

MINUTES

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Redlands held in the Council Chambers, Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street, on September 3, 2024 at 5:00 P.M.

Present: **Eddie Tejeda, Mayor**
 Paul Barich, Mayor Pro Tempore
 Denise Davis, Council Member
 Jenna Guzman-Lowery, Council Member
 Mario Saucedo, Council Member

Staff: **Charles M. Duggan, Jr., City Manager; Albert Maldonado, Special Counsel;**
 Jeanne Donaldson, City Clerk; Phillip Doolittle, City Treasurer; Janice McConnell,
 Assistant City Manager; Chris Boatman, Assistant City Manager; Carl Baker,
 Public Information Officer; Danielle Garcia, Management Services/Finance
 Director; John Harris, Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director; Rich Sessler,
 Fire Chief; Rachel Tolber, Police Chief; Tabitha Crocker, Facilities and Community
 Services Director

Mayor Tejeda called the meeting to order and explained that comments could be presented in-person, via Zoom, via cell phone or landline. He offered the public an opportunity to provide comment on any item on the agenda for the closed session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Open Government - Steve Rogers voiced his frustration that he had been unable to get answers from City staff regarding a letter from special counsel indicating the restrictions placed on his interactions with City staff had been lifted. In his opinion, this was a very simple request, one that he thought could be easily provided.

CLOSED SESSION

Conference with legal counsel: Initiation of Litigation - Government Code §54956.9(d)(4)
Two (2) potential cases (Special Counsel Maldonado)

Conference with legal counsel: Existing Litigation - Government Code §54956.9(d)(1)
(Special Counsel Maldonado)

Three Cases:

- a. Coyote Aviation Corporation, et al. v. City of Redlands, et al., San Bernardino Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2418252
- b. Gotta, et al. v. City of Redlands, et al., San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2420927
- c. Gotta, et al. v. City of Redlands, et al., San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2420937

a. Conference with Labor Negotiator – Government Code §54957.6
(Assistant City Manager McConnell)

Agency Negotiators:	Mayor Tejeda and Mayor Pro Tempore Barich
Unrepresented Employees:	City Manager

RECONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting reconvened at 6:04 P.M. with an invocation by Council Member Davis followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

Special Counsel Albert Maldonado, an attorney with Best Best & Krieger, introduced himself and explained he was filling in for City Attorney Garcia, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

Special Council Maldonado announced the following report for the Closed Session:

Category 1 - Initiation of Litigation – Two potential cases – The City Council voted to initiate litigation in two different cases. In the first case, on motion of Mayor Pro Tem Barich, seconded by Council Member Saucedo, the first case to initiate litigation was passed by a unanimous affirmative vote of the Council. In the second case, on motion by Mayor Pro Tem Barich, seconded by Council Member Guzman-Lowery, the second case to initiate litigation was passed by a unanimous affirmative vote by the Council. Furthermore, once each of the lawsuits are filed and have been formerly commenced, the defendants and details will be disclosed to any person upon inquiry and available in the City Clerk's office.

Council Member Davis announced that she recused herself in the second case of initiation of litigation and the two pending lawsuits entitled Gotta, et al. v. City of Redlands due to ownership of her residence within 500 feet of the properties involved in these cases.

For the balance of the closed session items, there were no other reportable actions taken during the Closed Session.

PRESENTATIONS

Redlands Pet Adoption

Animal Services Supervisor Jodi Kroeger and Kennel Attendant Hailey Stuck introduced "Kane", a one-year-old male pit bull mix, who is available for adoption, along with fifty-three other dogs and twelve cats at the Redlands Animal Shelter. Ms. Kroeger informed the Council there had been forty-nine dogs and forty cats adopted in July and August 2024. She announced the Shelter is full and is in urgent need of fosters and adopters.

U of R School of Education Centennial Proclamation

All Council Members presented a Proclamation honoring the University of Redlands School of Education Centennial to President Krista Newkirck, School of Education Dean Dr. Nicol Howard, James Benanti, Donald Cox, Iyan Barrera-Sandri and Kay Thomas of the University of Redlands School of Education.

Proclamation Saint Mary's Ballet Folklorico

Mayor Tejeda and Council Member Saucedo presented a Proclamation honoring Saint Mary's Ballet Folklorico to Dr. Jenna Cortez Aguirre.

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Tejeda presented a Proclamation declaring September 2024 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month to Stephanie Avila, Executive Director of Childhood Cancer Foundation of Southern California.

