



Minutes
Redondo Beach City Council
Tuesday, February 20, 2024
Closed Session - Adjourned Regular Meeting 4:30 p.m. - Cancelled
Open Session –Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.

4:30 PM - CLOSED SESSION – ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING (CANCELLED)

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 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein in the City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Behrendt, Kaluderovic, Nehrenheim, Obagi
Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein

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

C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein led in the salute to the flag followed by a moment of silence.

D. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Nehrenheim spoke about the upcoming District 1 community meeting at the Veterans Park Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, 2/24/24 and commended the Public Works Department for their work during the recent storms.

Councilmember Kaluderovic reported touring the AltaSea facility in San Pedro and learning about blue economy and wave generated power; noted attending the Crossing Guard Employee Appreciation at the Redondo Unified School District; talked about attending the inaugural meeting for the Executive Committee of the Blue Ribbon Commission on homelessness and announced the upcoming District 3 community meeting.

Councilmember Obagi announced a community cleanup on 2/24/24 at 10:00 a.m. at Artesia Boulevard in the parking lot of the right-of-way, where the powerlines are.

Councilmember Behrendt announced the e-Bike Safety Community Outreach event on

March 7, 2024 at Anderson Park and thanked the City Manager and Public Works for the work related to the bull pens for Redondo Beach Little League.

Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein thanked Public Works for keeping the City safe during the recent storms and announced the District 2 community meeting on Monday, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

E. APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein requested that Agenda Item P.1 be moved up due to many people being present for the item.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim, and approved by voice vote, to approve the order of the agenda, as amended, moving Items No. P.1, N.2, N.1 and N.3 up on the agenda immediately after Agenda Item No. J.

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 reported Blue Folder Items include materials for Agenda Items J.1, N.2, and P.1.

Motion by Councilmember Kaluderovic, 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 REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 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:

- A. NOVEMBER 21, 2023 ADJOURNED REGULAR & REGULAR MEETING**
- B. DECEMBER 5, 2023 ADJOURNED REGULAR & REGULAR MEETING**

C. JANUARY 9, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

H.4. PAYROLL DEMANDS

**CHECKS 29574-29595 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,097.95, PD. 2/2/24
DIRECT DEPOSIT 274140-274750 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,659,260.41, PD.
2/2/24**

**CHECKS 29596-29615 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,532.77, PD. 2/16/24
DIRECT DEPOSIT 274751-275348 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,176,312.84, PD.
2/16/24**

**EFT/ACH \$7,804.34, PD. 12/21/23 (PP2325)
EFT/ACH \$417,147.15, PD. 1/5/24 (PP2325)
EFT/ACH \$7,800.50, PD. 12/21/23 (PP2326)
EFT/ACH \$426,141.41, PD. 1/16/24 (PP2326)
EFT/ACH \$9,061.25, PD. 1/8/24 (PP2401)
EFT/ACH \$417,202.26, PD. 1/30/24 (PP2401)**

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DEMANDS

CHECKS 112668-112962 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,265,708.75

CONTACT: WENDY COLLAZO, FINANCE DIRECTOR

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

**1. APPROVE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH
SECTRAN SECURITY, INC. TO INCREASE THE FEES BY 10% FOR AMORED
VEHICLE SERVICES TO SECURE PICKUP OF CASH AND CHECKS FROM
VARIOUS CITY FACILITIES AND DELIVER THEM TO THE BANK EFFECTIVE
MARCH 1, 2024 FOR THE EXISTING TERM THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2025**

CONTACT: WENDY COLLAZO, FINANCE DIRECTOR

**H.6. EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM VARIOUS COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE
MEETINGS**

CONTACT: ELEANOR MANZANO, CITY CLERK

**H.7. RECEIVE AND FILE THE CITY TREASURER'S QUARTER 2 FISCAL YEAR
2023-2024 REPORT**

CONTACT: EUGUENE SOLOMON, CITY TREASURER

**H.8. APPROVE AN AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES BETWEEN THE
CITY OF REDONDO BEACH AND FRANCISCO AND ASSOCIATES, INC. TO
CONDUCT AND SUBMIT THE CITY'S ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE
STREET LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT,
WASTEWATER FUND, AND SOLID WASTE FUND TO THE LOS ANGELES**

COUNTY AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S OFFICE FOR A TOTAL FIVE-YEAR AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$182,301 AND THE TERM FEBRUARY 20, 2024 TO FEBRUARY 19, 2029

CONTACT: TED SEMAAN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

- H.9. APPROVE A THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH EXCELSIOR ELEVATOR, INC. TO PROVIDE ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR AN ANNUAL COST NOT TO EXCEED \$55,781**

ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY RESOLUTION NO. CC-2402-008, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE CITY'S ELEVATORS AS "MAINTENANCE" AND EXEMPTING IT FROM BIDDING REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 19 AND 19.1(A) OF THE CITY CHARTER OF REDONDO BEACH

