



Minutes  
Redondo Beach City Council  
Tuesday, July 30, 2024  
Closed Session - Adjourned Regular Meeting 4:30 p.m.  
Open Session –Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.

**4:30 PM - CLOSED SESSION – ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING**

**A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

An Adjourned Regular Meeting of the Redondo Beach City Council was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Mayor Light in the City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: Behrendt, Kaluderovic, Loewenstein, Nehrenheim, Obagi, Mayor Light

Officials Present: Mike Witzansky, City Manager  
Lucie Colombo, Chief Deputy City Clerk

**C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION - NONE**

**D. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS – ADDITIONAL BACK UP MATERIALS**

Chief Deputy City Clerk Colombo announced there were no Blue Folder Items for Closed Session.

**E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no public communications on Closed Session items and non-agenda items.

**F. RECESS TO CLOSED – 4:33 p.m.**

Chief Deputy City Clerk Colombo read title to the items to be considered in Closed Session.

City Manager Witzansky announced that the following would be participating in Closed Session: City Manager Mike Witzansky, City Attorney Mike Webb, Assistant City Attorney Cheryl Park, Director of Community Development Marc Wiener and Public Works Director Andy Winje.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Kaluderovic, and approved by voice vote to recess to Closed Session at 4:33 p.m.

Motion carried, 5-0.

**F.1. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - The Closed Session is authorized by the attorney-client privilege, Government Code Section 54956.8**

**NEGOTIATOR:**

Mike Witzansky, City Manager  
Andy Winje, Public Works Director

**PROPERTY:**

422 S. PCH  
(APN: 7508-020-026)

**NEGOTIATING PARTY:**

Sandcastle Pacific LLC

**UNDER NEGOTIATION:**

Both Price and Terms

**F.2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED POTENTIAL LITIGATION - The Closed Session is authorized by the attorney-client privilege, Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4).**

One potential case

**F.3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION - The Closed Session is authorized by the attorney-client privilege, Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1).**

**Name of case:**

City of Redondo Beach, a California Charter City; City of Carson, a California Charter City; City of Torrance, a California Charter City; City of Whittier, a California Charter City; City of Del Mar, a California Charter City v. Rob Bonta, in his official capacity as California Attorney General, State of California; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive

Case Number: 22STCP01143

**G. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION – 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Light reconvened to Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

## **H. ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: Behrendt, Kaluderovic, Loewenstein, Nehrenheim, Obagi, Mayor Light

Officials Present: Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk  
Mike Witzansky, City Manager  
Lucie Colombo, Chief Deputy City Clerk

## **I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS**

City Manager Witzansky announced that Director of Community Development, Marc Wiener, joined for Item No. F.3 and there were no other reportable actions.

## **J. ADJOURN TO REGULAR MEETING**

Motion by Councilmember Loewenstein, seconded by Councilmember Kaluderovic, and approved by voice vote, to adjourn to the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried, 5-0.

## **6:00 PM - OPEN SESSION – REGULAR MEETING**

### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

A Regular Meeting of the Redondo Beach City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Light in the City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

### **B. ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Present: Behrendt, Kaluderovic, Loewenstein, Nehrenheim, Obagi, Mayor Light

Officials Present: Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk  
Mike Witzansky, City Manager  
Mike Webb, City Attorney  
Lucie Colombo, Chief Deputy City Clerk

### **C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION**

Mayor Light invited Veterans and Active Military to stand and recognized them for their service.

Kaniel, Fourth Grader, Valor Christian Academy, led in the salute to the flag.

Mayor Light called for a moment of silence.

#### **D. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Nehrenheim spoke about going to the recent canine show; announced the upcoming International Surf Festival and the Medal of Valor Ceremony for life guards at the King Harbor Yacht Club; talked about the Riviera Village Sidewalk Sale; and thanked Public Works for their cleaning efforts along the Esplanade.

Councilmember Loewenstein announced the District 2 Community Meeting will be held on August 28, 2024 on Zoom at 6:00 p.m. and will be joined by Director of Community Development, Marc Weiner.

Councilmember Kaluderovic thanked the RBFD for assisting in setting up a vigil for a student community member who recently passed away.