Proclamation National Sickle Cell Awareness Month

Mayor Tejeda presented a Proclamation declaring September as National Sickle Cell Awareness Month to Dr. Akshat Jain.

Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation

Mayor Tejeda and Council Member Saucedo presented a Proclamation declaring September 15 through October 15, 2024 as Hispanic Heritage Month to the Consul Attaché, Julio Huerta.

Certificates of Recognition Redlands Strong 14U Softball Team

Mayor Tejeda and Council Member Saucedo presented Certificates of Recognition to the Redlands Strong 14U Softball Team for participation in the PONY International World Series in McAllen Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Open Government - Steve Rogers read from letters he distributed to staff members related to multiple concerns, including ongoing work at Crystal Springs Ranch. He voiced his frustration that his public record requests had not been fulfilled yet, and he continued to request a meeting with Assistant City Manager Boatman to gain clarity about the City's true vision.

Warehouse Opposition - Bruce Laycook was extremely disappointed with the three Council Members who voted to approve the warehouse development located at the Pharaohs Lost Kingdom site. He added he thought their approval went against the wishes of the public.

Various Musings - Dennis Bell said he was randomly picked to respond to the Polco City Survey, but the link did not provide access to the questions, which he doubted he would have answered anyway. He complained about too many people riding their bicycles on the sidewalks and said the Redlands Unified School District seemed to be using the City's playbook with the "Student Health/Safety Classroom Repair Measure", a \$500,000,000 bond measure scheduled to come before the voters in November 2024.

Homeless Population Solutions - Nina Steinman listed a number of possible solutions to help resolve issues related to the homeless population. She suggested the City establish a homeless encampment on the far north side of town that would be enclosed with fencing, to protect at-risk residents and prevent drug dealers from entering. The City could provide clean toilets, daily food truck service and offer life skills training.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the regular meeting minutes of July 16, 2024.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Proclamation University of Redlands School of Education Centennial

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the issuance of proclamation recognizing the University of Redlands School of Education Centennial.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Proclamation Saint Mary's Ballet Folklorico

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the issuance of a proclamation recognizing Saint Mary's Ballet Folklorico.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Proclamation Childhood Cancer Awareness

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the issuance of a proclamation recognizing September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Proclamation September as National Sickle Cell Awareness Month

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the issuance of a proclamation declaring the month of September as National Sickle Cell Awareness Month in the City of Redlands.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Proclamation Hispanic Heritage Month

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the issuance of a proclamation recognizing September 15 through October 15, 2024 as Hispanic Heritage Month.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Appointment Citrus Preservation Commission

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously appointed, by roll call vote, Janet Ward to serve the remainder of a four-year term on the Citrus Preservation Commission ending April 16, 2026.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Settlement Agreement Disclosure

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, approved the public disclosure of details of an Agreement of Settlement and General Release between the City of Redlands and Dino Navarette. Under the terms of the agreement, the City agrees to pay Mr. Navarette \$75,000.00 to settle and dispose of disputes and controversies associated with a civil action pending in the San Bernardino Superior Court and entitled Dino Navarette v. City of Redlands, et al., Case No. CIVSB 2207828.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Homeless Encampment Clean-Up Services Agreement

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that the agreement is categorically exempt from environmental review in accordance with Section 15301 of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; and approved an agreement with Hunter Consulting, Inc. doing business as HCI Environmental & Engineering Service for homeless encampment general clean-up services.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Grant Acceptance Kaiser Permanente Substance Abuse Prevention

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously accepted, by roll call vote, the Redlands Substance Abuse Prevention Outreach Grant through Kaiser Permanente of Southern California in the amount of \$50,000; and approved an additional appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 in the Governmental Grants fund.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Community Outreach Specialist Position

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, one limited term Community Outreach Specialist position within the Homeless Solutions Division for a term not to exceed 18 months.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Grant Award FEMA Homeland Security

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously agreed, by roll call vote, to accept the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant award in the amount of \$18,115; and authorized an additional appropriation for the same.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8624 Salary Schedule

Assistant City Manager McConnell reviewed Resolution No. 8624, establishing an additional Solid Waste Supervisor position within the Facilities and Community Services Department. This position will be responsible for day-to-day oversight and supervision of activities at the California Street Landfill. The position is required in order to meet the requirements for a Solid Waste Facility Permit as set forth in the landfill's Joint Technical Agreement.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8624 establishing a Salary Schedule and Compensation Plan for City Employees and Rescinding Resolution No. 8599. Resolution No. 8624 establishes an additional Solid Waste Supervisor position within the Facilities and Community Services Department.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Dark Fiber Service Purchase

