

MINUTES

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Redlands held in the Council Chambers, Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street, on February 18, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.

Present: Mario Saucedo, Mayor
Marc Shaw, Mayor Pro Tempore
Paul Barich, Council Member
Eddie Tejeda, Council Member
Denise Davis, Council Member

Staff: Charles M. Duggan, Jr., City Manager; Yvette M. Abich Garcia, City Attorney; 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; 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 Saucedo called the meeting to order and announced there were no closed session matters scheduled for the City Council to consider. The meeting recessed at 5:00 P.M.

RECONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting reconvened at 6:00 P.M. with an invocation by Council Member Davis. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was conducted by Mariposa Elementary School Friendly Helpers.

PRESENTATIONS

Black History Month Proclamation

Council Member Tejeda presented Proclamations in celebration of Black History Month to Human Relations Commissioners Ken Ford and Gail Howard.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Oppose Zero-Emissions Appliances - Dr. Dale Broome and Joshua Hall spoke against proposals by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Rule 1111 and Rule 1121, that they say will effectively ban natural gas water heaters and home furnaces in Southern California. Their concerns included the burdensome cost on homeowners, the veracity of the claims these mandates will reduce air pollution, and the need to preserve consumer choice. They recommended incentive-based approaches that allow homeowners to transition at a manageable pace, with rebates and tax credits. They urged the Council to consider passing a resolution or sending a letter in opposition to the SCAQMD proposals.

Support Zero-Emissions Appliances - Michael Paisner stated that carbon dioxide has been known for decades as a key contributor to climate change, increasing atmospheric levels of CO2, and he supported the two SCAQMD proposed measures for transitioning to zero-emissions appliances.

Mayor Pro Tem Shaw requested staff prepare a report regarding the two SCAQMD proposals, Rule 1111 and Rule 1121, in order to provide relevant details to Council so they can make an informed

decision whether to support the proposals or not. City Manager Duggan agreed to report back on March 18, 2025.

Blue Zones Health 10-Week Walk Event - Alex Barajas, of Blue Zones Health, invited everyone to join a kick-off event on February 22 at Brookside Park for a 10-week walking program to promote physical activity and boost brain power and social connection.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes

On motion of Council Member Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the regular meeting minutes of February 4, 2025.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Planning Commission Appointments

On motion of Council Member Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously appointed, by roll call vote, Emily Elliott to serve a four-year term on the Planning Commission ending January 6, 2029; and appointed Mark Stanson to serve the remainder of a four-year term ending on January 6, 2027.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Street Tree Committee Appointments

On motion of Council Member Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously appointed, by roll call vote, Thomas Guarneri and Aaron Odland to each serve a four-year term on the Street Tree Committee ending February 16, 2029.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Settlement Agreement Disclosure

On motion of Council Member Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the public disclosure of details of an Agreement of Settlement and Release of Claims between the City of Redlands and CEM Construction Corporation (CEM). Under the terms of the agreement, the City agrees to pay CEM the sum of \$475,000, in exchange for a full release and waiver of all claims as to the City of Redlands to settle a public works contract claim filed by CEM for the 2022 CIP Sewer Pipeline Replacement Project.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

On-Call Affordable Housing Consulting Agreement

On motion of Council Member Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the sole source Professional Services Agreement with Keyser Marston Associates, Inc., for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$35,000, to provide on-call affordable housing consulting services.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Traffic Signal Video Detection Units

On motion of Council Member Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the sole source purchase order for the purchase of five (5) Iteris video detection units for the traffic signals from Iteris, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$136,280.61.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

CalRecycle Grant Award

On motion of Council Member Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously accepted, by roll call vote, the grant award from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) in the amount of \$194,451 for projects related to the implementation of the Short-Lived Climate Action (SLCP) SB 1383; and approved an additional appropriation of the same.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Amending Agreement Audit Services Sales, Use and Transaction Tax Revenue

