

MINUTES

REGULAR JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DUARTE, CALIFORNIA, SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO DISSOLVED REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF DUARTE, THE DUARTE HOUSING AUTHORITY, AND THE DUARTE COMMUNITY FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY

7:00 PM TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021

7:00 PM OPEN SESSION

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Via teleconference and in person the 7:00 p.m. Open Session meeting was called to order by Mayor pro tem Finlay at 7:08 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 1600 Huntington Drive, Duarte, California 91010

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers Present:	Finlay, Kang, Lewis, Paras-Caracci, Schulz, Truong
Councilmembers Absent	Urias
Staff Present:	Dan Jordan, City Manager
	David Cosgrove, City Attorney
	Kristen Peterson, Assistant City Manager, Administrative Services Director
	Craig Hensley, Community Development Director
	Manuel Enriquez, Parks and Recreation Director
	Brian Villalobos, Public Safety Services Director
	Victoria Rocha, Assistant to the City Manager
	Annamarie Porter, Interim City Clerk

2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

The salute to the Flag was led by Sheryl Leffman

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Kang moved, Councilmember Paras-Caracci seconded to approve the adoption of the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously

4. SPECIAL ITEMS

A. Recognition of outgoing California School of the Arts Principal William Wallace
City Manager Jordan presented a certificate of appreciation.

Councilmember Kang stated that the California School of the Arts was the Number 1 performing arts high school in California, with 80 students from through-out California and thanked him for his tremendous contribution to the City of Duarte.

Councilmember Paras-Caracci thanked Mr. Wallace for his service and impact.

Mayor pro tem Finlay acknowledged Mr. Wallace's depth of involvement in the City, the value that he offered, and that he would be sorely missed.

Mr. Wallace responded by referencing Duarte as his second home and was proud of the level of service the School attained and the legacy of contribution to the City of Duarte, and the San Gabriel Valley, and the success was due to a partnership with the City and the School District.

Council rose to give him a standing ovation.

Public Comment was received by Veronica Lopez from Senator Rubio's office, Victor Benavides, and Steve Hernandez extending their appreciation for his service and impact to the community.

B. Mayor's Youth Council update

Faith Peoples and Elizabeth Perez announced the summer workforce program, the packaging of the homeless care packages, and a table Pool event.

C. Parks and Recreation update

Parks and Recreation Director gave an update regarding the Virtual 5k run and the Independence Day celebration and fireworks show. He gave a presentation detailing locations, social distancing, entertainment, vendor and food options, and parking, and stated that they could accommodate approximately 7,000 attendees which would include residents and others who chose to attend.

Speaking from the public was Steven Childs who asked about the costs of the event, and income lost to non-profits from fireworks sales, and how the show defied the ban on fireworks which was instituted for the benefit of Veterans suffering from PTSD and pets.

D. Public Safety Update

Public Safety Services Director Villalobos gave an update regarding fireworks enforcement, crimes, the laundromat battery event, explosions in the riverbed, Measure H, and the Emergency Operations Center. He responded to Council's question regarding the lack of fireworks enforcement by the County in the unincorporated areas, suggesting that perhaps Council could reach out to authorities directly.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Joanna Gee announced current and upcoming events and programs available at the Duarte Public Library, virtually and in-person.

Bernadette Chang of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce made announcements regarding upcoming events.

Assistant to the City Manager Rocha announced that Duarte was a partner with the Green Path Careers program, designed to help individuals who were former foster youth between the ages of 18 and 24, or part of an independent living program, by preparing them for a career in the energy efficiency field. They were recruiting for their next class. The program is offered at no cost to the participant.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

John Fasana extended his congratulations to the new councilmembers. He was concerned with Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón and suggested that Council could meet with him directly to express concerns affecting the City.

Mayor pro tem Finlay left the Dais at 8:23 p.m. and returned at 8:27 p.m.

Bernadette Chang introduced the Duarte Chamber of Commerce Interim Manager, Miranda Stewart.

Steven Childs spoke regarding the unhoused and the lack of enforcement by Los Angeles County.

Lenchen De Vane spoke regarding the Auto Shops on Huntington Drive and the health effects of their operations on the senior residents of her complex. These included noises, revving of engines, toxic odors, operating after business hours, and burned-out buildings, and asked for Council relief. Mayor pro tem Finlay referred her to the City's Code Compliance Manager.

