

MINUTES

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Redlands held in the Council Chambers, Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street, on March 4, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.

Present: Mario Saucedo, Mayor
Paul Barich, Council Member
Eddie Tejeda, Council Member
Denise Davis, Council Member

Absent: Marc Shaw, Mayor Pro Tempore

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 Foote, City Planner/Planning Manager; 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 explained that comments could be presented in-person, via Zoom, via cell phone or landline and offered the public an opportunity to provide comment on any item on the agenda for the closed session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None forthcoming

CLOSED SESSION

Conference with legal council - Anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(2) and (e)(3):

A point has been reached where, in the opinion of the legislative body of the local agency on the advice of its legal counsel, based on existing facts and circumstances, there is a significant exposure to litigation against the local agency, based on the receipt of a written claim dated April 30, 2024, from Adam Meyers, legal counsel for Armstrong Cal Builders, Inc., to the City Clerk threatening litigation (copy available for public inspection in City Clerk's Office).

Conference with legal counsel: Anticipated Litigation - Government Code §54956.9(d)(2)(e)(2) (Assistant City Manager McConnell)

One Case:

a. Facts and circumstances: Consideration of Workers Compensation claim filed by Leslie Martinez.

RECONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting reconvened at 6:00 P.M. Council Member Davis announced that she was unable to attend the meeting in person but would be participating via teleconference under AB 2449 "Just Cause", due to traveling for a public agency. This is the first of two allowable Just Cause exceptions for her under AB 2449. Council Member Barich offered the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was conducted by Franklin Elementary School Expanded Learning Opportunity Program Students.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

City Attorney Garcia announced that no reportable action was taken during the closed session, during which Mayor Pro Tem Shaw and Council Member Davis were absent.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation Women's History Month

Mayor Saucedo presented a Proclamation declaring March 2025 as Women's History Month to Erica Turley, representing Kim Turley, with the Blessing Center - Houses of Hope Transitional Homes for children and their mothers.

Proclamation Development Disabilities Awareness Month

Mayor Saucedo presented a Proclamation declaring March 2025 as Development Disabilities Awareness Month to the Von's Grocery Store Manager, Joe Clarkson.

City Council Recognition for Supporting Redlands Bicycle Classic

Scott Welsh, representing the Redlands Bicycle Classic, thanked the Council Members and recognized the tremendous support the City has provided over the many years of the Classic's rich history, beginning in 1985. As a reminder of what the bike race means, he and other Classic Board Members presented to Council a miniature replica of the 'Peloton Takes the Curve' sculpture, currently located on Garden Avenue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Water Exchange Entitlement Agreements - Chris Sedmack, the owner of a private citrus grove that has been in production since 1886 and is supplied with water by Redlands Water Company shares, expressed concerns about the future of the citrus industry in Redlands. She said it appeared that city staff was attempting to initiate terminations of historical water exchange agreements.

Water Delivery Protections - Susan Swenson Brookes and Bobby Whitmore, owners of parcels that were previously a part of the England Grove, were concerned that the water delivery system currently in place, could be terminated, and ultimately cause significant damage to the original grove. They pushed for the Council to honor the water exchange entitlement agreements and make citrus preservation a priority.

Water Rights Protections - Sean L. Smith described how individual water rights, through Redlands Water Company, have been instrumental for decades in supplying the necessary water to his family's grove located on Olive Avenue. Without these shares and the delivery system, the family grove would suffer severe impacts, as would other private groves.

City Manager Duggan suggested Ms. Brookes and Mr. Whitmore contact his office in order to discuss their concerns. He added that, to his awareness, the City had not rescinded any water exchange entitlement agreements.

Water Rights & Water Shares - David Armstrong, Vice President of the California Association of Mutual Water Companies (CalMutuals) and a Redlands resident, cited how the city had been built by

mutual water companies, and he stressed their historical value. He raised questions related to the South Mountain Water shares sale from last year and said he was still looking for answers.

Litigation - Andy Hoder urged the Council to stand up to threats of litigation and to "push back" if a developer or contractor attempts to scare the city. They should not submit to their demands.

