

MINUTES

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Redlands held in the Council Chambers, Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street, on July 2, 2024 at 5:00 P.M.

Present: **Eddie Tejada, 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; Yvette M. Abich Garcia, City Attorney;**
 Jeanne Donaldson, City Clerk; Phillip Doolittle, City Treasurer; Chris Boatman,
 Assistant City Manager; Danielle Garcia, Management Services/Finance Director;
 Brian Desatnik, Development Services Director; John Harris, Municipal Utilities
 and Engineering Director; Rich Sessler, Fire Chief; Rachel Tolber, Police Chief;
 Tabitha Crocker, Facilities and Community Services Director; Robert Meteau,
 HR/Risk Management Director

Mayor Tejada 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

Raising Questions - Steve Rogers wondered why the performance evaluations for the City Manager and the City Attorney were being considered at this time, when it seemed to him the contracts were not due for negotiation. He raised concerns about the labor negotiation team and asked for resolution to what he called a simple matter of a dispute he had with the City.

CLOSED SESSION

Conference with legal counsel: Existing Litigation - Government Code §54956.9(d)(1)
(City Attorney Garcia)

Two Cases:

- a. Atkinson v. City of Redlands, et al., San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2224706
- b. Coyote Aviation Corporation, et al. v. City of Redlands, et al., San Bernardino Superior Court, Case No. CIVSB2418252

a. Performance Evaluations of Public Employees – Government Code §54957(b)(1)
Positions: City Attorney and City Manager

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

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

RECONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting reconvened at 6:12 P.M. with an invocation by Council Member Guzman-Lowery followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

City Attorney Garcia announced that under Item Closed Session, C-1a, consideration of Atkinson v. City of Redlands, et al., San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2224706, the City Council unanimously approved to settle the lawsuit with Ms. Atkinson in the amount of \$175,000 and the cost of mediation, by motion of Mayor Pro Tem Barich, seconded by Council Member Saucedo. There was no reportable action taken on all other closed session matters.

PRESENTATIONS

Redlands Pet Adoption

Animal Services Supervisor Jodi Kroeger and Kennel Attendant Hailey Stuck introduced "Rosa", a two-year-old female Pit Bull, who is available for adoption, along with forty-three other dogs and fifteen cats at the Redlands Animal Shelter. Ms. Kroeger informed the Council there had been eighteen dogs and thirty cats adopted in June 2024. She announced the Shelter was full, and all dog adoption fees would be waived.

Juneteenth Proclamation

Council Member Saucedo presented Juneteenth Proclamations to Bishop Green, Maria Saucedo, LaRena García, Shawn Zambrows, and Jay Strovall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Various Concerns - Steve Rogers read from a letter he sent to the Council Members, regarding the City's delegation of engineering duties, and he asked for a follow-up response to matters he discussed with Police Chief Tolber and HR/Risk Management Director Meteau. He requested written confirmation from BB&K that the matter was closed.

City Manager Duggan clarified that the State Board of Professional Engineers declined to take any action on the complaint submitted by Mr. Rogers.

RPOA and Event Activities - Jeff Frisch, representing the Redlands Police Officers Association (RPOA) expressed frustration with the group who organized an event held last weekend at Sylvan Park where coloring sheets were distributed depicting a burning police car. Police officers, working the event, found it very offensive, and they were disappointed with those Council Members who attended and appeared to support the activities. He said the RPOA consistently strives to foster relationships within the community, especially with young people.

Pride Awareness Event - Ashley Williamson and Felipe Albertao spoke about the coloring page distributed at the Pride awareness event and said the images represented the history of the Stonewall incident in New York.

U.S. Flag Donation - Dr. Ramarrishna Tadi donated a United States flag that had been flown at the

U.S. capital.

South Mountain Water Shares - Elizabeth Long said the City should not be in the business of selling water shares and, in particular, she opposed the recent sale of the South Mountain water shares. David Armstrong said he was still waiting for answers to why the City sold off the shares, along with 55 acres of land, and he thought it was poor optics for the Council to consider raising water rates at this time. Zoom caller Shay also asked for answers, and he urged the City to suspend action to increase water rates.