CONTACT: TED SEMAAN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

- H.10. APPROVE INSTALLATION OF ALL-WAY STOP CONTROLS AT THE INTERSECTION OF MACKAY LANE AND GRAHAM AVENUE**

CONTACT: TED SEMAAN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

- H.11. Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein pulled this item for separate discussion.**

- H.12. APPROVE A TEMPORARY PERSONNEL ADJUSTMENT IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE OVER-HIRE OF A POLICE CAPTAIN POSITION FOR SUCCESSION PLANNING PURPOSES AND TO HELP PREPARE FOR UPCOMING POLICE MANAGEMENT RETIREMENTS**

CONTACT: JOE HOFFMAN, CHIEF OF POLICE

- H.13. APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH ROCKWEST TECHNOLOGY GROUP, INC. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN INFRARED ID CARD READER SYSTEM FOR EMPLOYEE ACCESS TO POLICE DEPARTMENT FACILITY ENTRANCES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$159,661.89 AND THE TERM FEBRUARY 20, 2024 TO FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

CONTACT: JOE HOFFMAN, CHIEF OF POLICE

- H.14. APPROVE THE AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES WITH RICHARDS, WATSON & GERSHON**

CONTACT: MICHAEL W. WEBB, CITY ATTORNEY

- H.15. RECEIVE AND FILE THE MONTHLY UPDATE TO THE TWELVE-MONTH STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL ON MAY 30, 2023**

CONTACT: MIKE WITZANSKY, CITY MANAGER

Councilmember Obagi requested to pull Consent Calendar item H.15 for separate discussion. He withdrew his request.

Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein pulled Agenda Item No. H.11 from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration.

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Kaluderovic, and approved by voice vote, the Consent Calendar, as amended, with Item No. H.11 pulled for separate discussion.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Colombo read title to Resolution No. CC-2402-008.

I. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - None

H.11. APPROVE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE CITYWIDE SLURRY SEAL PROJECT, PHASE 4, JOB NO. 41140 AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY CLERK TO ADVERTISE THE PROJECT FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS

CONTACT: TED SEMAAN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein referenced the block on North Juanita between Emerald and Spencer; noted it was supposed to be ground and overlaid, not slurry sealed and noted it is shown as slurry sealed.

Public Works Director Semaan stated he would need to review the matter; mentioned it could be as a result of staff's assessment of the street; noted it could be corrected, accordingly and referenced an upcoming ground and overlay project.

City Manager Witzansky suggested giving staff direction to ensure specific budget direction to incorporate ground and overlay and noted it will be adjusted in the scope of work through the bidding process.

Councilmember Loewenstein noted that one (ground and overlay) lasts approximately 20 years and the other (slurry seal) lasts about five years.

Councilmember Nehrenheim left the Chambers at 6:12 p.m. and returned at 6:13 p.m.

Councilmember Obagi mentioned all slurry seal projects appear to be in District 1 and 2.

City Engineer Winje confirmed that slurry seal projects for this year focused in the southern part of the City and addressed the slurry seal program.

Public Works Director Semaan added that Council will consider a pavement management study which will identify more streets to be ground and overlaid in the north part of the City, in an upcoming meeting.

City Engineer Winje provided a brief history of the City's Street Management Program.

City Manager Witzansky reported there will be more substantive studies in the near future for City Council to consider.

There were no public comments on this item.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim, and approved by voice vote, Item N.11 with direction to staff to ensure the specifications include budget direction to add the ground and overlay to the scope of work and bring back a final contract for City Council's approval.

Motion carried, 5-0.

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Obagi left the Chamber at 6:17 p.m. and returned at 6:18 p.m.

J.1 For eComments and Emails Received from the Public

Laura Sola spoke about a Manhattan Beach smoke shop moving to 2205 Artesia Boulevard and wondered about how the City decides who moves into it.

Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein reported City Council is prohibited from discussing the matter and directed the speaker to contact her Councilmember or the Planning Commission to address the matter.

Dave James spoke about the red light on Kingsdale, in front of the Transit Center is excessively long; reported the popouts on Grand Avenue are hard to see and suggested painting the curbs white or installing some type of reflector; recommended putting a timer on LED Stop signs; opined that questionable businesses end up on Artesia Boulevard and talked about the possibility of a "Wear White at Night" campaign.

Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein encouraged Mr. James to contact Councilmember Obagi's office.

Zoila Norwood, Owner, Savoir Faire Language Institute, spoke about a recent incident on the bottom floor of the parking area; noted there is loitering and increased graffiti and asked for increased Police patrol in the area.

Holly Osborne, District 5, spoke about Metro being confused about the width of the ROW which is part of the ROW in Lawndale; discussed the trench portion and addressed errors in measurements in the Metro data.

