



Minutes
Redondo Beach City Council
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
Closed Session - Adjourned Regular Meeting 4:30 p.m. -CANCELLED
Open Session - Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Via teleconference, a Regular Meeting of the Redondo Beach City Council was called to order by Mayor Brand at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present:	Nehrenheim, Loewenstein, Horvath, Gran, Emdee, Mayor Brand
Councilmembers Absent:	None
Officials Present:	Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk Michael Webb, City Attorney Joe Hoefgen, City Manager

C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION

At the request of Mayor Brand, the audience and Councilmembers rose to salute the flag followed by a moment of silence.

D. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Nehrenheim announced his Community Meeting taking place this weekend, announced Supervisor Hahn making a motion to bring back the Junior Life Guard Program for the Summer 2021, and the extension of the Project Room Key Program.

Councilmember Loewenstein announced his District 2 Community Meeting taking on February 6 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Zoom with special guests from Public Works discussing Beryl west of PCH. He also suggested the Community Garden discussion taking place next week.

Councilmember Horvath announced his Community Meeting taking place on February 18 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom with special guests from the Health District and Grace Farwell from the SBCCOG discussing Home Share.

Councilmember Gran thanked Public Works and Traffic for their help throughout the City, and also thanked Councilmember Horvath, City Attorney Webb, Al Muratsuchi and Joy Abaquin regarding the Pallet Shelter Program with a fifth person now moving into permanent housing from this location.

Councilmember Emdee thanked the community for helping out at the Pallet Shelter Program. She further said there have been two businesses that have opened in North Redondo District 5, South Bay Hardware on Artesia Boulevard, and Come to Nanas takeout.

Mayor Brand announced the loss of Lang Boston and Morgan Moore.

E. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Gran, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim, to approve the Order of Agenda. Motion carried unanimously, with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Nehrenheim, Loewenstein, Horvath, Gran, Emdee

NOES: None
ABSENT: None

F. AGENCY RECESS – NONE.

G. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS – ADDITIONAL BACK UP MATERIALS – NONE

H. CONSENT CALENDAR

H.1. APPROVE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING AND REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2021

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. PULLED BY COUNCILMEMBER NEHRENHEIM FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

H.4. APPROVE SEPARATE CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENTS WITH BUREAU VERITAS NORTH AMERICA INC., HAYER CONSULTANTS INC., J. LEE ENGINEERING INC., INTERWEST CONSULTING GROUP INC., JASON ADISON SMITH (JAS) CONSULTING SERVICES INC., AND CSG CONSULTANTS INC., FOR AS-NEEDED BUILDING PLAN CHECK AND INSPECTION SERVICES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000 RESPECTIVELY FOR THE TERM OF FEBRUARY 9, 2021 THROUGH FEBRUARY 8, 2024

CONTACT: BRANDY FORBES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

H.5. PULLED BY COUNCILMEMBER NEHRENHEIM FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

Mayor Brand called for public comment via eComment and Zoom. There being no comments, Mayor Brand closed the public comment period.

Motion by Councilmember Horvath, seconded by Councilmember Gran, to approve Consent Calendar Items H.1, H.2, and H.4.

AYES: Nehrenheim, Loewenstein, Horvath, Gran, Emdee
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

I. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

H.3. APPROVE CONTRACTS UNDER \$35,000:

1. APPROVE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH GLICKSMAN CONSULTING LLC FOR ACTUARIAL STUDIES OF THE CITY'S WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAMS FOR AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$8,500 AND TO EXTEND THE TERM TO JUNE 30, 2022.

CONTACT: MARNI RUHLAND, FINANCE DIRECTOR

Councilmember Nehrenheim requested an explanation regarding the \$1500 review and an increase to \$8500. Finance Director Ruhland stated the \$8500 is both for amending the contract for the \$1500 service and amending the contract for the annual actuarial services.

Mayor Brand called for public comment via eComment and Zoom. There being no comments, Mayor Brand closed the public comment period.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Gran, to approve Item H.3. Motion carried unanimously, with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Nehrenheim, Loewenstein, Horvath, Gran, Emdee
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

H.5. APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH KOSMONT TRANSACTIONS SERVICES, INC. FOR MUNICIPAL ADVISORY ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE REFINANCING OF THE CITY'S UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITY (UAL) WITH THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CALPERS) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$145,000 FOR THE TERM OF FEBRUARY 9, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2024
CONTACT: MARNI RUHLAND, FINANCE DIRECTOR

In response to Councilmember Nehrenheim, Finance Director Ruhland explained three scenarios:

- Have the presentation with no cost
- Bond issuance not seen all the way through – just reimbursable costs
- Issue bonds as high as \$145,000 paid from the bond proceeds

Councilmember Loewenstein expressed concern with not accepting other potential bids for people that can consult on the City, and also questioned doing tonight's proposal if it's going to be free anyway.

