



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
SIGNAL HILL CITY COUNCIL**

August 18, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Signal Hill City Council was held in the Council Chamber of City Hall on August 18, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER – 6:03 P.M.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: MAYOR FORESTER
VICE MAYOR WOODS
COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney requested to add closed session (f) and (g) items for discussion subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

- f. A closed session will be held pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8, real property negotiations, regarding real property located at 700 East Spring Street.
- g. A closed will be held pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1) to evaluate the performance of the City Attorney.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL and seconded by VICE MAYOR WOODS to add closed session items (f) and (g).

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
 VICE MAYOR WOODS
 COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL
 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

- a. A closed session was held pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8, real property negotiations, regarding real property located at 3100 California Avenue.
- b. A closed session was held pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8, real property negotiations, regarding a portion of real property of APN: 7212-008-913 and APN: 7212-008-914.
- c. A closed session was held pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2), potential litigation in an undisclosed matter.
- d. A closed session was held pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6(a) to discuss labor negotiations with the Signal Hill Police Officers' Association.
- e. A closed session was held pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), pending litigation, Case No. CV13-04505, Strickland v. Hyllested.
- f. A closed session was held pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8, real property negotiations, regarding real property located at 700 East Spring Street.
- g. A closed was held pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1) to evaluate the performance of the City Attorney.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

There was no public business from the floor.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION – 6:04 P.M.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING – 7:08 P.M.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

City Attorney reported on closed session items. Item (a) was discussed, a status report was given, and no reportable action was taken. Items (b) and (c) were not discussed. Item (c) was discussed, a status report was given, directions were given for further negotiation, and no reportable action was taken. Items (e) through (g) were discussed, status reports were given and no reportable actions were taken.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Forester led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Forester excused himself from the dais to address business from the floor as a general public member.

Vice Mayor Woods asked if there was any public business from the floor on items not listed on the agenda.

Larry Forester, Signal Hill resident and member of LGBT thanked the City, City staff, and the Signal Tribune for honoring the late Ellen Ward and spoke about Ms. Ward's accomplishments and contributions to the City and the community.

INTRODUCTION

- a. Mayor Forester introduced Gina Allen, new Community Services Manager with the Community Services Department.

Ms. Allen expressed excitement to work for the City and looks forward to meeting the residents and serving the community.

PRESENTATIONS

- a. Mayor Forester introduced high school students Saumyah Bedford and Kyle Thurmond who participated in the 33rd Senate District Young Senators Program and made presentations on their experiences in the program.

Suley Saro, representative on behalf of Senator Ricardo Lara came forward with Ms. Bedford and Mr. Thurmond and presented a brief introduction of the Young Senators Program.

Mayor Forester complimented Ms. Bedford and Mr. Thurmond for their presentations and thanked Senator Lara and Ms. Suely for implementing the Young Senators Program.

PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Public Hearing - Introduction of an Ordinance to Expedited Permitting Procedures for Small Residential Rooftop Solar Systems

City Clerk read the form of notice.

City Manager introduced the Community Development Director who presented the staff report.

Mayor Forester asked Council Members if there were any questions for staff.

City Council asked about the standardization and requirements of the solar system industry, and the potential of expediting permit applications for systems larger than the "Small Residential Rooftop Solar Systems".

Community Development Director addressed the questions posed by Council.

Mayor Forester opened the public hearing at 7:43 p.m.

Mayor Forester invited anyone wishing to speak in favor of or opposed to expedited permitting procedures for Small Residential Rooftop Solar Systems to come forward.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Forester closed the public hearing at 7:43 p.m.

Council Member Wilson clarified with the Community Development Director that the permitting procedure is for single family and up to two unit residences.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON and seconded by COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL to waive further reading and introduce the ordinance adding Chapter 15.13 "Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy System Permits" to Title 15 of the Signal Hill Municipal Code.