Niki Negrete-Mitchell noted there is a final EIR fight at the Metro Board of Directors;

reported their agenda for the next meeting indicates they are going to delay the project by six months; talked about applying to be a vendor at Beach Life; expressed surprise at the \$12,500 fee to have a 10x10 booth at the festival; stated the elitist policy makes it impossible for a local artist with a micro business to participate in the event and hoped the City will look into the matter.

Joan Irvine, District 1, Help Keep the Esplanade Beautiful, reminded the public of First Saturday Sweep at the Esplanade and talked about sponsorship opportunities for future cleanup events.

Julian Peters, District 5, spoke about a disconnection between north and south Redondo Beach; commented on finding a way to bridge that gap and discussed increased numbers of massage parlors and smoke shops along Artesia Boulevard.

Lara Duke spoke about the vendor fees being charged by Beach Life and suggested that they should consider a reduced rate for local vendors.

Leslie Campeggi wondered if there is an area near the Beach Life Festival that is City property that could provide a small Farmers Market with local vendors at reduced rates.

Andy, Torrance, spoke about liking to attend Council meetings because they are good entertainment and discussed the trash police in the City of Torrance.

There were no other public comments.

The City Council moved to Agenda Item No. P.1.

K. EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS - None

L. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

M. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS – None

N. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION

The City Council discussed Item N.1, after No. N.2 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ALLOWING USE OF BATTERY-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

N.1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE USE AND OPERATION OF THE VETERANS PARK HISTORIC LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITY

RECEIVE AND FILE THE PROPOSAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY “MADE BY MEG” IN RESPONSE TO RFP# 2223-004 – FACILITY MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE VETERANS PARK HISTORIC LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER

AUTHORIZE STAFF TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH MADE BY MEG TO PREPARE A CONCESSIONAIRE AGREEMENT FOR USE AND OPERATION OF THE FACILITY

AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PREPARE A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE FRIENDS OF REDONDO BEACH ARTS GROUP TO HOST A POP-UP ART EXHIBIT AT THE FACILITY IN APRIL

CONTACT: CAMERON HARDING, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Councilmember Kaluderovic left the Chamber at 10:42 p.m. and returned at 10:43 p.m.

Deputy Community Services Director Kelly Orta narrated a PowerPoint presentation with details of the Administrative Report.

City Manager Witzansky noted the art exhibit will not impact negotiations for concessionaire services and further negotiations can occur in Closed Session.

Discussion followed regarding the terms for the agreement with the Friends of Redondo Beach Arts Group.

Meg Walker, Owner, Made by Meg, offered condolences on the passing of Mayor Brand; addressed elements in their proposal; discussed design highlights and addressed pricing, collaboration with other local groups, supplemental proposal, the café and menu.

Discussion followed regarding working with non-profits, special pricing for Redondo Beach residents, the City holding back times for programming, scheduling, and landscaping.

Councilmember Nehrenheim spoke favorably about the proposal and noted he will be making a motion to move this item into Closed Session.

Councilmember Behrendt asked about the possibility of bringing in more candidates to respond to the Request for Proposals.

City Manager Witzansky reported most of those efforts occurred about a year ago; discussed steps taken at that time to increase responses; stated he is grateful to have the one vendor who has been vetted as a quality vendor and spoke in support of moving forward with negotiations.

Mayor Light invited public comments on this item.

Wayne Craig, District 1, endorsed Made by Meg as the new operator of the Veterans Park/Historic Library/Community Center facility.

Commissioner Chadwick, District 5, endorsed Made by Meg as the new operator of the Veterans Park/Historic Library/Community Center facility.

Andy, Torrance, spoke in support of the project.

There were no other public comments on this item.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, and carried by voice vote, to enter into negotiations for a concessionaire agreement with “Made by Meg” for Veterans Park Library/Community Center and authorize the preparation of the license agreement with the Friends of Redondo Beach Arts Group for the April event and receive and file the supplemental proposal.

The City Council moved to Item No. N.3, as N.2 was previously discussed.

The City Council discussed Item N.2, after No. P.1 - RECOGNITION THAT THE POSITION OF MAYOR IS VACANT AND DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO FILL BY APPOINTMENT THE VACANCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 6.4 OF THE REDONDO BEACH CHARTER.

N.2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ALLOWING USE OF BATTERY-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

CONTACT: TED SEMAAN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Senior Management Analyst Rob Osborne narrated a PowerPoint presentation with details of the administrative report.

RBPD Chief Hoffman addressed enforcement, education, calls for service, citations issued, quality of life issues, ensuring enforcement across all areas, staffing challenges and increasing compliance.

Senior Management Analyst Osborne continued the presentation addressing next steps and recommendations.

Councilmember Obagi spoke about why the City needs an exception for electric leaf blowers; discussed savings to the City including time and labor and recommended excepting from the City’s ban, zero emission hand-powered leaf blowers operated during construction hours.

