

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; Administrative Services Director Ogawa; City Attorney Leibold; Community Development Director Vasquez; Deputy Community Services Director Barcelo; Community Services Superintendent Bumia; Planning and Code Enforcement Manager Carlson; Senior Planner Guerra; City Engineer Gilbertson; Assessment Engineer Howing; Management Analyst Ramos; Finance Analyst Brashear; Public Information Officer Maio; Administrative Assistant Markel and City Clerk De Dios.

INVOCATION – NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Pastor Paul Tan from City Blessing Church led the invocation.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Wolf Corporation Robotics Team – Inspire (Champions) Finalist Award**

Council congratulated the Wolf Corporation Robotics Team for their finalist award earned at the world championship in Houston.

- **Walnut High School United Nations Team Recognition**

Council congratulated the members of the Walnut High School United Nations on earning two delegation awards at the Model United Nations Conference in New York.

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Month Community Honorees**

Council proclaimed May 2022 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and recognized the following people who have contributed greatly to the community: Dr. Paul Tan, Jennifer McCormick, Jimmy Nih, Danny Wu, Cecilia Yeh, and Grace Yao.

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- **Water Awareness Month Proclamation – Walnut Valley Water District**

Council presented a proclamation for Water Awareness Month to the Walnut Valley Water District Board of Directors and encouraged everyone to conserve water.

- **Diamond Bar Golf Course Closure & Renovation Update related to the SR-57/60 Confluence Chokepoint Relief Project – Presentation by Former Senator Bob Huff**

Former Senator Bob Huff provided information on the Diamond Bar Golf Course Closure and Renovation.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL:

William Harrison congratulated the students honored this evening and expressed concerns regarding the lack of black employees employed at local school districts.

Vijay Vakil expressed concerns regarding the city’s external auditors as well as governmental accounting.

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

MINUTES

1. **Approval of the April 27, 2022 Study Session Meeting**
2. **Approval of the April 27, 2022 City Council Meeting**

MOTION ON ITEMS 1 & 2

MPT/Wu made a motion to approve Items 1 & 2; 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*

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

3. **Resolution No. 22-17 - Public Hearing Regarding Setting 2022-23 Lighting and Open Space Maintenance District No. 1 (LOSMD) Assessments**

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Open the Public Hearing;
2. Hear the Staff Report;
3. Solicit Input on the Item;
4. Close the Public Hearing;
5. Approve the Engineer’s Report for Fiscal Year 2022-23; and
6. Adopt Resolution No. 22-17 Ordering the Maintenance Work, Confirming the Diagram, Assessments, and All Other Matters Set Forth in the Engineer’s Report, Setting the Lighting and Open Space Maintenance District No. 1 Assessments for Fiscal Year 2022-23 for Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12.

M/Ching opened the public hearing.

AE/Howing provided a staff report.

Discussion took place amongst Council and staff regarding Zone 9’s assessment and the assessment process, and the status of the LOSMD in the city.

M/Ching opened public comment.

Vijay Vakil expressed concerns regarding the accounting of Zone 9.

MOTION ON ITEM 3

C/Pacheco made a motion to approve Item 3; 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*

4. **Resolution No. 22-20 – Zone Variance (ZV) 2006-004 (Amendment to COA) – A Request to Modify Condition of Approval (COA) #11 for the Property Located at 20315 E. Walnut Canyon Road (APN: 8709-006-039)**

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Open the Public Hearing;
2. Hear the Staff Report;
3. Solicit public input and City Council discussion on this item; and
4. Close the Public Hearing; and
5. Adopt Resolution No. 22-20, approving the modification of COA #11 of Zone Variance (ZV) 2006-004 (Amendment), subject to Conditions of Approval (COA) (Exhibit A).

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M/Ching opened the public hearing.

CDD/Vasquez provided a staff report.

Discussion took place amongst Council and staff regarding the property in question, fire department access to the property, vehicle-parking layout, zoning code regarding recreational vehicle (RV) storage, and the conditional use permit.

MPT/Pacheco expressed concerns regarding fire access to the property.

C/Tragarz expressed concerns regarding the number of driveways and vehicles on the property.

C/Freedman expressed concerns regarding the possible number of RVs that can be stored on the property.

MPT/Wu and M/Ching stated that they are satisfied with the Planning Commission's decision.

The property owners provided information on the proposal.

Joyce Fan, neighbor, expressed support for the proposal.

M/Ching opened public comment.

William Harrison stated that he is against the proposal.

C/Pacheco suggested that the matter be set for further review and be brought back when safety concerns have been addressed.

CDD/Vasquez stated that staff can work with the applicant to get a plan with the exact distance between the RVs and clearances around the property lines and subsequently work with the fire department to make sure they are satisfied with the proposal. He noted that the applicant would not have to pay a fee, if the item were to be continued by Council.

