

MINUTES

Special joint meeting of the City Council and the Planning Commission of the City of Redlands held in the Council Chambers, Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street, on October 8, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

Present: Eddie Tejeda, Mayor
Paul Barich, Mayor Pro Tempore
Denise Davis, Council Member
Jenna Guzman-Lowery, Council Member
Mario Saucedo, Council Member
Karah Shaw, Planning Chair
Matthew Endsley, Planning Vice Chair
Rosemary Gonzales, Planning Commissioner
Maryn Wells, Planning Commissioner
Marc Shaw, Planning Commissioner
Rich Smith, Planning Commissioner

Absent: Conrad Guzkowski, Planning Commissioner

Staff: Charles M. Duggan, Jr., City Manager; Yvette M. Abich Garcia, City Attorney; Jeanne Donaldson, City Clerk; Chris Boatman, Assistant City Manager; Brian Desatnik, Development Services Director

Mayor Tejeda and Chairperson Shaw called the Joint Special Meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission to order at 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor offered the public an opportunity to provide comment on any subject within the jurisdiction of either the City Council or the Planning Commission, which was not already scheduled on this agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None forthcoming

STUDY SESSION WORKSHOP

Land Use Decision-Making and the California Environmental Quality Act

City Attorney Garcia introduced Todd R. Leishman of Best Best & Krieger, who presented an overview of legal requirements related to land use decision-making and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Topics reviewed and discussed included:

- The role of Planning Commissioners
- Adjudicative and Deciding Role - To sit as "Judge"; As judge, decisions must be based on what rules are today, not on what we want them to be (be unbiased)
- Legislative and Advising Role - To advise the Council and make recommendations; Legislative changes to the rules can only be accomplished through the legislative process, not through a project-application approval
- Making Findings - To make decisions based on findings of fact; explain facts; why met / not met and weigh evidence; be substantive; provide specific examples of policies that are supported by

and are consistent with the project

- Addressing and managing opposition - When findings meet to approve, then must approve; Use Rule of Law; Respect for facts and evidence; Changing rules is through the legislative process
- Role in CEQA - To make fact-based findings and recommendations; Rely on Substantial evidence and relevant information; Substantial Evidence shall include facts, reasonable assumptions predicated upon facts and expert opinion supported by facts; Significant effect and threshold of significance were defined; Requirements of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Negative Declaration and Mitigated Negative Declaration; City not allowed to require EIR if no substantial evidence of unanalyzed impacts
- Considerations before denying - A review of several areas to consider before denying a project

Throughout the workshop, Mr. Leishman responded to various questions, carried on meaningful dialogue, and offered specific examples to better clarify the roles of the Planning Commission and the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further action required, Planning Chair Shaw and Mayor Tejeda adjourned the Special Joint City Council and Planning Commission meeting at 7:58 p.m.