City Manager Duggan announced that everyone with questions about the sale of South Mountain water shares was welcome to attend the Utilities Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for later this month, where the City can respond in full. He pointed out that staff had responded to Mr. Armstrong earlier in the day, and before taking any action to sell the shares, the City received an appraisal and legal advice.

City Vehicles - Dennis Bell questioned why some City employees were driving 4-wheel drive trucks, since he thought it unnecessary and a waste of money.

RUSD Summer Meals Program - Alyssa Cummings and Jennifer Petty announced the Redlands Unified School District (RUSD) summer meal program was in full swing, and they encouraged all families with children to come to one of their locations throughout the City, where meals will be enjoyed onsite.

Separation of Church and State - Bruce Laycook urged the Council to be mindful of the importance of separation of church and state.

Pride Flag - Anthony Dodd pointed out there are two city flagpoles in front of City Hall, and he urged the Council to fly the pride flag.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the regular meeting minutes of June 18, 2024.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Juneteenth Proclamation

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously authorized, by roll call vote, the issuance of a Proclamation recognizing Juneteenth..

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8597 Records Retention Schedule

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8597 concerning a Records Retention Schedule and rescinding Resolution No. 6576.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8608 Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8608 establishing an Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 pursuant to Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Annual Payment RPD Fingerprint Identification Services

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously authorized, by roll call vote, the annual payment to San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (Cal-ID/Identix) in the amount of \$84,926 for Redlands Police Department's Fingerprint Identification Services.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8603 Street Vacation No. 194 This item was pulled from tonight's meeting to allow staff time to conduct additional research. The matter will be scheduled for a future meeting.

As public comment, Duncan Shantz, the owner of Jadeland Developments, offered some historical context related to his request to vacate portions of Mecca Street adjacent to the parcels he owns, which, he said, will allow potential future property improvements or development of the properties without further concern about encroachment into the public right-of-way.

MOU RUSD School Resource Officer Program

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Redlands and the Redlands Unified School District for the School Resource Officer Program.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Adopt Ordinance Nos. 2969 and 2970 Assessments for LMD and SLD

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Ordinance No. 2969, confirming a diagram

and assessment for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year in connection with Landscape Maintenance District No. 1; and adopted Ordinance No. 2970, confirming a diagram and assessment for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year in connection with Street Lighting District No. 1.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Equipment Rental Agreement

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 rental agreement is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA guidelines; approved the equipment lease with C5 Equipment Rentals for the 3-month rental extension of a D8 Dozer in the amount of \$53,160; and approved a sole source purchase order modification to a not-to-exceed total of \$141,760.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

In-kind Support for the Jagannath Rath Yatra Event

Facilities and Community Services Director Crocker introduced the request for in-kind support in the amount of \$8,446 relating to the Jagannath Rath Yatra event hosted by the Shri Darshan on July 13, 2024 and the request to close Church St., E Colton Ave., Division St., and E High Ave. for the event. As public comment, Dennis Bell noted he thought this was the first year the event was scheduled in Redlands, and he urged the Council to focus on paying the bills and addressing more critical needs, rather than approving every in-kind request presented to them.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of the request for the event Jagannath Rath Yatra is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15311 of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; authorized and approved a request for in-kind support in the amount of \$8,446.00 relating to this event; and authorized the temporary closure of Church St., E Colton Ave., Division St., and E High Ave., on July 13, 2024.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8605 FY 24/25 - FY 28/29 Five-Year Measure I CIP

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris reviewed Resolution No. 8605 for the FY 24/25 through FY 28/29 Five-Year Measure I Capital Improvement Plan, explaining this was an administrative action, so the City is eligible to receive funds. As public comment, Steve Rogers asked if the amount listed in the staff report as \$20 million was a typo. Director Harris confirmed it was a typo and the amount should be listed as \$2 million. Dennis Bell stated that SBCTA was working on a tax measure to go before the voters related to Measure I, and he said the program needs a thorough audit, because in his opinion, there was very little to show for the funds that had been collected.

