

WALNUT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: C/Cajulis led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: M/Tragarz, MPT/Freedman, C/Cajulis, C/Wu
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: C/Ching

Also present: City Manager Weiner; City Attorney Leibold; Community Development Director Vasquez, Community Services Director Barcelo, Deputy Community Services Director Bumia; City Engineer Gilbertson; Building Official Tao; 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 Jimmy Nih led the invocation.

PRESENTATIONS: None scheduled.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL:

William Harrison commented that recently there was sheriff activity that occurred in front of his property and they handled the matter professionally; he suggested obtaining more enforcement agents and for staff to address the maintenance on landscape throughout the City; he requests that the City Manager meet with School Superintendents in order to move forward; he complained of staff not returning his calls for follow-up.

Vijay Vakil expressed concerns on recent mistakes made in Finance Department and he had discussed them with the City Manager and Finance Director. He suggested for the staff to update the current accounting procedures and internal controls for the City in order to maintain checks and balances.

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

MINUTES

1. Approval of the July 26, 2023 City Council Meeting

MOTION ON ITEM 1

MPT/Freedman made a motion to adopt Item 1; seconded by C/Wu. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: *COUNCILMEMBERS: Cajulis, Freedman, Tragarz, Wu*

NOES: *COUNCILMEMBERS: None*

ABSTAIN: *COUNCILMEMBERS: None*

ABSENT: *COUNCILMEMBERS: Ching*

PUBLIC HEARING: None scheduled.

ORDINANCE: None scheduled.

COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 2. Resolution No. 23-47 - A Resolution of the City of Walnut Allowing Certain Claims and Demands in the Amount of \$113,005.25 Demand No. 166955 through No. 166966, Both Inclusive Fiscal Year 2022-23**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 23-47.

- 3. Resolution No. 23-48 - A Resolution of the City of Walnut Allowing Certain Claims and Demands in the Amount of \$1,154,354.15 Demand No. 166967 through No. 167029, Both Inclusive Fiscal Year 2023-24**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 23-48.

- 4. Resolution No. 23-49: Designate the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meetings to the third Wednesday of every month.**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 23-49, “A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Walnut, Approving the designation of the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meetings to the third Wednesday of every month.”

5. Agreement for Vendor Services with Facility Solutions Group for \$36,765.30 for the Purchase and Installation of Five (5) Additional LED Walkway Lights at Creekside Park

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Approve the Agreement for Vendor Services with Facility Solutions Group in the amount of \$36,765.30, for the purchase and installation of five (5) additional LED walkway lights at Creekside Park;
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 Facility Solutions Group in the amount of \$36,765.30.

6. Approval of Cost Sharing Agreement Between the City of Walnut and the Los Angeles Gateway Region Integrated Regional Water Management Joint Powers Authority (GWMA) for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Required Monitoring

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Approve the Agreement between the City of Walnut and GWMA to cost share monitoring of the Harbor Toxic Pollutants in the San Gabriel River; and
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute all agreement documents on behalf of the City in substantially the form attached and in such final form as approved by the City Attorney

7. 2022-23 Year-End Request for Additional Appropriations

Recommendation: That the City Council appropriate \$3,000 from CDBG Reserves to 12-5218-6227 (CDBG-Contractual Services).

8. Request for Additional Appropriations for Unexpended Fiscal Year 2022-23 Appropriations

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Appropriate \$564,630 from RMRA (03) Reserves to Slurry Seal Area 2 Streets project;
2. Appropriate \$927,910 from Park Improvement (06) Reserves to Creekside Park Diversity, Snow Creek Park, and Walnut Ranch Park Improvements projects;
3. Appropriate \$3,622,690 from ARPA (08) Reserves to Creekside Park Diversity, HVAC: City Wide, Lemon Creek Park, Snow Creek Park, Walnut Ranch Drain, Indoor LED Lighting Retrofits, Windows & Entry Modifications, Sports Field LED Lighting Retrofits, and Trail projects;

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4. Appropriate \$114,200 from Measure R (16) Reserves to Slurry Seal Area 2 Streets project;
5. Appropriate \$200,000 from Measure M (21) Reserves to City Reflective Street Name Signs project;
6. Appropriate \$251,080 from Capital Equipment (25) Reserves to Show Mobile;
7. Appropriate \$3,530 from Park Grants (27) Reserves to Creekside Park Diversity project;
8. Appropriate \$262,300 from Measure W (29) Reserves to NPDES: Storm Water project.

