

**WALNUT CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** MPT/Freedman led the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Also present: City Manager Weiner; Assistant City Attorney Mann; Community Development Director Vasquez, Community Services Director Barcelo, Deputy Community Services Director Bumia; Administrative Services Manager Carlson; Planning and Code Enforcement Manager Guerra; Senior Finance Analyst Meza, Management Analyst Ramos; Management Analyst Markel; Management Analyst Munoz; and City Clerk De Dios.

**INVOCATION – NON-DENOMINATIONAL:** Pastor Andrew Pan from Agape Institute and Church led the invocation.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- **Recognition of Louis Simonelli for his service on the Senior Commission**

Council recognized and thanked Mr. Louis Simonelli for his service and contributions to the community while serving on the Senior Commission for the past five years.

- **Recognition of the Walnut Pony 6U All Star Team - Participated in the World Series Tournament**

Council recognized and congratulated the Walnut Pony 6U All Star Team for their successful season that included a trip to the Pony World Series.

- **Recognition of the Walnut Youth Softball 14U & 10U All Star Teams**

Council recognized and congratulated the Walnut Youth Softball 14U & 10U All Star teams for their accomplishments including tournament champs and district finalists.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL:**

William Harrison expressed appreciation to the Sheriff’s Department for servicing the Creekside area. He expressed the following concerns relating to not receiving returned calls from staff and would like an update on loose gravel from a project.

Joseph Jimenez stated that he would like to see shade improvements made at a baseball field at Creekside Park.

There being no further person wishing to speak, the City Council closed oral communications.

**MINUTES:**           None scheduled.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- 1.     **Appeal: Site Plan and Architectural Review (SPC/AR) 2022-109 (Li) – A request to permit a grading project consisting of moving dirt and the construction of retaining walls to create a new building pad, on the subject property located at 20235 Fuerte Drive, Walnut. (APN: 8709-011-015).****

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council:

1.     Open the Public Hearing;
2.     Hear the Staff Report;
3.     Solicit public input on this item
4.     City Council Discussion;
5.     Close the Public Hearing; and
6.     Uphold the Planning Commission’s decision to deny SPC/AR 2022-109.

M/Tragarz opened the public hearing at 7:48 p.m.

PCEM/Guerra presented a staff report.

Geo Li, spoke on behalf of the property owner who is also his father. He addressed concerns that were brought up by the Planning Commission and provided documents and photos for the record to be distributed to the City Council to view; CDD/Vasquez noted that this was the first time staff has seen those documents.

C/Ching suggested that the applicant continue to work with staff and take into consideration the neighbor and staff’s concerns.

Discussion took place amongst Council, staff, and the applicant regarding the history of the proposed project as well as the procedure for approving or denying this item and other Council options.

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CDD/Vasquez suggested that the item be continued in order to allow for staff to work with the applicant and returned to Council promptly for consideration.

ACA/Mann suggested the City Council continue the item.

M/Tragarz opened public comment.

Mike Basura expressed his concerns relating to the proposed project and how it would affect his property.

Mr. Harrison expressed concerns on the size of the property.

M/Tragarz closed the public hearing at 8:25 pm.

**MOTION ON ITEM 1**

***C/Ching made a motion to continue the item and have the applicant work with staff; seconded by C/Wu. Motion carried by the following voice vote:***

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

**ORDINANCE:** None scheduled.

**COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- 2. Resolution No. 23-45 - A Resolution of the City of Walnut Allowing Certain Claims and Demands in the Amount of \$496,143.89 Demand No. 166883 through No. 166912, Both Inclusive Fiscal Year, 2022-23**

**Recommendation:** That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 23-45.

- 3. Resolution No. 23-46 - A Resolution of the City of Walnut Allowing Certain Claims and Demands in the Amount of \$1,307,850.85 Demand No. 166886 through No. 166954, Both Inclusive Fiscal Year, 2023-24**

**Recommendation:** That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 23-46.

- 4. Ordinance No. 23-05: Zoning Code Amendment to the R-4 Medium High (MH) and R-5 High (H) Zone(s)**

**Recommendation:** That the City Council adopt, by title only, and waive further reading of Ordinance No. 23-05, “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Walnut, amending the Walnut Municipal Code (WMC) Chapter 6.34 (R-4 Medium – High Residential Zone) and 6.35 (R-5 High Residential Zone) to allow for by – right approval of projects with twenty (20%) percent lower income units.”

**5. Waiver of Parking Restrictions on La Puente Road**

**Recommendation:** That the City Council approve the request for a waiver of parking restrictions along La Puente Road between Pierre Road and Gartel Drive for the 2023-24 school year for Walnut High School and Suzanne Middle School events.

**6. Acceptance of Public Improvements and Release of Improvement Bonds for Tract No. 78266 (19901 Valley Boulevard)**

**Recommendation:** That the City Council accept the public improvements related to Tract No. 78266 (19901 Valley Boulevard) and release of the improvement bonds.

**MOTION ON ITEMS 2 - 6**

*C/Ching made a motion to approve Items 2 - 6; seconded by C/Wu. Motion carried by the following voice vote:*

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

**ITEM PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**7. Opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 423 (Wiener) and Assembly Bill (AB) 309 (Lee), Which Would Greatly Expand State Authority to Approve Housing Developments and Eliminate the City’s Ability to Implement Local Zoning Controls and Community Participation in Land Use Decisions**

**Recommendation:** That the City Council

1. Review the Staff Report and attached letters opposition to SB 423 (Wiener) and AB 309 (Lee); and
2. Authorize Staff to send letters of opposition to the City’s legislative Representatives.

M/Tragarz explained that this bill will take away local control and the rights of Council to say how we want the City to look; she encouraged residents to speak up and vote against these bills.

**MOTION ON ITEM 7**

*M/Tragarz made a motion to approve Item 7; seconded by C/Ching. Motion carried by the following voice vote:*

**AYES:** COUNCILMEMBERS: *Cajulis, Ching, Freedman, 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**

MPT/Freedman attended the League of California Cities Installation Dinner along with M/Tragarz.

M/Tragarz reported that Congresswoman Sanchez met with Mayors and City Managers in her district noting that they will provide funding for the renovations at the Walnut Gym and Teen Center and Snow Creek Park in the amount of Two million dollars. She mentioned that Sheriff Luna reported there was a need to hire deputies in the Sheriff’s Department. She encouraged residents to write their state officials and stress the importance of public safety. She also attended the Contract Cities Executive Board meeting. She Wished everyone a great back to school year next week.

**B. Individual Members’ comments and updates**

MPT/Freedman expressed her appreciation to staff for a successful National Night Out event; she stated that she attended a meeting event with Walnut businesses as well as the Mt. SAC Groundbreaking event of the New Technology and Health Building. She requested for staff to look into the feasibility of a study to the Parks and Recreation for a dog park in the City.

CSD/Barcelo said this was brought up in the past and she will bring it up at the Parks and Recreation Commission. She will also bring up the shades and bleachers for Creekside Park that was brought up earlier in the meeting.

C/Ching expressed appreciation to staff for bringing up the fiscal impact of employee benefits. He expressed appreciation to the law enforcement and the fire departments.

C/Wu commended the National Night out event and appreciates our law enforcement.

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C/Cajulis congratulated staff for the successful concerts and movies in the park. He expressed his appreciation to law enforcement.

**COUNCIL LATE BUSINESS:**     None scheduled.

**CLOSED SESSION:**            None scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the City Council adjourned the regular meeting at 8:41 p.m.

**PASSED AND APPROVED this 13th day of September 2023.**

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Nancy Tragarz, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Teresa De Dios, City Clerk