

CITY OF PASADENA  
City Council Minutes  
June 8, 2020 – 2:00 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chamber

SPECIAL MEETING

The virtual meeting was convened pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, and was held solely by videoconference/teleconference

**OPENING:** Mayor Tornek called the special meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember McAustin.

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Terry Tornek  
Councilmembers: Vice Mayor Tyron Hampton  
Councilmember Victor Gordo  
Councilmember John J. Kennedy  
Councilmember Steve Madison  
Councilmember Gene Masuda  
Councilmember Margaret McAustin  
Councilmember Andy Wilson

Staff: City Manager Steve Mermell  
City Attorney/City Prosecutor Michele Beal Bagneris  
City Clerk Mark Jomsky

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS** Mayor Tornek requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of those that have suffered due to death and illness caused by COVID-19; and those dealing with social justice issues occurring in the nation and throughout the world.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

This item was not considered and removed from the agenda

~~**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: ADOPT A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE PASADENA FIRE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE OF ANNUAL INSPECTIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 13146.2 AND 13146.3 OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE**~~

<b>CLAIMS RECEIVED</b>	Claim No. 13,536 April Hom Enriquez	\$	25,000.00+
	Claim No. 13,537 Dallas Provencio		223.70
	Claim No. 13,538 Law Offices of Laurence I. Dunn, representing Rebecca L. Farmer		25,000.00+

It was moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Councilmember McAustin approve the Consent Calendar:

**AYES:** Councilmembers Gordo, Kennedy, Madison, Masuda, McAustin, Wilson, Vice Mayor Hampton, Mayor Tornek

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Councilmember Kennedy stated the following for the record:

"Now is an extraordinary moment. A moment when the barbaric, chillingly, casual killing of George Floyd on a public street, closely followed the killing of Breonna Taylor in her own home during a botched execution of a no-knock warrant, the vigilante killing of jogger Ahmaud Arbery and the attempted weaponizing of the police by an entitled, rule-violating dog walker in New York City's Central Park, has belatedly created a national consensus that black lives do indeed matter. A moment when history will judge whether our core morality rose to confront the long-simmering racial justice issues as the world impatiently waits and watches. A moment that erases any disingenuous or conveniently oblivious claims of "I don't know" or "I am not aware." The question is can we meet this most extraordinary of moments?"

Pasadena is not immune or insulated from national movements or trends. We echo and mirror them. For many Pasadenans, the recent events in Minneapolis, Louisville, Georgia, and New York City triggered painful personal memories of their own experiences.

To that point, I applaud the local protestors who have been peacefully exercising their most cherished of American rights. One event I must note is the protest organized by the Pasadena NAACP, clergy, Larry Campbell, and various community coalitions last Tuesday, June 2nd that began at First African Methodist Episcopal Church and caravanned to a program at City Hall where certain members of the Council, Mayor and others spoke. I was honored to participate in that historic, peaceful event.

I also applaud the fine men and women of the Pasadena Police Department who have displayed calm professionalism and an understanding of this moment during the last 2 weeks and particularly during last week's protest. I must acknowledge Chief John Perez who set a welcome tone as he personally directed traffic for an extended period of time outside First AME Church at the start of the community vigil last Tuesday, June 2.

Problems create opportunities. Opportunities to do better, to be better. Opportunities to genuinely ask where do we go from here? Can we meet this moment? In a glass half full spirit, I view this as a win-win opportunity. When everyone in our community is protected and served by the police, everyone, including the police, is safer. When the police are held to standards of justice similar to those imposed on residents, police are less likely to be vilified and endangered by those feeling aggrieved and vengeful.

I offer 4 starting points, but admittedly not exhaustive, suggestions to move us forward and meet the moment: (1) Civilian Oversight, (2) Budget and Resource Review, (3) Interaction, and (4) Ongoing

Review Process. We must impose self-discipline by establishing an ongoing review process to completely address what the heat of the moment may miss. In the warp speed of today that recognizes where our nation collectively was just 2 weeks ago today, before George Floyd became a household name and movement symbol, we must allow our decisions of the moment to have the flexibility to adapt to additional information and solutions. Our collective 5-second attention span cannot be allowed to undermine desperately needed justice as we soon move on to the next shiny object.

