

CITY OF PASADENA  
City Council Minutes  
April 19, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chamber

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 Gordo called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. (Absent: None)

**CLOSED SESSION:** On the order of the Mayor, the meeting recessed at 4:33 p.m., to discuss the following closed session:

**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL  
regarding pending litigation pursuant to Government Code  
Section 54956.9(d)(1)**

**Name of Case: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association v. Riggins, et al**

**LASC Case No.: 19STCV15320**

**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY  
NEGOTIATORS pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8  
Property Location: 700 Seco Street, Pasadena, CA 91103  
(Rosemont Pavilion)**

**Agency Negotiator: Steve Mermell**

**Negotiating Party: David Eads**

**Under Negotiation: Price and terms of Payment**

The above closed session items were discussed, with no reportable action at this time.

On order of the Mayor, the meeting reconvened at 5:21 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Hampton.

**ROLL CALL:**  
Councilmembers:

Mayor Victor M. Gordo  
Vice Mayor Andy Wilson  
Councilmember Tyron Hampton  
Councilmember John J. Kennedy  
Councilmember Steve Madison  
Councilmember Gene Masuda  
Councilmember Jessica Rivas  
Councilmember Felicia Williams

**Staff:**

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

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

Mayor Gordo requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of those that have suffered due to death and illness caused by COVID-19 in Pasadena, the nation, and around the world.

Mayor Gordo announced a proclamation declaring April 24, 2021 as "Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide" in Pasadena, which will be presented to Shoghig Yepremian, Chair of the Armenian National Committee of America, Pasadena Chapter.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke on the City's actions to acknowledge the Armenian genocide, including the Armenian Genocide Memorial located in Old Pasadena's Memorial Park. He acknowledged the death of Mr. Donnell Williams (father of City employee Dennis Williams), and expressed condolences to the family.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals expressed concerns with the Pasadena Police Department and officers; in support of an Independent Police Auditor, and spoke on the need for alternatives to policing measures in the City, including certain social services:

Jane Ward, Altadena resident  
Mx Kat Ross, Altadena resident  
Stephanie Blank, Altadena resident

Steve Mermell, City Manager, provided information on the recommended Capital Improvement Program Budget that was presented to the Planning Commission; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Kennedy requested that staff provide additional information on the Police Departments' Capital Improvement Program project funds of \$5,000,000 to enhance and update the Pasadena Police Department building at a future Finance Committee meeting.

The following individuals advocated for the City Council to rezone land owned by churches and other religious organizations to allow for building and providing affordable housing:

Bert Newton, Pasadena resident  
Philip Burns, Pasadena resident

Councilmember Kennedy asked Mayor Gordo, the Housing Taskforce, and staff move forward as soon as possible with the discussion on congregational land overlay zoning as the City is in need of affordable housing units.

In response to Mayor Gordo's inquiry related to the City's Draft Housing Element report, City Manager Mermell responded that staff believes the report will be ready by May of 2021

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **CONTRACT AWARD TO VCI UTILITY SERVICES, LLC DBA VANTAGE UTILITY SERVICES, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN OIL CONTAINMENT SYSTEM AT THE VILLA SUBSTATION FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$550,000**

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

(1) Find the proposed action to be categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(b) (Existing Facilities) and that there are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt class and, therefore, there are no unusual circumstances; and

(2) Accept the bid dated December 30, 2020, submitted by VCI Utility Services, LLC DBA Vantage Utility Services ("VCI"), in response to the Notice Inviting Bids for Specification LD-21-11; reject all other bids received; and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with VCI for an amount not-to-exceed \$550,000 which includes the base bid amount of \$500,000 plus a contingency of \$50,000 to provide for any necessary change orders. (Contract No. 32016)

### **AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH IMPEX TECHNOLOGIES, INC., FOR COMPUTER SERVER AND STORAGE HARDWARE EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$662,421**

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

(1) Find that the proposed contract is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3); and

(2) Accept the bid dated March 25, 2021, submitted by Impex Technologies, Inc., in response to specifications for HyperV Lifecycle Replacement and Storage Capacity Increase; reject all other bids received; and authorize the issuance of a contract for an amount not-to-exceed \$662,421, which includes the base contract amount of \$602,200 and a contingency of \$60,221 for any necessary change orders. (Contract No. 32015)