On motion of Council Member Mario Saucedo, seconded by Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of Resolution No.8605 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. 8605 for the Fiscal Year 24/25 through Fiscal Year 28/29 Five-Year Measure I Capital Improvement Plan.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Sampling and Special Analytical Services Agreement

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 a Professional Services Agreement with ALS Group USA, Corp. 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 ALS Group USA, Corp. for sampling and special analytical services with an initial one (1) year term in the amount of \$34,000, with options to extend for two (2) additional one-year terms, for a total potential amount not-to-exceed \$102,000.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

COMMUNICATIONS

Use of Zoom and Teleconferencing

Council Member Saucedo opened the discussion related to the use of Zoom and Teleconferencing under Assembly Bill (AB) 2449 for City Council and Planning Commission meetings. He explained that he brought this item back for the Council to evaluate the policy again because of the hate speech received by three Zoom callers during the May 7, 2024 Council meeting. He thought open dialogue with the public would be useful.

On July 25, 2023, the City Council authorized the continued use of Zoom and allowed remote participation pursuant to AB 2449 for all meetings of the City Council and Planning Commission. City Manager Duggan offered three options to consider, including: 1) Continue the use of Zoom for all meetings of the City Council and Planning Commission and to comply with teleconferencing requirements as described in AB 2449; 2) Authorize the continued use of Zoom only when City Council members or Planning Commissioners are complying with the requirements of AB 2449; 3) Discontinue the use of Zoom for all meetings of the City Council and the Planning Commission (and all commissions, boards and committees) and only allow remote participation under the Brown Act's traditional, pre-pandemic teleconferencing rules. Staff conducted a brief survey to determine how many municipalities in the surrounding area exercise remote participation under AB 2449 for City Council meetings. Of the 14 municipalities contacted, three use AB 2449, eleven follow traditional Brown Act rules.

As public comment, seventeen people, including Germaine Miles, Michael Paisner, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Evan Sanford, Maria Bruner representing Assemblymember Eloise Reyes, Jen Kim, Felipe Albertao, Rudi Whitmore, Marcella Wallin, Valerie Taber, Laura Kreneck, Trisha Keeling, Ashley Williamson, Ryan, Eddie D., Amber, Gregory Brittain, and Jennifer

Maravillas spoke in support of continuing Zoom as a way to engage the public, promote equal and fair access, and they thought the benefits far outweighed any fears of hate speech from Zoom callers or any technical glitches that might be experienced. Several people said the City should be encouraging public participation, not discouraging it.

City Attorney Garcia added that speech, even hate speech, was protected under the 1st Amendment. Council Members voiced their perspectives and agreed that Zoom was a valuable tool for all kinds of people, including parents of young children and those whose work schedules prevented them from attending in person. They recognized the desired goal was to promote transparency and offer access to everyone, and there was added value as remote attendees were helping to reduce their carbon footprint.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, the City Council unanimously authorized, by roll call vote, the continued use of Zoom for all meetings of the City Council and Planning Commission and to comply with teleconferencing requirements as described in AB 2449.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

League of California Cities Annual Conference Voting Delegate

City Manager Duggan reviewed the need to designate a voting delegate and an alternate to the 2024 League of California Cities Annual Conference scheduled to occur October 16-18, 2024 in Long Beach.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Mayor Eddie Tejeda, the City Council unanimously designated, by roll call vote, Council Member Mario Saucedo to serve as the voting delegate; and designated Council Member Denise Davis to serve as the alternate voting delegate for the League of California Cities 2024 Annual Conference.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Mayor Tejeda called for a brief recess at 8:16 P.M. The meeting reconvened at 8:21 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Development Off-street Parking Facility for Trucks

