



CITY OF CARSON

MINUTES CARSON CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING MARCH 24, 2020 5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:16 P.M. by Mayor Albert Robles in the Helen Kawagoe Council Chambers, Carson City Hall, located at 701 E. Carson Street, Carson, California 90745.

ROLL CALL:

City Clerk Donesia Gause-Aldana noted the roll:

Council Members Present in Helen Kawagoe Council Chambers:

Mayor Albert Robles and Council Member Jawane Hilton

Council Members Present Via Telephone:

Mayor Pro Tem Dear, Council Member Lula Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Cedric Hicks.

Also Present:

Sharon Landers, City Manager; Sunny Soltani, City Attorney

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR MATTERS LISTED ON THE AGENDA (MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC) (LIMITED TO ONE HOUR)

City Clerk Gause-Aldana read public comments from the following:

Elizabeth Foisia – Email expressing concern of employees work status and activation of the Emergency Operations Center.

Jaime Monteclaro – Email offering recommendations on how City Council can protect the public and provide service for city employees.

Luna – Call inquiring about future ordinances related to the intentional spread of coronavirus and other diseases.

Diana Faatali – Call regarding possible lay off of custodial staff.

Congresswoman Nanette Barragan's Office will be hosting a telephone town hall coronavirus updates and information on the census, on Thursday, March 26, 2020, at 7:00 P.M.; for more information visit the City's website.

DISCUSSION: (Item 1)

Item No. 1. 2020-192 DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON MEASURES TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PANDEMIC (CITY COUNCIL)

City Manager Landers gave a staff report.

Captain Skeen gave a report on crime trends related to COVID-19. In addition, he spoke about price gouging, welfare checks, activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), donation offers from residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations, and unsafe parking.

He noted the County of Los Angeles and the Department of Motor Vehicles made recommendations to law enforcement throughout the state regarding enforcement of infractions.

Mayor and Council Members commended and thanked Captain Skeen and the Sheriff Deputies for ensuring public safety.

Recommendation: TAKE the following actions:
1.DISCUSS and PROVIDE direction

ACTION: Discussion and direction provided as follows:

Mayor Pro Tem Dear inquired about how the message will be disseminated about price gouging. In addition, he requested clarity on the stay at home order.

Captain Skeen stated he would send reminders on their social media account and post to other social media regarding price gouging. He clarified what can be done and not done during the stay at home order. He encouraged people to read the Health and Safety Code Section 120295 as part of the stay at home order.

Council Member Hicks asked that Captain Skeen provide information for individuals requesting welfare checks. Captain Skeen noted people can call (310) 830-1123 or visit lasd.org website for those needing physical welfare checks. He thanked his deputies for being on the front line on behalf of the community.

City Manager Landers noted the following:

- 850 Active Employees
- 282 Full-Time Employees (FTE) was reduced by 19% - 54 employees were asked to stay home and shelter in place.
- 568 Part-Time Employees was reduced by 86% - 490 employees were asked to stay home and shelter in place. She noted that most of these individuals were

- assigned to programs and parks that were suspended due to COVID-19.
- Looking into staffing plans.

Mayor Robles asked City Manager Landers to address a rumor about custodial employees being laid off.

City Manager Landers clarified that no employees will be laid off as a result of the stay home order.

Mike Whittaker, Human Services Manager, gave information on the COVID-19 Task Force. For assistance, call Carson Center Resources at (310) 952-1750.

City Manager Landers thanked Human Services Whittaker and his team for their efforts.

Mayor and Council Members thanked Human Services Manager Whittaker for his efforts.

Mayor Robles directed staff to mail the information to every household by Every Door Direct and translated in Spanish and Tagalog languages.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear noted to make sure the information on the flyer that is disseminated is accurate.

Council Member Hicks inquired about the limit on meals people can take. Human Services Manager Whittaker noted the number of people in each car is the number of meals they will receive and for those individuals that have seniors or children at home, no more than seven meals per car.