## **RESIGNATIONS, APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

### **RESIGNATION OF ERICA JARAMILLO FROM THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION (District 2 Nomination)**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

March 31, 2021  
April 5, 2021

## **CLAIMS RECEIVED**

Claim No. 13,701	Mercury Insurance as subrogee for Constanza Obregon	\$ 1,801.69
Claim No. 13,702	Downtown Law Group representing Ralandria Brown	1,000,000.00
Claim No. 13,703	Lori T. Latta	2,800.00

Claim No. 13,704	Thomas Murphy Lawyers Group APC representing Christian Perez	25,000.00+
Claim No. 13,705	Rosa LaJane Myricks	650.00
Claim No. 13,706	Mercury Insurance as subrogee for Constanza Obregon	1,371.30

## PUBLIC HEARING SET

**MAY 3, 2021, 4:30 P.M.** - Appeal of the Board of Zoning Appeals' Decision on Hillside Development Permit No. 6837 Regarding the Property Located at 801 South San Rafael Drive

It was moved by Councilmember Masuda, seconded by Vice Mayor Wilson, to approve all items on the Consent Calendar:

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

## PUBLIC HEARING

### **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED ZONING CODE AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY'S CANNABIS REGULATIONS**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council:  
 (1) Find that the actions proposed in the agenda report are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), Common Sense Exemption; and 15301 (Existing Facilities); there are no features that distinguish this action from others in the exempt class, and there are no unique circumstances; and  
 (2) Direct the City Attorney's Office to prepare an ordinance to amend the Zoning Code to adopt the proposed City cannabis regulations with the findings as contained in Attachment A of the agenda report.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke on the written request he submitted to Mayor Gordo, the City Attorney, and City Manager expressing confidential concerns on this matter and cannabis related issues, and requested that this item be pulled from the agenda and not considered.

Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney, confirmed that Councilmember Kennedy's correspondence includes attorney-client privilege information; and responded to questions.

City Manager Mermell responded that staff is prepared to follow the instructions directed by the City Council, and provided information on the City's current cannabis regulations related to possible cannabis operators; and responded to questions.

David Reyes, Director of Planning and Community Development, provided information on the City's Zoning Code related to the cannabis permit deadline, applications, and application process; and responded to questions.

Vice Mayor Wilson spoke in favor of postponing the Public Hearing until the April 26, 2021, City Council meeting.

Mayor Gordo expressed concerns with rushing the proposed Zoning Code amendments related to cannabis regulations to meet, what he believes to be an arbitrary timeline. He requested that staff provide a recommendation to allow for a public process related to Conditional Use Permits when this item is reagendized for consideration.

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Councilmember Masuda, to continue to the Public Hearing on the item to April 26, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.:

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

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS**

### **APPOINTMENT OF THREE COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION NOMINEES TO THE COMMUNITY POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION**

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

- (1) Find that the proposed action is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 21065 of CEQA and Sections 15060(c)(2), 15060(c)(3), and 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines and, as such, no environmental documents pursuant to CEQA is required; and
- (2) Appoint three community-based organization nominees to the Community Police Oversight Commission, as further described in the agenda report.

Mayor Gordo, Chair of the Public Safety Committee (PSC), summarized the discussion on the matter at the Committee meeting, and reported that two applicants (Florence Annang and Juliana Serrano) were unanimously nominated by the Committee, with PSC requesting that the City Council consider the following

applicants: Alexis Abernethy, Patrice Marshall McKenzie, and Mikala Rahn for the final CBO seat; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Madison spoke in favor of appointing Ms. Florence Annang and Juliana Serrano as Community Police Oversight Commissioners (CPOC).

Councilmember Hampton advocated for the City Council to consider all five applicants, stating his reservations in appointing Ms. Serrano and Ms. Annang as CPOC members, as both also serve on the Executive Board for Pasadenans Organizing for Progress (POP!). He stated that since both candidates are in leadership roles and associated with the same Community Based Organization (POP!) it reduces the diversified representation of other community organizations on the CPOC and increases the influence of just one organization on that body.

Mayor Gordo and Councilmember Madison expressed concerns with considering all five applicants at today's meeting as Florence Annang and Juliana Serrano were not provided with the same instructions as the other three applicants, namely to prepare a two-minute statement to present to the City Council.

Councilmembers Kennedy and Rivas spoke on the PSC discussion to unanimously nominate Florence Annang and Juliana Serrano as CPOC members, appointees from CBO's; and advocated for those two applicants to be appointed to the City's CPOC.

Vice Mayor Wilson stated that upon his review of the applications and meeting video of the Public Safety Committee, he is supportive of the City Council considering all five applicants prior to moving forward with appointment CBO nominees to the CPOC, in order to gather all relevant information from each candidate directly.

Councilmembers Masuda and Williams echoed reservations made by Councilmember Hampton related to Ms. Serrano's and Ms. Annang's active participation in POP!; and supported Vice Mayor Wilson's request for the City Council to hear from and consider all five applicants prior to moving forward with CBO appointments to the CPOC.

Councilmember Kennedy stated the following for the record: "Alluding to an organization called POP!, which is a more loosely, I would say an organization that takes from members from all over the City. It is a very small organization that invites others to participate, sometimes on a case-by-case basis. As it relates to the Pasadena Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, there was a representation by the President of that organization, as well as the Secretary of that Organization, both respected members of this community. As they have 600 members



and that gave some gravitas, in particularly they have been part of this City for over 100 years. There was hardly any debate about the representative that they have chosen to put up. That was unanimous. Meaning the vote was unanimous. As it relates to the objections, which are novel at least to Mr. Madison, I believe, the Mayor and myself, as it relates to Juliana Serrano. An organization called All Saints Church, has been at the forefront of social justice issues well before many of us were in office. We can all look back at that organization's involvement with anti-apartheid movement. That's one that comes to mind specifically since they helped facilitate my trip to South Africa, to meet with Nelson Mandela and [Reverend Allan] Boesak, and [Desmond] Tutu and others, including [F. W.] de Klerk and Pik Botha. They've been at the forefront. When we deliberated, the history of Juliana Serrano in this community was significant. But equally significant, was she was the only, if I'm correct, Latina of those who we were considering. Is that the overarching reason we selected her? No. The overarching reason was her involvement in the community, not just on this issue, but every meaningful social justice issue, we find the young lady extremely qualified by the name of Juliana Serrano. I make this statement Mayor, in hope that I can convince one of my colleagues who has raised objection to support the motion Mr. Madison has so graciously made. Thank you, Mayor."

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Madison, seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to appoint community based organizations representatives, Florence Annang and Juliana Serrano to the City's Community Police Oversight Commission.  
(MOTION WITHDRAWN)

Following discussion, Councilmember Kennedy asked the City Attorney to provide information regarding Robert's Rules of Order related to recommendations made and seconded by a Councilmember or the Mayor, if the maker chooses to withdraw his/her motion, the individual that seconded the motion must also agree to withdraw of the motion.

Following discussion, Mayor Gordo requested that all Councilmembers review the April 14, 2021 PSC meeting video (distributed by City Clerk Jomsky) with the five applicants that presented and the Committee's deliberations on the matter.

City Clerk Jomsky provided information on the applicant's community based organization status.

Councilmember Williams recommended that the five candidates provide a two minute presentation on why each applicant believes they would be the best Commissioner to serve on the CPOC.

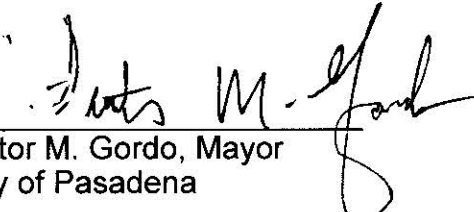
Following discussion, by consensus of the City Council, and on order of the Mayor, the information will be continued to a future City Council meeting for further consideration and discussion.

**~~AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH OIR GROUP LLC FOR INDEPENDENT POLICE AUDITOR SERVICES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$83,700~~**

Mayor Gordo reported that the above item was removed from the agenda and will not be considered.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On order of the Mayor, the meeting of the City Council adjourned at 6:45 p.m., in memory of all those that are ill and have lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

  
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Victor M. Gordo, Mayor  
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk