

**CITY OF DUARTE**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL,  
THE DUARTE HOUSING AUTHORITY, AND THE DUARTE COMMUNITY  
FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY**

**TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024  
7:00 PM – Regular Session**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Truong called the open session to order at 7:12 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Councilmembers Present: Finlay, Kang, Lewis, Martin Del Campo, Garcia, Truong  
Councilmembers Absent: Schulz  
Staff Present: Brian Villalobos, City Manager  
Thai Viet Phan, City Attorney  
Kristen Petersen, Assistant City Manager / Director of  
Administrative Services  
Craig Hensley, Director of Community Development  
Larry Breceda, Director of Public Safety Services  
Manuel Enriquez, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Annette Juarez, City Clerk  
Andres Rangel, Assistant to the City Manager  
Frances Jimenez, Deputy City Clerk

**2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

The flag salute was led by Captain Meza.

**3. ADOPTION OF THE ADOPTION**

Moved by Councilmember Finlay, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Garcia, and carried by the following vote of the Council to adopt the agenda.

AYES: FINLAY, KANG, LEWIS, MARTIN DEL CAMPO, GARCIA, TRUONG  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE  
ABSENT: SCHULZ

**4. SPECIAL ITEMS**

**A. Recognition of Tony Hadloc for Outstanding Work with the Homeless**

Mayor Truong presented a certificate of recognition to Tony Hadloc, Outreach Coordinator for his outstanding work with the Homeless.

Tony Hadloc expressed his gratitude for the recognition and thanked the rest of his team for their support and cooperative efforts.

The City Council shared words of appreciation for all of the work done by Tony the past few years.

**B. Captain Meza Public Safety Update**

Captain Meza provided an update on the 2-Year Comparison Report. He detailed performance metrics and crime statistics; summarized the duties and accomplishments of the special assignment team; and shared the success of the community events.

The City Council commended the deputies for their community policing efforts.

Per questions posed by the City Council Captain Meza provided information on staffing within the department.

Discussion ensued regarding the benefits of attending a city council academy and further accolades were given to the Public Safety Department for the events they participate in.

Director of Public Safety Breceda gave an overview of the 2024 fireworks suppression deployment and show, along with the statistics of citations issued and reported on the possibility of a future dangerous fireworks ordinance.

Feedback was given by the City Council regarding violation fees.

Per direction by City Attorney Phan the conversation was tabled and the topic would be brought back to the City Council as an item on the agenda to be further discussed.

Conversation was had regarding enhanced safety measures at future fireworks shows.

Discussion ensued regarding access to information on progress of individuals participating in the Pathway Home Project and concerns were shared regarding the program and its location. Per the City Council's request staff will coordinate with Los Angeles County and an update will be brought back as an item to discuss at a future council meeting.

## **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Assistant to the City Manager Andres Rangel announced upcoming city events.

## **6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

City Clerk Juarez reported that the City Council received a written public comment via email from Adam Knight regarding concerns with existing sign ordinances and enforcement as it pertains to banners for small businesses and local schools, which may be viewed in the City Clerk's Office.

The City Council directed staff to place the topic on a future agenda for discussion. City Manager Villalobos agreed and confirmed that work is being done to amend the existing Municipal Code so as to be compliant with the law.

Lino Paras expressed concern with the comments made by Council regarding the possibility of a fireworks ordinance as it was not on the agenda. He also expressed his opinion on the lack of attendance by Councilmembers during the discussion leading up to the establishment of the Pathway Home Program.

## **7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Motion to read all Resolutions and ordinances presented for consideration by Title only and waive further reading. (CC/HA/FA).
- B. Approval of absence(s) of City Councilmember(s) from the City Council meeting.
- C. Approval of Minutes – July 9, 2024. (CC/HA/FA)
- D. Approval of Warrants – July 23, 2024. (CC/HA/FA)
- E. Receive and file the Monthly Financial Update for the month of May 2024..
- F. Receive and file the Public Safety Department Update.
- G. Removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion.
- H. Authorization for the City Manager to execute the Safe, Clean Water Program Transfer Agreement with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and Adoption of Resolution No. 24-11.

Moved by Councilmember Finlay, seconded by Councilmember Kang, and carried by the following vote of the Council to approve Items 7A-7F and 7H of the Consent Calendar.

AYES: FINLAY, KANG, LEWIS, MARTIN DEL CAMPO, GARCIA, TRUONG  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE  
ABSENT: SCHULZ

**8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION**

**G. Approve the City Council expenses**

**Public Comment:**

Lino Paras shared his opinion on City Council expenditures, expressed concern with the nature of the reimbursement, and questioned the precedent approval of the request would set.

Jim Kirchner expressed his concerns with the request and asked for clarification on the reimbursement policy.

City Manager Villalobos provided clarification on the updated reimbursement policy adopted at the April 9, 2024 City Council meeting and highlighted the minor changes made.

Councilmember Lewis shared background information and provided further context regarding his reimbursement request.

City Manager Villalobos clarified the policy language that gives him signing authority.

The City Council shared their opinions on the use of City Council expenditures.

City Attorney Phan stated the logistics surrounding the nature of the reimbursement request and clarified that approval is a policy decision that needs to be determined by the City Council so as to ensure transparency.

Discussion was had regarding the policy language.

**Public Comment:**

Jim Kirchner expressed his objection with the request and asked for clarification regarding policy surrounding food provided by the City at special events.

Lino Paras shared appreciation for the item being placed on the agenda for public discussion.

City Attorney Phan provided clarification in response to public comment, on the lack of requirement for the City to provide sustenance at any event and emphasized the discretion the City holds to invite food vendors. Confirmation was made that the item is not in violation of the policy legally, but it is a policy decision that needs to be determined by the City Council.

Moved by Councilmember Kang, seconded by Mayor Truong, and carried by the following vote of the Council to approve the City Council expenses.

AYES: FINLAY, KANG, LEWIS, MARTIN DEL CAMPO, GARCIA, TRUONG  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE  
ABSENT: SCHULZ

**9. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

10. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **National Night Out Proclamation**

Director of Public Safety Breceda presented the staff report on the upcoming National Night Out, gave an overview of the event logistics and highlighted the celebration of the fight against crime.

Mayor Truong read a proclamation aloud proclaiming Thursday, August 8, 2024 as National Night Out in the City of Duarte.

Discussion ensued regarding the event details.

Moved by Councilmember Finlay, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Garcia, and carried by the following vote of the Council to proclaim August 8, 2024, as National Night Out and adopt the theme of "Together we Can".

AYES: FINLAY, KANG, LEWIS, MARTIN DEL CAMPO, GARCIA, TRUONG  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE  
ABSENT: SCHULZ

11. **CONTINUATION OF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

12. **ITEMS FROM CITY COUNCIL/HOUSING AUTHORITY/FINANCING AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED PER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53232.3**

City Manager Villalobos reported he attended a virtual meeting with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments related to the Supreme Court rulings on Grants Pass regarding homelessness and housing.

Councilmember Finlay shared information on the West Nile Virus and gave tips on how to protect from mosquitos.

Councilmember Lewis apologized to his colleagues; emphasized his focus on transparency; and clarified the intention behind use of his City Council expenditures.

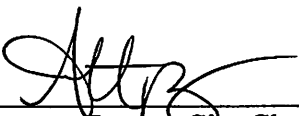
Mayor Truong stated that there was no need for apologies as the item was properly reviewed during the Consent Calendar.

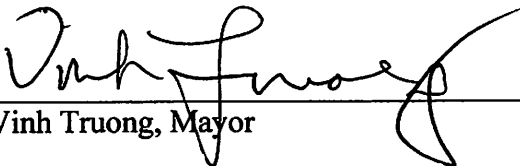
Councilmember Kang expressed appreciation for the minutes; shared cautionary information regarding rabies spreading from bats; and reported on his learning experience visiting the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Mayor Pro Tem Garcia invited residents to upcoming community events; thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for their hard work; commended Councilmember Finlay for her public service announcement video on mosquito awareness; encouraged residents to participate in Foothill Unity Center’s Back to School Drive; and thanked Field Services Manager, Gerard Batista for his assistance.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:55 p.m., the City Council adjourned the meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Annette Juarez, City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vinh Truong, Mayor