Councilmember Obagi also thanked RBFD for assisting with the vigil; talked about how RBFD is helping other regions fight fires; reported that as a District 4 representative, he has received many complaints along specific streets where cars are parked during street sweeping, the street is not being swept, and cars are not being ticketed; addressed changes in the policy and reported the items will be the subject of City Council's discussion next week.

Mayor Light reported attending the Rotary Club 100 Anniversary celebration; talked about their 100 Days of Kindness Program and spoke about attending the Pride event at the King Harbor Yacht Club.

#### **E. APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA**

Motion by Councilmember Kaluderovic, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, and approved by voice vote, the order of the agenda, as presented.

Motion carried, 5-0.

#### **F. AGENCY RECESS – None**

#### **G. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS – ADDITIONAL BACK UP MATERIALS**

##### **G.1 For Blue Folder Documents Approved at the City Council Meeting**

City Clerk Manzano announced Blue Folder Items for Items No. J.1, H.9, N.1 and N.3.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, and approved by voice vote, to receive and file Blue Folder Items.

Motion carried, 5-0.

**H. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**H.1. APPROVE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED AND ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 30, 2024**

**CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK**

**H.2. APPROVE MOTION TO READ BY TITLE ONLY AND WAIVE FURTHER READING OF ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

**CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK**

**H.3. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CITY COUNCIL MINUTES: NONE**

**CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK**

**H.4. This Item was pulled from the Consent Calendar by Councilmember Kaluderovic.**

**H.5. APPROVE CONTRACTS UNDER \$35,000:**

**1. APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH MARIA SHAVER FOR PREPARATION OF MINUTES FOR CITY COUNCIL AND COMMISSION MEETINGS IN AN AMOUNT OF \$75 PER HOUR FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE AGREEMENT AND \$85 PER HOUR THEREAFTER, FOR THE TERM JULY 30, 2024 TO AUGUST 1, 2025 WITH A ONE-YEAR AUTOMATIC RENEWAL**

**CONTACT: WENDY COLLAZO, FINANCE DIRECTOR**

**H.6. APPROVE THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE NORTH PIER PARKING STRUCTURE REPAIRS PROJECT, JOB NO. 70610, AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY CLERK TO ADVERTISE THE PROJECT FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS**

**APPROVE THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH AND WALKER PARKING CONSULTANTS/ENGINEERS, INC. TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT BY \$65,500 FOR ADDITIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR A NEW NOT TO EXCEED TOTAL OF \$629,500 AND EXTEND THE TERM TO SEPTEMBER 5, 2025**

**CONTACT: ANDREW WINJE, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

**H.7. APPROVE THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH CITY**

**NET TO EXTEND THE TERM TO OCTOBER 30, 2024.**

**CONTACT: MICHAEL W. WEBB, CITY ATTORNEY**

**H.8. This Item was pulled from the Consent Calendar by Councilmember Kaluderovic.**

**H.9. APPROVE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE ON-CALL CONSULTING SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH DAVID EVANS AND ASSOCIATES, INC., TO INCREASE THE NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT BY \$150,000 FOR A NEW TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$250,000.**

**ADOPT BY 4/5 VOTE AND BY TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION NO. CC-2407-059, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING A FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET MODIFICATION TO APPROPRIATE \$1,338,753 OF GRANT FUNDS TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GRANTS FUND FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE REDONDO BEACH PALLET SHELTER AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALTERNATIVE CRISIS RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAM.**

**CONTACT: MICHAEL W. WEBB, CITY ATTORNEY**

Councilmember Nehrenheim spoke about current projects along the International Boardwalk.

Councilmember Loewenstein commented favorably about Item No. H.6.

Councilmember Kaluderovic pulled Items No. H.4 and H.8 from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion.

There were no public comments on this item.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Kaluderovic, and approved by voice vote, the Consent Calendar as amended, except for Items No. H.4 and H.8 which were pulled for separate discussion.

Motion carried, 5-0.

City Clerk Manzano read title to Resolution No. CC-2407-059.

**I. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

**H.4. EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM VARIOUS COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK**

Councilmember Kaluderovic asked whether this item will return for Council discussion.

City Clerk Manzano reported that Staff will return with the Absentee Report, most likely towards the end of August, and explained the information that will be provided.

There were no public comments on this item.

Motion by Councilmember Kaluderovic, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, and carried by voice vote, to approve Item No. H.4, as presented.

Motion carried, 5-0.