Councilmember Loewenstein referenced the City’s prior approval of an ordinance banning the use of leaf blowers and the State’s recent action outlawing gas powered leaf blowers; expressed concerns that by making an exception, it will create confusion; noted dust and particulates will still be blown into the air, which the public will breathe in; spoke about raking taking a little longer to complete; asserted that at the end of the day, City Council is here for the residents; felt the ordinance has not been as enforced as it needs to be; talked about increasing the fee for violations of the ordinance and opined the City should take a few steps back.

Councilmember Kaluderovic spoke about the number of times this matter has been discussed; noted that the School District is exempt from the ordinance; mentioned notifying residents there has been a citation given to his/her yard workers and felt that residents need to be part of the solution as well as the City.

Councilmember Nehrenheim voiced support for Councilmember Obagi; suggested that the City be treated equally to residents; talked about including the School District and questioned being able to hold homeowners liable.

City Attorney Webb spoke about how the exemption for the School District falls within the preemption for Operation of Classroom Facilities which is not covered by municipal law.

Councilmember Obagi noted how residents responded to this issue in his poll; spoke about gardeners visiting sites on schedules where they can be “caught” and suggested leaving a note for homeowners when their gardeners are cited.

Discussion followed regarding changing the law and/or the punishment, exploring ways to make homeowners responsible for repeat violations and the landscapers’ responsibility versus the homeowners.

In reply to Mayor Light’s question, City Manager Witzansky reported that Public Works has been consistent in its bid to allow use of the mechanical equipment; noted the benefits in terms of staff hours and efficiency; referenced AB 1346 and spoke about incentivizing the commercial market to develop better battery-powered equipment.

Mayor Light asked about possible evidence including video from doorbell cameras and RBPD Chief Hoffman stated the Police Department would probably not be able to use that as the violation is an infraction.

City Attorney Webb spoke about infractions and cases that can be either infractions or misdemeanors.

Mayor Light invited public comments on this item.

Don Albrecht urged Council to change the ban; stated there is nothing wrong with people breathing in leaves and particles; spoke about harmful emissions from cars; noted he uses a blower and that he and gardeners clean up after themselves; discussed new technology in electric blowers and submitted a list of resident signatures in support of them.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim, to receive and file Don Albrecht’s petition. There being no opposition, Mayor Light so ordered.

Doug Seiker, District 5, spoke in opposition to any alteration in the ban; discussed noise and air pollution as a result of using leaf blowers; addressed health risks and the need to be environmentally responsible and urged the City not to compromise on residents’ health for financial gain. He reported other alternatives to leaf blowers exist and suggested that Council continue this item for further assessment.

Motion by Councilmember Loewenstein, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim, to receive and file documentation submitted by Doug Seiker. There being no opposition, Mayor Light so ordered.

Elaine Seiker, District 5, asserted that all leaf blowers produce noise and air pollution; urged City Council not to change the ban; noted zero emissions does not mean zero pollution; spoke about her neighborhood complying with the ordinance for the last five years and talked about what Mayor Brand would have done about the matter.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Kaluderovic, to receive and file documentation submitted by Elaine Seiker. There being no opposition, Mayor Light so ordered.

Bill Soper spoke about the ordinance; discussed the School District's exemption and questioned why only battery blowers and not corded blowers, gas and propane blowers.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Loewenstein, to extend Bill Soper's time for commenting by 30 seconds. There being no opposition, Mayor Light so ordered.

Bill Soper asked about requesting an extension for his townhouse area as the yard is completely closed in.

Ronald Sutherland talked about his use of a blower; mentioned it is not harming anyone and talked about use of gasoline mowers and sweepers.

Julie Young, District 4, spoke in favor of the ordinance; opposed changing the ordinance for inconvenience; felt there is a lot of education that needs to happen around this topic.

Niki Negrete-Mitchell noted that leaf blowers are the bane of her existence and spoke about the resulting noise and debris.

Carissa Galardo spoke about educating the public about the ordinance.

Jim Montgomery, Torrance, noted that quieter is not quiet and that leaf blowers do not blow just dust; felt they are a public health issue; urged City Council not to go backwards and stated the ban was a good thing.

Rolf Strutzenberg, District 1, talked about leaf blowers being an instant gratification; noted gardeners usually blow the dust and debris right into the street; discussed enforcement; opined a partial ban will not work; spoke about the need for educating the public and urged City Council not to change the ordinance.

Wayne Craig, District 1, agreed with Mr. Strutzenberg and urged City Council not to change the ordinance.

Andy, Torrance, talked about the lack of enforcement and urged City Council not to change the ordinance.

Councilmember Obagi briefly left the Chamber at 10:11 p.m. and returned at 10:14 p.m.

Grace Peng, District 5, via Zoom, spoke about increased particulates in her census tract;

reported that the entire City exceeds EPA limit for safe PMs 2.5; noted this is a public health hazard and urged City Council not to change the ban.

David Waldnerf, District 2, via Zoom, urged City Council not to change the ban; talked about pollution and noise and disagreed with claims of increased labor costs.