We have an opportunity to be on the right side of history. Let's meet this moment and ensure that our actions match our words."

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS**

**COVID 19 UPDATE FROM CITY MANAGER:**

**UPDATE ON HEALTH ORDER**

**UPDATE ON RE-OPENING**

Steve Mermell, City Manager, provided introductory comments; and Dr. Ying Ying Goh, MD, Director of Public Health, provided an update and information on recent Health Orders and the City's efforts to re-open the local economy, continuance of requesting residents to stay Safe at Home, expectancy of the virus to spread, open sectors in the City, protocols developed by staff; and responded to questions. Manuel Carmona, Deputy Director of Public Health, provided information on staff's tracking of resilience readiness criteria, including state indicators to develop the City's COVID-19 Dashboard; and responded to questions.

Vice Mayor Hampton stated that he does not believe that senior nursing facilities in Pasadena have been treated in the same way in terms of preventative measures, would like staff to develop an equivalent plan, and return to the City Council or the Public Safety Committee with an update.

Councilmember Gordo stated that direct guidance is needed across various business sections in the City on re-opening procedures, and asked staff to seriously consider bolstering the number of employees who can go out in the field to provide such guidance. He stated that staff should proactively assist business in the re-opening process, direction/advice on how to comply with City Guidelines, and provide additional services as needed.

Councilmember Wilson spoke on the need for additional staff to provide guidance to the various business sectors; and asked staff to send him information on the state indicators data that staff is tracking.

In response to Councilmember Gordo's request for a report on the COVID-19 pandemic, with lessons learned, missed opportunities, and areas that need improvement, City Manager Mermell stated that he anticipates an after-action report on the COVID-19 crisis and staff's response will occur, however currently staff and City resources are fully engaged in responding to the crisis, and suggested that the City Council and staff may consider hiring a contractor to begin the action report.

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, read aloud comments from the following members of the public advocating for fiscal assistance to local small businesses, the immediate reopening of the City's economy, support of staff's proposals to re-open Pasadena businesses, and advocating to keep the Rose Bowl Loop and recreation area closed to vehicular traffic:

Paul Little, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce  
Erika Foy, Pasadena resident  
Gene Wester, Pasadena resident

In addition, City Clerk Jomsky reported that staff contacted the following individuals to notify them that the Oak Grove Disc Golf course is open, and summarized their comments, from the following individuals:

Salvador Vasquez, South Pasadena resident  
Ben Planchon, Los Angeles resident  
Caroline Murrey, Pasadena resident  
Jon Burdett, Pasadena resident  
Matus Sobolic, Altadena resident  
Richard Garcia, Pasadena resident  
Daniel Lawlor, Pasadena resident  
Scott, Pasadena resident  
Howard Tan, residence not stated  
Chris Siraganian, Pasadena resident  
Michael Sorich, Burbank Resident  
Richard Garcia, Pasadena resident

City Manager Mermell reported that the Economic Development and Technology Committee is scheduled to meet on June 9, 2020 to further discuss the reopening of businesses in the City.

Following discussion, by consensus of the City Council, and on order of the Mayor, the information was received and filed.

## **RECOMMENDATION TO RESUME PARKING ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS**

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

- (1) Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption); and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to resume regular parking enforcement efforts.

City Manager Mermell provided introductory comments and Laura Cornejo, Director of Transportation and Jon Hamblen, Parking Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item, with all responding to questions.

Councilmember Wilson expressed concern with resuming the enforcement of daytime street sweeping parking restrictions on June 22, 2020. He believes it is premature to commence the parking restrictions and many individuals are still working from home, and need to park their vehicles on the streets, and suggested that enforcement should resume on September 1, 2020.

Vice Mayor Hampton recommended a hybrid parking enforcement program in the business districts, including allowing free 20 minutes parking spaces. He spoke in favor of extending the street sweeping parking restrictions to September 1, 2020; and allowing residents to purchase a temporary 6-month overnight parking permit.

In response to Vice Mayor Hampton's request, Ms. Cornejo responded that staff will explore options to provide bi-annual and quarterly overnight parking permits; and staff is currently working on maintaining a select number of metered parking spots reserved for the suggested 20-minute timeframe to support curbside pickup and delivery services.

