



## **CITY OF CARSON**

### **MINUTES CARSON CITY COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING JULY 10, 2020 9:00 A.M.**

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 A.M. by Mayor Albert Robles via Zoom Teleconference.

Mayor Robles spoke about the purpose of the meeting.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

City Clerk Donesia Gause-Aldana noted the roll:

#### **Council Members Present via Zoom Teleconference:**

Mayor Albert Robles, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Dear, Council Member Lula Davis-Holmes, Council Member Jawane Hilton, and Council Member Cedric Hicks

#### **Also Present via Zoom Teleconference Telephone:**

Monica Cooper, City Treasurer; Sharon Landers, City Manager; Sunny Soltani, City Attorney; David Roberts, Assistant City Manager; John Raymond, Assistant City Manager; Saied Naaseh, Director of Community Development; Faye Moseley, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management; and Tarik Rahmani, Director of Finance

#### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA (MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC)**

City Clerk Gause-Aldana read Oral Communications from the following individuals:

##### **Gloria Dacus – Item No. 1**

Expressed a concern about an employee who tested positive for COVID-19; she requested all city employees be tested with rapid test; and inquired if employees should telecommute for 14 days.

##### **Maria Gonzalez – Item No. 1**

Requested the Mayor and City Council consider closing the City to prevent more exposure to COVID-19 to the public & city employees; expressed concern for co-workers who were exposed and still waiting for their results; in addition, she requested City Council consider having employees telecommute for the safety of their families, coworkers and the public.

Max Castillo - Item No. 1

He inquired about the ability for planning staff to telecommute on a full-time basis considering the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases at City Hall.

Trinidad Sandoval – Item No. 1

He expressed concerned that his wife came into contact with an individual who had COVID-19 at City Hall which forced his family to quarantine; employees who are infected need to be notified in a timely manner.

Tamara – Item No. 1

She is concerned about City Hall re-opening considering the number of COVID-19 cases.

Resident – Item No. 1

Spoke about the need for the City to look out for the best interest of the employees who serve the public at City Hall and keeping them safe and well; Requested employees be allowed to work remotely.

Sasha Daniels – Item No. 1

She expressed concern about the safety of the residents, public servants and the City of Carson employees who have been affected with COVID-19.

Ana Meni, President, AFSCME Local 809 – Item No. 1

She stated that as of July 9, 2020, there have been four employees who have been confirmed/tested positive for COVID-19 and requested that the Mayor and Council do the following:

1. Immediate shutdown of all City operations/facilities for at least three weeks.
2. City to pay all employees during the mandatory shutdown.
3. Arrange for all employees to immediately get tested no later than July 13, 2020.
4. Employees to get retested in two weeks on July 27, 2020.
5. Employees return on August 3, 2020.
6. All employees go through a thorough training regarding COVID-19, safe practices, etc. on August 3, 2020.
7. Reopen to the public on August 4, 2020.
8. During the shutdown, have all facilities undergo a deep cleaning and sanitization.
9. During the shutdown, City Management reconfigures work areas to meet the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health guidelines for social distancing. If this is not possible, schedule staff to work onsite on staggering days from their coworkers they are in immediate proximity with.

This shutdown will give the City an opportunity to get a handle on the spread of COVID-19 within the workforce and to ensure the employees do not spread COVID-19 to the public.

Liz Foisia – Item No. 1

She expressed concern about how the city has handled public safety from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. She requested the City do their best to protect the welfare and safety of the employees and Carson residents.

City Clerk Gause-Aldana noted there was an additional public comment received as follows:

Resident

Stated she was informed that there were employees infected with COVID-19 at Carson City Hall; expressed concern about the reason the public was not informed since she visited City Hall and requested the City take action immediately.

Mayor Robles expressed concern for public safety and the health of residents and employees. He spoke about his sensitivity to employees concerns about being exposed.

**DISCUSSION: (Item 1)**

**Item No. 1. 2020-506 COVID-19 EMERGENCY UPDATE**

City Manager Landers gave a PowerPoint presentation on COVID-19 Trends and Employees whom tested positive for COVID-19.

Roobik Galoosian, Senior Risk Manager discussed the process of contact tracing.

Pam Lee, Assistant City Attorney also discussed contact tracing.

Council Member Hicks spoke about concerns about having personal protective equipment (PPE's) while reopening City Hall: 1) Having all employees telecommute; 2) City Hall and City facilities cleaning and vehicle cleaning; and 3) Inquired about the lack warm water at City Hall.

City Manager Landers responded to Council Member Hicks' inquiry.

Council Member Hicks requested more information regarding COVID-19 Trends on Carson and information about child ratio in park programs.

City Treasurer Cooper requested City management provide COVID-19 updates to all elected officials, including the City Clerk and City Treasurer. In addition, she requested that additional space be created between the public and city staff that work the public counters.

Recommendation: DISCUSS and PROVIDE direction.

**ACTION:** It was moved to direct the City Manager to close City Hall and all City facilities simultaneously for reevaluation on motion of Dear, seconded by Hilton.

During discussion of the motion, Mayor Pro Tem Dear clarified his motion when the City Manager closes City Hall to also close all City facilities which was seconded by Hilton.

It was moved to call for the question on motion of Robles, seconded by Hicks. Council Member Hicks withdrew his second to the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear restated his motion that when the City Manager closes City Hall she also close the Community Center, City parks, and the Corporate Yard.

Council Member Davis-Holmes offered a substitute motion to call a special meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2020; and to direct the City Manager to come back with a plan of action addressing the

city's COVID-19 cases, seconded by Hilton.

During discussion of the substitute motion, City Manager Landers discussed the current work plan and staffing levels.

Council Member Davis-Holmes amended her motion to give authority to the City Manager to decide the opening and/or reopening of City facilities, programs, staffing levels and come back with a plan of action addressing the city's COVID-19 cases at the next City Council meeting.

Council Member Hilton offered a friendly amendment to the substitute motion for the City Manager to address employees who can telecommute which was accepted by the maker of the substitute motion.

City Manager Landers noted there are some employees who are currently telecommuting.

The substitute motion, as amended, was carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Robles, Council Member Davis-Holmes, Council Member Hilton and Council Member Hicks

Noes: Mayor Pro Tem Dear

Abstain: None

Absent: None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 A.M. by Mayor Robles.

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Mayor Albert Robles

ATTEST:

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City Clerk Donesia Gause-Aldana

APPROVED BY CARSON  
CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/  
HOUSING AUTHORITY

11-17-2020

Approved as Submitted. AR/CH 5/0