

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE,  
CALIFORNIA HELD JULY 8, 2014.**

Mayor Brown called the City Council, Parking Authority, and Housing Authority meetings to order jointly and concurrently at 6:14 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 4455 W. 126<sup>th</sup> Street, Hawthorne, California.

ROLL CALL-Present: Councilmembers Reyes English, Michelin, Valentine, Vargas, Mayor Brown.  
Absent: None.

Patricia Donaldson gave the evening's invocation. Commissioner Allen Richards led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Brown introduced Marvin Jackmon, Regional Public Affairs Manager for Southern California Edison, who gave an informational presentation on maintenance, repair and emergency outages. Residents who experience outages should call 800- 600-1911.

Mayor Brown introduced Assemblymember Steve Bradford who reported on the legislative budget. He announced that on July 19<sup>th</sup> he will be hosting a Utility Town Hall meeting at the Memorial Center at 10am.

Mayor Brown took the meeting out of order. The first item was Discussion/Action item 18 a, Item 12 and Item 6.

18.

a.- Request to Direct City Attorney's Office to Draft a Resolution Placing an Initiative On the November Ballot to Authorize Legal Gambling within the City of Hawthorne. (Mayor Brown).

Mayor Brown removed this item from the agenda.

12.

Authorize City Manager to execute the "Fee Deferral Agreement between the Affordable Housing Land Consultants, LLC, and the City of Hawthorne."

Under oral communications **James Radek** spoke against this item.

Mayor Brown, seconded by Councilmember Reyes English, that item 12 of the City Manager's consent calendar be approved.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Valentine, Mayor Brown.  
NOES: Councilmembers Vargas, Michelin.

6.

**RESOLUTION NO. 7610**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA APPROVING THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION PROGRAM FOR NEW AND EXISTING BUSINESSES.

Under oral communications no one spoke on this item.

Councilmember Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Michelin, that Resolution 7610 be continued.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Michelin, Valentine, Vargas, Mayor Brown.  
NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

07/08/14

Mayor Brown left the meeting at this time.

1.

Under oral communications **Francis Villapando** of the Lawndale Elementary School District spoke on recently receiving the Choose Health LA Grant from the Department of Public Health to provide nutrition and education services to the communities of Lawndale, Hawthorne and Inglewood and asked for the support of the City Council to engage with them on this partnership for the next two years. **Abdullah Ali** of the Islamic Center of Hawthorne invited the Council and the community to their Interfaith Dinner. Spoke against a casino in the city. **Patricia Donaldson** of the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce thanked the City Council that came to their mixer dinner at the Flight Museum at LAX. She announced that their next mixer will be held at Lavender Blue in Inglewood on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. **James Radek** reported on the illegal sale of used cars on Prairie Ave. between Cordary and 147<sup>th</sup>. Requested street lights on the north side of Rosecrans near McDonald's. Spoke against casinos and card clubs. **Neil Gafney**, on behalf of many of the residents of 360, expressed appreciation to the City Council over recent events where 360 has been extremely supported. Reported on the June 11<sup>th</sup> visit of Chief Fager and his staff at 360, on the upcoming board election and on the first social event of the 360 community. **Gordon Mego** spoke on the Hawthorne Mall as a way of generating more tax revenue for the city and revitalizing the downtown area. **Allen Richards** spoke on the legalities of establishing card rooms and casinos. Apologized to Assemblyman Isadore Hall for a reference made about him at the last Council meeting. **Don Harris** spoke against gambling. Challenged the business community and the elected leaders to look at our options to bring something magnificent into the city. **David Dinnel** spoke against putting a casino at the Hawthorne Mall site. **Ron Tanner** expressed displeasure that the Mayor did not listen to what residents had to say by leaving the meeting early and that he took the casino initiative item off the agenda. **Leatrice Tanner Brown** spoke against a casino in the city. Expressed concern over more high density apartments coming into the city. **Robert Turner** stated that probably by August the state of California is going to pass a bill that will be the largest expansion of gambling in California by putting a casino in every Starbucks, every restaurant, every home and every cell phone. **Rosalinda Rodriguez** feels Council is jumping the gun on casinos when there are needs that are more important such as a need for a hospital. Agrees that rebuilding the Hawthorne Plaza would be a salvation for the city. **Henry Thurman** recommends tearing down the mall and making it a state of the art mall. **Darlene Love** clarified that Hollypark deeds say Hawthorne but the Hawthorne post office didn't use to carry the mail. **Yolanda Dunn** spoke against bringing a casino to the city and believes the focus of the officials should be insuring the safety of its community members. **Unidentified speaker** expressed concern over a casino coming in because it would decrease property values. **Frances Stiglich** reported that someone is selling food out of their car trunk on her street twice a day. Spoke on a trash can issue with her neighbor. Spoke against gambling in the city. **Ruben Sanchez** expressed concern over gang activity in his neighborhood and urged residents to cooperate with law enforcement. Stated that North Hawthorne is against a casino. **Manuel Sandoval**, President North Hawthorne Community Association, stated that they do not want a casino. Questioned why the Mayor left early. Urged Council members to attend neighborhood association meetings and to visit the local schools. **Mario Romero** feels a casino would provide a distraction from students' education.