Mayor Tejeda opened the public hearing and called on Principal Planner Sean Reilly, of Development Services, for a summary of Resolution No. 8606 related to applications for a four-acre parcel located at 2407 W. Lugonia Avenue within the Special Development (EV/SD) District of the East Valley Corridor Specific Plan, as submitted by the Applicant, LBA RVI-COMPANY XLVII, LLC. The applications included: 1) Planned Development No. 9, to establish permitted uses, conditionally permitted, and development standards consistent with the Commercial Industrial (EV/IC) District of the East Valley Corridor Specific Plan to allow development of an off-street parking facility for trucks, trailers, cabs and other fleet vehicles; and 2) Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 1194, for authorization to operate an off-street truck parking facility with existing on-site improvements (paving, storm water detention facilities, landscaping, site lighting, fencing and gate) and the construction of a proposed 310 square-foot guard house with restroom

facilities.

On April 23, 2024, the Planning Commission voted 5 to 0 recommending that the City Council approve Planned Development No. 9 and on May 28, 2024, the Commission voted 5 to 0 recommending that the Council approve CUP No. 1194. The applicant, represented by Jonathan Shardlow, addressed Council Member questions, stating the developer had been able to remedy noise complaints, and he thanked staff for their time and assistance. There were no written comments received and with no further discussion, Mayor Tejeda closed the public hearing.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, the project qualifies for exemption from environmental review in accordance with Section 15303 (New Construction of Small Structures) and 153332 (Infill Development) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines; and adopted Resolution No. 8606 to approve Planned Development No. 9 and Conditional Use Permit No. 9 for 2407 West Lugonia Avenue.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8571, Ordinance No. 2962, and Ordinance No. 2968 DIF Adjustments

Mayor Tejeda declared the meeting open as a public hearing and called on Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris for a report on Resolution No. 8571 which will adopt the Development Impact Fee (DIF) Nexus Study completed by DTA. Ordinance No. 2962 was prepared to amend the Redlands Municipal Code for public facilities (fire, police, library, and government), open space and parks, transportation improvements, storm drain facilities, water facilities, water rights, solid waste facilities, and sewer facilities. Ordinance No. 2962 determines that the specific amounts of fees for new development are to be established by the City Council. Ordinance No. 2968 was prepared to establish the specific amounts of DIF for new development. These ordinances apply to the Redlands Municipal Code's chapters 3.32, 3.44, 3.48, 3.54, 3.56, 3.60, 3.70, and 13.40, with a proposed effective date of sixty days after adoption of the ordinances.

The Nexus Study analyzed appropriate fees to fund additional infrastructure and services necessary to support new growth. The DIF study analyzed fees identified in the Redlands Municipal Code. The updated DIF study was prepared and finalized by David Taussig and Associates, Inc. (DTA) on May 2, 2024, and will update the 2017 and 2018 DIF studies. In addition to the fees analyzed in the 2017 and 2018 DIF studies, the proposed DIF study will also include updated fees for water facilities, solid waste facilities, sewer facilities, and acquisition of water stocks and water rights. The fees shall be evaluated periodically to ensure appropriate revenue is collected from development projects to support expanded services. Nehal Thumar and Andrea Roess, of DTA, responded to Council Member questions related to the DIF charges and the legal justification under the code. The study process established a baseline, considered facility needs, incorporated facility master plans and quantified impacts.

As public comment, Jonathan Shardlow, of NAIOP, said these were big policy decisions, and he asked the Council to hold off approval tonight to allow for more time to engage stakeholders. Ana Gromis, representing the Building Industry Association of Southern California (BIA), requested the Council amend the effective date of the proposed DIF update to begin on January 1, 2025,

rather than 60 days after adoption, as it would be unfair to add unanticipated costs to projects that are beginning construction or are currently in the later stages of review by planning and engineering staff. Steve Rogers complained that the City's facility master plans were not sufficient, as they were merely guidelines, and he thought the City was seriously undercharging for development impacts. James Brownyard, of Desert Valleys Builders Association, added they were still striving to understand the study results, and he pointed out the fees associated with water supply and the replacement fire station were listed incorrectly and should be corrected. Gregory Brittain opposed increasing fees, adding that California's median home price was 2nd highest in the nation. Two written comments were received from Jonathan Shardlow of NAIOP and Carlos Rodreguez of BIA, requesting the Council delay approval of the DIF Adjustments. With no further discussion, Mayor Tejeda closed the public hearing.