Finance Director Ruhland stated the current contract is out with Kosmont Realty Services, and the proposal tonight is with Kosmont Transaction Services regulated by boards requiring an engagement letter. She also said a presentation was provided to the Budget and Finance Commission but they are not a decision making body and only advisory.

Councilmember Loewenstein also expressed concern with this item tonight being on the Consent Calendar which should be a discussion item, noting this is a major bond obligation.

City Manager Hoefgen stated Larry Kosmont's presentation will take place next week and said he would not be comfortable making a presentation in the absence of an agreement.

In response to Mayor Brand, Finance Director Ruhland stated the \$145,000 would take place if it's carried through all the way to issuing bonds.

City Manager Hoefgen stated this agreement would allow moving forward with Kosmont Services, or an RFP could take place as an option.

Councilmember Emdee pointed out that the Budget and Finance Commission in January requested that the City Council look at the Kosmont presentation regarding the refinancing to be done soon due to the low interest rates. Council directed staff that the same presentation be made at the February 16 meeting, and pointed out that the Budget and Finance Commission is only advisory Commission and a contract is necessary for the presentation.

In response to Councilmember Loewenstein, Mayor Brand stated he requested a presentation but a contract will now be needed and an RFP can take place as well.

Councilmember Loewenstein supported due diligence and pointed out that there is \$200M in debt. He did not support rushing into this and said he won't be voting on this item tonight.

Councilmember Nehrenheim said he would pay for the presentation if needed but supported being impartial and staff coming back with options regarding other bond services.

In response to Councilmember Horvath, Finance Director Ruhland stated the presentation alone would be no cost.

Councilmember Emdee stated an RFP has different consequences versus the treasurer bringing back a list of companies.

Mayor Brand called for public comment via eComment and Zoom.

Eugene Solomon stated the Budget and Finance Commission requested Council hear the presentation due to the issue of CalPERS UAL to be of an urgency and supported having a public hearing.

There being no further comments, Mayor Brand closed the public comment period.

In response to Mayor Brand, Finance Director Ruhland believed Council could not have the presentation without the contract signed.

City Attorney Webb referred to Section 8 on page 2 of the contract and said this is a contract which can be terminated at any time and only obligated to pay Mr. Kosmont for anything done up to that point.

In response to Councilmember Horvath, Finance Director Ruhland stated there should not be any difference between the presentation received by the Budget and Finance Commission and what will be presented to City Council. Councilmember Horvath pointed out that Council could watch the presentation anytime and come back with more conversations.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Gran, to approve Item H.5. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Nehrenheim, Horvath, Gran

NOES: Loewenstein, Emdee

ABSENT: None

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Brand called for public comment via eComment and Zoom.

Harden Sooper, candidate for Redondo Beach City Attorney, spoke on John Eastman and questioned why the City is still associated with this attorney.

Eugene Solomon questioned big spending on candidates and large campaign donations from contractors with the City, raising conflict of interest questions.

Wayne Craig, District 1, expressed concern with City Council candidate Brad Waller submitting a balance statement that is a carbon copy of what Councilmember Horvath submitted on his balance statement in 2019, expressed concern with having a Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce Farm and rubber stamping overdevelopment projects, expressed concern with Mr. Waller voting at a recent GPAC meeting to approve high density multi-story housing along PCH in South Redondo Beach, and supported Councilmember Nehrenheim for District 1 and his involvement in the City.

Zein Obagi Jr. stated he is running for City Council in District 4 and noted concerns from residents to include safety on the streets and safety in their homes. He also asked Council to urge the police to come up with a program where the police are visibly patrolling the streets.

Administrative Specialist Nazif read the following comments via eComment:

Pat Healy supported Councilmember Gran in District 4, and expressed concern with deep-pocketed businesspersons and interests joining forces with political action committees to overturn the results of previously held elections in an effort to undermine our democratic processes, principles, and silence the voices of the electorate. He stated Redondo Beach residents should never feel that their voices are not being heard on City Council.

Lepsa Smith expressed concern with rubber stamp shills versus resident focused team, and supported Mayor Brand and Councilpersons Nehrenheim and Loewenstein, and Zein Obagi Jr.

Lisa Rodriguez expressed concern with politics and selling Measure C, Rescue Our Waterfront and being under the umbrella of Building a Better Redondo, ROW soliciting tax deductible donations through SBPC for harbor defense funds, lawsuits, waterfront abandonment and no foreseeable alternatives for public-private partnerships, and supported Chris Voisey for Mayor, Brad Waller for District 1, and Erika Snow Robinson for District 2.

Lezlie Campeggi expressed concern with smear campaigning, a frivolous lawsuit filed by Arnette Travis and Chris Voisey, and supported Mayor Brand, Councilmember Nehrenheim and Councilmember Loewenstein.

Robert Gaddis expressed concern with Lisa Rodriguez' comments tonight which he believed are false statements with no basis in fact.

There being no further comments, Mayor Brand closed the public comment period.

Mayor Brand informed that Council is not allowed to comment on non-agenda items.