Farshid Kazi, M.D., District 5, via Zoom, spoke about the ordinance encouraging bullying in some neighborhoods; talked about the importance of enforcement; discussed the need to educate the public and keep the peace.

Craig Cadwallader, via Zoom, reported doing research on this topic and working on ordinance for other beach cities; discussed other toxins such as in bird droppings; noted both gas powered, and electric powered blowers blow debris and toxins into the air; said that expecting people to stay in their houses is unreasonable and unfair and suggested a renewed educational campaign.

Motion by Councilmember Loewenstein, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, to extend Craig Cadwallader's time for commenting by 30 seconds. There being no opposition, Mayor Light so ordered.

Craig Cadwallader, via Zoom, addressed cumulative noise impacts and urged City Council not to change the ordinance.

Nancy Skiba, via Zoom, talked about gardeners blowing debris into the streets and other driveways and addressed health impacts including asthma and other respiratory problems.

City Clerk Manzano reported receiving five eComments: three in support of the item and two opposed.

There were no other public comments.

Councilmember Loewenstein reported he used to be on the Board of the American Heart Association; noted there is science behind the public health risks of leaf blowers and recalled that Mayor Brand was very opposed to leaf blowers.

Councilmember Behrendt spoke about his outreach to District 5 residents; noted they were in favor of zero-emission leaf blowers by 9-1; talked about people finding a lot of utility by using them; talked about the American Lung Association's support of electric technology and felt that allowing battery powered leaf blowers is a more pragmatic solution.

Councilmember Obagi talked about making the collective lives better; displayed images of Perry Park and other areas where sweeping would be challenging; reported that residents are asking for this and spoke about other sources of harmful particulates.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Behrendt, to exempt from the Leaf Blower Ban, electric or zero-emission leaf blowers operated during construction hours and direct the City Attorney to bring forward options to warn and

subsequently hold property owners liable for violations of the remaining Leaf Blower Ban and direct the School District Liaison Subcommittee and Mayor to encourage that the School District change to electric leaf blowers.

City Attorney Webb provided options for increasing the fine for violations of the gas leaf blower ban.

Councilmember Loewenstein offered a friendly amendment to increase the fine for a first-time offense from \$100 to \$300 and the second offense from \$300 to \$500.

Councilmember Obagi felt that the City would be disproportionately fining disadvantaged communities and opined that \$100 is sufficient and did not accept the friendly amendment.

Mayor Light talked about equipment other than leaf blowers that collect leaves and commented on the dangers of particulate matter.

There being no further discussion, the City Council conducted a roll call of the motion previously stated.

AYES: Behrendt, Kaluderovic, Nehrenheim, Obagi

NOES: Loewenstein

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion carried, 4-1.

Mayor Light returned to Agenda Item N.1.

The City Council discussed Item No. N.3, after Item No. N.1 - DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE USE AND OPERATION OF THE VETERANS PARK HISTORIC LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITY.

N.3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON BROADBAND, WI-FI, AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENT AND BUSINESS USE IN THE CITY AND WATERFRONT AREA

CONTACT: MIKE COOK, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

IT Director Cook narrated a PowerPoint presentation with details of the Administrative Report.

Councilmember Nehrenheim reported speaking with Public Works staff about micro-trenching and keeping it in the sidewalk or parkway and mentioned challenges with rear easements and ROW agreements.

IT Director Cook spoke about micro-trenching and rapid connect.

Discussion followed regarding necessary Coast Development Permits, addressing

providers' need for space and the revenue potential of leasing space to them, potential co-locations, smaller providers such as Sonic Internet, promoting competition in the market and the need for coverage at Veterans Park.

Councilmember Loewenstein noted he campaigned on this issue; stated he is glad to see more companies coming into the City for improved coverage and commented on existing infrastructure in the ROW.

Councilmember Obagi commended IT Director Cook on the informative presentation; felt it should be a goal of the City to provide public Wi-Fi in places such as the horseshoe pier and in response to his questions, IT Director Cook spoke about working in one area first and then focusing on others and reported the City already owns the hardware.

Discussion followed regarding expanding the network to different businesses on the International Boardwalk and the status of Sonic Internet.

There were no public comments on this item.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, and carried by voice vote, to receive and file the report.

Motion carried, 5-0.

O. CITY MANAGER ITEM - None

The City Council moved to Item No. Q, as Item No. P.1 was previously discussed.

P. MAYOR AND COUNCIL ITEMS

The City Council discussed Agenda Item No. P.1, after No. J.1 – Public Comments, Non-Agenda Items.

P.1. RECOGNITION THAT THE POSITION OF MAYOR IS VACANT AND DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO FILL BY APPOINTMENT THE VACANCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 6.4 OF THE REDONDO BEACH CHARTER

City Attorney Webb reported the heartbreaking passing of Mayor Bill Brand has created a vacancy in the position of Mayor; discussed relevant Charter sections; addressed qualifications for serving as Mayor and spoke about past precedents.