Council Members discussed several topics, including compliance with Measure U, the voter-approved measure relating to growth management, the consideration of delaying the effective date to January 1, 2025 and how that might affect projects currently in the pipeline, and establishing a set of new fees to address shortfalls. Any new fee adjustments would require an additional Nexus Study, and the report must include data supporting any changes.

On motion of Council Member Mario Saucedo, seconded by Mayor Eddie Tejeda, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that the adoption of Resolution No. 8571, and the introduction of Ordinance No. 2962, and Ordinance No. 2968 is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act; approved Resolution No. 8571, introduced Ordinance No. 2962; and introduced Ordinance No. 2968, verbally amending Section 13, setting the effective date to January 1, 2025, related to Development Impact Fees Adjustments.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Ordinance Nos 2964 and 2965 Water Utility and Wastewater Utility Rate Adjustments

Mayor Tejeda opened the public hearing and called on Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris for a presentation of Ordinance No. 2964 and Ordinance No. 2965 Amending Chapters 3.52 and 3.62 of the Redlands Municipal Code relating to Water Utility and Wastewater Utility Rate Adjustments. He offered background on the Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) and said the seven members of UAC worked with Municipal Utilities and Engineering (MUED) staff and the City's Utility Rate Consultant, Raftelis, to develop rate recommendations that provide adequate revenue to recover costs for services, are equitable to all customer classes, comply with state and federal laws, and are easily explained to customers. The UAC serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council.

The rate review process began by introducing the UAC to the MUED structure, water and wastewater utilities, and 6-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The UAC reviewed historic and projected operating, maintenance, and CIP costs necessary to provide high-quality services for Redlands' utility customers. Raftelis presented a financial analysis including multi-year revenue projections, target reserve balances, and annual labor and material cost escalations. Several rate scenarios were modeled and considered by the UAC which ultimately recommended the following revenue adjustments:

Potable Water Utility: 2% increase in FY 24/25; 2% increase in FY 25/26
Non-Potable Water Utility: 0% increase in FY 24/25; 0% increase in FY 25/26
Wastewater Utility: 10% increase in FY 24/25; 10% increase in FY 25/26

The increases will be applied to customer classifications proportionally based on the demands placed on each utility and will generate the additional revenue necessary to continue providing water and wastewater utility services for all Redlands customers.

On May 7, 2024, City Council adopted Resolution No. 8583, a notice of intent to increase water utility and wastewater utility rates and directed staff to issue a Public Hearing Proposition 218 notice and protest procedures detailed in Resolution No. 7128. The Proposition 218 notice and Resolution No. 7128 were mailed to each Redlands property owner and each water utility and wastewater utility customer on May 10, 2024. The notice provides rate increase protest directions, with one written protest per identified parcel or property to be counted for determining whether a majority protest exists.

As public comment, Elizabeth Longo, Mario Lopez, Gregory Brittain, Steve Rogers, and Jennifer Maravillas opposed the rate increases, citing the negative impacts on family budgets, especially on those with fixed incomes, and the outdated procedures for submitting a protest. Andy Hoder recalled a time when the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was facing a catastrophic failure, and he said that even though he didn't like the idea of higher rates, the WWTP needed to be fixed. UAC members Dick Corneille and Dan Jimenez defended the recommendations, explaining that there was not only the upfront cost of the WWTP Project itself, but there was also the cost of maintenance. Dennis Bell attributed the rate increase to failed leadership, and he pointed out the consultant estimated the total cost was \$110 million and not \$45 million as stated by staff. Director Harris responded by saying that yes, the ultimate total cost of the project was estimated at \$110 million, but the cost to perform the immediate needs was accurately stated at \$45 million.

