



City of Commerce

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 16, 2020 - 2:00 PM

EMERGENCY MEETING

In response to Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20, this meeting will be streamed live and allow for telephonic public participation, but physically closed to the public to follow state guidelines, including from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on gatherings over fifty (50) people.

2:00 P.M. CLOSED SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Soria called meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Mendoza arrived at 2:10 p.m.

Present: 5 - Mayor Soria
Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano
Councilmember Argumedo
Councilmember Mendoza
Councilmember Rebollo

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There were no individuals wishing to address the City Council on any items on the Closed Session agenda.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

Assistant City Attorney stated that based on the situation, pursuant to the Government Code Section 5495635, the City Council needs to determine the emergent situation and waive requirements of 24-hour Special meeting notice by a majority vote. According to Assistant City Attorney Copado, staff posted a notice for emergency meeting at least one hour prior to the meeting and notified the newspaper of general circulation.

Councilmember Rebollo moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano, to make finding and waive noticing requirements. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Argumedo, Rebollo, Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano and Mayor Soria (4)

Absent: Councilmember Mendoza (1)

Assistant City Attorney Copado recommended that the City Council determines that the Closed Session item is warranted.

Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano moved, seconded by Councilmember Rebollo, to approve Closed Session item and for City Council to meet at the Closed Session.

AYES: Councilmembers Argumedo, Rebollo, Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano and Mayor Soria (4)

Absent: Councilmember Mendoza (1)

City Council recessed to Closed Session at 2:05 p.m.

1. THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES, PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957

Consultation with: City Manager, City Attorney, and other related City officials

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

City Council reconvened to Open Session at 3:05 p.m.

ORAL CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Assistant City Attorney Copado reported on item #1, and stated that City Manager Cisneros and Assistant City Manager Domic, and Assistant City Attorney Copado provided a comprehensive briefing and the City Council provided further direction. No reportable action was taken on this item.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Soria called regular City Council meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Soria
Mayor Pro Tem Altamirano
Councilmember Argumedo
Councilmember Mendoza
Councilmember Rebollo

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals wishing to address City Council and no one submitted comments in writing.

SCHEDULED MATTERS

1. COVID-19 Update and Impacts on the City of Commerce, and City Council Directive(s) and/or Proclamation(s) of the Existence or Threat of Existence of a Local Emergency

City Manager Cisneros provided brief update regarding partial services available through library, parks being open, Senior Center and City Hall closed to public, and Transportation Department continue services.

Library Director Sarmiento and Director of Transportation Department McFerguson provided an update regarding services provided by their respective departments and accommodations made.

Discussion took place about establishing hot spots for Wifi, tutoring for kids, Veterans' resources, social programs, and food distribution.

Further discussion took place regarding reaching out to all seniors to make sure they are signed up for meal service delivery and increasing the number of meals provided to seniors to cover every day.

Discussion took place regarding employee protection for those who provide services to residents.

Kevin Larsen, Vice President of Employee association, thanked for accommodating the employees and schedules. According to Mr. Larsen, it is acceptable in these times for employees working below their classification.

Assistant City Attorney Copado provided an overview of the updated resolution. According to the proposed resolution, evictions are not allowed if tenants could demonstrate hardship due to the layoffs, loss of income, sickness, etc. Also, Assistant City Attorney Copado stated that subsection four should be added saying that any State, Federal, or local order issued, would be in effect and apply to the existing resolution and supersede previous orders. It was recommended to add that Emergency Operation Center would be activated and have on standby Emergency Response Team in case of emergency.

Councilmembers and the Mayor spoke about teamwork and working through this hard time together. Mayor Soria announced that the meeting of March 17, 2020, has been canceled.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:35pm