Steve Hernandez congratulated the new Councilmembers and complimented their comradery. He then addressed City Manager Jordan, expounding on the fine execution his duties.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Motion to read all Resolutions and Ordinances presented for consideration by Title only and waive further reading. (CC/HA/SA/FA)
- B. Approve absence(s) of City Council member(s) from the City Council meeting
- C. Approval of Minutes – June 7, 2021, and June 8, 2021 (CC/HA/SA/FA)
- D. Approval of Warrants – June 23, 2021 (CC/HA/SA/FA)
- E. Approve Monthly Financial report.
- F. Approve Parks and Recreation update.
- G. Approve Public Safety Update Report.
- H. Approve the Agreement with the Duarte Chamber of Commerce for Services in the amount not to exceed \$70,100. for the term July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.
- I. Approve the Sublease Agreement with the Duarte Chamber of Commerce for the property located at 1735 Huntington Dr, Duarte, CA 91010 for the amount of \$500. per month for the term of July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.
- J.1 Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SEIU Local 721 Management and Professional Employees Unit for the term July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2024.
- J.2 Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the General Employee Unit for the term July 1, 2021 - June 30, 20
- K.1 Adopt by title only, Resolution No. 21-R-13 a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Duarte, California, Fixing the Employer Contribution Under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act at an equal amount for Employees and Annuitants - Non PERS City Council.

- K.2 Adopt by title only, Resolution No. 21-R-14 a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Duarte, California, Fixing the Employer Contribution Under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act at an equal amount for Employees and Annuitants - Pers All Employees.
- L. Adopt by title only, Resolution No. 21-12, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Duarte, California Rescinding Resolution No. 20-29, and establishing a salary schedule and compensation plan for unrepresented regular employees.
- M. Approve the first amendment to the agreement with Daniel Jordan for City Manager Services to extend the term to June 30, 2024.
- N. Approve a letter of Support requesting Economic Recovery Strategy Funds for SCAG and San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments.
- O. Receive and File resignation of Commissioner Jim Dinsmore from the Parks and Recreation Commission
- P. City Council/City Manager Conference Attendance and other items suggested by Council. (CC)

Councilmember Schulz moved, seconded by Councilmember Paras-Caracci to move Items 7D and 7M to Item 8 for discussion. Motion was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Finlay, Kang, Lewis, Paras-Caracci, Schulz, Truong
 NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 ABSENT: Urias

Councilmember Kang left the Dais at 8:36 p.m. and returned at 8:38 p.m.

Councilmember Schulz moved, seconded by Councilmember Paras-Caracci to approve the Consent Calendar except for Items 7D & 7M. Motion was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Finlay, Lewis, Paras-Caracci, Schulz, Truong
 NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 ABSENT: Kang, Urias

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION

7D. Approval of Warrants – June 23, 2021

Councilmember Paras-Caracci inquired about the expenditure to Garden Inn Suites in the amount of \$3,964.40 for homeless outreach. Public Safety Services Director Villalobos explained that was funded by Measure H funds to house a family consisting of a mother and her 4 children, a man, and a woman who then chose to leave the program.

Councilmember Paras-Caracci moved, seconded by Councilmember Schulz to approve Item 7D. Motion was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Finlay, Kang, Lewis, Paras-Caracci, Schulz, Truong
 NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 ABSENT: Urias

7M. Approve the first amendment to the agreement with Daniel Jordan for City Manager Services to extend the term to June 30, 2024.

Councilmember Paras-Caracci expressed her appreciation of City Manager Jordan's expeditious acclamation to the City and the wrangling of pressing issues.

Councilmember Paras-Caracci moved, seconded by Councilmember Schulz to approve Item 7M. Motion was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Finlay, Kang, Lewis, Paras-Caracci, Schulz, Truong
 NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: None
 ABSENT: Urias

9. BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Discussion and possible action regarding options for shelter beds for homeless persons.

Assistant to the City Manager Rocha gave a presentation reviewing the homeless count, current Duarte programs, grants, law enforcement outreach, encampment clean-ups, outside service providers, and their outcomes. She then reviewed shelter bed models of master-leased motels, permanent shelter centers, temporary shelter centers, residential-based shelters/supportive housing for targeted populations and Pallet shelters, noting the advantages and disadvantages, possible locations, approximate costs, funding details, and paths to implement each model, and then brought forward examples within nearby communities.

Mayor pro tem Finlay asked for public comment.

Steve Hernandez spoke in favor of permanent affordable housing to remedy the homeless issue.

Karen Vance spoke of the changing demographics of Duarte and Duarte adjacent and thought they were not representative of the residents of Duarte.

John Fasana spoke of the areas adjacent to Duarte that affect the City, and thought having affordable housing would enable the City to enforce ordinances and laws.

Steven Childs stated that the homeless was not an unhoused issue, but a mental health issue of those who had been offered housing but declined.

Stacy Tang stated that the homeless had been infringing on private property in Duarte, fighting, knocking on doors in the middle of the night, defecating, leaving used syringes and dumping animals, gravely affecting the quality of life.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor pro tem Finlay closed the public comment period.