9. Tract No. 82852 Final Acceptance (788 Francesca Drive)

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Approve Tract No. 82852;
2. Accept on behalf of the city, the dedication of easements for pedestrian access, fire lane, public utility, sanitary sewer, and ingress and egress purposes so designated on the Final Tract Map;
3. Authorize the City Clerk and City Treasurer to endorse the certificates as shown on the Final Tract Map; and
4. Authorize the Mayor to execute the Subdivision Agreement

10. Notice of Decision(s) – August 16, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Receive and File the “Notice of Decision” by the Planning Commission (PC) at its August 16, 2023 Meeting, for the following Item(s)/Project(s)
 - a. Tentative Parcel Map (TPM) 83846
 - b. Designate the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meetings to the third Wednesday of every month

MOTION ON ITEMS 2-10

C/Wu made a motion to adopt staff recommendations; seconded by MPT/Freedman. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

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

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/TRANSACTION ITEMS:

11. **Authorize Emergency Repair of Istik Bridge and Award a Construction Contract to Hardy and Harper Inc.**

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Award a construction contract for the Emergency Repair of Istik Bridge to Hardy and Harper Inc. in the amount of \$126,427;
2. Appropriate \$170,000 from Capital Equipment Fund Reserves (25) to the Project;
3. Authorize staff to issue a Purchase Order to Hardy and Harper in the amount of \$126,427;
4. Authorize staff to issue change orders not to exceed 10% of the contract award amount (\$12,643) to Hardy and Harper, Inc.; and
5. Approve a Purchase Order to RKA Consulting Group in the amount of \$20,000.

CSD/Barcelo provided a staff report and power point presentation. She mentioned the bridge is located within the equestrian trail and is owned by the city. The bridge does go through the Brookside property and connects to the floodplain trail. During an inspection of the Floodplain trail project the City Engineer advised that it is in the best interest of the City to proceed within an emergency repair of the bridge. There will be no physical or alterations made to the bridge. The timeline anticipated is 30 days beginning on September 11, 2023. She explained that the selection of the contractor and bidding process is allowed by exceptions of the Walnut Municipal Code when an emergency exists. The project may be incorporated in the Floodplain Trail project but the time frame will take longer, the closure would be approximately two years and the costs would be increased.

Mr. Harrison opposed the selection of the contractor and the costs involved and asked staff if Fish and Wildlife had been notified and requested for staff to look at other options.

Vijay Vakil mentioned that he along with other residents had sent a letter to the City Council and staff expressing concerns on the project and does not believe the bridge is in need for emergency repairs and expressed his opposition to the project and costs involved.

C/Wu inquired if there were any alternatives for pedestrians to use without using the bridge.

CSD/Barcelo responded the bridge is for pedestrian traffic not for vehicles. It functions as a connection to the trail system. If bridge is closed there would not be any connectivity through any of the trails that go through Brookside property and pedestrians could travel along the roads only, this would be the only alternate routes.

C/Wu expressed concerns with the use of the contractor Hardy and Harper and what other projects have they done.

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CSD/Barcelo explained that this contractor has worked in other projects for the City similar to this type of project and has worked with the City Engineer.

C/Wu is interested in the cost efficiency and expressed concerns on the scope not being defined.

MPT/Freedman expressed appreciation to the letter from the residents who raised concerns to staff on this project. Her concerns involved length of time to be closed; additional damage to the bridge due to weather; and delaying the project.

C/Cajulis asked if an easement exists then the City is responsible for the safety and maintenance of the trail to which CM/Weiner responded in the affirmative.

C/Wu explained his concerns involve having the job done right.

CSD/Barcelo mentioned that the City Engineer did have the contractor do some work on the bridge as a temporary fix. This project does not require a formal bid and the proposed contractor has been the lowest bidder in previous projects. Staff has a fiscal interest on behalf of the City. She also shared how staff came up with the time frame for both.