2.

Mayor Pro Tem Valentine recessed the Parking Authority and Housing Authority meetings to conduct the meeting of the City Council.

3.

Councilmember Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Michelin, that the reading of the City Council minutes of the regular meeting of June 10, 2014 be waived and that they be approved and adopted.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Pro Tem Valentine.  
NOES: None. ABSENT: Mayor Brown.

4.

Councilmember Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Michelin, to waive full readings of resolutions and ordinances on July 8, 2014's agenda.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Pro Tem Valentine.  
NOES: None. ABSENT: Mayor Brown.

5.

The City Treasurer submitted a financial statement regarding warrants.

Warrants Nos.: 191949-119956 ; 441792-442014 ; 26821-26823

Warrant Totals: \$649,362.06 ; \$ 3,711,273.71 ; \$ 1,195.30

Councilmember Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Michelin, that the following warrants, properly audited and signed, be paid.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Pro Tem Valentine.

NOES: None. ABSENT: Mayor Brown.

7.

City Clerk Huber announced that this was the time and place for the Public Hearing on a zone text amendment application to amend the language in the Hawthorne Municipal Code (HMC) as it relates to the regulation of temporary signs.

Planning Department declaration publication filed. No written communications were received.

Mayor Pro Tem Valentine called for public comments.

Under oral comments **Kyle Orleman** expressed concern over holiday language in the ordinance. Suggested to give thought to making a holiday that all can celebrate such as American's Independence Day.

Mayor Pro Tem Valentine ordered to close the public portion of the hearing. MOTION CARRIED.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2077 (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING TITLE 17 OF THE HAWTHORNE MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTERS 17.04 (DEFINITIONS) AND 17.25 (ON-PREMISES SIGNS) RELATED TO THE REGULATION OF TEMPORARY SIGNS.

Councilmember Reyes English moved, seconded by Councilmember Michelin, that Ordinance No. 2077 be approved and adopted.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Michelin, Valentine, Mayor Pro Tem Valentine.

NOES: None. ABSENT: Mayor Brown.

8.

City Clerk Huber announced that this was the time and place for the Public Hearing on a vacation of a portion of Yukon Avenue.

Planning Department declaration publication filed. No written communications were received. The public hearing is to remain open. Motion to continue to July 22, 2014.

Under oral communications Allen Richards questioned what a vacation is and if it would be a short term blockage of the street.

Councilmember Reyes English moved seconded by Councilmember Michelin to continue the Public Hearing.

9.

City Clerk Huber announced that this was the time and place for the Public Hearing on a vacation of a portion of Acacia Avenue.

Planning Department declaration publication filed. No written communications were received. The public hearing is to remain open. Motion to continue to July 22, 2014.

Councilmember Reyes English moved seconded by Councilmember Vargas to continue the Public Hearing until July 22, 2014

The City Manager, Michael Goodson, presented the following agenda and requested approval of the indicated recommendations:

10.

Approve Progress Payment #1 to Acco Engineered Systems, 6265 San Fernando Road, Glendale, CA, 91201 for Central Plant Retrofit and Upgrade of Automation System at City Hall (Project # 14-02). The amount of \$124,106.05 will be funded through the approved and allocated Equipment funds.

11.

Approve Progress Payment #5 to Great Scott Tree Service, Inc., 10761 Court Ave., Stanton, CA 90680 for Street Tree Trimming (Project # 13-03). The amount of \$8,910.00 will be paid for with the approved and allocated Tree Trimming Funds.

Councilmember Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Michelin, to approve items 10 and 11 of the City Manager's consent calendar.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Pro Tem Valentine.

NOES: None. ABSENT: Councilmember Reyes English, Mayor Brown.

13.

The City Attorney, Russell Miyahira, presented the following agenda and requested denial of the indicated recommendation:

Claimant Merida Castro, through her attorney, alleges dangerous condition of public property that resulted in personal injuries.

Councilmember Michelin moved, seconded by Councilmember Vargas, that the claim filed on behalf of Claimant Merida Castro, alleging dangerous condition of public property that resulted in personal injuries be denied in its entirety.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Pro Tem Valentine.

NOES: None. ABSENT: Councilmember Reyes English, Mayor Brown.

14.

a. – Request to Direct City Attorney's Office to Draft a Resolution Placing an Initiative On the November Ballot to Authorize Legal Gambling within the City of Hawthorne (Mayor Brown).