**H.8. APPROVE A GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH AND DOING IT WITH LOVE INC., DBA TRADEWINDS, IN AN AMOUNT OF \$ 3,263 FOR THE COMPLETION OF STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENTS AT 142 INTERNATIONAL BOARDWALK**

**CONTACT: GREG KAPOVICH, WATERFRONT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

Councilmember Kaluderovic asked about other improvements taking place at the International Boardwalk.

Waterfront and Economic Development Director Kapovich and Sr. Management Analyst Dave Charobee addressed the project background; talked about engaging tenants and receiving a good reception; discussed current projects and other businesses that have expressed interest in the program; mentioned there are 18 tenants along the boardwalk and five have expressed interest in the program.

Discussion followed regarding the status of signage, lighting and pavers.

Joan Irvine (via Zoom), District 1, discussed pavers along the International Boardwalk; hoped the pavers are not like those used along the Esplanade that stain easily.

There were no other public comments on this item.

Motion by Councilmember Kaluderovic, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, and carried by voice vote, to approve Item No. H.8, as presented.

Motion carried, 5-0.

**J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

### **J.1 For eComments and Emails Received from the Public**

David Engle, Redondo Beach resident, discussed street sweeping and asked about City Council's review of the matter.

City Manager Witzansky explained Council's policy review process and reported the discussion is scheduled for the City Council Meeting on September 3, 2024.

Some discussion ensued regarding enforcement of street sweeping and City Manager Witzansky addressed the topic and mentioned more clarification will come.

Joan Irvine, via Zoom, announced the upcoming Keep the Esplanade Beautiful first Saturday sweep hosted by Leadership Redondo.

City Clerk Manzano reported receiving two eComments.

There were no other public comments.

**K. EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**L. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**

**M. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS – None**

**N. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION**

**N.1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RELATED TO THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE THE RENOVATION OR REPLACEMENT OF CRITICAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSIDER RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE TO SUBMIT TO THE VOTERS AT THE STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024.**

**ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION NO. 2407-060, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH DETERMINING THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY DEMAND THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION OR REPLACEMENT OF MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS CONSTITUTING PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CITY, AND THEIR FINANCING THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

**INTRODUCE BY TITLE ONLY ORDINANCE NO. 3274-24, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH ORDERING THE SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSITION INCURRING BONDED INDEBTEDNESS TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH AT THE STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING THE COSTS OF THE ACQUISITION,**

**CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION OR  
REPLACEMENT OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS  
CONSTITUTING PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CITY FOR  
INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING.**

**CONTACT: LUKE SMUDE, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER**

Assistant to the City Manager Smude narrated a PowerPoint presentation with details of the Administrative Report regarding the public infrastructure bond discussion; addressed a Resolution of Public Necessity and an Ordinance Ordering Submission of General Obligation, both of which needs a two thirds vote by Council; discussed the July 16, 2024 Council Meeting where direction was given to Staff; explained the research and studies conducted, and gave recommendations to approve the Resolution of Public Necessity and approve introduction of Ordinance for General Obligation bond measure submission to voters.

In reply to Mayor Light's questions regarding writing the argument for the bond measure, City Manager Witzansky reported that City Council will officially call for the election next week.

City Clerk Manzano added that arguments are due August 16, 2024 and rebuttals August 26, 2024.

Councilmember Obagi asked about Bond Counsel's recommendations to round the total figure and City Manager Witzansky reported the language was clarified and a rounded number would be "easier to digest" and noted there is value in simplicity.

Councilmember Nehrenheim displayed a PowerPoint with images of the current conditions of the Public Works Yard; talked about including critical projects in the bond ballot; showed and commented on the current state of the Public Works Yard having structures with dry rot and termite damage, stating it is not secure or safe and it houses the city's valuable vehicles and equipment; showed evidence where structures are falling apart and noted this is where the employees spend their day. In addition, he referenced the condition of the Annex and stated he will make a motion to completely rebuild the Public Works Yard instead of refurbishing the Annex; talked about the importance of having a safe building for Public Works staff and Public Safety vehicles.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, to amend the current bond amount to include rebuilding/refurbishing the Public Works Yard.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Assistant to the City Manager Smude reported the total amount adding to the bond would be \$7,389,430.