Opposition to Zero-Emissions Appliances - Dale Broome reviewed the proposals by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Rule 1111 and Rule 1121, that he said will effectively ban natural gas water heaters and home furnaces in Southern California and be an economic burden on homeowners and agencies, alike. He recommended the Council approve a resolution or draft a letter in opposition to the SCAQMD proposals.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the minutes of the regular meeting of February 18, 2025.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Proclamation March 2025 Women's History Month

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously authorized, by roll call vote, the issuance of a proclamation declaring the month of March 2025 as Women's History Month.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Proclamation March 2025 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously authorized, by roll call vote, the issuance of a proclamation declaring the month of March 2025 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Appointments

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously reappointed, by roll call vote, Scott Carlson and Joann Lessard to each serve an additional four-year term on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission ending March 1, 2029.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Development Agreements Annual Review

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously accepted, by roll call vote, the report for the annual review of approved Development Agreements and determined that the applicants, Mountainview Power Company LLC, Redlands Community Hospital, Cal-Red Facility LLC, VPV State Street Village LLC, and Esri, are in compliance with the terms of their respective Development Agreements; and approved the preparation of a Certificate of Compliance.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Redlands Bicycle Classic In-Kind Request

Facilities and Community Services Director Crocker introduced a request for in-kind support in the amount of \$127,207.78 related to the Redlands Bicycle Classic event scheduled for April 9-13th, 2025 and hosted by the Redlands Bicycle Classic, Inc. As public comment, Dennis Bell stated the event's sponsors should be footing the bill and not the taxpayer. He thought the attendance numbers in the staff report were inflated, and he said the funding dollars should be directed to more important, critical needs facing the city.

On motion of Council Member Paul Barich, seconded by Council Member Eddie Tejeda, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that authorization for the items associated with the Redlands Bicycle Classic to be held April 9th through April 13th, 2025 are exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15311(c) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; authorized and approved the expenditure of city resources and in-kind support in the amount of \$127,708.78 for the Redlands Bicycle Classic to be held April 9th through April 13th, 2025; authorized and approved the temporary street closures as detailed in the staff report for the Redlands Bicycle Classic to be held April 9th through April 13th, 2025; and authorized and approved the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages at the event, to be located at the 6th Street parking structure, during the Redlands Bicycle Classic, to be held April 9th through April 13th, 2025.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

KId's Cures Foundation Downtown Artwalk In-Kind Request

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of the Downtown Redlands Artwalk, hosted by Kid Cures Foundation on March 30, 2025, is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15311(c) of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; and authorized and approved the expenditure of city resources and in-kind support in the amount of \$7,944 and approved the temporary street closures as detailed in the staff report.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Amending Code Enforcement Services Agreement

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the First Amendment to the Agreement with Willdan Engineering for Code Enforcement Services to increase the total agreement amount from \$160,000 to an amount not to exceed \$185,000.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8666 Grant Acceptance CA Dept of Parks and Recreation

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8666 and accepted the grant award from the California Department of Parks and Recreation of \$221,685.00 for projects related to the implementation of the Per Capita Program; and approved an additional appropriation of the same.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8661 DOT Temporary Easements

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8661, authorizing the City Manager or his designee, to sign California Department of Transportation contracts related to the granting of certain temporary construction easements and a portion of East Lugonia Avenue in fee and in fee estate.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8667 City's Community Wildfire Protection Plan

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8667 relating to the City of Redlands Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which will help safeguard lives, property, and natural resources while ensuring the city remains eligible for state and federal wildfire prevention grants.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8665 Statement of Investment Policy

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8665 establishing a Statement of Investment Policy and Rescinding Resolution No. 8446.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8664 Delegating Investment Authority to City Treasurer

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8664 delegating investment authority to the City Treasurer pursuant to Government Code Section 53607.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Purchase of Internet Services Provider

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the sole source purchase with Spectrum for Internet services in the amount of \$1,218 per month totaling \$73,080 over five years.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

COMMUNICATIONS

16th Annual Community Day of Service

Mayor Saucedo invited everyone to participate in the 16th Annual Community Day of Service on March 15, 2025, at Sylvan Park. He pointed out this event evolved out of a long-standing partnership between Redlands Service Club Council "RSCC" and the City. It occurs every Spring, bringing volunteers together to complete vital community projects. Shelli Stockton and Judy Cannon, representing the Service Club Council, highlighted past projects, including the construction of outdoor amphitheater seating in Heritage Park and the installation of 25,000 sq. ft of sod at a new ballfield in Beal Park. They were pleased to announce that this year all volunteers work will occur at Sylvan Park with a focus on several key improvements.

Cultural Arts Commission Annual Report

Commissioner Brian Ball provided the Annual Report of the Cultural Arts Commission, identifying Commission members and the Commission's Mission and Initiatives. These include efforts to collaborate and promote public interest in the arts, recommend new art programs, and recommend policies to encourage, develop, and support the Arts in Redlands. Initiatives consist of the Art on Loan Program, the Redlands Eco Arts Community Home (REACH), participation in the Art and Culture Master Plan development, and ongoing collaboration with local business owners to preserve and promote access to the arts. Future goals listed were consideration of an art gallery at the new city hall, Creative Makers Space for arts educational activities, artist-designed light fixtures and increased use of murals throughout the city. Council Member Davis thanked Commissioner Ball and expressed her appreciation of the Commission's work.

