



CITY OF CARSON

MINUTES CARSON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING FEBRUARY 6, 2020 5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 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:

Deputy City Clerk Joy Simarago noted the roll:

Council Members Present:

Mayor Albert Robles, Council Member Lula Davis-Holmes, Council Member Jawane Hilton, and Council Member Cedric Hicks.

Council Members Absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Dear (Entered at 5:10 P.M.)

Also Present:

Sharon Landers, City Manager; Robert Lee, Assistant City Attorney; and Idris Al-Oboudi, Director of Community Services

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

Vera Robles DeWitt

Provided handouts to the Mayor and Council Members regarding Special Meetings; spoke in opposition to this item.

(Council Member Davis-Holmes exited and reentered the meeting.)

Cedrick Hicks, Carson resident

Spoke about the purpose of special meetings and to work together in harmony.

(Mayor Pro Tem Dear entered the meeting.)

(Mayor Pro Tem Dear exited and reentered the meeting.)

Council Member Davis-Holmes stated item could have been addressed earlier and referred to the minute order regarding this item; spoke about ordering special meetings.

Mayor Robles offered comments regarding placing items on the agenda and the two-step process.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear offered comments regarding placing items on the agenda and the two-step process.

DISCUSSION: (Item 1)

Item No. 1. 2020-085 DISCUSS COUNCIL SEATING ARRANGEMENTS VIA THE DAIS; UPDATE AND RESCIND ANY AND ALL PREVIOUS RULES ON COUNCIL ASSIGNED SEATING ON THE DAIS; ADOPT A RESOLUTION AND/OR FORMAL COUNCIL POLICY REGARDING COUNCIL ASSIGNED SEATING ON THE DAIS (CITY COUNCIL)

City Manager Landers gave a staff report.

Recommendation: DISCUSS and PROVIDE direction

Motion

It was moved Mayor Pro tem sit to the right or to the left of the Mayor at the sole discretion of the Mayor Pro tem on motion of Dear, seconded by Davis-Holmes.

Council Member Davis-Holmes offered a friendly amendment to the motion that Council Member Hilton and Council Member Davis-Holmes stay where they are and the Mayor Pro tem will decide where to sit which was accepted by the maker of the motion.

Mayor Pro tem Dear stated he was okay with where the other Council Members were seated.

Mayor Robles noted the last Council action taken regarding the seating of the Mayor Pro tem. He noted the process of a motion for reconsideration of an item.

Mayor Robles asked Assistant City Attorney Lee to opine whether or not the motion for reconsideration is limited to one time, and if discussed again requires a unanimous consent.

Assistant City Attorney Lee stated he concurred with Mayor Robles' conclusion if a motion for reconsideration has been raised and subsequently denied, unanimous consent for approval is required.

Discussion ensued regarding the last action taken regarding the seating of the Mayor Pro tem.

Motion

It was moved to reconsider the previous reconsidered motion that failed to be unanimous on motion of Robles, seconded by Hilton.

Mayor Robles repeated his motion to reconsider the previous action of designating the seating of the Mayor Pro tem which requires a unanimous approval by the body.

Discussion ensued regarding the previous motion from the last Council meeting.

City Manager Landers suggested the Mayor recess the meeting for Deputy City Clerk Simarago to listen to the video for clarity and report back what occurred.

Mayor and City Council declined City Manager Lander's suggestion and preferred to proceed with voting on the motion on the floor.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear stated his motion was to add an aspect that will allow the Mayor Pro tem to sit in seat number two or seat number four.

Mayor Robles withdrew his motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear noted the January 2019 minute order designating the seating arrangements based on seniority.

Main Motion

It was moved to rescind the minute order of designating seating arrangements by seniority from January 2019; the Mayor Pro tem may sit in seat number two or seat number four on motion of Dear, seconded by Hicks.

Substitute Motion

Council Member Hilton offered a substitute motion for Deputy City Clerk to review the minutes from the last Council meeting regarding the Mayor Pro tem seating arrangement and bring back to the next City Council meeting, seconded by Robles.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear spoke in opposition to the substitute motion, stating he believed his motion would resolve the issue.

Discussion ensued regarding the previous Council action regarding the Mayor Pro tem seating arrangement at the last Council meeting and motion for reconsideration.

Upon inquiry, Assistant City Attorney Lee cited Section 2409. Rules of Debate and Procedure, F. Motion to Reconsider, of the Carson Municipal Code.

Council Member Hicks called for the vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear inquired if his motion was acceptable.

Assistant City Attorney Lee noted it was permissible for the Mayor Pro tem to move to designate where he or she sits either to the right or to the left of the Mayor.

Mayor Robles offered a friendly amendment to the motion that subject to the City Attorney's review as to whether or not there is a violation of the prohibition against a motion for reconsideration which was accepted by the maker and seconder of the motion.

Vote on Substitute Motion

The substitute motion failed to carry by the following vote:

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

Vote on Main Motion

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

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

Motion

It was moved to adopt a resolution rescinding any prior City policies, procedures, resolutions, and minute orders regarding any dais seating and instead amending Council Policy No. 1.02.03 as the only policy regarding the establishment of City Council seating arrangement on the dais on motion of Davis-Holmes, seconded by Hicks.

Mayor Robles requested to defer the resolution to the next Council meeting and noted he did not receive a copy of the resolution.

Council Member Davis-Holmes inquired if there was a resolution in place and continued her motion citing the policy as follows: "When looking at the dais from the public podium, the Council seats will be considered numbered from left to right, numbers one through five. Designated seats will be determined for the Mayor and the Mayor Pro tem. The Mayor will always sit in the middle seat. The Mayor Pro tem will sit either the left or the right seat in seat two or four as decided by the Council. The City Council will also decide the Council Member seating arrangement for seat number one, seat number two, and seat number four as applicable, depending on which seat is not occupied by the Mayor Pro Tem."

Motion

It was moved to table the item on motion of Robles, seconded by Hilton and failed to carry by the following vote:

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

Mayor Pro Tem Dear suggested to remove the words, "the City Council will decide" from Council Member Davis-Holmes motion which was in conflict with his motion.

Council Member Davis-Holmes concurred and asked to strike it from motion.

Main Motion

Council Member Davis-Holmes clarified her motion as follows:

"When looking at the dais from the public podium, the Council seats will be considered numbered from left to right, numbers one through five. Designated seats will be determined for the Mayor and the Mayor Pro tem. The Mayor will always sit in seat number three. The Mayor Pro tem will choose between seat number two or seat number four. The City Council will decide the seating arrangements for seat number one, seat number two, and seat number four as applicable" which was accepted by the seconder of the motion.

Substitute Motion

Mayor Robles offered a substitute motion to continue this item to the next Council meeting, seconded by Hilton and failed to carry by the following vote:

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

Substitute Motion

Mayor Robles offered a substitute motion to leave the seating policy as is which died for lack of a second.

Mayor Robles offered comments.

(Mayor Pro Tem Dear exited the meeting.)

(Mayor Robles exited the meeting.)

(Council Member Hilton exited the meeting.)

ADJOURNMENT

Due to lack of a quorum, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 P.M. by Mayor Robles.

(Mayor Pro Tem Dear reentered the meeting.)

RECONVENE:

The meeting was reconvened at 6:17 P.M. by Mayor Pro Tem Dear.

Vote on Main Motion

The motion was unanimously carried by the following vote:

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS) – None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 P.M. by Mayor Pro Tem Dear.

Mayor Albert Robles

ATTEST:

City Clerk Donesia Gause-Aldana