



## **CITY OF CARSON**

### **MINUTES CARSON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

**5:00 P.M.**

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 P.M. by Mayor Pro Tem Cedric Hicks in the Helen Kawagoe Council Chambers, Carson City Hall, located at 701 E. Carson Street, Carson, California 90745.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

City Clerk Gause-Aldana noted the roll:

#### **Council Members Present:**

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

#### **Council Members Absent:**

Council Member Jawane Hilton (Excused)

#### **Other Elected Officials Present:**

Donesia Gause-Aldana, City Clerk and Monica Cooper, City Treasurer

#### **Also Present:**

Sharon Landers, City Manager; John Raymond, Assistant City Manager; David Roberts, Assistant City Manager; Faye Moseley, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management; Idris Al-Oboudi, Director of Community Services; and Tarik Rahmani, Director of Finance

#### **FLAG SALUTE:**

Council Member Davis-Holmes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR MATTERS LISTED ON THE AGENDA (MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC)**

#### Dr. Sharma Henderson – Item No. 1

Referred to the maps submitted by individuals; noted the merits of an experienced demographer; hopes City Council based their decisions for the betterment of the residents and not themselves.

Dr. Jenny Batongmalaque, Executive Director of the Erasto R. Batongmalaque Foundation and the Filipino Veterans Federation

Spoke about the history of the Food Bank in the City of Carson providing a food bank once a month to Carson senior residents at the Carson Community Center. The Food Bank is sponsored by the federal subsistence program for the elderly. To qualify, the senior must be 60 plus years and provide proof of income. She was informed her fee waiver ended in July. The Dominguez Hall is now rentable space. She requested a fee waiver continuance.

Council Member Dear inquired about the percentage of Food Bank recipients being Carson residents.

Dr. Batongmalaque noted 90.5% of the recipients are Carson residents.

William Koons – Item No. 1

Referred to his submissions of maps and other submissions; inquired why the demographer could not comment on his submissions; requested the demographer explain the submissions in greater detail.

Kevin Shenkman, Attorney, Shenkman Group

Spoke in opposition of hiring another demographer referring to gerrymandering; referred to the letters sent by him prompting the city to pursue changing to district-based elections. He cautioned the City that he will file his claim the next day if the city changed its demographer.

#### **DISCUSSION: (Items 1-4)**

#### **Item No. 1. 2019-864 CONSIDERATION FOR REPLACING THE CURRENT CITY DEMOGRAPHER FIRM WITH NDC DEMOGRAPHERS WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY PART OF THE CITY'S INFORMAL BID PROCESS ON THE DEMOGRAPHER CONTRACT (CITY COUNCIL)**

Assistant City Manager Raymond provided a brief overview.

Recommendation: CONSIDER TAKING the following action:  
1. DIRECT STAFF regarding the reselection of a demographer

ACTION: It was moved to place the current demographer David Ely on hold temporarily and engage National Demographics Corporation for additional maps on motion of Dear and seconded by Davis-Holmes.

During discussion of the motion, Mayor Pro Tem Hicks offered a friendly amendment to the motion to place current demographer “on-call” instead of “on hold” which was accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

Mayor Robles spoke in support of continuing its contract with the current demographer.

City Attorney Soltani noted the city has a 30-day notice termination provision in the contract.

Mayor Robles requested City Council defer taking action on the remainder of the items. He directed staff to add the items to the next City Council regular meeting agenda.

Council Member Dear moved the previous question, seconded by Council Member Davis-Holmes.

The motion to move the previous question was carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Hicks, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Dear  
Noes: Mayor Robles  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Council Member Hilton

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

Ayes: Mayor Robles, Mayor Pro Tem Hicks, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Dear  
Noes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Council Member Hilton

Mayor Robles requested this item be placed on the next Council meeting agenda for reconsideration.

After Item No. 3, Item No. 1 was heard again to reconsider the item on motion of Robles which failed for lack of a second.