On motion of Council Member Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the First Amendment to the agreement for audit services for sales, use and transaction tax revenue with Hinderliter de Llamas & Associates for an amount not-to-exceed \$10,000.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

FY2022 Homeland Security Grant Award Acceptance

On motion of Council Member Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously accepted, by roll call vote, the grant award and grant modification from the FY2022 Homeland Security Grant Program; and approved an additional appropriation of \$19,065 to the Police Department.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

COMMUNICATIONS

Land Use Decision-Making Summarized

At the request of Council Member Tejeda, City Attorney Garcia summarized a joint City Council and Planning Commission workshop training held on October 8, 2024, related to roles and responsibilities in land use decision-making.

Topic areas she reviewed included:

A) The responsibilities of the City Council and Planning Commission in land use decisions. The City Council is the legislative body of the City. The Council adopts the general plan and makes laws related to land use and zoning. It is also the reviewing body for appeals of Planning Commission decisions. The Planning Commission is the “planning agency” for the City. It prepares, reviews and recommends to the City Council revisions to legislation, such as the general plan and zoning code, and implements the general plan and zoning code in its review of project applications. It also serves in a “quasi-adjudicatory” role in reviewing and deciding discretionary land use applications for Conditional Use Permits (“CUPs”), Variances, Site Plans, and other discretionary actions as designated by City ordinance.

B) Legislative Decisions: When the Planning Commission acts in a legislative role, it is recommending changes to land use rules and policies, such as changes to the general plan and the zoning code, which has impacts city-wide. For legislative decisions, the Planning Commission's authority is only advisory; meaning, that the Planning Commission makes recommendations to the City Council regarding changes to land use rules and policies, with the Council making the final decision.

C) Quasi-Adjudicative Decisions: When the Planning Commission (or the City Council on appeal) acts in a “quasi-adjudicatory” role, it is acting as “judge” applying the City’s existing land use standards to a property owner’s request to use their property or business in a certain way. The task of the Planning Commission is to determine whether the proposed use complies with the City’s current general plan and zoning laws and standards. As “judge”, Planning Commissioners must make decisions based on what the rules are today. Changes to such rules must go through the legislative process.

D) Findings: When acting in a quasi-adjudicatory role, the decision of the Planning Commission (or the City Council on appeal) on CUPs, Variances and Site Plans must be based on the established standards or criteria that are set forth in the zoning code. Using these standards, the Planning Commission must adopt written “findings” to support its decision. Findings are written explanations of why, legally and factually, the Planning Commission made a particular decision. Findings provide the analysis on how the Planning Commission weighed and applied the evidence presented to reach its final conclusion.

E) Best Practices for Quasi-Adjudicatory Decision-Making: Avoid bias. Bias of a decision-maker requires a Commissioner (or Council Member on appeal) to abstain from the decision. Ms. Garcia provided examples of actual bias that would warrant abstention.

F: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The training addressed when an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required for a project. An EIR is a detailed report written by the lead agency describing and analyzing the significant environmental effects of a proposed project, identifying alternatives and discussing ways to reduce or avoid the possible environmental impacts.

As public comment, Michael Paisner said there are ways for consultants to achieve a desired result when reviewing development projects and conducting initial studies. He added that little details can make a big difference, and he reminded the Council they have the power to deny a project, including warehouse projects. Council Member Davis asked staff for an update on the request to ban warehouses from the City of Redlands.

On motion of Mayor Mario Saucedo, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously received and filed, by roll call vote, the report of the City Council and Planning Commission training held on October 8, 2024, related to roles and responsibilities in land use decision-making.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

SCE Wildfire Mitigation Report

City Manager Duggan introduced Southern California Edison's Government Relations Manager, Mark Cloud, who presented an overview of SCE's wildfire mitigation efforts and the recent Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). His report included information regarding the role of SCE, wildfire-related regulations, the state's specific wildfire issues of hotter, drier conditions, and strong winds. He reviewed SCE's wildfire mitigation efforts, including grid hardening, advanced technology for fire prevention, public safety power shutoffs, Emergency Operations Center, Community Resource Centers and the ways in which SCE is learning and growing to more effectively implement safety protocols. He concluded by saying that SCE's commitment is wildfire prevention and grid safety, and he encouraged everyone to be prepared, stay informed and use SCE valuable resources. Visit SCE wildfire safety website and sign up for alerts to stay informed.

As public comment, Dennis Bell complained that his power had been shutoff, with no notification, during the Pacific Palisades/Eaton fires, and he thought there was no rhyme or reason to the implementation and duration of the shutoffs. He added that rate payers should not have to pay for any SCE equipment damage due to the recent fires. Michael Paisner urged the City Council to approve projects for undergrounding utility lines. Council Members thanked Mr. Cloud and expressed their appreciation of SCE's continued desire to improve their wildfire mitigation efforts to keep everyone safe.

Human Relations Commission by Commission Annual Report

Commission Chair Ken Ford offered the Annual Report of the Human Relations Commission, listing activities and accomplishments for 2024 that included, hosting the Health and Wellness Fair event, providing the community with various resources for their health and mental wellness and

participating in a meeting with City Manager Duggan to review and clarify projects planned for the upcoming year. Commissioner Roop Goyal provided a presentation on the genocide of Hindus and other religious minorities in Bangladesh and prepared a proclamation condemning those actions. The Commission has several ideas and projects lined up for 2025 including, "Run Around Redlands", collaborating with other community groups, celebrating various cultural holidays, and presenting various workshops of interest in the community. Council Members thanked Chair Ford and all his fellow commissioners for their dedication and service.

NEW BUSINESS

Security Fencing Installation for Water Facilities

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris described the Non-Professional Services Agreement with EverFence Corporation for the Water Facilities Security Fencing Installation Project for an amount not-to-exceed \$2,239,918.85. Carollo Engineers, Inc. recently completed a Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) and prepared an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for the City's water utility infrastructure in accordance with requirements mandated by the America Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA). The goal of the RRA was to identify potential security threats and opportunities to improve defense strategies. The RRA recommends the installation of perimeter security fencing at all water treatment facilities and groundwater well sites to enhance the physical security of the City's most critical water infrastructure assets.

On motion of Council Member Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Eddie Tejeda, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of a Non-Professional Services Agreement with EverFence Corporation is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15301 of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; approved the Security Fencing Installation Project plans and specifications; and approved a Non-Professional Services Agreement with EverFence Corporation.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Mayor Saucedo participated in the Memorial Walk for the Cinnamon Creek shooting, attended the SBCTA meeting, the Chamber's annual Civic Awards and Installation Dinner, the Human Relations Commission, the California Cities subcommittee meeting, and the Redlands Disaster Council. He enjoyed the activities in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the "Total Wine" grand opening event, the Sacred Heart School Career Day and a ride-along offered by Fire Station No. 3.

Mayor Pro Tem Shaw participated in the ribbon cutting hosted by the Chamber of Commerce congratulating the Redlands Police Officers Association as the newest Chamber member. He praised Speaker, Chris Singleton, who spoke a message promoting unity and respect which was hosted by the Kiwanis Club. He attended the 93rd Watchorn Lincoln Dinner event at the Orton Center, and the Compact Club February dinner mixer.

Council Member Barich enjoyed the 93rd Watchorn Lincoln Dinner event at the Orton Center, attended the Compact Club February dinner mixer, and participated in the ribbon cutting hosted by the Chamber of Commerce congratulating the Redlands Police Officers Association as the newest Chamber member.

Council Member Tejeda participated in the ribbon cutting hosted by the Chamber of Commerce congratulating the Redlands Police Officers Association as the newest Chamber member.

Council Member Davis held the February Youth Council meeting at Fire Station No. 1, which included a tour hosted by Battalion Chiefs Josh Hannan and Dave Denman.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further action required the meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M. The next regular meeting of the City of Redlands City Council will be held on March 4, 2025.