

WALNUT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ching called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: MPT/Wu 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; Community Services Director Vasquez; Community Services Superintendent Barcelo; Community Services Superintendent Bumia; City Planner Carlson Management Analyst Ramos; Finance Analyst Brashear; Public Information Officer Maio; Administrative Assistant Markel and City Clerk De Dios.

INVOCATION – NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Pastor Jimmy Nih from the Walnut United Methodist Church led the invocation.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Black History Month**

Council recognized and presented commendations to the following individuals who have contributed greatly to the community: Marc & Bridget Saunders, Denise Smotherman, Charles & Elvonne Vance, and William Harrison.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL:

William Harrison expressed concerns regarding the lack of recent pay raises for management staff and the lack of black employees at local school districts. He also suggested that the city host an event to recognize the universal ethnic diversity of the city.

Primo Castro expressed support for Council to pass the ordinance prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products.

FEBRUARY 23, 2022 – CC

CC/De Dios summarized emails from Jaime Rojas and Sammy Ghazaleh requesting that the Council not move forward with the ban of flavored tobacco products.

Claudia and Aman expressed support for Council to not move forward with the ban of flavored tobacco products.

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

MINUTES

1. **Approval of the February 9, 2022 Special Meeting**
2. **Approval of the February 9, 2022 Council Meeting**

MOTION ON ITEMS 1 & 2

C/Pacheco made a motion to approve to Items 1 & 2; 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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

3. **Housing Element Update – The 2021-2029 Update for the 6th Cycle of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment**

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Open the Public Hearing; and
2. Hear the Staff Report; and
3. Solicit input on this Item; and
4. Close the Public Hearing; and
5. Continue the Item to the regularly scheduled meeting on March 9, 2022, to allow for finalizing of the document(s).

M/Ching opened the public hearing.

CDD/Vasquez presented a staff report.

MOTION ON ITEM 3

C/Pacheco made a motion to continue Item 3 to the March 23, 2022, City Council meeting; 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*

ORDINANCE:

4. **Ordinance No. 22-03 – Amending Title 4 – Licenses and Permits of the Walnut Municipal Code (WMC) to Establish a Tobacco Retail Licensing Program and Prohibiting the Sale of Favored Tobacco Products**

Recommendation: That the City Council Introduce by title only and waive further reading of Ordinance No. 22-03, “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Walnut, County of Los Angeles, State of California, adding Chapter 4.06 to Title 4 – Licenses and Permits to the Walnut Municipal Code Establishing a Tobacco Retail Licensing Program and Prohibiting the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products”; and agendize for adoption at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting of March 9, 2022.

MA/Ramos presented a staff report.

Discussion took place amongst Council and staff regarding enforcement of violations of the ordinance.

CA/Leibold clarified that any violation of the municipal code constitutes a misdemeanor unless it is specifically designated as an infraction and pursuit is up to the city attorney or city prosecutor, which would typically be pursued as a civil infraction.

M/Ching opened public comment.

Monty Messex provided information from the Los Angeles County Public Health office regarding the County’s tobacco retail license.

Annie Tagen, Kelly, and Tim expressed support for the ordinance banning flavored tobacco products.

MOTION ON ITEM 4

C/Pacheco made a motion to approve Item 4; seconded by M/Ching. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

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

COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:

Item 8 was pulled for discussion.

5. **Resolution No. 22-12 - A Resolution of the City of Walnut Allowing Certain Claims and Demands in the Amount of \$535,838.94 Demand No. 163878 through No. 163934, Both Inclusive**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 22-12.

6. **Request to Accept a Donation of \$300 from the Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis and Appropriate \$300 towards the Senior Meal Program**

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Accept the donation from Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis; and
2. Appropriate the funds towards the Senior Meal Program (\$300 to account #01-9696-6227).

7. **Agreement for Vendor Services with Dave Bang Associates for \$81,230.91 to Purchase a Picnic Shelter and Tables for the Diversity Plaza- Creekside Park Project**

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Approve the Agreement for Vendor Services with Dave Bang Associates in the amount of \$81,230.91 for the purchase and installation of picnic shelter and tables at Creekside Park; and
2. 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
3. Authorize staff to issue a Purchase Order to Dave Bang Associates in the amount of \$81,230.91.

MOTION ON ITEMS 5 - 7

MPT/Wu made a motion to adopt Items 5 - 7; seconded by C/Tragarz. 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:

8. Agreement for Vendor Services with Dave Bang Associates for \$304,927.68 to Purchase Playground Equipment for Norm Ashley Park with Proposition 68 Grant Funds and Park In-Lieu Funds

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Appropriate \$138,790 from 06 Park In-Lieu Fund Reserves to the Norm Ashley Park Project;
2. Appropriate \$196,624 from General Fund Reserves to the Norm Ashley Park Project to be reimbursed by Proposition 68 Grant Funds;
3. Appropriate \$196,624 from Proposition 68 Grant Funds when received into revenue account 01-0000-3623;
4. Approve the Agreement for Vendor Services with Dave Bang Associates in the amount of \$304,927.68 for the purchase and installation of playground equipment at Norm Ashley Park;
5. 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
6. Authorize staff to issue a Purchase Order to Dave Bang Associates in the amount of \$304,927.68; and
7. Determine that the Norm Ashley Park renovations are 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 consists the renovation of an existing playground and basketball court in an existing park involving negligible or no expansion of use, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk.

CSS/Barcelo provided a staff report.

C/Tragarz stated that she would like to place an item on a future agenda to change the name of the park to Bert and Norm Ashley Park and proposed adjourning the meeting this evening in memory of Bert Ashley.

C/Pacheco provided information on the history of the park.

MOTION ON ITEM 8

C/Pacheco made a motion to approve Items 8; 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

FEBRUARY 23, 2022 – CC

Council observed a minute of silence in memory of former mayor and councilmember Bert Ashley.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/TRANSACTION ITEMS: None scheduled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF):

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

MPT/Wu shared information from a San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control meeting.

C/Pacheco shared information from a Sanitation District meeting.

B. Individual Members' comments and updates

Council thanked staff for their efforts at the Lunar New Year event.

M/Ching shared information from a meeting held with a resident to discuss the needs of kids with disabilities; he stated he would bring his findings back to Council.

C/Pacheco alerted the community to a recent scam involving people claiming to be with Southern California Edison.

COUNCIL LATE BUSINESS: None.

RECESS CITY COUNCIL TO THE WALNUT HOUSING AUTHORITY MEETING

WALNUT HOUSING AUTHORITY MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Authority Chair Ching called the meeting to order at 8:28 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR HOUSING AUTHORITY:

There being no one present wishing to speak, it was unanimously moved by the Authority to close oral communications; motion carried.

AUTHORITY PUBLIC HEARINGS: None scheduled.

AUTHORITY CONSENT CALENDAR:

9. **Resolution No. 22-02 WHA - A Resolution of the Walnut Housing Authority Allowing Certain Claims and Demands in the Amount of \$30,971.98 Demand No. 100415 through No. 100415, Both Inclusive**

Recommendation: That the Authority adopt Resolution No. 22-02 WHA.

10. **Budget Appropriation: Appropriate Funds from the Walnut Housing Authority (WHA) Reserves Account for Personnel**

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Appropriate \$5,500 from the WHA Reserves to the WHA Personnel Account(s) (41-5850-5102; 41-5850-5107; and 41-5850-5110).

MOTION ON ITEMS 9 & 10

VC/Wu made a motion to adopt Items 9 & 10; seconded by AM/Pacheco. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: *AUTHORITYMEMBERS: Ching, Freedman, Pacheco, Tragarz, Wu*

NOES: *AUTHORITYMEMBERS: None*

ABSTAIN:*AUTHORITYMEMBERS: None*

ABSENT: *AUTHORITYMEMBERS: None*

AUTHORITY DISCUSSION/TRANSACTION ITEMS: None scheduled.

AUTHORITY LATE BUSINESS: None scheduled.

AUTHORITY ADJOURNS TO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CLOSED SESSION:

CA/Leibold announced Closed Session; Council went into Closed Session at 8:29 p.m.

- A. **Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: 1 potential case**

RECONVENE COUNCIL MEETING AND ANNOUNCE CLOSED SESSION ACTION

Council reconvened the meeting at 9:51 p.m. with no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the City Council adjourned the meeting at 9:52 p.m. in memory of former mayor and councilmember Bert Ashley

PASSED AND APPROVED this 9th day of March 2022.

Eric Ching, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa De Dios, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Ray Markel, Administrative Assistant