Discussion followed regarding the need to act within 30 days of February 9, 2024, when Mayor Brand passed away.

Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein invited public comments.

Jim Light stated he would rather have his best friend sitting in his Mayor's seat at this time rather than addressing City Council; reported that on his last day of life, Mayor

Brand asked him to take over his term as Mayor; stated he is not intending to run for Mayor in the next election, but that he would like to honor his friend's wish to finish his term as Mayor. He addressed the closing of the AES power plant and other accomplishments by Mayor Brand; spoke about the General Plan and avoiding Builders Remedy; reported he has worked side-by-side with Mayor Brand for 23 years; noted he has been involved in moving the waterfront forward with the Amenities Plan and in formulating the new General Plan and requested that City Council honor the last request of his best friend.

Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein left the Chamber at 6:58 p.m. and returned at 6:59 p.m.

Jeff Ginsburg reported working with Mayor Brand for many years; felt he will be able to assist City Council well, if he were appointed Mayor and spoke about focusing on what is best for the City.

Niki Negrete-Mitchell spoke in support of Jim Light for Mayor; noted that Mayor Brand had wanted to attend Metro Board meetings but was unable to and asked that City Council appoint someone who will be involved in the Metro meetings and help complete Mayor Brand's legacy.

Lara Duke, District 3, spoke about Mayor Brand's leadership, noting he spoke truth to power; felt it would be best to appoint someone with similar ideals and concerns as Mayor Brand; discussed her relationship with The Brands, Mayor Brand's connection with the community and his love for the City. She expressed her condolences and hoped Council will appoint someone who will honor his spirit and finish his term.

Chadwick Castle, spoke about Mayor Brand inspiring him to get involved with the City; reported he is currently the Chair of the City's Budget and Finance Commission and stated he would like to be considered to fill Mayor Brand's position and honor his legacy.

Julie Young, District 4, expressed condolences on the passing of Mayor Brand; spoke about her involvement in the City and asked that City Council consider her to continue Mayor Brand's legacy and appoint her Mayor.

Joan Irvine, District 1, stated there was precedent when then Mayor Jeff Ginsberg stepped down; felt people should be allowed to apply, interview and be considered for Mayor, as was done then; alleged there would be more people applying as they do not have to go through the expense of an election; suggested that City Council design a process and continue this item to allow more people to participate in it and voiced her interest in being considered as a candidate.

Roger Carlson, District 3 resident and Harbor Commissioner, expressed his condolences on the passing of Mayor Brand; listed many of his accomplishments; hoped City Council will appoint someone who will continue his legacy and spoke in support of Jim Light.

Julian Peters, District 5, listed his participation in civic organizations; discussed issues that he would address including improvements to Artesia Boulevard and asked for City

Council consideration to finish Mayor Brand's term and continue his legacy.

Councilmember Obagi discussed the changes in the Artesia Boulevard FAR; addressed the Artesia Aviation Corridor Area Plan and environmental review and noted once that is approved, major redevelopment can be expected on Artesia Boulevard.

Carissa Galardo spoke about Mayor Brand's leadership and love of the City and suggested that City Council appoint someone who can continue his legacy, carry out his vision and finish his term.

Commissioner Carmichael hoped Council will use tonight's meeting as an advisory moment and will not make a final decision; spoke about other key City issues that need to be addressed and felt the next Mayor should be someone who will consider the City, holistically.

Jamie Pregiamo, District 1, noted that Mayor Brand's shoes are impossible to fill; spoke about the need to have a Mayor that shares Mayor Brand's visions and has the leadership skills to finish his term and suggested establishing vacancy proceedings in the Charter.

Candace Nafissi, District 3, spoke about Mayor Brand being relentless, successful and committed; listed his accomplishments and voiced support for Jim Light.

Gale Hazeltine, District 1, spoke about Mayor Brand and Jim Light being a force in the City; spoke in support of Jim Light to finish Mayor Brand's term.

Carl Leach spoke about meeting Mayor Brand and Jim Light; noted his heartbreak on his passing and requested that City Council consider Jim Light to finish his term.

Jim Montgomery spoke about Mayor Brand's vision, legacy and commitment and urged City Council to honor his final wish and appoint Jim Light to finish Mayor Brand's term.

Councilmember Nehrenheim left the Chamber at 7:28 p.m. and returned at 7:30 p.m. Leslie Chrzan, District 2, spoke about Mayor Brand's track record in the City and felt the City should honor the voters and appoint Jim Light to finish Mayor Brand's term.

Jacob, District 5, reported he was inspired to get involved by Mayor Brand; expressed his heartfelt loss and urged City Council to appoint Jim Light to finish Mayor Brand's term.

Aust Chenchu, District 1, spoke in support of Jim Light to finish Mayor Brand's term.