City Clerk Donaldson informed the Council that 19,973 properties received a Proposition 218 notice with directions to make a formal protest. She announced that her office received 73 written protests declaring their opposition to a water and wastewater rate increase. This number is insufficient to meet the 50% plus one (or 11,172), required for a successful Proposition 218 protest to stop implementation of the new rates. With no further comments, the Mayor closed the hearing. Council Member discussion focused on concerns raised by public comments and the serious need to address the WWTP repairs. They asked staff to look into establishing an assistance program and to consider ways to effectively educate the community.

On motion of Council Member Denise Davis, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Ordinance No. 2964, and Ordinance No. 2965 to amend Redlands Municipal Code Chapters 3.52 and 3.62 relating to Water Utility and Wastewater Utility rate adjustments.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

NEW BUSINESS

Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update and Progress Report

Assistant Planner Jazmin Serrato, of Development Services, provided a brief overview of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Update and Progress Report related to the Climate Action Plan Update project. The two primary objectives of the Climate Action Plan Update are 1) To monitor/benchmark progress toward the 2030 and 2035 GHG reduction targets established in the City's 2017 Climate Action Plan, which was prepared concurrently with the 2035 General Plan and consistent with previous State GHG reduction goals; and 2) To update the 2017 Climate Action Plan to reflect the latest climate science and State guidance, as well as align with new City and State targets for 2030 and 2045. As a "qualified" GHG reduction plan, the updated Climate Action Plan will provide unified City actions, and CEQA clearance for streamlining future projects.

She introduced Mayu Tanaka, Senior Associate with Dyett & Bhatia for a more thorough and detailed update related to the GHG reduction goals and the potential GHG reduction strategies and policies. Her presentation was broken into three parts, including background and purpose, GHG progress report and discussion and suggestions for strategies. Through a series of slides, she offered case examples, key regulations taken since the City's 2017 CAP and provided a summary of framework strategies: 1) Transportation and natural gas remain the largest contributors; 2) Agencies cannot eliminate solid waste and wastewater emissions entirely, and reductions are somewhat limited; and 3) CARB recommends prioritizing strategies that electrify transportation, decarbonize buildings, and reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

As public comment, Michael Paisner offered a short history lesson about climate change, listing statistics, and added that these ideas are not new, and not radical, and he thanked the City for prioritizing this matter. Bruce Laycook raised several questions about the state's laws which have dramatically forced a reduction of rooftop solar, and he urged the Council to support any efforts to incentivize rooftop solar to help lower net electricity bills. Dick Corneille, of ANCA, fully supported the update report and said the group was looking forward to participating with the project in the future. Gregory Brittain said that climate change theory was a hoax and not based on real facts and the public was being forced to eliminate the use of their cars. Council Members voiced their appreciation of the very informative update.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, to accept and file the Climate Action Plan progress report.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Ordinance No. 2972 Levying Special Taxes CFD No. 2004-1

Development Services Director Desatnik presented Ordinance No. 2972 for levying special taxes within the City of Redlands Community Facilities District (CFD) No. 2004-1. The ordinance is required to levy the special tax in accordance with the California Streets and Highways Code, and it sets the maximum FY 24/25 CFD tax rates.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously introduced, by roll call vote, Ordinance No. 2972 levying special taxes within the City of Redlands Community Facilities District No. 2004-1.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Residential Refuse Bins Agreement

Facilities and Community Services Director Crocker reported on an agreement with Schaefer Plastics North America, LLC for supply and delivery of residential refuse bins for an amount not-to-exceed \$536,984.64 for a period of one year, with two additional one-year renewal options, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$1,610,953.92.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, an agreement with Schaefer Plastics North America, LLC for supply and delivery of residential refuse bins in an amount not-to-exceed \$536,984.64 for a period of one year, with two additional one-year renewal options, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$1,610,953.92.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Professional Services Agreement West Yost & Associates, Inc

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris introduced the Professional Services Agreement with West Yost & Associates, Inc. for recycled water, non-potable water, and cross-connection program support services with an initial term of one year and a value not-to-exceed \$355,000, with options to extend for two additional one-year terms for a total potential amount not-to-exceed \$1,065,000. Since only one bid was received, staff was requesting the Council approve an exception to Redlands Municipal Code, due to the fact that re-soliciting the bid was unlikely to yield different results, given the specialized nature of the services.

