

WALNUT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ching called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: M/Ching led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: M/Ching, MPT/Wu, C/Freedman, C/Pacheco, C/Tragarz
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: None

Also present: City Manager Weiner; Assistant City Manager Rooney; City Attorney Leibold; City Engineer Gilbertson; City Planner Carlson; Senior Planner Vasquez; Community Services Superintendent Barcelo; Community Services Superintendent Bumia; Management Analyst Ramos; Finance Analyst Brashear; Public Information Officer Maio; Administrative Assistant Markel and City Clerk De Dios.

INVOCATION – NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Pastor Baldwin Chan from the Vineyard of Harvest Church led the invocation.

PRESENTATIONS: None scheduled.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL:

William Harrison expressed concerns regarding the Brookside project and the salaries of the city manager and staff.

C/Tragarz stated that during her time on the Council, management has suggested salary proposals and Council has given them. She also stated that the city plays for a percentage of PERS for classic members.

There being no further input, it was unanimously moved by Council to close oral communications; motion carried.

MINUTES

1. Approval of the January 24, 2022 Special Meeting
2. Approval of the January 26, 2022 Study Session
3. Approval of the January 26, 2022 Council Meeting
4. Approval of the January 26, 2022 Special Meeting

MOTION ON ITEMS 1 - 4

MPT/Wu made a motion to approve Items 1 - 4; seconded by C/Pacheco. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: *Ching, Freedman, Pacheco, Tragarz, Wu*
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*

ORDINANCE: None scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None scheduled.

COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:

Items 6 and 7 were pulled for discussion.

5. Resolution No. 22-07 - A Resolution of the City of Walnut Allowing Certain Claims and Demands in the Amount of \$966,334.44 Demand No. 163794 through No. 163877, Both Inclusive

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 22-07.

8. Notice of Decision – February 2, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Receive and File the “Notice of Decision” by the Planning Commission at its February 2, 2022 Meeting, for the following project(s):
 - a. CONTINUED: Site Plan Case/Architectural Review (SPC/AR) 2021-106 – A request to install a 741 square-foot, forty (40) panel ground mounted solar panel array on the rear slope of an existing property located at 721 Arabian Lane (APN: 8709-063-001).

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- b. Continuance – Site Plan Case/Architectural Review (SPC/AR) 2021-079 – A request to construct a new 4,120 square-foot, two (2) story home with a three (3) car garage located at 20408 San Gabriel Valley Drive (APN: 8712-002-012).

9. Finding Continued Existence of Local Emergency (COVID-19)

Recommendation: That the City Council make the following findings:

1. The City Council has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency related to COVID-19; and
2. The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members of the City Council, City Staff and the public to meet safely in person, and
3. Los Angeles County Department of Public Health officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; and
4. Existing circumstances support the need to continue the local emergency (COVID-19) consistent with Resolution No. 20-25 Proclaiming Existence of a Local Emergency (COVID-19) adopted March 23, 2020 as amended by Resolution No. 20-32 adopted May 13, 2020.

MOTION ON ITEMS 5, 8, & 9

C/Freedman made a motion to adopt Items 5, 8, & 9; seconded by C/Pacheco. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: *COUNCILMEMBERS: Ching, Freedman, Pacheco, Tragarz, Wu*
NOES: *COUNCILMEMBERS: None*
ABSTAIN: *COUNCILMEMBERS: None*
ABSENT: *COUNCILMEMBERS: None*

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION:

6. **Resolution No. 22-08 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Walnut confirming the appointment of Tom Weiner as City Manager and approving an Employment Agreement**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 22-08, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Walnut confirming the appointment of Tom Weiner as City Manager and approving an Employment Agreement.

CA/Leibold presented a staff report and summarized the following clerical corrections and revisions from closed session as follows: In Section 1 under “Term,” the following sentence will be added – “provided this agreement has not been previously terminated and unless notice of termination or notice of non-renewal is given by the City pursuant to section 8a at least six months before the expiration of the term or any extension thereof, this agreement shall automatically extend for an additional six months from the anniversary of the expiration date. In

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Section 3a under “Salary,” the salary will be changed from \$200,000 to \$204,000. In Section 4b under “Retirement,” the City will pay five percent and the employee will pay two percent of the seven percent of the employee share in PERS.

M/Ching opened public comment.

William Harrison stated that he feels that the current city manager should at least be making what the outgoing city manager received.

MOTION ON ITEM 6

C/Pacheco made a motion to adopt Item 6; seconded by MPT/Wu. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Ching, Freedman, Pacheco, Tragarz, Wu
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: None
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS: None
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: None

Council congratulated CM/Weiner on his appointment.

7. Approval of Plans and Specifications and Agreement for Vendor Services with Public Restroom Company for \$440,023 to Purchase and Install a Park Restroom and Utility Building for the Diversity Plaza - Creekside Park Project and Appropriation of \$210,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

Recommendation:

1. Authorize the City Engineer to review and approve the final plans and specifications for the modular park restroom and utility building to be part of the Diversity Plaza Project at Creekside Park.
2. Appropriate \$210,000 from ARPA Fund Reserves to the Diversity Plaza-Creekside Park Project for the cost of the expanded restroom portion of the building.
3. Approve the Agreement for Vendor Services with Public Restroom Company in the amount of \$440,023 for the purchase and installation of restroom and utility building at Creekside Park; and
4. Authorize the City Manager to sign the contract on behalf of the City in substantially the form attached and in such final form as approved by the City Attorney; and
5. Authorize staff to issue a Purchase Order to Public Restroom Company in the amount of \$440,023; and
6. Determine that the Diversity Plaza Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (Cal. Publ. Res. Code §§21000 et seq. “CEQA”) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14. Cal. Code Regs §§15000 et seq.) pursuant to Section 15003 - Class 3 Exemption – in that the project

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consists of the installation of (a) a single new small restroom and storage facility (b) a small picnic shelter, and (c) a new spray play area in an existing park involving negligible or no expansion of use and/or is required for public health and safety, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk.

CSS/Barcelo presented a staff report.

Discussion took place between Council and staff regarding specifics of the project, project funding, and the history of the project.

M/Ching opened public comment.

William Harrison thanked Council and staff for their efforts on the project.

MOTION ON ITEM 7

MPT/Wu made a motion to adopt Item 7; seconded by C/Pacheco. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Ching, Freedman, Pacheco, Tragarz, Wu
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: None
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS: None
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/TRANSACTION ITEMS: None scheduled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF):

A. Councilmembers’ report on meetings attended at the expense of the local agency

C/Freedman shared information from a Foothill Transit board meeting as well as a school district liaison meeting.

C/Tragarz shared information from an event she attended with California Contract Cities executive board members.

B. Individual Members’ comments and updates

C/Freedman wished everyone a happy Lunar New Year and congratulated CM/Weiner.

C/Pacheco thanked Supervisor Solis for COVID test kits as well as a local donation of masks.

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M/Ching provided information on COVID testing and thanked the Chinese American Association of Walnut, shared information on Black History Month, and invited everyone to attend the Lunar New Year event. He thanked the Sheriff's Department for their service.

COUNCIL LATE BUSINESS: None.

CLOSED SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the City Council adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 23rd day of February 2022.

Eric Ching, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa De Dios, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Ray Markel, Administrative Assistant