Councilmember Kaluderovic acknowledged there is a significant need to rebuild the

Public Works Yard; talked about the survey results being the City's barometer as to what residents are willing to pay for; stated it is Council's responsibility to include projects in the bond that will be passed; felt that Council needs to be responsible with the bond amount and balance it with the intention to do right by the city; reiterated that she wants a bond that will pass and the City needs to create income to help with other facilities; reaffirmed support for the previous motion to include Public Safety facilities only and work with the Strategic Plan to bring in revenue to the City to be responsible with residents and cover other costs.

In response to Councilmember Loewenstein's question, City Manager Witzansky reported that it is \$500,000 to cover annual debt service on \$1 million lease revenue bond issuance; stated those are rough numbers.

Councilmember Loewenstein stated there are multiple ways to address this; asked about maintenance costs for the Fire and Police Stations; City Manager Witzansky reported the City is spending several thousands of dollars per year between the four facilities that are contemplated for the bond; acknowledged Councilmember Nehrenheim's concerns are legitimate; hoped the City will have enough resources to tackle that project in the future; stated that if the bond is approved, the City will have more capital to address the project.

Councilmember Loewenstein discussed the possibility of issuing lease revenue bonds in the future for the Public Works Yard; noted that if the bond does not pass, the City will not be able to proceed forward with these projects and agreed with Councilmember Kaluderovic's comments.

In reply to Councilmember Obagi's question about the ability of the City to issue a lease revenue bond for \$7.4 million, City Manager Witzansky reported the City can issue tranches in whatever increments it would like; discussed the various structures on the Public Works Yard and commented that Public Works handles day to day work environment differently than the rest of the City; he did state they do need a new tilt-up structure.

Mayor Light added that it is not just the structure, but the wiring as well.

City Manager Witzansky stated that the City would benefit from a upgraded Public Works facility.

In further reply to Councilmember Obagi's questions, City Manager Witzansky addressed the process involved in issuing a lease revenue bond and suggested tackling it as part of the mid-year budget review.

Mayor Light redirected the meeting to the subject at hand.

Councilmember Obagi agreed that replacing the Public Works Yard is more critical than refurbishing the Annex, however, he does not want to approach residents twice for Public

Safety financing; mentioned turning to a lease revenue bond in the future to build the new Public Works Yard.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Behrendt, and approved by voice vote, to adopt by title only, Resolution No. 2407-060 and introduce by title only Ordinance No. 3274-24, as updated per the Blue Folder Item for this matter for a total amount of \$93,350,000.

Mayor Light invited public comments.

Wayne Craig, District 1, agreed with Councilmember Nehrenheim for the need to rebuild the Public Works Yard; spoke about the number of Capital Improvement Projects in the CIP program; commented on how efficient the Public Works department would be with a modern facility; felt that a lot of projects would be completed quicker with an updated facility; asked that Council consider making it a priority.

Joan Irvine (via Zoom), District 1, provided a brief history of the item; mentioned the Waterfront project and agreed with Councilmember Nehrenheim and Wayne Craig's comments about needing to do something with Public Works.

Mayor Light commented on the Waterfront project and disagreed with Joan Irvine's comments regarding the Waterfront.

There were no other public comments on this item.

The motion carried, 4-1. Councilmember Nehrenheim was opposed.

City Clerk Manzano read title to Resolution No. 2407-060 and Ordinance No. 3274-24.

**N.2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION PERTAINING RESOLUTIONS, CALLING AND GIVING NOTICE OF HOLDING A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION, BY CONSOLIDATING WITH LA COUNTY STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024, TO ADD A BALLOT MEASURE FOR A CHARTER AMENDMENT ARTICLE XXVII MAJOR CHANGE IN ALLOWABLE AND LAND USE SECTIONS 27.2, 27.4(b), AND 27.6(h) AND (i); AND**

**ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION NO. CC-2407-062, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, CALLING AND GIVING NOTICE OF HOLDING A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION, CONSOLIDATE WITH THE LA COUNTY STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024, AS REQUIRED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER AND FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS A QUESTION RELATING TO PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ARTICLE XXVII MAJOR CHANGE IN ALLOWABLE AND LAND USE SECTIONS 27.2, 27.4(b), AND 27.6(h) AND (i); AND**

**ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION NO. CC-2407-061, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO CONSOLIDATE A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024 WITH THE STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THAT DATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 10403 OF THE CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS CODE FOR CERTAIN MEASURE; AND**

**ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION NO. CC-2407-063, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, SETTING PRIORITIES FOR FILING WRITTEN ARGUMENTS AND REBUTTALS REGARDING CITY MEASURE RELATED TO CHARTER AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XXVII, MAJOR CHANGES IN ALLOWABLE LAND USE SECTIONS 27.2, 27.4(b), AND 27.6(h) AND (i) AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE AN IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS, AND LETTER DESIGNATIONS FOR SUCH MEASURE**

**CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Manzano explained the need to wait for the City Attorney but presented details of the Administrative Report; discussed a resolution calling the election and another resolution asking the Board of Supervisors to place it on the election; stated Council needs authorize who will write the arguments and reported there is a new rule in the Election Code allowing the addition of up to five sponsors for arguments for and against. She reported the City Attorney will have to look at it and the item will return to City Council on August 6, 2024; announced the due dates for the arguments for and against are due August 16, 2024, rebuttals and the impartial analyses due on August 25, 2024; discussed the need to pick a first, second and third choice of letters for identifying the ballot measures; commenting one alpha are most likely taken.

City Attorney Webb arrived back at approximately 6:25 p.m.

City Attorney Webb stated he did not have a chance to review the resolutions due to the next item; reported he has significant concerns about the proposed ballot question; stated it is ultimately up to the Mayor and Council to prepare the ballot question; opined that the last sentence in the current ballot question is incorrect and suggested shortening it as well and gave suggestions for changes to the wording; reported that, typically, the City Clerk prepares it and he reviews it but reported he did not have the opportunity to do so; reiterated that ultimately it is the Mayor and Council's responsibility to approve it but agreed that he can review it first.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi to continue this item. Mayor Light interjected that City Council may be able to address some of the items this evening as he would like to make some progress.

City Attorney Webb agreed that some items could be taken care of tonight and he agreed to assist with the writing of the ballot measure question.

Councilmember Nehrenheim agreed Council could choose the sponsors and the letters; noted he would love to be a sponsor.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, to direct the City Attorney to return next week with the ballot measure question and to establish sponsors.

City Attorney Webb suggested forming a subcommittee with the Mayor, having it make the necessary determinations including getting sponsors and assigning the measure letters; suggested the Council, as a whole, sponsor it and return with it at next week's meeting.

City Clerk Manzano explained only five signatures are on the form but sponsors may include groups and organizations; noted she will need to review the matter further and reported she will request a sample book from the County. She added that the arguments cannot move forward until they become public on September 16th.

More discussion ensued on options for the alpha options.

City Clerk Manzano reported that, next week, she will ask Council to provide input on what order the ballot measures should be listed in on the ballot, and it will be before the School District.

In reply to Councilmember Obagi's question regarding the ability to circulate the proposed measures among Council as proponents of the measure, City Attorney Webb reported he understands the question but wants to be careful and will need to review whether that would be a Brown Act violation.

Discussion followed regarding having the Mayor, Councilmember Nehrenheim and Councilmember Obagi making up the subcommittee.

City Clerk Manzano reported receiving one eComment in opposition.

There were no other public comments.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Obagi and carried by voice vote, to direct the City Attorney to return next week with an updated proposed ballot question, to assign the Mayor as a proponent for, to work on the signatures and to label the measure as Measure DD, RB or LC and form a Subcommittee of the Mayor and Councilmembers Nehrenheim and Obagi to work on the ballot language.

The motion carried, 5-0.

City Clerk Manzano announced she will provide the necessary materials at the August 6th City Council meeting.

**N.3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF RELATING TO THE DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY'S MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO RANKED CHOICE VOTING AS AN INSTANT RUNOFF MODEL.**

**CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Manzano presented details of the draft ordinance.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Colombo presented details of a draft sample ballot for ranked choice voting including overvotes.

City Attorney Webb commented he was unsure if the draft presented is what the draft ordinance reads; noted the decision is ultimately left to the Council; stressed this should be given a lot of thought and that is why it is being presented to Council early; noted that Staff reviewed similar ordinances; referenced overvotes, undervotes and exhaustive ballots; mentioned that in the sample provided the vote would not count in round five or six as currently drafted.

