totaling \$2,634,970.15

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

10. PUBLIC HEARING

- 10.1 Introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 18.060.10 of Title 18 (Zoning) of the National City Municipal Code Related to the Measurement of Height for New Structures.

Planning Manager Martin Reeder presented the item utilizing a PowerPoint Presentation.

Mayor Morrison declared the Public Hearing open at 9:01 p.m.

There was no public comment.

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Bush, seconded by Councilmember Molina to close the public hearing.

Public Hearing closed at 9:01 p.m.

Recommendation: Introduce the Ordinance by First Reading, entitled, "Ordinance of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Amending Section 18.10.060 of Title 18 (Zoning) of the National City Municipal Code Related to the Measurement of Height for New Structures."

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Bush, seconded by Councilmember Molina to introduce the Ordinance.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

City Attorney Barry Schultz recused himself on Items 10.2 and 11.1 due to his former position as a Boardmember for Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation and left the dais.

Assistant City Attorney Richard Romero approached the dais, and assumed the position in his absence.

10.2 \$1.5 Million HOME, HOME-ARP Loan to Union Tower Project and HUD Substantial Amendment to FY23-24 AAP

Adopted Resolution No. 2024-09.

Acting Deputy City Manager/Housing Authority Director Carlos Aguirre introduced the item.

Mayor Morrison declared the Public Hearing open at 9:04 p.m.

One in-person comment was received from Rebecca Louie. Three (3) virtual public comments were received from Carol Kim, Ansermio Estrada, and Jodie Barthold.

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Molina to close the public hearing.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Hearing closed at 9:07 p.m.

Recommendation: Adopt the Resolution Entitled, "Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California Adopting the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Substantial Amendment to the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan and the Allocation of \$1,035,092.81 in Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Grant Funds, \$170,808.46 in HOME-Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Grant Funds, and \$294,098.73 in HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Grant Funds as a Conditional Loan to Union Tower by Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation."

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Molina, seconded by Councilmember Bush to adopt the resolution.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

11. STAFF REPORTS

- 11.1 Union Tower Project Closing Documents For the Construction and Permanent Financing for the \$8M Housing Authority Loan Agreement and Related Documents.

Adopted Resolution No. 2024-88.

Acting Deputy City Manager/Housing Authority Director Carlos Aguirre introduced the item.

Recommendation: Approve the Resolution, Entitled, "Resolution of the Community Development Commission-Housing Authority of the City of National City, California, (1) Approving the Construction and Permanent Financing Loan Agreement for the Union Tower Project ("Project"), Located at 2312 F Avenue in National City, With the Borrower, Union Tower One LP, a California Limited Partnership; and (2) Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute Project Related Documents."

ACTION: Motion by Vice-Mayor Yamane, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez to adopt the resolution.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

City Attorney Barry Schultz returned to the dais at 9:14 p.m.

Assistant City Attorney Richard Romero left the dais.

- 11.2 Proposed Amendment to the Local Preference for CDC-HA Assisted Affordable Housing Projects.

Adopted Resolution No. 2024-89.

Acting Deputy City Manager/Housing Authority Director Carlos Aguirre introduced the item.

Recommendation: Adopt the Resolution Entitled, "Resolution of the Community Development Commission-Housing Authority (CDC-HA) of the City of National City, California, Amending Its Local Preference Policy to Require Any CDC-HA Assisted Housing Projects to Follow the Local Preference Policy and to Further Align With Federal and State Regulations."

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Molina, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez to adopt the resolution.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

11.3 Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Review

Adopted Resolution No. 2024-10.

Administrative Services Director Molly Brennan provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Recommendation: Accept and file this report, and adopt the resolution ratifying budget adjustments as detailed in Exhibit A of this report.

ACTION: Motion by Vice-Mayor Yamane, seconded by Councilmember Molina to accept and file the report and adopt the resolution.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

11.4 Reorganization of the City Manager's Office, Departments, and Divisions

City Manager Ben Martinez presented the item.

Two (2) written comments were received from Ted Godshalk and Margaret Godshalk.

Recommendation: For the purpose of reorganizing the City Manager's Office, Departments, and Divisions, the City Manager requests authorization to add the following staff positions:

- Deputy City Manager (2)
- Assistant Community Development Director
- Finance Director
- City Librarian
- Executive Assistant III (Council Offices of Molina and Bush)

Furthermore, the City Manager requests authorization to vacate the following staff positions:

- Assistant City Manager
- Director of Administrative Services
- Housing Director
- Human Resources Director
- Library & Community Services Director
- Planning Manager

It is anticipated these actions will create a more efficient organization more adept to meet the needs of the community while achieving significant cost savings.

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Bush, seconded by Councilmember Molina to approve the item with a revision to add authorization for the City Manager to add full time and part-time positions including Executive Assistant I, II, and III for all Councilmembers provided that the positions do not exceed the allotted budgets for Fiscal Year 2024.

Councilmember Bush amended the motion to include any Administrative Assistant positions within existing job classifications, seconded by Councilmember Molina.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Ben Martinez advised that he would attend an upcoming City Manager's Conference.

13. ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

Closing remarks were provided by City Treasurer, and members of the City Council.

14. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

No report.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Morrison adjourned to the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of National City, Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, located in City Hall, 1243 National City Boulevard, National City, California.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.



Tonya Hussain, Executive Secretary

The foregoing minutes were approved at the Regular Meeting of March 5, 2024.



Ron Morrison, Mayor