Municipal Utilities and Public Works Commission Annual Report

Vice Chairperson "CV" Chandrasekar Venkatraman presented the Annual Report of the Municipal Utilities and Public Works Commission. He highlighted the Commission's role and listed numerous activities and accomplishments that included project review of the Pavement Management Program, Groundwater Well and Booster Pump Rehabilitation, Waterline Replacement, Wastewater Replacement and Slip-Lining Projects, Water System SCADA expansion, Citywide Water Meter replacement and Citywide Sidewalk/ADA Ramp Replacement Project. Goals set out for 2025 include, WWTP Improvement – Phase 2 construction start, California Street Recycled Water Pipeline Extension, continued groundwater well rehabilitations, and the Tate Water Treatment Plan Influent Pipeline Replacement Project construction.

As public comment, Susan Swenson Brookes indicated that transparency and accountability create trust, and, in her opinion, the public currently lacks trust in the city. She disputed the report's statement of goals listed on page 7, regarding the resolution of mutual water company delivery shortfalls. George Hanson, Bear Valley Mutual Water Company General Manager, submitted a letter signed by multiple water company heads, stating they do not believe that any water delivery shortfall actually exists. He said the City continues to misunderstand the nature of its entitlement to water, and if a shortfall did exist, they claim the fault is due to the City's own inability to collect the water during times when it is made available by the mutual water companies.

Citywide Classification and Compensation Process

Human Resources/Risk Management Director Meteau introduced Bob Longmire of Public Sector Personnel Consultants to discuss their work related to the Citywide Classification and Compensation study. On January 21, 2025, the City Council approved a professional services agreement with Public Sector Personnel Consultants to conduct a comprehensive citywide classification and compensation study. This study aims to evaluate the City's job classifications, compensation structure, and overall alignment with industry standards and organizational needs. He provided an overview of the study and key phases, and explained the process will involve data collection, analysis, and stakeholder engagement to ensure a thorough and objective assessment. Regular updates will be provided to keep the Council informed, and final recommendations will be presented upon completion of the study, with a time estimate of early fall.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Appeal DSD Approval Reasonable Accommodation No. 19

Mayor Saucedo declared the meeting open as a Public Hearing and announced this item was initially introduced at the February 4, 2025, City Council meeting, but in order to accommodate to the auditory needs of the appellant, the matter was continued to tonight. The Mayor called on City Planner/Planning Manager Brian Foote for a report on the Appeal of the Development Services Director's approval of Reasonable Accommodation No. 19, a request to allow one support animal on a residential property located at 521 South Fourth Street, filed by Appellant, Terra Bird. Redlands Municipal Code (RMC) Chapter 18.06 allows any person with a disability to submit an application for Reasonable Accommodation to modify or alleviate any zoning code, law, regulation, procedure, or policy that is preventing, or will prevent, the applicant's use and enjoyment of the subject property. In this case, the application requested approval for one small support animal to be kept at the subject property (within the house and the rear yard of the property). After carefully evaluating all information and materials submitted with the application, the Director determined that all four Findings, as required by RMC Section 18.06.070, were satisfactorily addressed and there was no compelling reason or other basis to deny the application.

The Appellant, Terra Bird, provided her reasons for appealing the accommodation and said her neighbors are non-compliant with the zoning regulations. The chicken roams freely throughout their backyard and the chicken's nesting hutch, food and water are left outside, which attracts wildlife, such as rodents. This directly affects her because of possible health concerns. Additionally, she felt the Fair Housing Act was misinterpreted and inappropriately applied to her neighbor's personal situation. Zayanne Thompson, the Applicant requesting the accommodation, stated her emotional support chicken lives indoors in the area where she works. The chicken allows Ms. Thompson to relax and focus on her job, and she is not comfortable without the support bird.

As public comment, Luke Reading, a neighbor living on the street, said he never knew Ms. Thompson had a chicken as a support animal. He added the chicken was docile, quiet and he supported the reasonable accommodation decision. Four written comments were received, recommending the Appeal be denied, and the Council adopt Resolution No. 8660, upholding Reasonable Accommodation No. 19. As rebuttal, Ms. Bird pointed out the matter before the Council tonight was not about any personal disputes but instead, only about the chicken.

Mr. Foote explained that the City was correct in determining that the Fair Housing Act (FHA) was applied appropriately. The FHA, and the corresponding state law, allow for reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities, including the need for support animals. The applicant's request for a support animal was evaluated strictly within the framework of those laws.