On motion of Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of the Professional Services Agreement with West Yost & Associates, Inc. is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; approved an exception to Redlands Municipal Code Section 2.16.180(B) and not require MUED staff to solicit additional Request for Bid; and approved the Professional Services Agreement with West Yost & Associates, Inc. for recycled water, non-potable water, and cross-connection program support services with an initial term of one (1) year and a value not-to-exceed \$355,000, with options to extend for two (2) additional one-year terms.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Joint Utility Laboratory Support Services Agreement

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris reviewed the Professional Services Agreement with Eurofins Eaton Analytical, LLC for support services at the Joint Utility Laboratory for a total potential amount not-to-exceed \$360,000.

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 Eurofins Eaton Analytical, LLC. 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 Professional Services Agreement with Eurofins Eaton Analytical, LLC for Joint Utility Laboratory support services for a total potential amount not-to-exceed \$360,000.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8609 Notice of Intent to Increase Solid Waste Utility Service Rates

Assistant City Manager Boatman offered background on Resolution No. 8609 to provide notice of intent to increase solid waste utility service rates and to direct staff to issue the required Proposition 218 notice establishing a public hearing date and location. The City periodically adjusts solid waste service rates to keep pace with the increasing cost of providing these services. The last time that the City reviewed Solid Waste Rates was 2017, and it has only adjusted solid waste rates ten times over the last thirty years. Garth Schultz, of R3 Consulting Group, Inc. presented a report detailing the methodology, findings, and recommendations related to the Solid Waste Service Enterprise Fund and associated solid waste service rates. Senate Bill (SB) 1383 is State of California legislation approved in 2016 that requires a reduction in organic waste (food waste, green waste, paper products, etc.) disposed of in landfills by seventy-five percent (75%), and an increase in edible food recovery by twenty percent (20%) by 2025.

Staff and R3 held two meetings with the Municipal Utilities Commission (Commission), on March 18, 2024 and April 15, 2024 to present draft findings and to receive feedback and recommendations. 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. Commission Chair Steve Stockton summarized the work of the Commission, adding that every member was very sensitive about increasing the rates, and they worked to drive down the slope with a goal of under 10%, which they were able to do. The Commission and staff recommended the following solid waste utility service rate increases:

Nine percent (9%) rate increase January 1, 2025; Nine percent (9%) rate increase January 1, 2026; Nine percent (9%) rate increase January 1, 2027; Four percent (4%) rate increase January 1, 2028.

As public comment, Andy Hoder asked if the City was generating any money on recyclables or was it a losing proposition. Assistant Director Boatman responded by saying the program used to be profitable but not any longer. He added that the City works with vendors who divert the recyclables instead of the materials going straight to the landfill. This is done in order to meet the diversion rates and be in compliance with the state.

On motion of Council Member Mario Saucedo, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that the adoption of Resolution No. 8609 is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; adopted Resolution No. 8609 providing notice of intent to increase solid waste utility service rates; and directed staff to issue the required Proposition 218 notice for a public hearing. The notice will set a public hearing date of September 3, 2024, at which time the City Council will consider a solid waste rate increase. Should the City Council approve the recommendation, rates will take effect in January 2025.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Council Member Saucedo and Mayor Pro Tem Barich thanked the Redlands Police Department for all the good work they are doing to engage the community and to build relationships.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further action required the meeting adjourned at 11:07 P.M. The next regular meeting of the City of Redlands City Council will be held on July 16, 2024.

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