



CITY OF CARSON

MINUTES CARSON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 31, 2020 5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 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 Via Telephone:

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 Telephone:

Sharon Landers, City Manager; and Sunny Soltani, City Attorney

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

Mayor and Council Members offered comments and encouraged residents to stay safe, stay home, and be calm. They thanked everyone for their assistance.

City Manager Landers thanked the Mayor and Council for their strong visionary leadership through this health pandemic. Also, she thanked her staff for their hard work and understanding.

Lieutenant Trejo announced that Captain Skeen will be hosting a Virtual Town Hall Meeting today at 6:30 P.M. which will be viewable on Facebook Live. For those who do not have access to Facebook, a link will also be available on their website. All questions, comments and concerns can be sent to askcarsonstation@lasd.org.

He reported on the following:

- Sheriff Department and City of Carson's partnership with preparing lunches on a daily basis;
- Traffic patterns;
- Calls for service and arrest are down;

- Compliance checks were done for 27 businesses;
- Patrol units have increased to seven days a week;
- The National Guard is staged in the Long Beach area; the City is not utilizing them at this time; and
- Welfare checks for the elderly are being done and logs are maintained on a frequent basis.

City Clerk Gause-Aldana stated that residents would hopefully take advantage of the services being provided by the City leadership. She thanked the Mayor and Council for their hard work and tough decisions. She also thanked the City Manager and her staff for being available to work. She commended all those working hard on behalf of the city.

City Clerk Gause-Aldana presented the following public comments:

Email from Elizabeth Foisia

Stated her disappointment with information being provided during the last City Council meeting of March 24, 2020, she stated the only beneficial information was provided by the Human Services Manager, on the COVID-19 Task Force presentation and Captain Skeen's community presentation.

Email from Joline Barela

Opposed to employees applying for unemployment insurance.

Email from Luz Padua

Thanked the city for the wellness check; inquired about softball registration refunds; In addition, she noted issues with Spectrum Cable billing practices.

Email from Jaime G. Montelcaro, Esq.

Commended the Mayor, Council Members, and staff for a great job serving the Carson community, businesses, workers and the general public in the City of Carson during this COVID-19 virus pandemic; Requested Council consider passing a resolution on a moratorium of space rent increases in the 21 mobile home parks in throughout the city; Requested Council consider passing a resolution raising the payment of the salaries, wages, and benefits for city employees and include a provision authorizing the City Manager to work with federal and state agencies for reimbursements of the amounts to be paid to the employees.

Phone Call from Rick Pulido

Offered encouraging comments during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Email Via Website

Writer advised that the City employees will have immediate financial repercussions as well as a change in their employment service date with CALPERS; the writer believe the employees will not be made whole when the city reports to CALPERS that employees have not received wages from the city while they are receiving unemployment benefits.

Mayor Robles announced the public may call 310-830-7600 for live comments during the next regular Council meeting.

City Clerk Gause-Aldana read an additional public comment received after the Public Comment PowerPoint presentation was made:

Anonymous

Inquired of the reason employees are not telecommuting; the reason there are no clear direction provided to employees who have been relieved of their duties or had their hours minimized; requested explanation on how the payroll process and unemployment process works; and, inquired about the reason employees are being told to use their sick leave and vacation leave.

Mayor Robles addressed the public comments regarding:

- City of Carson is not in a Recession
- Telecommuting policy
- Mobile home rent increases
- Residential and Commercial evictions
- Returning all monies to residents that were collected from programs that were suspended
- All employees will be made whole with their compensation, benefits and CALPERS; and
- Emergency Operations Center

Mayor Robles directed the City Manager to draft a letter to Spectrum as the city's franchisee requesting that all Carson residents be eligible for reduced rates for internet service.

Discussion ensued with all City Council members about unemployment benefits and employees telecommuting.

Item No. 1. 2020-201 COVID-19 UPDATE (CITY COUNCIL)

Recommendation: RECEIVE and FILE

City Manager Landers gave a presentation on the Trends of COVID-19 Pandemic.

City Clerk Gause-Aldana provided a PowerPoint summarizing actions taken by the Disaster Council.

City Manager Landers provided updates on city services that are still being provided to the public. She also announced that Assembly Member Gipson will be hosting a Tele town Hall on April 2, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. and to refer to his website for the access code.

Mayor and Council Members offered comments.

Council Member Hicks inquired about the small business resolution.

City Manager Landers noted a report will be provided at the April 7, 2020 Council meeting.

Council Member Davis-Holmes requested to add churches to the small business resolution.

Council Member Hilton noted that lunches will also be distributed in the Scottsdale area. He noted his partnership with the County Supervisor for obtaining rapid testing in the Carson community.

Mayor Robles announced that a Press Conference will be held at City Hall on Thursday, April 2, 2020.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS) – None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 P.M. by Mayor Chairman.

Mayor Albert Robles

ATTEST:

City Clerk Donesia Gause-Aldana