Mayor Tornek spoke in favor of restoring the parking regulations with the exception of overnight parking and street sweeping enforcements, and agendaize for further discussion those two items at a future Municipal Services Committee meeting.

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Vice Mayor Hampton to approve the staff recommendation, amended to exclude daytime street sweeping enforcement and overnight parking enforcement until September 1, 2020:

**AYES:** Councilmembers Gordo, Kennedy, Madison, Masuda, McAustin, Wilson, Vice Mayor Hampton, Mayor Tornek

NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

Councilmember Gordo recused himself due to a potential conflict and left the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

## **ADOPTION OF GUIDELINES FOR THE EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council take the following actions:

- (1) Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the "general rule" that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment;
- (2) Adopt the guidelines for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (the "Program") as described in the agenda report; and
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to revise the adopted Program guidelines from time to time as may be necessary to implement the Program.

William Huang, Director of Housing, provided introductory comments, and Randy Mabson, Program Coordinator II Manager, summarized the staff report as part of their oral presentation on the item; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke on the need for staff to ensure that the program captures the City's most vulnerable residents in the community, particularly seniors. He expressed concerns with the proposed ranked-based point system, specifically only providing 2 points for senior residents.

Councilmember McAustin spoke on the need for the emergency rental assistance program to target and assist families in the City; and expressed concerns with the application process, which may be somewhat cumbersome. She asked staff to ensure that assistance (i.e. translation, uploading and printing documents) is made available to applicants; and to provide an update to the City Council in August of 2020.

Councilmember Madison expressed concerns with providing senior residents additional points (additional opportunities) as many seniors live on their retirement income. He also expressed concerns with the tie-breaker No. 1 (reference to the census tract block) of the proposed guidelines, which he believes narrows the scope for the hardship criteria. Finally, he expressed concerns with the tie-breaker No. 3 (lottery determination) of the proposed guidelines, and suggested dividing up the available resources among all the qualified applicants.

Vice Mayor Hampton expressed concerns with the limitations on applicants related to annual gross income, noting that the low-income thresholds may be too restrictive, however, he spoke in favor of the overall Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that 3 letters in support of the project and providing comments on the item were received, distributed to the City Council, posted on-line, and made part of the public record.

He read aloud comments in support of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program from the following individuals:

Leigh Ann Greenfield, Pasadena resident  
Roger Quintanilla, Pasadena resident  
Anthony Manousos, Pasadena resident  
Ruth McNevin, La Canada resident  
Jill Shook, Pasadena resident

He read aloud comments expressing concerns with the Emergency Rental Assistance Program as lacking, among other things, rental forgiveness, from the following individuals:

Matthew Sorrenti, Pasadena resident  
Ryan Bell, Pasadena resident  
Roger Quintanilla, Pasadena resident  
Allison Henry, Pasadena resident  
Natalia Govoni, Pasadena resident  
David Chavez, Pasadena resident

Mayor Tornek stated that the City Council does not have the authority to impose rent forgiveness between property owners and tenants; and spoke in favor of the staff recommendation.

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember McAustin, seconded by Councilmember Kennedy, to approve the staff recommendation:

AYES: Councilmembers Kennedy, Madison, Masuda,  
McAustin, Wilson, Vice Mayor Hampton, Mayor  
Tornek  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Councilmember Gordo  
ABSTAIN: None

Councilmember Gordo returned to the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AN EXTENSION OF THE OPERATING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ROSE BOWL OPERATING COMPANY AND THE CITY OF PASADENA FOR A PROPOSED PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2020 TO JULY 1, 2023**

**Recommendation of the Rose Bowl Operating Company:** It is recommended that the City Council approve the following actions:

- (1) Find that the actions proposed in the agenda report are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the Common Sense Exemption;
- (2) Extend the Operating Agreement between the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC) and the City of Pasadena from the current expiration date of July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2023 (latest date); and
- (3) Direct the parties to return to the Board and the City Council at least semi-annually with updates on progress concerning the RBOC's financial matters.

Doug Kranwinkle, President of the Rose Bowl Operating Company, and Darryl Dunn, General Manager of the Rose Bowl Operating Company, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item, and responded to questions.