Council Member Davis-Holmes inquired about when the YMCA Meals on Wheels program deliveries will begin. Human Services Manager Whittaker noted the meals already began this past Monday. Meals are delivered on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and beginning this Thursday delivery on Thursday and Friday will be added. Delivery time is from 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Assistant City Manager Raymond gave a staff report on efforts made by Community Services and Public Works while delivering services to the community.

City Manager Landers noted she and City Attorney will be working to address price gouging and business license revocations. In addition, staff prepared a letter signed by the Mayor and Council offering City facilities for site Carson Community Center to the state for providing a drive-thru testing site and a temporary medical facility. Also, efforts to engage with the business community such as the billboard companies and Everbridge, the communication company. Lastly, she met with the union representatives and will work on an agreement to change the date of the Cesar Chavez holiday.

Motion

It was moved to reverse the Stay-At-Home Order and bring employees back to work on motion of Hilton, seconded by Dear.

During discussion of the motion, Mayor Robles noted the health and welfare of the employees are top priority, ensuring that each employee will be compensated at their full salary.

Council Member Davis-Holmes stated she did not agree with the motion and believes the city will make the employees whole in the event there is an issue.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear noted concerns expressed to him regarding processing checks immediately with the State because their offer is for a limited amount of time and inquired if the time has been extended.

City Manager clarified that staff who were allowed to go home were given full pay from the last pay period and will receive a check on Thursday. Then the next pay period will be reduced to augment benefits from the Employment Development Department (EDD). In the event EDD does not kick in then, employees are allowed to use their accrued leave until EDD does.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear noted a letter that he received from the union president that he believes contradicts what the Mayor previously stated. He requested that the union president be brought in on the call for clarification.

Discussion ensued about the city's intentions on making employees whole in the event EDD does not work out.

Vote on motion

The motion failed to carry by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Dear and Council Member Hilton

Noes: Mayor Robles, Council Member Davis-Holmes and Council Member Hicks

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Mayor Pro Tem Dear spoke about the decision to suspend the city's bus service. He also inquired about the status of the City's effort on the use of the Carson Community Center as a test center.

Discussion ensued about the importance of suspending the bus service.

City Manager Landers noted that a letter was sent to Governor Newsom which she followed up with phone calls. She has not received a definitive answer as of now.

In addition, Mayor Pro Tem Dear asked if there is any progress with Victoria Park becoming an emergency mobile hospital. City Manager Landers noted no definitive answer as of now.

Also, Mayor Pro Tem Dear inquired if the city could partner with food services through Dr. Jenny Batongmalaque. City Manager Landers noted the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank through Dr. Batongmalaque is another wonderful service for the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear asked about city employees who would like to volunteer. City Manager noted that the city will be calling back employees as the need arise in lieu of using volunteers.

Council Member Davis-Holmes requested that a letter be mailed to commercial property owners requesting that some sort of reprieve be given to their tenants as it relates to rents and evictions. In addition, she inquired about how staff is to move forward with upcoming city events.

Mayor Robles directed staff to place an item on the agenda to discuss city events and a moratorium on commercial property and rents.

Council Member Hicks directed staff to look into Small Business loan opportunities to provide to the small business community.

Council Member Hicks inquired if the city is tracking costs associated with the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, he inquired about the loss revenue at the Community Center and park permits.

City Manager Landers noted that she is working with Captain Skeen in tracking the information. In addition, she noted that Director Rahmani will be looking into additional revenue sources and loss of revenue.

In addition, Council Member Hicks asked how the city will be tracking the whereabouts of the individuals testing positive of the COVID-19. City Manager Landers noted that city staff has no way of finding out where those individuals live or have traveled to throughout the city. She noted the Department of Public Health is tracking that information citing Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) laws.

Discussion ensued about the local Farmers Market at the Southbay Pavilion.

Mayor Robles stated that the City Council is unanimous about the health and safety is the priority of residents, employees and businesses and that these are difficult, unprecedented times.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear requested an item be added to the next Council meeting agenda for a briefing from the Waste Basin Water Director, Harold Williams.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA (MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC) – None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS) – None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 P.M. by Mayor Robles.

Mayor Albert Robles

ATTEST:

City Clerk Donesia Gause-Aldana