Eric Owens, Information Technology Manager, explained the benefits of a purchase with Crown Castle for dark fiber service in the amount of \$2,250 per month, totaling \$135,000 for five years to enhance security and control of the city's backbone network connectivity. The purchase will enhance the City's telecommunications infrastructure to support its growing operational needs. Dark fiber has emerged as a strategic opportunity and refers to unused or underutilized fiber optic cables that can be leased or purchased for exclusive use by an organization. Dark fiber provides greater control, scalability, and potential cost savings over time. As public comment, Bruce Laycook thought the purchase could be good for the City, but he wondered why the documents supporting this purchase do not provide any details and specifications. Management Services/Finance Director Garcia stated the City does not disclose details or locations as a way to protect against security threats.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, a sole source purchase with Crown Castle for dark fiber service in the amount of \$2,250 per month, totaling \$135,000 over five years.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Purchase Next-Generation Firewalls Network Security Enhancements

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the intergovernmental purchase of new next-generation firewalls for network security enhancements from Sidepath in the amount of \$81,142.39.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Contracts Award On-Call Engineering Services

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of the Agreements with Hicks & Hartwick, Inc., and Engineering Resources of Southern California, Inc. is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State's Guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; and approved an exception to purchasing rules and awarded two (2) contracts under the same solicitation and scope to provide on-call general engineering services, each in an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000 for the initial one-year term, with options to extend for one additional year for an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000, for a total potential not-to-exceed value of \$200,000.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8621 Surplus Land North Dearborn Street

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris provided details regarding City property located near 500 North Dearborn Street, comprising approximately 1,500 square feet of APNs 0170-302-06-0000 and 0170-302-18-0000. The City would like to lease the Property to the South Coast Air Quality Management District ("SCAQMD") so that SCAQMD can use the Property for air quality monitoring. The City must comply with the Surplus Land Act prior to entering into the lease. Resolution No. 8621 would declare the Property exempt surplus land and allow for a lease to SCAQMD, subject to review by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8621 pursuant to Government Code Section 54221, declaring that certain real property (located near 500 North Dearborn Street, Redlands, CA comprising approximately 1,500 square feet of APNs 0170-302-06-0000 and 0170-302-18-0000) is exempt surplus land, and finding that such declaration is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Office Furniture Purchase

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that purchasing office furniture is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; and approved the purchase of Water Distribution office furniture from Office Depot in the amount of \$91,060.54.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Contract Award TDA 2021 Transit Stop Access Improvement Project

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of a Construction Contract and construction of the TDA 2021 Transit Stop Access Improvement Project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15301(c) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; approved an additional appropriation of \$64,706.65 for the Project; approved the TDA 2021 Transit Stop Access Improvement Project plans and specifications; and approved the Construction Contract with CT&T Concrete Paving, Inc. for an amount not-to-exceed \$111,046.65.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Purchase Order for Cla-Val Supplies

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of a purchase order with Western Waterworks is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; and approved a FY 24/25 purchase order with Western Waterworks for Cla-Val supplies for \$85,000.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Agreement Engineering & Traffic Survey for Citywide Speed Limit Study

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris offered background on the Professional Services Agreement with RK Engineering Group, Inc. to provide Engineering & Traffic Survey (E&TS) services to update the citywide speed limit study. Since the last E&TS was performed, Assembly Bill No. 43 (AB 43) was enacted to improve safety on California roads by providing more flexibility to local agencies when determining appropriate speed limits and addressing concerns related to speeding in high-risk areas. AB 43 allows local authorities to lower speed limits based on safety considerations, even if the results of an E&TS suggest a higher speed limit would be appropriate. With the enactment of AB 43, the City intends to reevaluate the current speed limits and review a total of 138 street segments on fifty-five (55) streets. As public comment, Steve Rogers thanked the Council and staff for bringing this item back for a review of the speed limits. He requested the report include photos of each location evaluated and radar recalibration.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of a Professional Services Agreement with RK Engineering Group, Inc. is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; and approved the Professional Services Agreement with RK Engineering Group, Inc. to provide Engineering & Traffic Survey (E&TS) services to update the citywide speed limit study for an amount not to exceed \$53,000.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