More discussion followed regarding the draft sample ballot.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Colombo discussed skipped ranking and undervote.

Councilmember Behrendt asked for an overview of ranked choice voting.

City Clerk Manzano provided an explanation of ranked choice voting; presented examples; addressed voter outreach; stated that Staff will present to Council the outreach promotional materials including videos for Council's input; stated they used the ordinance of the City of San Francisco and applied it to Redondo Beach.

Discussion ensued regarding the process for reviewing the ballots, ranked choice voting providing an instant runoff and different scenarios that could occur in ranked choice voting.

Steve Chessin (via phone), President, Californians for Electoral Reform, helped present ranked choice voting in January 2022. He spoke about the organization and its work in support of ranked choice voting; thanked Council for reaching out to CER to learn more about ranked choice voting; discussed the importance of voter education and requested to display a video.

City Attorney Webb expressed concerns about showing a video on the City system from an advocate as it would be difficult not to allow other advocates.

Steve Chessin reported it is an educational video explaining ranked choice voting, not an advocacy video.

City Attorney Webb suggested submitting the video to the City Clerk where it can be distributed and submitted to City Council to receive and file.

Steve Chessin explained ranked choice voting.

Councilmember Nehrenheim provided a brief history of the topic; referenced an article in the San Francisco Chronicle regarding a programming error and miscount across all races in a recent election; talked about looking at a voter's intent as being very dangerous and felt it has gotten worse for ranked choice voting because the ordinance would need to be programmed into the system to understand how to rank individuals; opined that the more rankings that are done, the more votes are being thrown out for many different reasons and listed possible reasons. He referenced a Blue Folder Item entitled, "Minority Electorate and Ranked Choice Voting"; summarized some of the conclusions of the article; addressed significant issues with tallying; provided examples of other states; did not see Ranked Choice Voting as a way forward and listed states that have eliminated it. In reply to his question regarding about the rule to do a manual hand tally, City Clerk Manzano reported that would be a hand tally of districts; noted there are two precincts per district and talked about the counting methodology.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Colombo clarified election night would be considered preliminary and Staff would not continue doing additional rounds because there would be ballots yet to be collected.

City Attorney Webb suggested that no round should happen until all ballots are received and read from definitions indicating that, "No round of counting or elimination of candidates can occur before all eligible ballots are received by the City Clerk." Additionally, he addressed unofficial election night reports, adding they do not constitute a round of counting, and no candidates will be eliminated based on the report.

Discussion followed regarding requirements for verifying, counting, tallying, submitting and certifying elections.

Councilmember Nehrenheim addressed voter fatigue; reiterated that issues have not been ironed out and have grown; stated he would rather have a different system other than ranked choice voting and spoke in support of having other conversations about different systems.

City Attorney Webb clarified their discussion in January; confirmed Council would like to look at other forms of instant-runoffs and that there is a desire to have the option of making a Charter amendment; added that if changes will be made, they need to be made next week.

Councilmember Obagi asked if anyone knew the reason the City of Berkeley changed

from three slots to five or six as noted in the Staff Report; City Attorney Webb felt it was because the machines were better able to process them. Councilmember Obagi wondered about STAR voting and City Attorney Webb redirected the discussion to the agenda item. He added that Council may revisit STAR voting at a future meeting, that Council provided direction regarding ranked choice voting; stated that Council may reconsider it at a future meeting along with other systems as well as a Charter amendment to the same meeting. Additionally, he noted the Charter Review Committee supported for ranked choice voting in January but stated that things may have changed.

Councilmember Obagi asked about the disenfranchisement rate in San Francisco and Alameda County; City Clerk Manzano stated she would need to research the matter.

Councilmember Obagi expressed concerns that Council does not have the educational material that would be disseminated to residents.

City Clerk Manzano noted the deadline is approaching; reported she will need to contact the vendor towards the beginning of October for a contract and addressed increased costs.

City Attorney Webb reported a couple of sample ordinances he has read included specific requirements of the voter outreach to be conducted and noted that can be included in the ordinance.

City Clerk Manzano reported her office already has that; stated that her staff is just making last minute touches and noted she will bring the item back when Council considers it again.

Mayor Light expressed concerns that people will wait till the last night and not understand the process; talked about not wanting to make the process more complex; agreed with Councilmember Nehrenheim in terms of issues and problems rising due to ranked choice voting and noted that voters will need to vote for or rank choice every candidate.