**Item No. 2. 2019-869 CONSIDER A FEE WAIVER FOR THE USE OF THE CONGRESSWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD COMMUNITY CENTER FOR THE ERASTO R. BATONGMALAQUE FOUNDATION/LOS ANGELES REGIONAL FOOD BANK (CITY COUNCIL)**

Director Al-Oboudi gave a brief staff report.

Recommendation: 1. Grant a fee waiver subject to ERB documenting that 75% or more of its program participants are residents of the City of Carson.

ACTION: It was moved to approve staff recommendation and provide a fee waiver for four years on the second Monday of each month on motion of Dear, seconded by Davis-Holmes and unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Robles, Mayor Pro Tem Hicks, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Dear  
Noes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Council Member Hilton

**Item No. 3.     2019-866   UPDATE ON THE FILLING OF THE VACANT ASSISTANT TO THE  
CITY MANAGER POSITION (CITY COUNCIL)**

Director Moseley provided a brief staff report.

Discussion ensued regarding the advertisement and salary of the position.

Recommendation:            Receive and File.

ACTION:            It was moved to receive and file this item on motion of Davis-Holmes, seconded by Dear and unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes:            Mayor Robles, Mayor Pro Tem Hicks, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Dear  
Noes:            None  
Abstain:        None  
Absent:        Council Member Hilton

Mayor Robles requested this item be added to the next Council meeting agenda for reconsideration.

City Attorney Soltani clarified the provision in the Carson Municipal Code, in part, that a motion to reconsider any action taken by the Council may be made. Such motion must be made by one of the prevailing side but may be seconded by any member. It requires a vote therefore needs a second.

Item No. 1 was heard again at this time.

Item No. 3 was heard again after Item No. 1 to reconsider this item on motion of Robles which died for lack of a second.

Council Member Dear called for a point of order and inquired how this item can be reconsidered with no action but to receive and file.

City Attorney Soltani stated if the Mayor wishes to bring an item back even to receive and file would be appropriate, but since the motion failed it is a moot point.

Council Member Dear inquired if a Council Member can ask for reconsideration of an item more than once.

City Attorney Soltani clarified the Mayor's motion for reconsideration can be brought back for reconsideration at the next Council meeting, however, he moved to reconsider during this meeting and the motion failed. She read another provision of the Carson Municipal Code, in part, 'no other motion for reconsideration thereof shall be made after that without unanimous consent of the Council'.

**Item No. 4.      2019-867   DISCUSS THE PROPOSED SALARY RANGE FOR THE PART-TIME  
COUNCIL AIDE POSITIONS (CITY COUNCIL)**

Director Moseley provided a brief staff report.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed salary range for the part-time Council Aide positions.

Recommendation:            Receive and file.

**ACTION:**            It was moved to receive and file the staff report on motion of Davis-Holmes, seconded by Hicks and unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes:                Mayor Robles, Mayor Pro Tem Hicks, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Dear  
Noes:                None  
Abstain:            None  
Absent:              Council Member Hilton

It was moved to reconsider the vote of this item and place on the next Council meeting agenda on motion of Robles which died for lack of a second.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS)**

Council Member Davis-Holmes

Inquired about the timeline completing the demographer's report to meet requirements for the March 2020 election.

City Attorney Soltani confirmed there is a deadline.

Assistant City Manager Raymond explained city must take Council action by second meeting in November. Item to the voters would be a charter amendment with completion of maps and adoption of district voting ordinance; citizens to decide to go to districts or not; would prefer maps be in place for voters knowledge during March 2020 election.

City Attorney Soltani clarified there is case law that states even if voters don't approve districts, a court can order a city to go to districts.

Discussion ensued regarding process and timelines for district-based elections.

Upon inquiry, City Clerk Gause-Aldana noted the City Council must adopt a resolution calling an election related to district elections by December 6, 2019 for the March 2020 election.

Council Member Davis-Holmes requested a chart illustrating the deadlines as part of the staff report when presented.

City Manager Landers noted staff will provide timeline information on all staff reports and on city website.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 P.M. by Mayor Robles.

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Mayor Albert Robles

ATTEST:

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City Clerk Donesia Gause-Aldana