SBC Use of Weapons Firing Range Facilities

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, a purchase order with the County of San Bernardino for use of their weapons firing range facilities from FY2024/25 to FY2026/27 for an amount not to exceed \$20,000 per fiscal year.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Redlands Oktoberfest In-Kind Request

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, the Redlands Oktoberfest event is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061 (b)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; authorized and approved a request for in-kind support in the amount of \$15,903.70 related to this event; and authorized the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages for the Redlands Optimist Club to be held on October 5, 2024, and October 6, 2024, at Sylvan Park.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Day for Kids Event In-Kind Request and Street Closure

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of the event is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15311(c) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; authorized the temporary closure of Clay Street, between Lugonia Avenue to Western Avenue, on September 21, 2024 for the Day for Kids event hosted by the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Redlands-Riverside; and authorized in-kind support in the amount of \$300.00 for staffing costs for the event.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Facility Use Agreement with Family Service Association

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of the Facility Use Agreement with Family Service Association is exempt from environmental review in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3); and approved the Facility Use Agreement with the Family Service Association for use of the kitchen and dining areas at the Joslyn Senior Center and Ediberto and Gloria Flores Senior Center for the purpose of preparing meals by the Family Service Association nutrition program.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Facility Use Agreement with Redlands Meals on Wheels Staff requested this item be pulled from the agenda tonight. It will be presented to the Council for consideration at a future meeting.

SCE Grant of Easement

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that granting of an easement is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; and authorized to grant an easement to Southern California Edison over Lot "A" of Tract 20336 for the future installation of a transformer, related to future electrical service needs.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Stater Bros. Charities Believe Walk In-Kind Request

Facilities and Community Services Director Crocker introduced the request for temporary street closures and in-kind support in the amount of \$37,109.50 related to the Stater Bros. Charities Believe Walk. As public comment, Dennis Bell asked why tax ID numbers for all the organizations requesting in-kind support, including the ID for Stater Bros was redacted. He thought this information was public, and should be available, and he opposed the Council giving away taxpayer money.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that this event is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15311 of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; approved the temporary street closures related to the event; and authorized and approved a request for in-kind support in the amount of \$37,109.50 related to this event.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8626 Surplus Land West Eureka Street

Facilities and Community Services Director Crocker stated that the City owns property in fee, located on the west side of Eureka Street, north of West Redlands Blvd, and south of Oriental Avenue. The City desires to transfer interest in the property to Property One, LLC, and in exchange, the City will receive certain real property located along the west side of Division

Street, south of Sylvan Blvd and north of Interstate 10 for the use of open space. The City must comply with the Surplus Land Act (SLA) prior to doing so and Resolution No. 8626 would declare the Property exempt surplus and allow for disposition to Property One, LLC., outside of the SLA, subject to California Department of Housing and Community Development review. As public comment, Steve Rogers was not clear about what this item was attempting to do, and he thought the report and exhibits were not helpful. Bruce Laycook also pointed out that at a minimum, the report should have included maps, specifically identifying the locations.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8626 pursuant to Government Code Section 54221, declaring that certain real property (located near the west side of Eureka Street, north of West Redlands Blvd, and south of Oriental Avenue; APN: 0169-272-27-0000) is exempt surplus land, and finding that such declaration is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

"1LoveIE" Event In-Kind Request & Street Closure

Facilities and Community Services Director Crocker introduced the request for the temporary closure of 9th Street between E. Citrus Ave and E. State Street and for in-kind support of \$1,800 related to the inaugural "1LoveIE" business opening event scheduled for September 14, 2024. As public comment, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Evan Sanford urged the Council to approve this request and attend the special grand opening event to welcome 1LoveIE to Redlands. Justin Hudson, owner of 1Love IE was excited to be opening another store, along with his two other locations, and said that Redlands has been very welcoming. Council Member Davis was in full support of this item, adding that she had been looking forward to this opening for a while.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of the event is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15311(c) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; authorized the expenditure of city resources, in-kind support in the amount of \$1,800, and temporary street closure of 9th Street between E. Citrus Ave and E. State Street for the inaugural "1LoveIE" business opening event scheduled for September 14, 2024.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Resolution No. 8629 Development Applications Venue at Orange Apartments