M/Tragarz inquired if more estimates may be obtained to which CSD/Barcelo responded it would cause a delay in the project and added that for the Floodplain process staff would have to go through all agencies and take into consideration nesting season along with other factors that are included in estimating the time frame.

CM/Weiner explained that the professional staff has been working on this and want to be fiscally responsible. Staff feels it is an emergency and would like to move forward with the project as presented. If Council does not feel this is an emergency to do at this time that is not a problem. He mentioned that is why this item is under discussion for City Council to hear the recommendations from staff and decide whether or not to move forward. His recommendation is to move forward or close the bridge completely to avoid any incidents. Staff and the City Engineer have provided their recommendations.

C/Wu provided his expertise in hydrology and does not know how high the water is going to be at the bridge.

CE/Gilbertson responded he is not aware of the water ever being high at the bridge.

CSD/Barcelo responded that during high rain events staff has inspected the level of the creek and the water has not exceeded the height of the bridge the site and the water has never been known to be high.

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CE/Gilbertson explained that originally there was a similar project and Hardy and Harper were the lowest bidder and the work was acceptable on two similar projects. For this reason, he recommends it is in the best interest of the City to work with this company. He does believe the bridge will fail if it is not repaired.

C/Wu expressed concern on how much concrete will be used and for this reason there needs to be a scope of work for the project. He also mentioned the quantity and quality of concrete to be used is important to be known.

There was discussion amongst the City Council and staff about the selection of the contractor, cost of materials to be added and removed which may involve additional funds to be used for the bridge project. Staff assured that the costs were included in the 10% contingency in the proposed amount.

Mr. Harrison expressed his opposition on the cost of the project.

M/Tragarz appreciates the information brought by staff and the concerns raised by the residents and the responses provided by staff.

MOTION ON ITEM 11

MPT/Freedman made a motion to adopt staff recommendations; seconded by C/Cajulis. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: Authority Members: Cajulis, Freedman, Tragarz
NOES: Authority Members: Wu
ABSTAIN: Authority Members: None
ABSENT: Authority Members: Ching

ANNOUNCEMENTS (COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF):

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

M/Freedman, C/Cajulis and M/Tragarz attended the California Contract Cities meeting with the Sheriff's Department. M/Tragarz added that the Sheriff's Department is hiring and encouraged residents to apply if interested.

C/Wu mentioned the SGV Vector Control and nothing to report.

B. Individual Members' comments and updates

C/Freedman was happy to report she heard a Lions club presentation on what they do for the community; she attended CCCA meeting and appreciated the information from the Sheriff's department; thanked staff for the earthquake that happened on Sunday and felt the City staff was prepared in handling; she mentioned there will be a

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meeting with the School district liaisons in October; and appreciated the concerns about the budget expressed by residents and knows the City Manager will address.

C/Cajulis appreciates staff handling the storm during the weekend.

M/Tragarz invited the residents to attend the Walnut High School Chorale is having an event and encouraged all to attend the coming Saturday evening.

COUNCIL LATE BUSINESS: None scheduled.

COUNCIL ADJOURNS TO WALNUT HOUSING AUTHORITY

WALNUT HOUSING AUTHORITY MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Authority Chair Tragarz called the meeting order at 8:19 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:

- 12. Resolution No. 23-09 WHA - A Resolution of the Walnut Housing Authority Allowing Certain Claims and Demands in the Amount of \$103,001.46 Demand No. 100435 through No. 100435, Both Inclusive Fiscal Year 2022-23**

Recommendation: That the Authority adopt Resolution No. 23-09 WHA.

MOTION ON ITEMS 12

VC/Freedman made a motion to adopt Item 12; seconded by AM/Cajulis. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: *AUTHORITYMEMBERS: Cajulis, Freedman, Tragarz, Wu*

NOES: *AUTHORITYMEMBERS: None*

ABSTAIN: *AUTHORITYMEMBERS: None*

ABSENT: *AUTHORITYMEMBERS: Ching*

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AUTHORITY DISCUSSION/TRANSACTION ITEMS: None scheduled.

AUTHORITY LATE BUSINESS: None scheduled.

AUTHORITY ADJOURNS TO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CLOSED SESSION: None schedule.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the City Council adjourned the regular meeting at 8:20 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 27th day of September 2023.

Nancy Tragarz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa De Dios, City Clerk