

WALNUT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: C/Freedman 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; Community Development Director Vasquez; Planning and Code Enforcement Manager Carlson; Community Services Superintendent Barcelo; Management Analyst Ramos; Finance Analyst Brashear; Public Information Officer Maio; Administrative Assistant Markel and City Clerk De Dios.

INVOCATION – NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Pastor Him Djuhana from City Blessing Church in Walnut led the invocation.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Women’s History Month**

Council recognized and presented commendations to the following individuals who have contributed greatly to the community: Lily Eibert and Yvonne Sevilla.

Council recognized and congratulated Mackenzie Willis on representing Southern California at the upcoming Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando, Florida.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL:

William Harrison expressed concerns regarding the lack of pay raises for city staff, the proposed Brookside project, and the lack of black employees at local schools and school districts.

Manuel Vela thanked Council for honoring Mackenzie Willis and congratulated CM/Weiner for being appointed city manager.

AA/Markel read into the record emails from Sammy Ghazaleh and Thomas Lawton that both asked Council to wait to consider a ban on flavored tobacco until after it is voted on in the November 2022 Statewide Election.

Jamie Rojas stated that he is in favor of a tobacco retail license at a later enforcement date and is opposed to a flavor ban.

There being no further input, it was moved by M/Ching to close oral communications; seconded by C/Freedman. Motion carried.

MINUTES

1. Approval of the February 23, 2022 City Council/WHA meeting

MOTION ON ITEM 1

C/Freedman made a motion to approve Item 1; 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: None scheduled.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None scheduled.

COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:

2. Resolution No. 22-12 - A Resolution of the City of Walnut Allowing Certain Claims and Demands in the Amount of \$689,687.12 Demand No. 163935 through No. 163999, Both Inclusive

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

3. Resolution No. 22-13 - Directing the Preparation of the Engineer’s Report and Filing of Report for Fiscal Year 2022-23 Lighting and Open Space Maintenance District No. 1 (LOSMD) Assessments and Setting the Time and Place for a Public Meeting and Public Hearing

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Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 22-13, initiating proceedings for the levy and collection of assessments within the Lighting and Open Space Maintenance District (LOSMD) No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and ordering the engineer to prepare a report in connection therewith; and
2. Direct staff to hold a Community Meeting on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom;
3. Direct staff to set the time and place for the Public Hearing on the matter of levying assessments for Fiscal Year 2022-23 LOSMD assessments at the City Council Meeting on May 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.; and
4. Direct staff to provide notice of the public meeting and Public Hearing in accordance with the law.

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

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt 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 WMC establishing a Tobacco Retail Licensing Program (TRLP) and prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products.”

5. Request to Accept a Donation of \$500 from Walnut Valley Water District and Appropriate the \$500 towards the 2022 Lunar New Year Celebration

Recommendation:

1. Accept the donation from Walnut Valley Water District of \$500; and
2. Appropriate the funds towards supplies purchased for Lunar New Year Celebration (\$500 to account #01-9690-6277).

6. 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.

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7. Notice of Decision – March 2, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Receive and File the “Notice of Decision” by the Planning Commission at its March 2, 2022 Meeting, for the following project(s):
 - a. Continued: 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).
 - b. Continued: Site Plan Case/Architectural Review (SPC/AR) 2016-056 – A request to construct a new two (2) story multi-purpose building with a total building area of 20,630 square-feet at 18901 Amar Road (APN: 8735-003-039.)

MOTION ON ITEMS 2 - 7

MPT/Wu made a motion to adopt Items 2 - 7; seconded by C/Freedman. 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:

8. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Year Ended June 30, 2021

Recommendation: That the City Council receive and file the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the year ended June 30, 2021.

FA/Brashear presented a staff report.

Eide Balley representative provided a review of their city audit.

M/Ching opened public comment.

William Harrison spoke in favor of a pay raise for city staff.

Discussion took place amongst Council and staff regarding the following: past pay raises of city staff, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) obligations, the financial net position of the city, and aspects of the city audit.

MOTION ON ITEM 8

MPT/Wu made a motion to approve Item 8; seconded by C/Freedman. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS (COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF):

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

None.

B. Individual Members’ comments and updates

MPT/Wu, C/Tragarz, and C/Freedman shared information from the Walnut Youth Softball and Walnut Pony Baseball opening ceremonies events.

C/Tragarz shared information on special needs programs.

C/Freedman thanked everyone that came out to the meeting this evening.

M/Ching thanked staff for their efforts at the Lunar New Year event.

Captain Tousey provided crime statistics for the city.

COUNCIL LATE BUSINESS: None.

CLOSED SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the City Council adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 23rd day of March 2022.

Eric Ching, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa De Dios, City Clerk