



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
SIGNAL HILL CITY COUNCIL**  
March 24, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Signal Hill City Council was held in the Council Chamber of City Hall on March 24, 2020.

**CALL TO ORDER – 6:05 P.M.**

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: MAYOR WOODS  
VICE MAYOR COPELAND  
COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN  
COUNCIL MEMBER JONES  
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

ABSENT: NONE

**CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney requested to add one closed session item for discussion subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

b. A closed session will be held pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(a), on matters posing a threat to the security of public buildings, the security of essential public services, or the public's right of access to public services or public facilities as related to the COVID-19 outbreak and the Governor's declaration of a State of Emergency.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON and seconded by COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN to add closed session item (b).

The following vote resulted:

AYES:      MAYOR WOODS  
                 VICE MAYOR COPELAND  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER JONES  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON

NOES:      NONE

ABSENT:      NONE

ABSTAIN:      NONE

- a. A closed session was held pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), existing litigation, regarding *City of Signal Hill, et al v. Central Basin Municipal Water District, et al*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 19STCP03882.
- b. A closed session was held pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(a), on matters posing a threat to the security of public buildings, the security of essential public services, or the public's right of access to public services or public facilities as related to the COVID-19 outbreak and the Governor's declaration of a State of Emergency.

#### **PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

There was no public business from the floor.

#### **RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION AT 6:08 P.M.**

#### **RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING AT 7:09 P.M.**

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Woods led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

City Attorney reported on closed session items. City Attorney reported that status reports were given and no reportable action was taken for items (a) and (b).

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

Mayor Woods asked City Manager to provide meeting participation options for the public.

City Manager provided meeting participation options.

Mayor Woods announced that City Council will accommodate public comments throughout the meeting.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Woods made the following announcements:

COVID-19 Important Information – State and County Health Orders require all Californians to stay at home as much as possible and refrain from all non-essential activities. People are allowed to go out for essential activities like grocery shopping, going to work, or attending doctor's appointments and are asked to practice good health hygiene and social distancing.

City Hall and City Yard closed to the public through April 19 – Staff is working and available by phone or email. There will be no water shutoffs through April 30. Visit the City website or call (562) 989-7300 for updates or contact information.

City Library closed to the public through April 19 – Staff is available to help with digital resources. Call (562) 989-7323 or Text-a-Librarian at (562) 284-2766 Monday through Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## **CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION**

### **a. City Council Reorganization**

City Manager commented on the reorganization procedure.

City Manager declared nominations open for Mayor.

Council Member Hansen nominated Council Member Copeland for Mayor.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON and seconded by COUNCIL MEMBER JONES to close the nominations.

City Manager conducted a roll call vote.

The following vote resulted:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBER COPELAND  
COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN  
COUNCIL MEMBER JONES  
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON  
COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

City Manager declared Council Member Copeland as the new Mayor.

Mayor Copeland commented on the reorganization.

Mayor Copeland declared nominations open for Vice Mayor.

Council Member Woods nominated Council Member Hansen for Vice Mayor.

Council Member Wilson nominated himself for Vice Mayor.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN and seconded by COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS to close the nominations.

Mayor Copeland asked a question regarding reorganization procedure.

City Attorney addressed the question posed by Mayor Copeland.

City Council discussed the reorganization.

Mayor Copeland conducted a roll call vote for the selection of Vice Mayor.

The following vote resulted:

COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS – COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN  
COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON – COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON  
COUNCIL MEMBER JONES – COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN  
COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN – COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN  
MAYOR COPELAND – COUNCIL MEMBER HANSEN

Mayor Copeland declared Council Member Hansen as the new Vice Mayor.

Mayor Copeland presented a proclamation and a plaque on behalf of City Council to outgoing Mayor Woods.

Council Member Woods thanked City Council and commented on the Mayor's Reception.