The Mayor closed the public hearing. Council Member Tejeda suggested revising the Conditions of Approval, as a way to resolve any issues. Council Member Barich visited the neighborhood but didn't see or hear any evidence of the presence of a chicken. Council Member Davis agreed with staff and said the appeal should be denied based on federal and state law.

On motion of Council Member Denise Davis, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8660 denying the Appeal and upholding the decision of the Development Services Director, and hereby affirming the approval of Reasonable Accommodation No. 19 located at 521 South Fourth Street.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

NEW BUSINESS

Amending Third-Party Liability Claims Administration Agreement

Human Resources/Risk Management Director Meteau reviewed the Second Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with George Hills Company, Inc. increasing annual compensation and bringing the total compensation to an amount not to exceed \$394,333.32 to provide third-party liability claims administration.

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Mayor Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the Second Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with George Hills Company, Inc. increasing annual compensation and bringing the total compensation to an amount not to exceed \$394,333.32 to provide third-party liability claims administration.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Ordinance No. 2979 Business Licenses Amending Chapter 5.04

Management Services/Finance Director Garcia summarized the proposed changes found in Ordinance No. 2979 to amend Chapter 5.04 of the Redlands Municipal Code relating to Business Licenses, seeking to clarify and revise ambiguous language. The ordinance would standardize business license payment schedules to align renewal periods with the calendar year to match the gross receipt schedule, and ensure clear communication, promoting a more efficient process, and eliminating confusion and inconsistency regarding renewal dates. Mayor Saucedo commended Director Garcia and her staff for their work in developing this ordinance to simplify and clarify the code.

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously introduced, by roll call vote, Ordinance No. 2979 amending Chapter 5.04 of the Redlands Municipal Code, standardizing business license payment schedules to align with the calendar year and clarifying ambiguous language.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Ordinance No. 2980 Business Licenses Amending Chapter 5.08

Management Services/Finance Director Garcia explained Ordinance No. 2980 to amend and restate Chapter 5.08 of the Redlands Municipal Code relating to Business Licenses to require most businesses to apply for and pay for business licenses on a calendar-year basis, while also addressing and revising language inconsistencies between sections.

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously introduced, by roll call vote, Ordinance No. 2980 to amend and restate Chapter 5.08 of the Redlands Municipal Code relating to Business Licenses.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Contract Award Recycled Water Pipeline Extension for CA Street Orange Groves Project

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris described the Public Works Construction Contract with Q&E Pipeline Company for the Recycled Water Pipeline Extension for California Street Orange Groves Project for an amount not-to-exceed \$629,664. Mayor Saucedo thanked Director Harris for moving this project forward.

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Mayor Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of the contract and construction of the Recycled Water Pipeline Extension for California Street Orange Groves Project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15303 of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; approved an additional appropriation in the amount of \$506,843; approved the Recycled Water Pipeline for California Street Orange Groves Project plans and specifications; and awarded a Public Works Construction Contract to Q&E Pipeline Company for an amount not to exceed \$629,664.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Contract Award Citywide Pavement Repairs

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris presented a \$669,000 Public Works Construction Contract with Onyx Paving Company, Inc. for citywide pavement repairs related to utility repairs. It is anticipated that the Project will be completed within 240 working days after a Notice To Proceed is issued.

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Mayor Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously determined, by roll call vote, that approval of a \$669,000 Public Works Construction Contract with Onyx Paving Company, Inc. for citywide pavement repairs related to utility repairs is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15301 of the State's guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act; approved the \$469,000 additional appropriation from the Water Fund; and approved the 2025 Citywide Pavement Repair for Water Utilities project specifications, and Public Works Construction Contract with Onyx Paving Company, Inc. in the amount of \$669,000.

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Mayor Saucedo attended the Lincoln Pilgrimage, Planning Commission interviews, Civics Day, Inland Empire Caucus, the Lincoln Dinner, SBCTA General Board Meeting and study sessions, Redlands Service Club Council, Redlands Area Interfaith event and the groundbreaking event for the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church. He participated in a recycled water meeting with Director Harris, the Blue Zones Health Walk event at Brookside Park, met with Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, met with City Treasurer Doolittle, attended a meeting with Police Chief Tolber and FCS Director Crocker, and the new installation of the Family Service Association Board Members.

Council Member Barich attended the groundbreaking event for the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church and School and is looking forward to reading to the students at Smiley Elementary School later in the week.

Council Member Tejeda attended the groundbreaking event for the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic

Church and School.

Council Member Davis participated in the Blue Zones Health Walk event held at Brookside Park and attended the recent Climate Policy Action Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further action required the meeting adjourned at 8:11 P.M. The next regular meeting of the City of Redlands City Council will be held on March 18, 2025.