Council Member Davis announced that due to property ownership within 500 feet of the development, she recused herself from voting on this item. Mayor Tejeda reported that staff is recommending this public hearing to consider Resolution No. 8629 for development applications related to the construction of 164 apartment units within the Venue at Orange Apartments be continued to September 17, 2024.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Mayor Eddie Tejeda, the City Council approved, by roll call vote, that the public hearing be continued to the City Council Meeting scheduled for September 17, 2024.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8627 Adjustments to Rates for Solid Waste Utility Services

Mayor Tejeda opened the public hearing and called on Assistant City Manager Boatman for background on Resolution No. 8627 authorizing adjustments to rates for solid waste utility services. On July 2, 2024, the City Council authorized staff to issue the required Proposition 218 notice to set the public hearing date for tonight. He introduced Garth Schultz, of R3 Consulting Group, Inc. to present a report detailing their findings and recommendations. Staff and R3 held two meetings with the Municipal Utilities Commission (Commission), on March 18 and April 15, 2024 to present draft findings and to receive feedback and recommendations. After substantive discussion, the Commission voted unanimously on April 15, 2024 to forward R3's recommended adjustments to the City's solid waste services to the City Council.

The study results show the current rates are not sufficient to cover the solid waste service costs and expenses and the Commission's recommendations included: 1) A 9% revenue increase in January 1, 2025; 2) a 9% revenue increase in January 1, 2026; 3) a 9% revenue increase in January 1, 2027; and 4) a 4% revenue increase in January 1, 2028. Based on a 9% increase, it was pointed out the standard residential service cost increase was estimated to be about \$4 per month. Commission Chair Steve Stockton emphasized the Commission's efforts to keep rates below a 10% increase.

As public comment, Kathleen Flynn spoke about the billing inequities that exist between a single person living alone and a family with multiple residents. She requested the Council consider looking at what trash was actually produced by the size of the family served and to consider other alternatives, including, picking up trash on a bi-monthly basis rather than every week. City Manager Duggan appreciated the suggestions, and he mentioned that economies of scale, along with other complex details, must be considered when determining the best use of city resources. Dennis Bell questioned how the City was handling and separating trash. Michael Paisner thought a 9% increase was unrealistic and well above the wage increases seen by residents. Steve Rogers agreed that a 9% increase was significant, and he described a future scenario where customers would be unable to pay their bills to maintain service.

City Clerk Donaldson informed the Council that 19,538 properties received a Proposition 218 notice with directions to make a formal written protest. She announced that her office received 48 written protests declaring their opposition to a solid waste rate increase. This number is insufficient to meet the 50% plus one (or 9,770), required for a successful Proposition 218 protest to stop implementation of the new rates.

Council Member discussion focused on concerns raised by public comment including the financial impact of utility bills, the trash truck pickup schedules, state regulations, expanding the utility billing assistance program, and the importance of performing a needs analysis on a regular basis to avoid fewer rate spikes. With no further comments, the Mayor closed the hearing.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Mayor Eddie Tejeda, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that the adoption of Resolution No. 8627 is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; and approved Resolution No. 8627, authorizing adjustments to rates for solid waste utility services.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Mayor Tejeda called for a brief recess at 8:15 p.m., with the meeting reconvening at 8:20 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 8596 Historic Architectural Design Guidelines

Planning Manager Brian Foote presented Resolution No. 8596 for adoption of the "Historic Architectural Design Guidelines," a reference for local property owners, development and design professionals, City staff, and decision-makers in planning, approving, and implementing projects involving the preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic buildings. The City's Planning Division has worked in coordination with Architectural Resources Group, a professional historic architecture firm with extensive experience in the field of historic preservation, in the preparation of new Historic Design Guidelines. The proposed Historic Design Guidelines are customized to provide information relevant to preserving historic resources in the City of Redlands. Mr. Foote discussed the historical context, provided a timeline of events leading to tonight and offered a brief recap of each of the nine chapters, customized to the City. On February 1, 2024, the Historic & Scenic Preservation Commission recommended that the Council approve the final Guidelines.