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 ON THE BUILDING PLAN CHECK EXPEDITING FEE
CONTACT: BRANDY FORBES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

Community Development Director Forbes gave a report and discussed the following:

- Third party plan check – plan check expediting
- Supplement any complimentary to staffing function
- 8/18/2020 – report presenting a history of third party plan checks
- City Council directed staff to issue RFP – come back to review plan check expediting fee
- 50% of building plan check additional fee for expediting
- Revise to something more in line with Torrance
- Page 187 of packet –comparison of valuations
- Comparable if keep at 50%
- Page 188 Increase to 60% and include state energy fee – rates will go up higher
- Recommendation – continue with 50% building plan check fee

Councilmember Nehrenheim referred to the schedule on Page 188 and asked about the state energy fee. Community Development Director Forbes stated a portion goes towards the state and a portion stays with the municipality.

Councilmember Nehrenheim noted concerns with the times and services and would not support an increase in fees. He suggested staying with the 50% at most and asked about the turnaround time with the private entities. Community Development Director Forbes stated the plan check is a 5 to 10 day review and the expedited is about a 15 day review time. She also said there is a summary check off list for submissions and reviews which will be updated for expedited. She also said obligation timelines are also in the contract, and noted it is important to be careful with charging extra for the service.

Councilmember Emdee expressed concern with raising fees without hearing the guarantees and said people have not been happy with the procedure. She said there is a checklist but it is not necessarily all done and other things get added. She supported revamping planning and said the main complaint is the slow turnaround time. She also supported leaving the fees as they are.

Mayor Brand called for public comment via eComment and Zoom. There being no comments, Mayor Brand closed the public comment period.

Motion by Councilmember Nehrenheim, seconded by Councilmember Loewenstein, to approve the current fee schedule as set forth at 50% for the third party plan checks. Motion carried unanimously, with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Nehrenheim, Loewenstein, Horvath, Gran, Emdee
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

O. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

O.1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CITY'S LOCAL EMERGENCY PERTAINING TO COVID-19

CONTACT: JOE HOEFGEN, CITY MANAGER

City Manager Hoefgen gave a report and stated restrictions continue regarding closed facilities.

Tom Bakaly of Beach Cities Health District gave a report and discussed the following:

- Provide vaccines to older adults unable to navigate technology and getting to the sites
- Call at 310-374-3426 ext. 256 for help
- Hear back from county when Section 1B opens up for educators, emergency personnel and food workers
- Constrained by limited supply and the county not releasing vaccines applied for

Mayor Brand encouraged people to try to get a vaccine appointment if over 65 at vaccinatelacounty.com or call at 833-540-0473.

Councilmember Loewenstein asked about vaccines for children under 16. Jacqueline Sun stated clinical trials just began in January but results may not be available for many months.

Councilmember Emdee stated Kaiser is another option at 833-574-2273 for those 75 and over.

Councilmember Nehrenheim announced that outdoor dining in the Riviera Village is now open. He also said the numbers are coming down and encouraged everyone to continue following the protocols.

Mayor Brand called for public comment via eComment and Zoom. There being no comments, Mayor Brand closed the public comment period.

Mayor Brand reminded everyone that the City has no control over the vaccines.

City Manager Hoefgen spoke on items on the Tuesday February 16 City Council meeting to include postal representatives regarding mail reliability, midyear budget review of expenditures and revenues, followup on Larry Kosmont transaction services presentation, items from the Treasurer, and a public hearing related to flood maps. He also said the community garden presentation should take place at a later Council meeting and is not in the strategic plan at this time.

P. MAYOR AND COUNCIL ITEMS

Q. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REFERRALS TO STAFF

In response to Councilmember Loewenstein, City Manager Hoefgen stated staff should be bringing a report forward in March regarding the community garden presentation.

Motion by Councilmember Loewenstein, seconded by Councilmember Nehrenheim, to present a report regarding the community garden progress by the second meeting in March. Motion carried unanimously, with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Nehrenheim, Loewenstein, Horvath, Gran, Emdee
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

In response to Councilmember Loewenstein, City Attorney Webb stated the City has not worked with John Eastman for a long time and do not plan on using him with no current work taking place.

Councilmember Horvath reminded everyone to send in the form related to the Strategic Plan, noting the community garden discussion is included.

Councilmember Emdee suggested sending out an email to the post office contact person regarding complaints and questions to help in their presentation. She also said the Housing Element will be coming to Council in March.

R. CLOSED SESSION – NONE

S. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION – NONE

T. ADJOURNMENT: 8:45 P.M.

ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF LANG BOSTON, FORMER REDONDO BEACH COMMISSIONER & LONGTIME RESIDENT.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Motion by Councilmember Horvath, seconded by Councilmember Gran, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. 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, February 16, 2021, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 415 Diamond Street, Redondo Beach, California, via teleconference. Motion carried unanimously, with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Nehrenheim, Loewenstein, Horvath, Gran, Emdee
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk