

MINUTES

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Redlands held in the Council Chambers, Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street, on July 18, 2023 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; Yvette M. Abich Garcia, City Attorney; Jeanne Donaldson, City Clerk; 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 Assistant Director

Mayor Tejeda called the meeting to order and announced there were no closed session matters scheduled for the City Council to consider. The meeting was recessed at 5:00 P.M.

RECONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Due to technical difficulties with Zoom, the meeting reconvened at 7:00 P.M. with an invocation by Council Member Guzman-Lowery followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American flag. Shortly thereafter, technical difficulties forced the Mayor to call for another recess. The meeting reconvened at 7:15 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Freedom of Speech - Michael Paisner thanked Mayor Tejeda for defending his right to free speech during a Council meeting in May as he displayed the pride flag at the podium, but he was disappointed with the Mayor's overall voting record and thought it lacked consistency.

Redlands Theatre Festival - Paul Blatchley restated his request that the City consider renaming the Avice Meeker Sewall Theatre in honor of Cliff Cabanilla, who had recently passed away.

Post Employment Retiree Health Plan - Julie Neitzel raised several questions regarding the City's new methodology to administrate the post employment health plans for retirees. City Manager Duggan explained the City was working through Nationwide to create health medical accounts for employees and retirees. The mechanism was a way to be consistent with both groups and satisfy obligations with CalPers. He announced there would be an informational meeting on July 24, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

Technical difficulties continued to plague Zoom access for the public and City Attorney Garcia recommended the Council consider adjourning the meeting to a specific day and time to be in compliance with the Brown Act.

On motion of Council Member Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Davis, the City Council, by roll call vote, failed to agree to adjourn the meeting. It wasn't clear to everyone that zoom accessibility was limited.

Vote: 2 - 3 Failed

NAY: Council Member Saucedo, Mayor Pro Tem Barich, Mayor Tejeda

Council Members asked staff to verify whether remote attendees were able to participate in the meeting with full audio and video capabilities and once verified, it was clear there were technical difficulties preventing full participation.

On motion of Council Member Guzman-Lowery, seconded by Council Member Davis, the City Council, by roll call vote, agreed to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

ADJOURNMENT

With no further action required, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M. to July 25, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

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