Mayor Tejeda asked whether this document would place restrictions on processing Accessory Development Units (ADUs), but Mr. Foote stated that a separate set of guidelines would be needed for ADUs. As public comment, Historic and Scenic Preservation Commissioner Lauren Bricker fully supported the Guidelines, which she said will serve as a highly constructive document for everyone. Council Members expressed their appreciation of the Commissioners' dedication and service to the City.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8596 for adoption of the "Historic Architectural Design Guidelines," a reference for local property owners, development and design professionals, City staff, and decision-makers in planning, approving, and implementing projects involving the preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic buildings; and determined that this resolution is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Intergovernmental/Piggyback Purchase Cisco Network Equipment

Information Technology Manager Eric Owens described an Intergovernmental/Piggyback purchase of Cisco network equipment in the amount of \$348,516.57 from Connection. The City's

current network infrastructure relies on network equipment that is approaching ten years of service time that is beyond the standard operational lifecycle of network equipment. Cisco's advanced technology will provide the reliability and scalability required for the network.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, an Intergovernmental/Piggyback Purchase of Cisco network equipment, for city-wide network enhancements from Connection, in the amount of \$348,516.57.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Purchase PacPress Filter Press

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris explained the need to purchase a PacPress filter press non-competitively from Harrington Industrial Plastics LLC for a total price of \$862,862.01. The Municipal Utilities and Engineering Department (MUED) produces, treats, and distributes potable water to approximately 22,000 customers within its service area. Water is treated at two surface water treatment plants. The Hinckley WTP receives raw water primarily from the Santa Ana River, and the Tate WTP receives raw water primarily from Mill Creek. Both WTPs use various mechanical and chemical processes to remove sediment and organic debris from the raw water prior to disinfection. Harrington Industrial Plastics LLC, is the sole west coast distributor of PacPress products. Dudek and MUED staff negotiated a reasonable purchase of \$862,862.01 with Harrington for a seventy-five cubic foot PacPress filter press, platform, and associated equipment.

On motion of Council Member Mario Saucedo, seconded by Mayor Eddie Tejeda, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that purchasing a filter press is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; and approved the Sole Source purchase of a PacPress filter press from Harrington Industrial Plastics LLC for a total price of \$862,862.01.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Purchase Caterpillar Backhoe Loaders

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris detailed the purchase of two Caterpillar backhoe loaders from Quinn CAT in the amount of \$367,273.36.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that the purchase of two (2) Caterpillar backhoe loaders is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; and approved the purchase of two Caterpillar backhoe loaders from Quinn CAT in the amount of \$367,273.36.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

WWTP Materials and Supplies Purchase

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris reviewed the need for a purchase order with Western Waterworks for \$541,000 for materials and supplies used by the Water Utility and the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Mayor Eddie Tejeda, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of the purchase order with Western Waterworks is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; and approved the purchase order with Western Waterworks for \$541,000 for materials and supplies used by the Water Utility and the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Contract Award WWTP Primary Clarifier Upgrade Project

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris reported on a Public Works Construction Contract with G.S.E. Construction Company, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Primary Clarifier Upgrade Project for an amount not-to-exceed \$940,720. The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) includes four rectangular primary clarifiers, which were originally constructed in 1962, 1972 and 1988. The WWTP Primary Clarifier Upgrade Project will replace sludge collection and skimming mechanisms and will replace revolving skimmer pipes with manual operating levers. Each unit will be furnished and installed with all supports, mechanical equipment, and drives. In March 2022, City Council appropriated \$1,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding for this project.

As public comment, Steve Rogers stated he was still waiting for responses to earlier questions he posed about the WWTP project. What he found most troubling was the environmental review of the project. He wondered how the City could claim the project was exempt from CEQA and added that this could potentially preclude the City from getting State funding. Director Harris pointed out the State was well aware of this project and the only comment from them was in connection with updating the Kangaroo Rat study.

On motion of Council Member Mario Saucedo, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of the contract and construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Primary Clarifier Upgrade Project is exempt from environmental review in accordance with Section 15302(c) of the State's Guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; approved the Wastewater Treatment Plant Primary Clarifier Upgrade Project plans and specifications; and awarded a Public Works Construction Contract to G.S.E. Construction Company, Inc. for an amount not-to-exceed \$940,720.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Caterpillar Emergency Power Generators Purchase

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris presented a purchase of five Caterpillar emergency power generators from Quinn CAT for \$907,478.62.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that the purchase of five

Caterpillar emergency power generators is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; and approved the purchase of five (5) Caterpillar emergency power generators from Quinn CAT for \$907,478.62.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Council Members agreed to forgo announcements and reports.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further action required the meeting adjourned at 8:59 P.M. The next regular meeting of the City of Redlands City Council will be held on September 17, 2024.

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