Wayne Craig, District 1, spoke about Mayor Brand's vision; noted he was the lone voice on Council for many years; talked about how he inspired and motivated people and spoke in support of appointing Jim Light to finish Mayor Brand's term.

Leslie Campeggi spoke about Mayor Brand being a close friend; spoke about his elections; noted the people voted for him because they wanted him; addressed his

accomplishments, vision and love for the City; urged Council to appoint someone who can carry out his vision and finish his term and expressed support for Jim Light.

Councilmember Behrendt left the Chamber at 7:40 p.m. and returned at 7:41 p.m.

Councilmember Kaluderovic left the Chamber at 7:41 p.m. and returned at 7:44 p.m.

Councilmember Loewenstein left the Chamber at 7:42 p.m. and returned at 7:43 p.m.

Dave Wiggins, District 2, urged City Council not to appoint him as Mayor; spoke about efforts to preserve open space in the City and expressed support of Jim Light to carry out Mayor Brand's vision and finish his term.

Tashia Hinehliffee, District 2, via Zoom, spoke about Mayor Brand being a close friend; addressed his ability to work with different people to effect positive changes in the City; discussed keeping the momentum moving forward by appointing someone who can carry out Mayor Brand's vision and spoke in favor of Jim Light as Mayor.

Amy Josefek, via Zoom, shared how she got to know Mayor Brand; spoke about how he was loved by the people and how much he loved the City; noted the need to appoint someone who will follow Mayor Brand's vision and fulfill his legacy and expressed support for Jim Light.

Bob Pinzler, via Zoom, spoke in support of Jim Light to complete Mayor Brand's term; noted he will not run for Mayor afterwards and addressed his experience working by Mayor Brand's side.

Craig Cadwallader, Surfrider Foundation, via Zoom, reported he has known Mayor Brand and Jim Light for a long time and voiced his support for Jim Light as Mayor to carry out Mayor Brand's vision and fulfill his legacy.

Mark Hansen, King Harbor Boater, via Zoom, spoke about getting to know Mayor Brand and Jim Light; addressed how Mayor Brand was always fighting for better recreational facilities in the community and Harbor; noted Jim Light's participation in City government and working closely with Mayor Brand and voiced support for Jim Light as Mayor, to finish Mayor Brand's term.

Nancy Skiba, District 4, via Zoom, spoke about Mayor Brand's character and vision; believed someone should be appointed to finish his term who has similar values and vision and voiced support for Jim Light.

City Clerk Manzano reported receiving five eComments, two in support and two neutral.

There were no other public comments in this item.

Councilmember Obagi left the Chamber at 7:52 p.m. and returned at 7:53 p.m.

Councilmember Behrendt spoke about how Mayor Brand has made a mark on the City;

agreed that whoever fills the position needs to carry forward Mayor Brand's term and priorities; asserted that the City Council will honor the legacy of Bill Brand; referenced Mayor Brand's last wish noting he never mentioned to him about appointing anyone; talked about Mayor Brand being a fierce advocate and a unifier and discussed the qualifications of other residents who have declared their interest.

Councilmember Obagi spoke about needing to change the Charter in terms of having to appoint a Mayor within 30 days, as the City needs time to grieve; noted speaking with Jim Light who suggested appointing someone not running for Mayor and believed he or Bob Pinzler would do a good job; mentioned Julie Young and other qualified residents who have stepped up; reported that in speaking with Mayor Brand, he never spoke about who should follow him as Mayor; asserted that Jim Light impressed upon him that he would dedicate time to advocating with state and federal officials for the restoration of the wetlands at the AES Power Plant site and invited Jim Light to the podium.

Jim Light responded to City Council questions regarding bolstering the Police Department if necessary; stated he would need to look at the budget and that generally, he supports public safety; noted that he sees the role as advocating and moving the ball forward; spoke in support of the Hawthorne Boulevard option for the Metro C Line extension; promised to work with all five Councilmembers; discussed his participation and work on the GPAC; asserted he will not run for Mayor and commented on a prior interaction regarding the Redondo Beach Fire Department and the degradation of the Harbor Patrol.

Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein voiced his respect for Jim Light, Bob Pinzler and Chadwick Castle; asserted that all Councilmembers care about the City, as a whole; advised Mr. Light that if he is appointed Mayor it would be for the entire City and commented on the importance of experience.

Jim Light felt north Redondo has been neglected from a park land and open space perspective and confirmed he will not run for Mayor again and that he intends on completing Mayor Brand's final term.

Councilmember Nehrenheim commented on the shared bond of Mayor Brand and Jim Light and in response to his question, Jim Light confirmed that he will listen to what each Councilmember has to say.

Councilmember Nehrenheim reported that in the last election, Mayor Brand won every district in the City; noted that he understands the grieving process; stated that one of the last times he spoke with Mayor Brand, he told him what he wanted for the future of Redondo Beach; spoke about Mark McDermott's article in the Easy Reader and reported he asked Mayor Brand about his successor, and he pointed to Jim Light. Councilmember Nehrenheim shared that he learned, from his friend's passing, that after you pass away, you no longer have a voice, but your legacy, family, friends and those you love are those who carry on your voice and confirmed his support of Jim Light for Mayor.