MOTION ON ITEM 4

C/Pacheco made a motion to continue Item 4 to the next Council meeting and to have information brought back to Council; 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

ORDINANCE: None scheduled.

COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:

5. **Resolution No. 22-18 - A Resolution of the City of Walnut Allowing Certain Claims and Demands in the Amount of \$587,157.81 Demand No. 164243 through No. 164319, Both Inclusive**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 22-18.

6. **Resolution No. 22-19 – Approving a List of Projects for Fiscal Year 2022-23 Funded by Senate Bill (SB) 1: Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account Funds (RMRA)**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 22-19, approving the Fiscal Year 2022-23 SB 1 RMRA Project List.

7. **Resolution No. 22-21 – Calling and Giving Notice of Holding a General Municipal Election on November 8, 2022**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 22-21, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Walnut, California, Calling for the Holding of a General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, for the Election of Certain Officers as Required by the Provisions of the Laws of the State of California Relating to General Law Cities.”

8. **Resolution No. 22-22 – Requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles to Consolidate a General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 22-22, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Walnut, California, Requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles to Consolidate a General Municipal Election to be Held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, with the Statewide General Election to be Held on the Date Pursuant to Section 10403 of the Elections Code.”

9. **Resolution No. 22-23 – Adopting Regulations for Candidates for Elective Office Pertaining to Candidate Statements for the General Municipal Election on November 8, 2022**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 22-23, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Walnut, California, Adopting Regulations for Candidates for Elective Office Pertaining to Candidate Statements Submitted to the Voters at an Election to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.”

10. Resolution No. 22-24 – Retirement Incentive

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 22-24, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Walnut, California, Approving Early Retirement Incentives for Eligible Employees”

11. Approval of Three-Year Contract Extension with West Coast Arborist for Tree Trimming and Tree Maintenance Services

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Approve a three-year contract extension with West Coast Arborist (WCA) for tree trimming and tree maintenance services through June 30, 2025;
2. Approve the rate increases depicted in Attachment B for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23, FY 2023-24, and FY 2024-25; and
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement for Maintenance Services in substantially the form attached in such final form as approved by the City Attorney.

12. Agreement for Professional Services – Award a contract to VCS Environmental in Order to Prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Technical Studies for the Project Known as “The Brookside”

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Award a contract to VCS Environmental in order to provide environmental services, in the amount of \$169,579; and
2. Reject all other proposals; and
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute and administer a Professional Services Agreement in substantially the form attached (Attachment 1), and in such final form as approved by the City Attorney; and
4. Authorize Staff to issue a Purchase Order to VCS Environmental in the amount (not to exceed) \$169,579.

13. 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 - 13

C/Pacheco made a motion to adopt Items 5 - 13; 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:

14. Consideration of Renaming Norm Ashley Park to Honor both Norm and Former Mayor and Council Member Bert Ashley

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Consider renaming Norm Ashley Park to honor both Norm and Bert Ashley; and if so
2. Select a new name for the Park from one of the following choices:
 - a. Ashley Park
 - b. Bert & Norm Ashley Park
 - c. Ashley Family Park; or
 - d. Another name selected by City Council

ACM/Rooney provided a staff report.

Discussion took place amongst Council and staff regarding the proposed names of the park.

C/Tragarz stated that she is fine with Ashley Family Park or Ashley Park.

ACM/Rooney stated that the family of Bert Ashley said it would be fine with them if the city wanted to honor both parents.

C/Freedman stated that she is in favor of Ashley Park.

C/Pacheco stated that he likes Ashley Family Park.

MOTION ON ITEM 14

C/Freedman made a motion to rename Norm Ashley Park to Ashley Park; 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*

ANNOUNCEMENTS (COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF):

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

C/Pacheco shared information regarding a Sanitation District special meeting.

C/Tragarz shared information from a California Joint Powers Insurance Authority academy event held and the Southern California Association of Governments regional conference.

C/Freedman shared information from a Foothill Transit meeting and a joint meeting with Mt. SAC and local school districts.

B. Individual Members’ comments and updates

MPT/Wu encouraged the community to conserve water.

C/Pacheco commended Youth Advisory Commissioner Nicholas Hernandez for the example he sets in the community.

C/Freedman thanked staff for their work at the wellness event.

M/Ching shared information from the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast, registration for classes and programs, Organics Recycling Class on May 14th, and the shredding event on May 14th.

COUNCIL LATE BUSINESS: None.

CLOSED SESSION:

CA/Leibold made the closed session announcement; Council went into closed session at 9:39 p.m.

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
(Gov’t Code Section 54957.6)
City Negotiator: City Manager Tom Weiner
Employee organization: Walnut City Employees Association (WCEA)
and Unrepresented Employees**

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ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the City Council adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 25th day of May 2022.

Eric Ching, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa De Dios, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Ray Markel, Administrative Assistant