

MINUTES

Special meeting of the City Council of the City of Redlands held in the Council Chambers, Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street, on August 22, 2023 at 4:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Eddie Tejeda, Mayor

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; Carl Baker, Public Information Officer; 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

Mayor Pro Tem Barich called the special 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 comments on any subject within the jurisdiction of the City Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

In Memory Of - Six people, including Samantha Trad, Jack MacPhee, Hannah Edmondson, Michael Paisner, Jonathan Shidler and Daria Cross expressed their sadness at the loss of Laura Ann "Lauri" Carleton, an ally of the LGBTQ+ community, who was recently shot during a dispute over a pride flag hanging outside her clothing store in Cedar Glen. They urged the Council to consider flying the pride flag in her honor.

Inclusionary Housing Program - Bruce Laycook reminded the Council there was still work to be done on the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance that was approved last month. He requested the Council consider removing language from the ordinance related to fulfilling the inclusionary housing requirements with moderate income housing, and he stated that accessible housing means housing that is affordable.

Redlands Bowl Music Festival & RUSD Superintendent - Dennis Bell said that despite signage stating there would be "No reserving of seats", "No smoking" and "No dogs" allowed, he complained there was an abundance of all of them during the Summer Music Festival. He added the meet and greet hosted by the RUSD to introduce the new district superintendent was not properly advertised to the general public.

COMMUNICATIONS

League of California Cities Annual Conference Voting Delegate

City Manager Duggan opened the discussion to consider designating a voting delegate and an alternate to the 2023 League of California Cities Annual Conference scheduled to occur September 20-22, 2023 in Sacramento.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Jenna Guzman-Lowery, the City Council designated, by roll call vote, Council Member Mario Saucedo to serve as the voting delegate; and designated Council Member Davis to serve as the alternate voting delegate for the League of California Cities 2023 Annual Conference.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

CITY COUNCIL PROJECTS REVIEW Study Session

City Manager Duggan provided a review of projects that were currently underway throughout the City, and he highlighted several more that were planned for this fiscal year. He briefly introduced nine projects that were previously identified by individual Council Members, and he explained he was seeking additional direction and possible prioritization of these projects, in order to best utilize finite staff time on items the full City Council wishes to pursue. Council Members spoke in support of each of their individual requests. City Manager Duggan added that Project Nos. 1, 8 and 9 (FRAN/Free Rides Around Neighborhood, Landscape Plan for Santa Ana River Trail Bluff and Developing options for building a parking structure at the current City Hall site) could be removed from this list, as staff was already working on these items. The six remaining projects included: #2-Ordinance to ban gas leaf blowers; #3-Bicycle sharing program; #4-Creation of a mental health response team; #5-Northside economic development/opportunity zones; #6-Broadband improvement in underserved areas of the city; and #7-Cannabis tax.

As a group, the Council discussed the merits of each of the other six projects and it was agreed there was enough support and interest to direct staff to pursue these projects. This included doing research associated with each one and preparing a report to present to Council at a future meeting. As public comment, Andy Hoder voiced concerns about the proposed project to ban gas leaf blowers, stating that this action would impact dozens and dozens of landscape companies. He pointed out that leaf blowers were not the only tools using gas and he asked the Council to consider all sides of the proposal before moving forward. Jennifer Maravillas supported the creation of a mental health response team and she stated that the City should consider the program currently in place in San Bernardino County. Michael Paisner liked the bicycle sharing program, but warned the city had no established infrastructure separating vehicles and bicycles, which he said would be necessary for a safe and successful program.

ADJOURNMENT

City Manager Duggan, Mayor Pro Tem Barich and Council Member Saucedo commended City staff for their tremendous efforts in response to the storm brought on by Hurricane Hillary last weekend. There being no further action the special meeting adjourned at 5:42 P.M.

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