

WALNUT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: C/Ching 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 Leibold; 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, Finance Analyst Rashad; Management Analyst Ramos; Code Enforcement Specialist Morales; Management Analyst Markel; and City Clerk De Dios.

INVOCATION – NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Pastor Dennis Liu from Vineyard of Hope led the invocation.

PRESENTATIONS: None scheduled.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL:

William Harrison spoke of the diversity plaza project and mentioned a few people who he felt should be recognized for their involvement in the project.

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

MINUTES:

1. **Approval of the August 9, 2023 Study Session Meeting**
2. **Approval of the August 9, 2023 City Council Meeting**

MOTION ON ITEMS 1 & 2

C/Ching made a motion to approve items 1 and 2; 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*

PUBLIC HEARING:

3. **Resolution No. 23-50 - Public Nuisance Abatement – Declaration of Public Nuisance for a Substandard Property located at 856 Nogales Street, Walnut, CA 91789 (Oilmen 2) (APN: 8735-026-035)**

Recommendation: That the City Council

1. Open the Public Hearing;
2. Hear the Staff Report;
3. Solicit public input on this item;
4. Discuss amongst the City Councilmembers;
5. Close the Public Hearing;
6. Adopt Resolution No. 23-50 and declare 856 Nogales Street, Walnut, CA 91789 (Oilmen 2) (APN: 8735-026-035) as a Public Nuisance.

M/Tragarz opened the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

CES/Morales presented a staff report.

William Harrison commented that this property had not been maintained for years and is happy that it is being addressed.

Discussion took place amongst Council and staff regarding graffiti and other reoccurring issues on the property, working with property owners to address issues.

M/Tragarz closed the public hearing at 7:20 pm.

MOTION ON ITEM 3

C/Wu made a motion to approve staff's recommendations; seconded by C/Cajulis. 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:

4. **Resolution No. 23-51 - A Resolution of the City of Walnut Allowing Certain Claims and Demands in the Amount of \$2,182,172.05 Demand No. 167030 through No. 167132, Both Inclusive Fiscal Year, 2023-24**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 23-51.

5. **Resolution No. 23-52 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Walnut, California, Authorizing Destruction of Certain Records Pursuant to Resolution No. 01-18**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 23-52.

6. **Agreement for Professional Services – Award a contract to ECORP Consulting, Inc. in order to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and technical studies for a proposed, mixed – use project at the southeast corner of La Puente Road and Grand Avenue**

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Award a contract to ECORP Consulting Inc. in order to prepare an EIR, in the amount of \$149,200; and
2. 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
3. Authorize Staff to issue a Purchase Order to ECORP Consulting Inc. in the amount (not to exceed) \$149,200.

7. **Increase to the Employee Medical Benefits Package**

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the proposed increase/modification to the Employee Medical Benefits Package (Cafeteria fund) as follows:

- General/Management – from \$1,125/month to \$1,800/month
- Executive – from \$1,425/month to \$2,100/month
- Implement a Cash Out Tier system:
 - Employee’s hired before January 1, 2024 will have the cash out option of \$1,225/month (General/Management) or \$1,525/month (Executive)
 - Employee’s hired after January 1, 2024 will have a cash out option of \$600/month (General/Management) or \$900/month (Executive)

8. 2023 Holiday Closure – City Facilities

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the cancellation of the November 22, 2023 and December 27, 2023 City Council meetings, and approve the closure of City facilities on December 26-28, 2023 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

M/Tragarz announced she would recuse herself from voting on item 6.

MOTION ON ITEMS 4-8

C/Ching made a motion to approve Items 4-8; seconded by MPT/Freedman. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

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

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*

CA/Leibold announced the record will reflect that M/Tragarz did not participate on item 6, but approved the other items.

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 a Foothill Transit meeting.

B. Individual Members' comments and updates

MPT/Freedman attended an event through the County Board of Supervisors regarding information on Veterans Affairs benefits and the Tai Ji Men Qigong Academy 23rd Anniversary event. She thanked Deputy McDonald for talking to 2nd graders about local government.

C/Wu attended the 23rd Anniversary for Tai Ji Men Qigong Academy, he mentioned there was good information about mental health and very educational.

C/Ching reported he was working with staff and the County to bring an event to the City relating to mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 – CC

C/Cajulis thanked City staff and the Sheriff’s Department for their hard work.

M/Tragarz announced that some of our senior students of Walnut High School were honored to be semifinalists in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program; Philip Tang was amongst them and he is also one of our Youth Advisory Commissioners.

COUNCIL LATE BUSINESS: None scheduled.

CLOSED SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the City Council adjourned the regular meeting at 7:29 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 27th day of September 2023.

Nancy Tragarz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa De Dios, City Clerk