

MINUTES

Special meeting of the City Council of the City of Redlands held in the Council Chambers, Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street, on May 25, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.

Present: Paul Barich, Mayor
Eddie Tejeda, Mayor Pro Tempore
Denise Davis, Council Member
Jenna Guzman-Lowery, Council Member
Mick Gallagher, Council Member

Staff: Charles M. Duggan, Jr., City Manager; Yvette M. Abich Garcia, City Attorney; Jeanne Donaldson, City Clerk; Janice McConnell, Assistant City Manager; Chris Boatman, Assistant City Manager; Carl Baker, Public Information Officer; Chris Catren, Police Chief; Danielle Garcia, Management Services/Finance Director; Brian Desatnik, Development Services Director; John Harris, Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director; Rich Sessler, Fire Chief; Don McCue, Library Director; James Garland, Assistant Finance Director

Mayor Barich called the meeting to order and announced this was conducted as a teleconference meeting in the City Council Chambers, Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street, Redlands, California. Council Member Guzman-Lowery was present via teleconferencing and all votes during the meeting were conducted by roll call. The Mayor explained that comments could be presented in-person, via Zoom, via cell phone or landline. He offered the public an opportunity to address them on any subject within the jurisdiction of the City Council, which is not already scheduled on the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Various Concerns - Dennis Bell said the ANCA presentation during the last Council Meeting encouraged everyone to plant trees to help blunt the heat effects of climate change, but he was concerned that people would plant trees that were not suited for this area. He suggested the City update the guidelines for landscape palettes recommended in the City to reflect the current and future realities of climate change. He thought the City didn't need any more citrus groves, and he wondered if the City should continue holding the Saturday Morning Market because it seemed to him that only half the vendors were showing up for the event.

NEW BUSINESS

Fourth of July Celebration

Assistant City Manager Boatman offered background on the request from the Redlands 4th of July Committee for an expenditure of \$30,000 and a request for in-kind support related to the fireworks show and 4th of July activities. On May 3, 2022 the Council considered the expenditure and, at the time, directed staff to provide alternative locations for the event, along with more detail concerning the overall costs. Staff researched the site viability of Redlands High School and University of Redlands, but it was determined that neither one would be able to accommodate this year's event. He added that financial support of this event serves as a public benefit by drawing visitors into the City, encouraging tourism and economic benefits as well as generating goodwill with the Redlands community.

Tim Murone, representing the 4th of July Committee, explained the University and the Committee were open to discussing the fireworks show at the University for next year with the City's continued support. He added the artificial turf at Citrus Valley High School prevented this location as a reasonable option. In-field seating will be offered at Moore, entrance tickets will be sold in advance and at the gate, continuing the tradition. Council Members raised questions and concerns including, the possibility of selecting a different firework's vendor, one that might consider holding the event at the Sports Park, the value of the fireworks show as a means to deter the use of illegal fireworks, parking and viewing spots and the real environmental impacts experienced by the human and animal population. Mayor Pro Tem Tejeda suggested that the City may need to step up their involvement since currently, the event relies solely on volunteers.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Mick Gallagher, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of the closure of E. Colton Avenue, Chapel Street, Stillman Avenue, E. High Avenue, Division Street, and 5th Avenue, and the Redlands 4th of July event, are all categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to Sections 15301(c) and 15323 of the state's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; authorized the temporary closure of E. Colton Ave., Chapel St., Stillman Ave., E. High Ave., Division St., and 5th Ave.; determined that the provision of \$30,000 to the Redlands 4th of July Committee for support of the 2022 4th of July Celebration event serves a public benefit because it promotes economic development and tourism within the City by attracting visitors from surrounding communities to participate in the event, provides a recreational activity that can be viewed by all residents, and goodwill within the community; approved an additional appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 and in-kind support of City resources in the amount of \$29,966; and authorized the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages during the event at Sylvan Park.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

FISCAL YEARS 2022-2024 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Proposed Budget Overview

City Manager Duggan and Management Services/ Finance Director Garcia summarized the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-24 Budgets. An overview of FY 2021-22 showed that the economy as a whole saw a significant turn towards pre-pandemic normalcy and was on a general path of recovery. The City's two main sources of General Fund revenue: sales and property tax have contributed positively and the passage of Measure T and the favorable reallocation of point-of-sale Amazon warehouse sales tax have also bolstered the sales tax revenue stream even further. Expenditure highlights included: Restored staffing for Police, Fire, Library & Facilities & Community Services; Restored capital equipment leases; Service Enhancements in police & fire; Tree trimming 25% of the City's urban forest; 3 replacement fire engine purchases; Acquired 300 East State Street as future City Hall; and Acquired future site for Redlands Police Department offices.

The financial outlook for the General Fund was expected to end the fiscal year at June 30, 2023 and 2024 with revenues and expenditures balanced. The Proposed Budgets provided for pandemic-related cuts to be fully reversed, with the addition of new staffing and enhanced service delivery. The Budgets included funding for: Major capital improvement projects; Homelessness

Solutions; Deferred maintenance needs of public buildings and infrastructure; Public safety facilities, vehicles, equipment, & technology; and Establishing reserve funds designated for future planning efforts

Forecasted revenue for FY 2023 was presented. Highlights included the projection that the local and regional economy will be bolstered by strong consumer demand; Sales Tax was anticipated to be steady, but slower than the recovery following the COVID-19 recession; Property Tax growth of 4.1% in assessed value, but it was added that inflation and interest rates will remain a concern. Debt financing in FY 2023 was scheduled to fund the Renovation of former Kmart site into new Safety Hall, Construction of two new fire stations, Relocation of a third fire station, Purchase three fire apparatus / engines. Other Major Capital Spending was represented in a State Infrastructure Grant match for Library renovations, Downtown Event & Gateway Improvements, a Remodel of the City's Emergency Operations Center, and Traffic & Parking Improvements.

An overview of FY 2024 Revenue Assumptions was reviewed showing that local and regional economic growth begins to slow as a result of slowing consumer demand, rising interest rates; Sales Tax projected to be steady, but slower growth anticipated; Property Tax expected to show a healthy growth of 6.8% in assessed value, due to new construction and CPI adjustments. Expenditure details included: Enhanced public safety service levels; Service Enhancements and Capital and Maintenance spending and projected Measure T funds for FY 2023 and 2024 were detailed.

Following the overview, department heads discussed their FY 2022-2023 budgeted revenues and expenditures requests and responded to several questions from the Council. The City Council will continue its discussion of the proposed budget at its regular meeting of June 7, 2022 with possible adoption and if needed, continued budget discussion and adoption at its regular meeting of June 21, 2022.

As public comment, Dennis Bell complimented staff for their hard work on the budget, but he suggested certain details were missing, especially regarding in-kind requests and the future expenses associated with the Museum. He urged for more accountability and transparency with these matters, and he thought the Budget painted too rosy of a financial picture.

Each Council Member praised staff and expressed their appreciation of the effort put towards the Proposed Budget.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further action required the special meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

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