



CITY OF CARSON
MINUTES
CARSON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 26, 2020
5:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 P.M. by Mayor Albert Robles via Zoom Teleconference.

ROLL CALL:

City Clerk Donesia Gause-Aldana noted the roll:

Council Members Present via Zoom Teleconference:

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

Council Members Absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Dear (Entered at 5:06 P.M.) and Council Member Jawane Hilton (Entered during Public Comments)

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 LISTED ON THE AGENDA (MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC)

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

David Jeffers - Email

Inquired if there have been any discussions or decisions made regarding the reopening of the tennis courts at city parks.

Betty Smith - Email

Reported while shopping at local stores, she observed employees and customers are not wearing face coverings properly and maintaining six feet distance.

Website Email

Requested a complete transparent investigation on the COVID-19 Testing Site, claiming the

practices of running the site is disorganized.

Website Email

Inquired about the plan to bring back “non-essential” city employees.

Yvonne Battiste, RN, MBA - Email

Stated she is a Carson resident and employee of WelbeHealth Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), which is new to the Los Angeles Coast area. Carson zip codes 90745 and 90810 are included in the service area. Prior to January of 2020, the zip codes did not have the option for PACE services. (*AltaMed PACE has served 90746 only for years*).

She requested the City of Carson add LA Coast PACE to the resources section of the City of Carson website or allow an opportunity at an upcoming meeting for a presentation to the community and arranging a social media presence for the grand opening of the LA Coast location which will be virtual in July 2020. She provided a link and video for the public view.

Website Email

Stated that hopefully, the Carson Report being translated in multiple languages is a "one-time" occurrence. Believes it to be a waste of City funds.

Website Email

Inquired about the reason the City translates in Spanish and Tagalog rather than translating in all languages.

Elizabeth Foisia - Email

Offered comments in support of allowing for the sale of Safe and Sane fireworks. In addition, she inquired about the status of the part-time and full-time employees who did not file for unemployment. She noted that Sharon Landers, City Manager, previously stated she will provide a report in May. Was curious to know when executive management will fulfill their promise of making all City employees whole.

Public Comment Box

Inquired about how the city allowed for a graduation ceremony that was held at the Carson Community Center a few weeks ago for two city employees while the facilities are closed. Noting that a Community Services Manager was also present and participated in the ceremony. Questioning if special authorization was given, if the city employees that were in attendance was on city time ,who set all the equipment and chairs, what other city equipment and staff time was involved, how many people attended, was there social distancing and was everyone wearing face coverings as required.

Sandra Phillips – Phone Call

Reported she visited the COVID-19 Testing Site at the Carson Community Center on May 4, 2020. As of May 19, 2020, she has not received her test results. She called and texted US Health Fairs numerous times with no response. She received a letter and a bill from Fulgent Therapeutics, and was concerned they have her personal information. She is concerned there may be an appearance of fraud.

Queen E. Jones, Bully Prevention Commissioner, - Email

Inquired about specifics of how faith based organizations may reopen.

DISCUSSION: (Item 1)

Item No. 1. 2020-311 COVID-19 UPDATE (CITY COUNCIL)

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

Mayor Pro Tem Dear inquired if any city employees tested positive for COVID-19. City Manager Landers noted that the city is not aware of any employees at home or currently working testing positive for the virus.

Dani Cook, Human Services Supervisor, gave a presentation on the COVID-19 Task Force.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear inquired about whether or not insurance companies will cover the cost for retesting.

Staff addressed his inquiry then a discussion ensued between City Council and City Manager regarding whether or not insurance companies cover the cost for retest and how US Health Fairs may assist with ensuring residents are not being charged more than once when the test results are not given and/or test are contaminated.

City Manager Landers gave a presentation on the County's road map to recovery.

Council Member Hilton inquired about the city's plan of recovery. Staff noted that the Disaster Council will bring forth a plan back to City Council.

Council Member Davis-Holmes inquired about SouthBay Pavilion and malls reopening. Staff will come back with more information.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear inquired what stage are barber shops, beauty parlors and nail shops will be reopening. It was clarified these types of uses are in Stage 3.

Council Member Hilton inquired about when the parks will reopen.

Discussion ensued between City Council regarding the city's roadmap to recovery and the reopening of city parks.

Mayor Robles noted the city can seek a variance from the County to pursue a Carson path that includes opening retail businesses.

Recommendation: RECEIVE and FILE.

ACTION: It was moved to direct staff to work with the City Attorney's Office to prepare a Carson roadmap to recovery in reopening retail, barber and hair salons with strict protocols to be followed for submission to the county and bring back at the City Council meeting on June 2, 2020 on motion of Robles, seconded by Hicks.

Council Member Davis-Holmes inquired if city staff will be included. Mayor Robles noted yes in addition to city parks.

The motion was unanimously carried by the following vote:

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

Council Member Hicks inquired about point of sale for surplus vehicles for Enterprise Rental Car. Staff noted that taxes are received at the location of point of sale.

Council Member Davis-Holmes inquired about the graduation party that took place at the Community Center. In addition to, how does staff intend to address questions raised by Queen Jones.

Staff noted they are investigating the graduation party and will speak with Commissioner Jones regarding her interpretation of the State's place of worship guidelines.

Council Member Davis-Holmes inquired about Furgent Technologies. Assistant City Manager Roberts noted that Furgent is the laboratory providing the test results in Partnership with US Health Fairs.org.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (COUNCIL MEMBERS)

Council Member Hicks noted that he received his COVID-19 test results from a test taken back in April that was negative. He thanked all first responders.

Council Member Hilton implored places of worship that intend to reopen to be prudent and safe. In addition, he announced that his newborn daughter is finally home after spending more than 40 days in the hospital. He also announced that Carson is one of the leading cities in responding to the 2020 Census.

Mayor Pro Tem Dear commended all first responders, stating the city's intent on moving forward with being a safe city.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 P.M. by Mayor Robles.

Mayor Albert Robles

ATTEST:

City Clerk Donesia Gause-Aldana

APPROVED BY CARSON CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY/ HOUSING AUTHORITY	
<u>06-16-2020</u>	
Approved as Submitted.	JD/AR 5/0