City Attorney read the title of the Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA ADDING CHAPTER 15.13 "SMALL RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM PERMITS" TO TITLE 15 OF THE SIGNAL HILL MUNICIPAL CODE

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
 VICE MAYOR WOODS
 COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL
 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

a. Auditor's Management Report and Communication Letter for Fiscal Year 2013-2014

City Manager introduced the Finance Director who presented the staff report.

Mayor Forester asked Council Members if there were any questions for staff.

Council Members asked questions about findings in the Management Report and Audit Communication Letter, time frame and use of new accounting software to implement Auditor's recommendations, and credit card payment processing.

Jay Siegel, Audit Manager of Moss, Levy & Hartzheim LLP and the Finance Director addressed the questions posed by Council Members.

Council Member Noll commented favorably on the Auditor's Communication Letter.

Mayor Forester asked if there were any public comments.

Maria Harris, Signal Hill resident thanked the City for providing the Management Report and Audit Communication Letter for public access, and asked questions about full-time staff vacancies, reimbursement policies, and library delinquencies.

City Manager and Finance Director addressed the questions posed by Ms. Harris.

Greg Giles, City's Financial Consultant came forward and clarified for Council the staff vacancy findings.

Vice Mayor Woods asked about the Library's past due notices relative to the fine delinquencies.

Community Services Director came forward and addressed the question.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL and seconded by VICE MAYOR WOODS to receive and file the Auditor's Management Report and Communication Letter for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
 VICE MAYOR WOODS
 COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL
 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

b. Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Investment Policy Statement

City Manager introduced Carlos Oblites, Trust Investment Advisor from PFM Asset Management LLC, who presented the staff report and proposed investment policy changes.

Vice Mayor Woods asked about the investment portfolio and if it is subjected to legal codes.

Mr. Oblites addressed the question posed by Vice Mayor Woods and continued with a report on the return of the investment portfolio.

Mayor Forester asked for any public comments.

There was no public comment.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL and seconded by VICE MAYOR WOODS to waive further reading and adopt the resolution of the City Council of the City of Signal Hill, California, amending the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Investment Policy.

City Attorney read the title of the Resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) TRUST INVESTMENT POLICY

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
 VICE MAYOR WOODS
 COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL
 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

c. Resolution Urging the State to Provide New Sustainable Funding for State and Local Transportation Infrastructure

City Manager presented the staff report.

Mayor Forester asked Council Members if there were any questions for staff.

Council Members discussed and asked about the State's access to City's fuel tax revenue, the all-user pay structure, and specific spending ear-marked for proposed funding.

City Manager addressed the questions posed by Council Members.

Council Member Wilson proposed the addition of "wheels/tires" as an example for the all-user pay structure to raise revenues.

Mayor Forester asked for any public comments.

Maria Harris, Signal Hill resident spoke in favor of urging legislation support on transportation and infrastructure funding for small cities like Signal Hill.

Mayor Forester commented on the recent passing of Senate Bill SB 350 and thanked Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell for supporting the City's objection stance.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL and seconded by VICE MAYOR WOODS to waive further reading and adopt Resolution No. 2015-08-6139 urging the State to provide new sustainable funding for state and local transportation infrastructure.

City Attorney read the title of the Resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, URGING THE STATE TO PROVIDE NEW SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR STATE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
 VICE MAYOR WOODS
 COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL
 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

d. Contract Services Agreement Amendment for Storm Drain Catch Basin Cleaning Services

City Manager introduced the Public Works Director who presented the staff report.

Mayor Forester asked Council Members if there were any questions for staff.

Council Members asked questions about various terms in the contract, relevant contract terms, and additional funding necessary in the event of an El Niño season.

Director of Public Works addressed the questions posed by Council Members.

Council Member Wilson commented on staff's timing of bringing forward future contract agreement renewals.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL and seconded by VICE MAYOR WOODS to authorize the City Manager to extend the City's existing Contract Services Agreement for catch basin cleaning services with Ron's Maintenance, Inc., in a form approved by the City Attorney. The term of the extension is three years.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
 VICE MAYOR WOODS
 COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL
 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Resolution Supporting the Water Replenishment District of Southern California's Groundwater Reliability Improvement Program

Summary: The Water Replenishment District of Southern California is developing the Groundwater Reliability Improvement Program (GRIP) to eliminate our region's dependence on imported water and create a less expensive, more sustainable and reliable groundwater supply. The City Council will consider adopting a resolution supporting the GRIP.

