

# JOINT MEETING OF THE EL CAJON CITY COUNCIL/HOUSING AUTHORITY/SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE EL CAJON REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY



## MINUTES

### CITY OF EL CAJON EL CAJON, CALIFORNIA

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**October 8, 2019**

An Adjourned Regular Joint Meeting of the El Cajon City Council/Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency, held Tuesday, October 8, 2019, was called to order by Mayor/Chair Bill Wells at 7:18 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 200 Civic Center Way, El Cajon, California. This meeting was adjourned from the Adjourned Regular Joint Meeting held at 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 8, 2019, by order of the El Cajon City Council/Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency.

#### **ROLL CALL**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Council/Agencymembers present:   | Kendrick, McClellan and Ortiz   |
| Council/Agencymembers absent:    | None  |
| Deputy Mayor/Vice Chair present: | Goble   |
| Mayor/Chair present:             | Wells   |
| Other Officers present:          | Mitchell, City Manager/Executive Director<br>DiMaggio, Assistant City Manager<br>Foley, City Attorney/General Counsel<br>Cortez, City Clerk/Secretary |

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG led by Mayor Wells and MOMENT OF SILENCE.** (The Courts have concluded that sectarian prayer, as part of City Council Meetings, is not permitted under the Constitution).

**AGENDA CHANGES: None**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Frederick Tamkn spoke in opposition of the proposed Sewer Rate Increase.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

100. Wastewater Fund Sewer Service Rate Increase

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council:

1. Opens the Public Hearing and receives testimony;
2. Closes the Public Hearing;
3. Certifies that the written protests received do not make a majority of property owners in accordance with Proposition 218; and
4. Adopts the next Resolution, in order, to approve the new sewer rates to commence on November 22, 2019, with four (4) future modifications effective the first day of Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

## **DISCUSSION**

Deputy Director of Public Works, Yazmin Arellano, provided detailed information on the Item.

Discussion ensued among Council and Staff concerning the following:

- City's fund balance being affected to cover rates charged by the county for sewer services; and
- Need for reserves to cover sewer related emergencies.

Mayor Wells opened the public hearing.

Dolores Landers stated the rates were previously approved and the public is hearing about it after the fact.

Hilton Vail expressed concern for the high percentage of increase.

Tim Swing stated the rate increase will negatively affect senior and veterans' on a fixed income.

Dan H questioned the high rate increase, and the different rates for single family homes v. multi-unit dwellings.

Donald Jones stated that the proposed increase would be an increase of 89% over a 5-(five) year period.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: (Continued)**

City Manager Mitchell clarified that the rate increase is driven by the rates charged to the City by the City of San Diego to process the sewage. He added that if in the future the City can figure out a cost-saving method to process the sewage, the City Council would have the authority to lower the fees for the service.

In response to a question by Councilmember Kendrick, Director of Public Works Dirk Epperson stated that there has only been one fee increase in the last 20 years.

Elaine Briggs stated that the fixed winter rates formula increases the price of services.

**MOTION BY WELLS, SECOND BY McCLELLAN, to CLOSE the Public Hearing.**

**MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

At the request by Mayor Wells, City Clerk Cortez reported the number of protest letters received as 24.

Mayor Wells acknowledged the City's responsibility for the current high rates being passed on to the citizens by not having a rate increase in 20 years, and he sympathized with people living on a fixed income.

**MOTION BY WELLS, SECOND BY GOBLE, to CERTIFY that the written protests received do not make a majority of property owners in accordance with Proposition 218; and Adopt Resolution No. 097-19 to approve the new sewer rates to commence on November 22, 2019, with four (4) future modifications effective the first day of Fiscal Years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.**

**MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

**Adjournment: Mayor Wells adjourned the Adjourned Regular Joint Meeting of the El Cajon City Council/Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency held this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 8, 2019, at 8:18 p.m., to Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 3:00 p.m.**

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ANGELA L. CORTEZ, CMC  
City Clerk/Secretary