Councilmember Vargas stated that he opposes this item for three main reasons: First because it is legislatively prohibited. Second because these returns are false promises of returns for our community of revenue. Third, because this attacks our moral fabric as a community.

Councilmember Michelin stated that he will always be against casinos because there is a state law saying

that we cannot have a casino here in Hawthorne, it was rejected by the voters in the 1990s and because of a rise in such things as prostitution, domestic violence, public corruption, robberies and auto theft.

b.- Budget Update – Workshop and schedule adoption of the budget for FY 2014-15. (City Manager)

After discussion amongst Councilmembers it was decided that the Budget Workshop would be held on July 22, 2014 at 4pm.

15.

Under Elected Official Reports and Recommendations.

Reporting of Attendance at League of California Cities Policy Committee on June 19-20<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento, California, pursuant to Resolution No. 7019. (Valentine)

Mayor Pro Tem Valentine reported on monies that will be made available to cities regarding highways, streets, roads and law enforcement among others and directed that staff apply for these monies. Also spoke on bills that the League is supporting and some that the League has not yet taken a position on and directed that staff follow these bills. They include AB1147, AB2280, SB33, SB27, AB1262 and the water bond that will be on the November ballot.

Reporting of Attendance at Conference of Mayors on June 20-23<sup>rd</sup> in Dallas, Texas, pursuant to Resolution No. 7019. (Mayor Brown)

(no report was given)

City Treasurer **Patterson** reported that he had been out due to back problems but he is happy to be back.

City Clerk **Huber** announced that as a tie-in with Good Neighbor's Day which will be held on July 19<sup>th</sup>, there will also be on the afternoon of July 18<sup>th</sup> a tour of the historical sites of Hawthorne. On that same evening at 6:30pm a Hall of Fame banquet will also be held.

Councilmember **Vargas** thanked everyone for coming out to express and voice their opinions. Looks forward to collaborating with Council for ideas on how to bring in revenue.

Councilmember **Michelin** expressed disappointment that tonight Council voted to pass a fee deferral of \$750,000 when we are experiencing a budget deficit. Asked that the City Manager help Frances Villapando and the Lawndale School District in any way he can in order to implement the Choose Health program. Thinks Edison rates are too high and that it is unacceptable that the working class people in Hawthorne have to pay these high rates. Thanked everyone that spoke tonight. Asked that Chief Fager focus on the 120<sup>th</sup> area where there is a gang and graffiti problem. Spoke on attending the mixer at the LAX Flight Museum

Mayor Pro Tem **Valentine** announced that Phantom Galleries, which transforms unoccupied properties, will be displaying art at 12605-12609 Hawthorne Blvd. within the next few days. Inquired on the status of Car2Go and asked that a representative speak at a future Council meeting. Thanked Assemblyman Bradford for coming and being a part of our meeting tonight and encouraged everyone to attend his Town Hall meeting. Asked that the City Manager see if Choose Health can be incorporated into the city's HEAL and walking program. Thanked the residents for coming to speak tonight regarding the casino as she is always very interested in what the residents have to say about anything Council proposes, but stated that impugning the motives of the Mayor is something she does not approve of and doesn't agree with.

Councilmember **Reyes English** asked that residents be aware of traffic congestion that will take place near LAX from July 25<sup>th</sup> to July 28<sup>th</sup> in order to bring down a bridge. Announced that the Water Replenishment District will hold their annual State of the District and Installation of Boardmembers on July 17<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 10am in Lynwood. Announced that the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Ave. Jazz Festival will be held in Council District 9 on Central Ave. on July 26<sup>th</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup>. Spoke on Sanctuary of Hope, a non-profit organization that provides assistance to transitional youth and the two young men who chose to live in Hawthorne in conjunction with this program and also thanked South Bay Ford, Moneta Gardens President Alex Monteiro, Mike Talleda from Wounded Heroes of America and Mayor Chris Brown who

also provided assistance. Requested that the City Manager and the Finance Director look into CalHFA to see what monies are available for public/private partnerships that would help Hawthorne. Spoke on attending the annual Employee Appreciation Day at city hall on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Announced that on Friday at 9:30am she will be sworn in at Inglewood City Hall in her new position as a board member on the South Bay Regional Sector Council which oversees transportation in the South Bay. Emphasized that city council meetings provide an opportunity for discussion among Councilmembers in order to vote. It is not a time for Council to engage and fire up the public which just makes the meeting non-productive. There is a time for the public to have the floor and have Council listen to the public also.

20.

**Closed Session** – Conference with Labor Negotiator (Subdivision (a) of Section 54957.6 of the California Government Code. Name of Labor Negotiator: Michael Goodson (re: Hawthorne Executive Group).

Item 20 was pulled by the City Manager.

21.

Mayor Pro Tem Valentine adjourned the regular meeting at 9:45 p.m.

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Norbert Huber  
City Clerk