Recommendation: Waive further reading and adopt Resolution No. 2015-08-6140 supporting the Water Replenishment District of Southern California's Groundwater Reliability Improvement Program.

- b. Resolution Designating a Handicapped Parking Space Adjacent To 1835 Stanley Avenue

Summary: This resolution will designate a handicapped parking space adjacent to 1835 Stanley Avenue.

Recommendation: Waive further reading and adopt Resolution No. 2015-08-6141 designating a handicapped parking space adjacent to 1835 Stanley Avenue for the exclusive use of disabled persons.

- c. Schedule of Investments

Summary: The Schedule of Investments is a listing of all surplus funds invested for both the City and the Successor Agency of the former Signal Hill Redevelopment Agency as of the date shown on the report.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

- d. Warrant Register Dated August 18, 2015

Summary: The Warrant Register is a listing of all general checks issued since the prior warrant register and warrants to be released upon City Council approval.

Recommendation: Authorize payment of Warrant Register dated August 18, 2015.

- e. Minutes of the Following Meeting

Adjourned Regular Meeting of August 3, 2015.

Recommendation: Approve.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON and seconded by COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL to approve the Consent Calendar.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
 VICE MAYOR WOODS
 COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL
 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

COUNCIL AGENDA--NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Wilson announced the last concert of the Summer Concerts in the Park will take place on Wednesday, August 19, 2015 with performances by Rock for Vets.

Council Member Noll reminisced about his friendship with Ellen Ward, the longtime Signal Hill resident and former Council Member, and announced a memorial is scheduled with details to follow in the Signal Tribune.

Vice Mayor Woods asked for an update on the Cherry Avenue Widening Project and the traffic assessment of Cherry Avenue and 19th Street.

Public Works Director provided the project updates for City Council.

Vice Mayor Woods announced the third and final CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training class will take place on August 22, 2015 and looks forward to the scheduling of future training classes.

Mayor Forester asked for an update on the two houses on Hill Street scheduled for demolition.

Public Works Director addressed Council and provided an update.

Council Member Noll suggested that staff draft a letter to the City of Long Beach addressing the health and safety hazards of the houses to the community and opposing further demolition delays.

Mayor Forester urged staff to follow up on the location of Wells Fargo ATM in the parking lot near the Costco Gas Station, re-assess the parking lot speed limit, and explore the possibility of moving the ATM.

Mayor Forester made the following announcements: Active Transportation Strategic Plan Open House Workshops for Gateway Cities & Surrounding Area will take place on Monday, August 24, 2015, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.; September is Library Card Sign-up Month and the Signal Hill Library will be holding free events for tweens and teens grades 6 - 12, September 17 – December 10, 2015, every Thursday afternoon 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., contact the Library for library cards and program information at (562) 989-7323; the City is seeking Sustainable Cities Committee volunteers, meetings take place every other month, candidates must be a resident or business owner in Signal Hill, interviews will be conducted on September 22, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., and interested parties can apply online at www.cityofsignalhill.org or call (562) 989-7305 for more information; and County of Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles recognized the following Signal Hill businesses for being “Good Corporate Citizens” for 2014: Artistic Silver Plating, Inc., Axis Petroleum Co., Evoqua Water Technologies, Oil Operators, Inc., R.D. Mathis Co., System Transport A Corp., and Tesoro Environmental Resources.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL and seconded by VICE MAYOR WOODS to adjourn tonight's meeting in memory of Ellen Ward for her 12 years of service to the City and lifetime service to the LGBT community, to a regular meeting of the City Council on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: MAYOR FORESTER
 VICE MAYOR WOODS
 COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN
 COUNCIL MEMBER NOLL
 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

MAYOR FORESTER adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Larry Forester
Mayor

Attest:

Robert D. Copeland
City Clerk