In response to Mayor Light's question as to what happens if Council does not come to terms with this, City Attorney Webb stated then Council will have no rules for conducting its elections; talked about agendizing the item correctly if City Council wants to look at all available options it must be done now.

Councilmember Nehrenheim mentioned round-robin as another system.

Councilmember Obagi expressed concerns that voters voted for this; mentioned that any change other than STAR voting would be unprecedented and that on the same ballot the City will be asking the voters for \$93,000,000; felt it is not building confidence in Council or the government; talked about some problems and potential confusion but hoped that having Councilmembers that are in touch with their constituents to guide them on how to use ranked choice voting. He voiced his support for testing ranked choice voting for this election.

Mayor Light invited public comments.

Dr. Mark Stratton, District 1, spoke about what machines have done to the voting process; felt it is not for the government to implement the most efficient or least costly way to obtain the ballot information, but rather for the people; asserted the people need to have a clear understanding and when there is confusion people will question results. He suggested the City should simply have run-off elections, noting that those who are motivated to vote will vote again.

Arend Castelein, Equal Vote Coalition, asked to collaborate with Sara Wolk (via Zoom), Executive Director and Co-Founder, Equal Vote Coalition

City Clerk Manzano confirmed slides were submitted and are part of Blue Folder Items for this matter.

Arend Castelein, Production Lead, Equal Vote, explained that the organization advocates for better voting methods; they recommend STAR voting over ranked choice voting; stated RCV has been banned in 10 states; noted ranked choice voting is complicated; talked about two elections where a jurisdiction using RCV mis-counted votes and the results were certified incorrectly; reported ranked choice voting does not support precincts. He discussed ranked choice voting in the cities of Berkeley and San Francisco to address Councilmember Obagi's earlier inquiry.

Eric Harrell, District 1, felt that STAR voting seems like ranked choice voting; talked about most people voting for one person; opined that a ranking system makes it more difficult for the voters, they will not want to vote and creates mistrust among voters and urged Council to keep it simple.

Wayne Craig, District 1, stated the more he researched ranked choice voting the more he rethought his support for it; talked about the added complexity of the system and reported people he has spoken with are also reconsidering their support.

Nancy Skiba, District 4, felt that the voters who supported ranked choice voting were not in full possession of necessary facts and were missing crucial information; talked about the possibility of disenfranchising voters and hoped Council will consider other methods.

Sara Wolk, via Zoom, narrated slides explaining various voting methods, showed many areas where ranked choice voting can backfire on the voter, measuring public opinion and addressed vote-splitting, and problematic issues with ranked choice voting.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim and carried by voice vote, to extend Sara Wolk's time by one minute.

The motion carried, 5-0.

Sara Wolk, via Zoom, discussed voiced ballot issues and implementation logistics.

Sara Wolk's time was up but Councilmember Nehrenheim asked her more questions regarding her slides and information.

In response to Councilmember Nehrenheim's questions, Sara Wolk discussed wasted votes and ballot limitations, bullet voting for ranked choice voting and exhausted ballots.

Councilmember Obagi asked for clarification and Sara Wolk compared the features and ballot limitations of STAR and ranked choice voting. In response to his question, Sara Wolk explained why ranked choice voting is also known as instant runoff voting; she also stated why it is no longer allowed to be called instant runoff voting. Councilmember Obagi asked a question regarding STAR voting.

City Attorney Webb advised that is a topic for next week's City Council meeting and is not on the present agenda.

City Attorney Webb explained voters approved an instant runoff voting system, not specifically ranked choice voting; Council gave direction to use ranked choice voting; noted that even if they come up with a Charter amendment, before you find out the results, Council will have to come up with an instant runoff voting ordinance to specify how the rules will be carried out for March should it not pass; suggested sending to the voters that instant runoff voting is still not ready and the effective date can be a future date once Council has it all sorted out in cases that do not involve plaintiffs versus the City of Redondo Beach and Council could go back to the old system or plurality.

Councilmember Obagi talked about looking at the language and feeling constrained to ranked choice voting.

City Attorney Webb noted they need to come up with a decision by the end of August; stated he will research the issue and return to City Council with a report.