Councilmember Schulz stated that she had sat down with various entities and received clarification on what the City had to offer and what was being offered to residents of the City. She agreed that it was not an unhoused issue, but rather a multi-faceted problem. A decision and an option had to be made for the City of Duarte. At the last tri-city meeting, all three cities agreed that a housing option decision had to be made by each of them. The Federal Government who had oversight of the Riverbed wanted to remain humane and not just throw people out. All three Cities currently have funding for wrap-around services that include rehabilitation, addiction, and mental health. For any option to be enforceable and successful, all three cities needed to have a regional and collaborate approach. That would enable an injunction to enforce public spaces. She would continue to encourage Azusa and Irwindale to participate. She had built a great relationship with the Army Corps of Engineers, Chief of Staff of 32nd District Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, Los Angeles County Supervisor District 5 Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis' representatives, all who have authority. Foothill Unity had 13 cities along the foothills for services; they were a food hub, they receive donations, they have showers, those in need just needed to go there. Existing resources could address 50% of the issues. The first step was to pick an option and then enforcement would follow.

Councilmember Paras-Caracci agreed that the topic had circulated for over a decade, and adjacent jurisdictions directly affect the City. She felt the workshop that City Council held helped propel the issue to the forefront and the first step was to choose an option.

Councilmember Kang felt the State needed to assist the County and the Cities to immediately triage the homeless. He stated that the economy and thus the homeless issue was going to get worse. He was concerned that the County might shelter homeless in the City without Council knowledge or approval, especially considering the fact that we contract with the County for Public Safety Services.

Councilmember Lewis agreed with his fellow Councilmembers and thanked them for their hard work; the endless hours that Council and Staff expended in bringing this item forward.

Mayor pro tem Finlay confirmed the number of years spent and appreciated the plausible plan that Council could approve to remedy the issue.

Councilmembers deliberated among the options, utilizing existing infrastructure, Measure H funds, speed of implementation, costs and enforcement, and potential problems that other cities had experienced.

Councilmember Schulz moved, seconded by Councilmember Paras-Caracci to approve the option of the master-leased motels, and for Staff to put together a comprehensive plan for execution with the inclusion of an enforcement action, with an update at least once per month to be brought back to council. Motion was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Finlay, Kang, Lewis, Paras-Caracci, Schulz, Truong
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Urias

B. Adopt by Title Only, Ordinance No. 902 an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Duarte, California enacted pursuant to California Government Code Sections 8634, 36934, and 36937, repealing Urgency Ordinance No. 900 regarding the Public Health Mandate on Face Coverings. For Adoption and second reading; and/or,

Direct the City Manager to exercise his authority under Section 9 of Urgency Ordinance No. 900 to suspend its provisions if, prior to the effective date of its repeal, public health guidance from the federal government, State of California, or County of Los Angeles, or each or any of them, provide materially more relaxed mask wearing guidance, and in such event, to harmonize as much as possible the enforcement of Duarte's Urgency Ordinance No. 900 with the provisions of such revised guidance

Councilmember Truong moved, Councilmember Kang seconded to Adopt by title only Ordinance No. 902 for adoption and second reading. Motion was carried by the following vote:

AYES: Finlay, Kang, Lewis, Paras-Caracci, Schulz, Truong
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Urias

C. Approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$93,935.89 for vehicle cost associated with the dedicated Sergeant position.

Public Safety Services Director Villalobos stated that he was unaware of the Vehicle requirement when the Sergeant position was approved. It was a one-time cost, and so long as the position remained filled a vehicle would be assigned to the position, which would also include any replacement. He answered questions regarding past practices, amortization, title, maintenance, electronics replacement, and contract cities options.

Steve Hernandez expressed shock but still approved Public Safety expenditures.

Jonathan Bayani asked if electronics would also be covered.

Councilmember Paras-Caracci moved, Councilmember Schulz seconded to approve the Budget Amendment. Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Finlay, Kang, Lewis, Paras-Caracci, Schulz, Truong
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Urias

10. CONTINUATION OF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None

11. ITEMS FROM CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/HOUSING AUTHORITY /FINANCING AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND CITY MANAGER /EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mayor pro tem Finlay asked City Manager Jordan for a review of all long-standing City contracts and if there were a need for RFPs

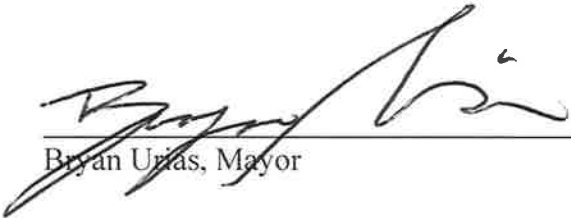
Councilmember Kang stated that Monterey Park reported that Project Room Key was for both homeless and Covid.

Councilmember Lewis felt that the City had overpaid for the Sergeant Vehicle.

12. **ADJOURNMENT** – Mayor pro tem Finlay adjourned the meeting at 11:00 p.m.



Annamarie Porter, Interim City Clerk



Bryan Urias, Mayor