Council Member Jones recognized Council Member Woods and commented on her mayoral term.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

- a. Adoption of a Resolution Ratifying the City Manager's Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency in Response to COVID-19

City Manager presented the staff report.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON and seconded by COUNCIL MEMBER JONES to waive further reading and adopt Resolution No. 2020-03-6557 ratifying the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency by the City Manager of the City of Signal Hill, as Director of Emergency Services.

City Attorney read the title of Resolution No. 2020-03-6557, entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY BY THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, AS DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

The following vote resulted:

AYES:      MAYOR COPELAND  
                 VICE MAYOR HANSEN  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER JONES  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS

NOES:      NONE

ABSENT:      NONE

ABSTAIN:      NONE

Mayor Copeland invited the public to comment on the agenda item.

There was no public comment.

Council Member Woods read two letters regarding COVID-19 from Signal Hill residents Larry Smith and Mark Simpson (attached to original minutes and available in the City Clerk's Office).

Mayor Copeland asked questions regarding parking enforcement.

City Manager and Vice Mayor Hansen addressed the questions posed by Mayor Copeland.

City Council, staff, and City Attorney discussed the preferred protocol for future meetings, including City Council, Commission, and Committee meetings.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER JONES and seconded by VICE MAYOR HANSEN to provide Council Members, Commissioners, and Committee members the option of teleconferencing when conducting future meetings with meetings only held as necessary pursuant to Executive Order N-25-20 issued by Governor Newsom until said Order has been lifted.

The following vote resulted:

AYES:       MAYOR COPELAND  
                 VICE MAYOR HANSEN  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER JONES  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS

NOES:       NONE

ABSENT:      NONE

ABSTAIN:     NONE

City Manager presented the ongoing government operations.

Mayor Copeland invited the public to comment on the agenda item.

There was no public comment.

City Council asked questions regarding ongoing government operations, public outreach, and homeowners associations (HOAs).

City Manager and City Attorney addressed the questions posed by City Council.

City Council and City Manager commented on the Safer at Home Order and discussed the preferred protocol for continuing government operations.

City Council thanked and recognized City staff's dedication to their work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

City Council provided staff with direction on preferred protocol for continuing government operations.

b. Amendment to Fiscal Year 2019-20 General Fund Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation to Purchase COVID-19 Related Emergency Supplies as Needed

City Manager presented the staff report.

Mayor Copeland invited the public to comment on the agenda item.

Marianne Hartshorn, Signal Hill resident and representative of Promontory Westbluff HOA, asked questions regarding trail access on HOA-owned property.

Police Chief, City Manager, and City Attorney addressed the questions posed by Ms. Hartshorn.

City Council commented on and discussed trail access.

Council Member Woods asked a question regarding appropriation of funds for COVID-19 related purchases.

City Manager addressed the question posed by Council Member Woods.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER JONES and seconded by COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS to waive further reading and adopt Resolution No. 2020-03-6558 authorizing appropriations from the Fiscal Year 2018-19 General Fund operating surplus and current year appropriation adjustments, amending the Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget.

City Attorney read the title of Resolution No. 2020-03-6558, entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-19 GENERAL FUND OPERATING SURPLUS AND CURRENT YEAR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENTS, AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 BUDGET

The following vote resulted:

AYES:      MAYOR COPELAND  
                 VICE MAYOR HANSEN  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER JONES  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS

NOES:      NONE

ABSENT:      NONE

ABSTAIN:      NONE

c. 2019 General Plan Annual Progress Report

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

Council Member Wilson asked questions regarding Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) units.

Community Development Director addressed the questions posed by Council Member Wilson.

Mayor Copeland invited the public to comment on the agenda item.

There was no public comment.

Council Member Jones asked questions regarding current or proposed projects.

Community Development Director addressed the questions posed by Council Member Jones.

Vice Mayor Hansen asked questions regarding RHNA.

Community Development Director addressed the questions posed by Vice Mayor Hansen.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER JONES and seconded by VICE MAYOR HANSEN to authorize staff to submit the General Plan Annual Progress Report to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the State Department of Housing and Community Development.

The following vote resulted:

AYES:      MAYOR COPELAND  
                 VICE MAYOR HANSEN  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER JONES  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS

NOES:      NONE

ABSENT:      NONE

ABSTAIN:      NONE

d. Grant of Temporary Construction and Exclusive Revocable Easement Agreements to the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 29 at the Signal Hill City Yard

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

Mayor Copeland invited the public to comment on the agenda item.

There was no public comment.

Council Member Wilson asked questions regarding the easement agreements.

Public Works Director and City Attorney addressed the questions posed by Council Member Wilson.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER JONES and seconded by COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS to authorize the Mayor to enter into a Temporary Construction Easement Agreement and an Exclusive Revocable Easement Agreement with the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 29, in a form approved by the City Attorney.

The following vote resulted:

AYES:      MAYOR COPELAND  
                 VICE MAYOR HANSEN  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER JONES  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS

NOES:      NONE

ABSENT:      NONE

ABSTAIN:      NONE

e. Approve Global Settlement Agreement and General Release in the Case of Ronald R. Sagmit vs. City of Signal Hill Police Department

City Manager presented the staff report.

Mayor Copeland invited the public to comment on the agenda item.

There was no public comment.

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS and seconded by COUNCIL MEMBER JONES to approve the Global Settlement Agreement and General Release of Claims in the case of Ronald R. Sagmit vs. City of Signal Hill Police Department, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC706721 in a form approved by the City Attorney, pursuant to approval of the settlement payment by the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA) Executive Board at its meeting of March 25, 2020, and authorize the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City.

The following vote resulted:

AYES:      MAYOR COPELAND  
                 VICE MAYOR HANSEN  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER JONES  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS

NOES:      NONE

ABSENT:      NONE

ABSTAIN:      NONE

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **a. 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.

### **b. Warrant Register Dated March 24, 2020**

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 March 24, 2020.

### **c. Minutes of the Following Meeting**

Regular Meeting of March 10, 2020.

Recommendation: Approve.

It was moved by VICE MAYOR HANSEN and seconded by COUNCIL MEMBER JONES to approve the Consent Calendar.

The following vote resulted:

AYES:      MAYOR COPELAND  
                 VICE MAYOR HANSEN  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER JONES  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS

NOES:      NONE

ABSENT:      NONE

ABSTAIN:      NONE

## **COUNCIL AGENDA--NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Woods asked questions regarding rent relief.

City Manager addressed the questions posed by Council Member Woods.

Council Member Wilson commented on Census 2020.

Council Member Jones announced that Signal Hill Community Foundation created a Signal Hill COVID-19 Relief Fund, visit [www.ilovesignalhill.org](http://www.ilovesignalhill.org) to donate or volunteer.

Council Member Jones commented on the Brown Bag Program.

Council Member Woods clarified the details of the Brown Bag Program with the City Manager.

Council Member Jones encouraged the public to stay informed by visiting [www.cityofsignalhill.org/coronavirus](http://www.cityofsignalhill.org/coronavirus).

Vice Mayor Hansen announced a Signal Hill California Community Support Group on Facebook and commented on social distancing and essential services in Signal Hill.

Mayor Copeland reminded the public to support local restaurants that are offering takeout and delivery.

Vice Mayor Hansen commented on health and safety guidelines for restaurants.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS and seconded by VICE MAYOR HANSEN to adjourn tonight's meeting to the next regular meeting of the Signal Hill City Council to be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 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 COPELAND  
                 VICE MAYOR HANSEN  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER JONES  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON  
                 COUNCIL MEMBER WOODS

NOES:      NONE

ABSENT:      NONE

ABSTAIN:      NONE

MAYOR COPELAND adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

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ROBERT D. COPELAND  
MAYOR

Attest:

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CARMEN R. BROOKS  
CITY CLERK