Councilmember Kaluderovic spoke about the importance of making a decision that is

going to represent all of the voices of the City's constituents, by appointment; felt that City Council should take its time to discuss this matter one more time, take community feedback and interview candidates and stated she will not support a motion to make an appointment tonight.

Motion by Councilmember Kaluderovic, to continue this item until the City Council meeting of March 5, 2024, requiring candidates to apply by February 27, 2024 and conducting interviews at the March 5th meeting.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilmember Obagi reported sending out an email to residents of District 4 regarding Mayor Brand's passing and the procedure for appointing an Interim Mayor; stated he solicited their feedback and felt there are fine candidates in attendance and preferred making a decision and moving forward with the City's business.

Eugene Solomon noted this is City Council's decision and it is not about what Council wants but what constituents want; commented on the importance of the Mayor's role and urged Council to appoint someone who will build consensus and bridges.

Paul Hugoboom spoke about his friendship with Mayor Brand and his love of the City and its people and felt that focus should be on what he wanted for the City and his vision.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Obagi, to determine the position of Mayor as vacant as of February 20, 2024, and to appoint Jim Light to fulfill the remainder (unexpired) term of the Mayor's term pursuant to the City Charter (Section 6.4).

Substitute Motion by Councilmember Behrendt, to deem the Mayoral seat vacant as of February 20, 2024, and to appoint Chadwick Castle to serve the remaining (unexpired) 13-months of Mayor's term.

The substitute motion failed for lack of a second.

Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein returned to the motion on the floor.

Councilmember Behrendt explained his opposition; spoke about the need for a unifier; addressed continuing Former Mayor Brand's agenda and discussed Jim Light's experience in the City and his desire to see him continuing to work in the frontlines, advocating for Redondo Beach.

The original motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Nehrenheim, Obagi, Mayor Pro Tem Loewenstein
NOES: Behrendt, Kaluderovic
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Motion carried, 3-2.

City Attorney Webb clarified that as the City Council appointed Jim Light as Mayor, that he could be sworn into office, if is willing and able, he may begin now or he can wait.

City Clerk Manzano administered Jim Light the Oath of Office.

Mayor Light stated he understands the feelings of Council and the doubts expressed; noted he is overwhelmed by the show of support from fellow residents and promised to do his best to continue Mayor Brand's legacy and work.

RECESS/RECOVENE

Motion by Councilmember Behrendt, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim, and approved by voice vote to recess at 8:47 p.m.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Mayor Light reconvened the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Behrendt, Kaluderovic, Lowenstein, Nehrenheim, Obagi and Mayor Light

Mayor Light called the meeting back to order at 9:03 p.m.

City Clerk Manzano conducted roll call.

All members present.

Mayor Light continued the meeting and returned to Agenda Item N.2.

Q. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REFERRALS TO STAFF

Councilmember Nehrenheim introduced a motion to direct the City Clerk to post notice regarding the vacancy on the Harbor Commission as vacated by Jim Light.

City Clerk Manzano responded that the item would be presented to the City Council at an upcoming meeting.

Councilmember Loewenstein commented on the issue of parking on Anita.

Councilmember Obagi expressed concerns regarding the red lettering of the Manhattan Beach Smoke Shop and would like to consider the sign ordinance.

Discussion and possible direction regarding a sign ordinance for the A-cap area and PCH. Upon further discussion, City Manager Witzansky spoke about options and templates that were previously researched and offered to return to City Council in the

next few months to explore setting new standards in the future regarding signs.

Councilmember Obagi, with initial input from Councilmember Kaluderovic, also briefly introduced as referral, whether or not the types of businesses to come into the City can be limited. The City Manager provided a brief response and stated that there are limitations and options regarding the Zoning Code.

Motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Behrendt, and approved by voice vote, to place Councilmember Obagi's referral requests on a future agenda in about the next 6-months.

Motion carried, 4-1. Councilmember Kaluderovic was opposed.

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 – 12:05 a.m.

**T.1. ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF BILL BRAND, CITY OF REDONDO BEACH
MAYOR FROM 2017-2024 AND COUNCIL MEMBER FROM 2009-2017**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, motion by Councilmember Obagi, seconded by Councilmember Loewenstein, and was approved by voice vote, to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 a.m., February 21, 2024, 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, March 5, 2024, in the Redondo Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California in memory of Mayor Bill Brand.

Motion carried, 5-0.

The Meeting was adjourned in MEMORY OF BILL BRAND, CITY OF REDONDO BEACH MAYOR, FROM 2017-2024 AND COUNCIL MEMBER FROM 2009-2017.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Eleanor Manzano, CMC
City Clerk