Discussion followed regarding other instant runoff systems and keeping the choice of systems open.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, to direct staff to return next week to investigate any other available instant runoff voting systems, as well as a possible Charter amendment to allow Council to postpone this until a later date because of the new information available and problems with implementation as well as using a traditional voting method for the March election.

Councilmember Loewenstein stated being leery of developing a Charter amendment in one week; noted people voted for a Charter amendment; acknowledged complications; felt this should have been addressed earlier.

Mayor Light worried about putting something in front of voters that they do not understand; felt it is Council's responsibility to put in front of the voters something that represents their true vote and reiterated problems with ranked choice voting.

Councilmember Behrendt agreed with Councilmember Loewenstein's comments; stated he did not see the harm in returning next week to discuss the subject further and talked about ensuring that all instant runoff systems are considered.

City Attorney Webb reiterated his recommendations as stated earlier.

City Clerk Manzano commented on the time needed to research the various voting systems.

City Attorney Webb mentioned Council can discuss the item and the City Clerk can provide information about the other systems and whether they are certifiable. He added that he is on jury duty after tomorrow.

Councilmember Obagi suggested looking into how to double check or audit uncertified equipment if the City decided to use it.

City Attorney Webb stated Staff will get as much information as possible but the decision will be ultimately up to City Council.

Councilmember Behrendt mentioned there are a few items in the ordinance that need to be fine-tuned which will be discussed next week.

City Attorney Webb reported Council does not need to pass the ordinance next week and if Council is not interested in a Charter amendment it can be postponed a few weeks.

Mayor Light stated his concerns over voting for something that was not really vetted and has been banned and continues to have multiple problems; felt voting is sacred and Council needs to be careful.

Councilmember Nehrenheim voiced his concerns over the equipment for ranked choice voting not being accurate; talked about preventing mass confusion and the complexity of the system; felt Council is doing its due diligence and expressed how important voting is.

Councilmember Loewenstein talked about needing to be ready with something if it does not pass in November.

Councilmember Obagi expressed concerns regarding the possible lack of a majority in ranked choice voting.

City Attorney Webb indicated it would be a majority of the round but stated it could act as a plurality if people tell them to only vote for one candidate and discussed other

iterations.

The motion carried, 5-0, by voice vote.

**O. CITY MANAGER ITEMS**

City Manager Witzansky reiterated a discussion regarding street sweeping on September 3rd; reported a small support team was sent to fight a fire in Riverside County; noted they are in fire season and they may occasionally need to send support to other areas.

**P. MAYOR AND COUNCIL ITEMS - None**

**Q. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REFERRALS TO STAFF**

Councilmember Nehrenheim commented on the upcoming Strategic Planning Session.

City Manager Witzansky reported he is waiting to hear back from LRI for their availability.

Councilmember Nehrenheim asked about the status of the Co-Living ordinance with the Planning Commission.

City Manager Witzansky reported the matter has not yet been considered by the Planning Commission and he will look into the status.

Mayor Light voiced his concern over this situation; felt Council has no objective standards to measure it by if the matter is brought to them.

City Manager Witzansky stated the problem is the workload on the general plan side.

Councilmember Loewenstein asked to place the matter of an electronic sign ordinance on the agenda; noted it has been out there for a long time.

City Manager Witzansky mentioned it might already be on the Strategic Plan; noted it is a matter of Community Development's bandwidth; questioned deviating resources from the General Plan update.

Mayor Light asked Council if there were any other types of bonds they wanted to discuss; Council felt the City has a lot on their plate already; City Manager Witzansky reported the Strategic Plan discussion would be the appropriate time to address it.

**R. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION – None**

The Closed Session meeting was cancelled.

**S. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION – None**

The Closed Session meeting was cancelled.

**T. ADJOURNMENT – 9:16 p.m.**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, motion by Councilmember Kaluderovic, seconded by Councilmember Obagi to adjourn the meeting tonight at 9:16 p.m. in memory of Kingston Navarro, 10 years old, who passed away recently from cancer, and to play his favorite song, to an Adjourned Regular meeting to be held at 4:30 p.m. (Closed Session) and a Regular meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m. (Open Session) on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 in the Redondo Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

Motion carried, 5-0.

All written comments submitted via eComment are included in the record and available for public review on the City website.

Respectfully submitted:

DocuSigned by:

*Eleanor Manzano*

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Eleanor Manzano, CMC  
City Clerk