Mayor Tornek stated that the City Council should focus its discussion on the contract extension, as the Finance Committee will discuss additional issues and return to the City Council with a recommendation.

Councilmember Madison reiterated his request that the staff reports include copies of the contract that is referenced in the agenda report; and spoke on the need to develop health safety guidelines and have those ready for deployment in the event that spectators will be allowed to attend sporting events at the Rose Bowl stadium.

The City Council expressed appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Kranwinkle, Mr. Dunn and the Rose Bowl Operating Company Board and staff for their hard work during this challenging period.

It was moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Vice Mayor Hampton, to approve the staff recommendation:

AYES: Councilmembers Gordo, Kennedy, Madison, Masuda, McAustin, Wilson, Vice Mayor Hampton, Mayor Tornek  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**RESULTS OF THE 2020 HOMELESS COUNT AND THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN PASADENA**

**Recommendation:** This report is for information only; no City Council action is required.



William Huang, Director of Housing, provided introductory comments, and Jennifer O'Reilly-Jones, Program Coordinator II, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item, and responded to questions.

Councilmember Wilson asked staff to look at hotel/motels that show a willingness to accept homeless individuals in their facilities, to determine if there is an opportunity for long-term conversions.

City Manager Mermell stated that he would provide an update on the faith-based community providing affordable housing on church properties and land use issues at a future City Council meeting.

Vice Mayor Hampton suggested that staff consider offering waivers of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) fees to hotels/motels that allow homeless individuals to stay in hotels free of charge.

Councilmember Gordo asked staff to provide comparative data and information on the Pasadena Outreach Response Team (PORT) and the Pasadena Police Department's Homeless Outreach Psychiatric Evaluation (HOPE) team to understand the effectiveness of both programs.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke on the need to pursue partnerships with outside providers that have independent budgets and can provide supportive services to homeless individuals in Pasadena.

The City Council expressed appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Huang, Jim Wong, Ms. O'Reilly-Jones, and the Housing Department staff for their excellent and hard work on the complex issue in assisting homeless individuals in the City.

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, read aloud comments advocating for additional resources to end homelessness, including various comments and suggestions related to rent control, additional renter protections, providing transitional and affordable housing, and expressing concerns with the number of transients in Arroyo Parkway area, from the following individuals:

Sonja K. Berndt, Pasadena resident  
Teresa Eilers, South Pasadena resident  
Ferne Hayes, Pasadena resident  
Areta Crowell, Pasadena resident  
Anthony Manousos, Pasadena resident  
Erika Foy, Pasadena resident  
Jill Shook, Making Housing and Community Happen  
Allison Henry, Pasadena resident

Councilmember Kennedy spoke on the need to revisit City-owned properties that might serve as locations for specialized housing to help eliminate homelessness in the City. He also spoke on the need to develop a marketing campaign to involve the community and seek their assistance in solving homelessness in the City, including building and offering Accessory Dwelling Units for rent.

City Manager Mermell responded that there are two viable options and staff is in the process of advertising the availability of City-owned property adjacent to City Hall (commonly referred to the Water and Power site) and on Raymond Avenue (Rose Palace). He will meet with staff to discuss any other viable parcels.

Vice Mayor Hampton asked staff to research empty buildings, including Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) closed school sites, to convert into housing.

Councilmember Gordo requested that in the future, staff distribute the complete housing report with the staff report, prior to the City Council meeting.

Following discussion, by consensus of the City Council, and on order of the Mayor, the information was received and filed.

On order of the Mayor, the regular meeting recessed at 5:53 p.m. to discuss the following closed session:

**CLOSED SESSION**

**CONSIDERATION OF INITIATION OF LITIGATION pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) (one potential case)**

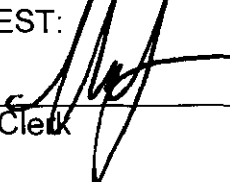
The Mayor called the closed session to order at 5:54 p.m. (Absent: None):

The above closed session item was discussed, with no reportable action at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On order of the Mayor, the special meeting of the City Council adjourned at 6:22 p.m., in memory of all those that have lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic, and a moment of introspection for social justice and equity challenges the nation and the world faces as revealed by the killing of Mr. George Floyd.

/s/ Terry Tornek  
Terry Tornek, Mayor  
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk