

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

April 27, 2021

An Adjourned Regular Joint Meeting of the El Cajon City Council/Housing Authority/ Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency, held Tuesday, April 27, 2021, was called to order by Mayor/Chair Bill Wells at 3:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 200 Civic Center Way, El Cajon, California.

ROLL CALL

Council/Agencymembers present:	Goble, Metschel, and Ortiz
Council/Agencymembers absent:	None
Deputy Mayor/Vice Chair present:	Kendrick
Mayor/Chair present:	Wells
Other Officers present:	Mitchell, City Manager/Executive Director DiMaggio, Assistant City Manager Foley, City Attorney/General Counsel 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).

POSTINGS: The City Clerk posted Orders of Adjournment of the April 13, 2021, Meeting and the Agenda of the April 27, 2021, Meeting in accordance with State Law and El Cajon City/Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency Policy.

PRESENTATIONS:

April Pool's Day

AGENDA CHANGES: None

CONSENT ITEMS: (1 – 7)

1. Minutes of El Cajon City Council/Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency Meetings

Approves Minutes of the April 13, 2021, Meeting of the El Cajon City Council/ Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency.

2. Warrants

Approves payment of Warrants as submitted by the Finance Department.

3. Approval of Reading Ordinances by Title only

Approves the reading by title and waives the reading in full of all Ordinances on the Agenda.

4. Sixth Amendment to the Heartland Fire Training Authority's Joint Powers Agreement

Adopts Resolution No. 030-21 authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute the sixth amendment to the Heartland Fire Training Authority ("HFTA") Joint Powers Agreement ("JPA").

5. 2021 Firehouse Subs Grant Award for Swift Water Rescue Equipment

Adopts Resolution No. 031-21 authorizing the City Manager or designee to accept the grant award and authorize Firehouse Subs to purchase, and deliver to the department, the swift water rescue equipment with a value of \$6,265.13.

CONSENT ITEMS: (Continued)

6. American Medical Response (AMR) Renewal for Emergency Medical Services

Adopts Resolution No. 032-21 authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute agreements to continue the emergency medical services with American Medical Response Ambulance Services, Inc.

DISCUSSION

In response to a question by Mayor Wells, Fire Chief, Steve Swaney stated no monetary losses have been sustained by the City by employing American Medical Response Ambulance Services (AMR).

Discussion ensued amongst Council and staff regarding the lease revenue earnings by leasing space at the fire station to park the ambulances.

In response to a question by Mayor Wells, City Attorney Foley determined that Mayor Wells would be able to vote on the AMR Item even though his adult son is an employee of said company.

7. Contract Amendment for Professional Building Support Services

Adopts Resolution No. 033-21 to increase the Agreement for Professional Services with Esgil, LLC for building support services in the not-to-exceed amount of \$300,000.

MOTION BY WELLS, SECOND BY ORTIZ, to APPROVE Consent Items 1 to 7.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Wedad Schlotte spoke about the importance of engaging the community in the re-districting efforts.

Councilmember Kendrick thanked the Middle Eastern community for their help in revitalizing downtown El Cajon.

Daniel Bickford thanked staff for the continued work and the upcoming community events.

Ivan Andujar, representing East County Transitional Living Center (ECTLC) provided information about the continued work of ECTLC for the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Continued)

The following people spoke about the importance of engaging the community in the re-districting efforts:

1. Jeanine Erikat
2. Raman Awad
3. Mumtaz Momand
4. Beatriz Garcia, representing the East County Justice Coalition
5. Anne Barron, representing Peace Resource Center of San Diego

Cathy Zeman representing the Downtown El Cajon Business Partners, spoke about the resources the City of El Cajon provides to help with the homeless situation in El Cajon.

Councilmember Goble spoke of the important role the El Cajon Police Department plays in helping with the homeless situation.

Nathan Cornett thanked the City Council, staff and Police Department for helping with the homeless situation.

Stephanie Harper submitted an online comment to speak about the homeless rights to have possessions.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

8. Adoption of FY 2021-22 One-Year Action Plan (CDBG and HOME)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council:

1. Opens the public hearing and receives testimony;
2. Closes the public hearing;
3. Finalizes the allocations of CDBG and HOME funds as a part of the FY 2021-22 One-Year Action Plan; and
4. Adopts the next Resolution, in order, approving and adopting the FY 2021-22 One-Year Action Plan in the form presented, with such monetary and non-monetary changes as approved by the City Manager, and authorizing the City Manager or designee to submit the Plan to HUD and to execute all affiliated documents.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: (Item 8 – Continued)

DISCUSSION

Housing Manager, Jamie van Ravesteyn, provided a summary of the Item.

Mayor Wells opened the Public Hearing.

The following people submitted comments in support of funding programs that support the homeless, those with mental disabilities, seniors and request that funds do not go to the El Cajon Police Department (ECPD):

1. Meigan Afshan
2. Toni Calingay
3. Addison Wright
4. Patti Hill
5. Spencer Moyer
6. Shayna H.
7. Stephanie Harper
8. Alana, representing the East County BIPOC

David Chong spoke in support of El Cajon Police Department.

City Manager Mitchell explained the conditions to allocate CDBG and HOME funds.

MOTION BY WELLS, SECOND BY KENDRICK, to CLOSE the Public Hearing.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Discussion ensued among Council and Staff concerning the following:

- Programs that empower landlords to keep safer environments;
- Support of proposed allocations;
- Support of ECPD; and
- The role of social workers.

MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY KENDRICK, to FINALIZE the allocations of CDBG and HOME funds as a part of the FY 2021-22 One-Year Action Plan; and Adopt Resolution No. 034-21 approving and adopting the FY 2021-22 One-Year Action Plan in the form presented, with such monetary and non-monetary changes as approved by the City Manager, and authorizing the City Manager or designee to submit the Plan to HUD and to execute all affiliated documents.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: (Continued)

9. Adoption of the Annual Adjustment to the SANDAG Regional Transportation Congestion Improvement Program (RTCIP) Development Impact Fee

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council:

1. Opens the public hearing and receives testimony;
2. Closes the public hearing; and
3. Adopts the next Resolution, in order, approving an adjustment to the Regional Transportation Congestion Improvement Program (RTCIP) Development Impact Fee to the new amount of \$2,635.50, for each newly-constructed residential unit.

DISCUSSION

City Traffic Engineer, Mario Sanchez, provided a summary of the Item.

Mayor Wells opened the Public Hearing.

No comments were received for the Item.

**MOTION BY WELLS, SECOND BY ORTIZ, to CLOSE the Public Hearing.
MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY KENDRICK, to ADOPT Resolution No. 035-21 approving an adjustment to the Regional Transportation Congestion Improvement Program (RTCIP) Development Impact Fee to the new amount of \$2,635.50, for each newly-constructed residential unit.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

10. Adoption of New Fees; Modification, Reorganization and Elimination of Existing Fees; Amendment of Schedule of Miscellaneous Fees; and Amendment of El Cajon City Council Policy E-7 (Community Center Facility Use Policy)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council:

1. Opens the public hearing and receives testimony;
2. Closes the public hearing; and
3. Adopts the next Resolution, in order, to: modify certain existing fees; reorganize the responsibility for fees; add and delete certain fees; amend the City Schedule of Miscellaneous Fees to reflect such changes; and amend City Council Policy E-7 (Community Center Facility Use Policy).

PUBLIC HEARINGS: (Item 10 - Continued)

DISCUSSION

City Attorney Foley provided a summary of the Item.

Mayor Wells opened the Public Hearing.

David Chong spoke about the duplicate fees imposed on his firearm shop.

Discussion ensued among Council, Staff and Mr. Chong regarding the pertinent fees.

MOTION BY WELLS, SECOND BY KENDRICK, to CLOSE the Public Hearing.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

MOTION BY GOBLE, SECOND BY KENDRICK, to ADOPT Resolution No. 036-21 Adopts the next Resolution, in order, to: modify certain existing fees; reorganize the responsibility for fees; add and delete certain fees; amend the City Schedule of Miscellaneous Fees to reflect such changes; and amend City Council Policy E-7 (Community Center Facility Use Policy).

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

11. Council Priority Implementation – Entryways

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council provides feedback to staff on the entryway image enhancement ideas presented.

DISCUSSION

City Engineer, Jeff Manchester, provided detailed information of the Item.

No comments were received for the Item.

Discussion ensued among Council and Staff regarding the ideas presented. Council requested samples of proposed projects.

MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY METSCHEL, to ACCEPT the report.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Recess Called at 5:08 p.m.
Meeting Called Back to Order at 5:15 p.m.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: (Continued)

12. City Council Economic Development Priority - Analyze Downtown Master Plan for Possible Amendment

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council considers the information in the agenda report and directs staff accordingly.

DISCUSSION

Director of Community Development, Anthony Shute, provided detailed information of the Item.

No comments were received for the Item.

Discussion ensued among Council and Staff regarding the following:

- Potentially using America Rescue Plan Act funds;
- Options for Zoning Elements;
- Potential usage of vacant property at the Magnolia Ave. & Madison Ave. intersection; and
- Zoning Code Amendment.

13. City Council Priority - Flashing Signs and String Lights

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council:

1. Discusses the subject matter in the report; and
2. Accepts the information provided in the report and takes no further action; or
3. Directs the Planning Commission to prepare amendments to Title 17 (Sign Ordinance) of the El Cajon Municipal Code regulating signage; or
4. Provides alternative policy direction to staff.

DISCUSSION

Director of Community Development, Anthony Shute, provided detailed information of the Item.

No comments were received for the Item.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: (Item 13 - Continued)

Discussion ensued among Council and Staff regarding the following:

- Consideration to allow flashing signs in the downtown area;
- Request for uniformity in color schemes;
- Light pollution;
- Time frame component for businesses to adhere to new rules, if implemented;
- Design standards; and
- Community engagement on the topic.

14. Analysis of a Water Feature at Wells Park

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council directs staff on how to proceed regarding a water feature at Wells Park.

DISCUSSION

Director of Parks and Recreation, Frank Carson, provided detailed information of the Item.

No comments were received for the Item.

Discussion ensued among Council and Staff regarding the following:

- Life span of water feature;
- Consideration of CDBG funding;
- Need for security at water feature;
- Annual maintenance for feature; and
- Consideration of using other water features in the City.

Direction was given to staff to procure and return to council with information about low cost options for local children to attend pool days in the City, install misters in Wells Park and other low cost ideas.

15. Adoption of the El Cajon 2.0 Strategic Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council adopts the El Cajon 2.0 Strategic Plan.

DISCUSSION

Director of Information Technology, Sara Diaz, provided detailed information of the Item.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: (Item 15 - Continued)

David Horowitz, Government Account Manager of Cox Business submitted a comment in support of the Item.

MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY GOBLE, to ADOPT the El Cajon 2.0 Strategic Plan.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

16. Traffic Calming Request for South Anza Street

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council adopts the next Resolution, in order, to:

1. Establish permanent all-way stop signs on South Anza Street at the intersection of Merritt Drive; and
2. Install a pedestrian crossing warning beacon system at the intersection of South Anza Street at Gray Drive, to enhance pedestrian and traffic safety.

DISCUSSION

City Traffic Engineer, Mario Sanchez, provided a summary of the Item.

Conversation ensued amongst Council and staff regarding additional options such as speed bumps, and a four way stop at the South Anza Street intersection.

MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY METSCHEL, to ADOPT Resolution No. 037-21 to establish permanent all-way stop signs on South Anza Street at the intersection of Merritt Drive; and Install a pedestrian crossing warning beacon system at the intersection of South Anza Street at Gray Drive, to enhance pedestrian and traffic safety.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

17. Review of Programs Eligible for Funding Under the American Rescue Plan Act and the Introduction of the Second Business Grant Program and Business Assistance Program

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council adopts the next Resolution, in order, authorizing the use of \$5 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds to fund the second round of the Business Grant program; and authorizes staff to enact a Business Assistance program for business license fees for 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: (Item 17 - Continued)

DISCUSSION

Assistant City Manager DiMaggio, provided detailed information on the Item.

Discussion ensued among Council and Staff regarding the following:

- Update on items originally proposed under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which have been determined not eligible;
- Confirming employment using Employment Development Department forms;
- Businesses that will not benefit from ARPA;
- Consideration of Capital Improvements;
- Different proposals for different sized businesses;
- Using social media and the Chamber of Commerce to reach out to businesses;
- Hybrid model to approve Capital Improvement and hiring stipends;
- Inclusion of dine in restaurants;
- Exclusion of drive-through restaurants;
- Utilizing a panel to review applications;
- Fraud prevention;
- Implementation time period; and
- Qualification requirements for funds.

MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY METSCHEL, ADOPT Resolution No. 038-21 authorizing the use of \$5 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds to fund the second round of the Business Grant program; and authorizes staff to enact a Business Assistance program for business license fees for 2021.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

18. COVID-19 Status Report

RECOMMENDATION: No action required.

DISCUSSION

City Manager Mitchell provided information on the Item.

No comments were received for the Item.

**Recess Called at 7:22 p.m.
Meeting Called Back to Order at 7:29 p.m.**

Mayor Pro Tem Kendrick left the Chamber at 7:22 p.m.

A comment by Robert Metschel was submitted online for the City to utilize tax records and revenue information for local businesses, to use as criteria of what type of impact they sustained during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COMMISSION REPORTS: None

ACTIVITIES REPORTS/COMMENTS OF MAYOR WELLS:

SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments) Board of Directors; SANDAG – Audit Committee; LAFCO.

19. Council Activities Report/Comments

Report as stated.

ACTIVITIES REPORTS OF COUNCILMEMBERS:

20. COUNCILMEMBER STEVE GOBLE

MTS (Metropolitan Transit System Board); East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority Board; Chamber of Commerce – Government Affairs Committee; SANDAG – Board of Directors – Alternate; SANDAG Public Safety Committee – Alternate; METRO Commission/Wastewater JPA – Alternate.

Council Activities Report/Comments.

Report as stated.

21. MAYOR PRO TEM GARY KENDRICK

METRO Commission/Wastewater JPA; Heartland Communications; Heartland Fire Training JPA.

Council Activities Report/Comments.

Report as stated.

22. COUNCILMEMBER MICHELLE METSCHEL

Harry Griffen Park Joint Steering Committee; Heartland Communications – Alternate; Heartland Fire Training JPA – Alternate.

Council Activities Report/Comments.

In addition to the submitted report, Councilmember Metschel reported attending the grand opening of Dave’s Hot Chicken Restaurant.

ACTIVITIES REPORTS OF COUNCILMEMBERS: (Continued)

23. COUNCILMEMBER PHIL ORTIZ

League of California Cities, San Diego Division; East County Economic Development Council; MTS (Metropolitan Transit System Board) – Alternate; East County Advanced Water Purification Joint Powers Authority Board – Alternate; Chamber of Commerce – Government Affairs Committee – Alternate.

Council Activities Report/Comments.

Report as stated.

JOINT COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

24. "El Cajon Food Fest" Event

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council directs staff to return with details of an "El Cajon Food Fest" event for City Council consideration.

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Goble provided information on the Item.

No comments were received for the Item.

Direction was given to staff to procure and return to council with information about a possible El Cajon Food Fest event.

GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: None

ORDINANCES: FIRST READING - None

ORDINANCES: SECOND READING AND ADOPTION - None

CLOSED SESSIONS:

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council/Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency adjourned Closed Session as follows:

25. Closed Session - Public Employee Performance Evaluation: City Manager

CLOSED SESSIONS: (Continued)

MOTION BY WELLS, SECOND BY GOBLE, to ADJOURN to Closed Session at 7:39 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THOSE PRESENT (KENDRICK – Absent).

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION AT 8:04 p.m.

City Attorney Foley reported the following actions:

- Evaluation of City Manager performed.

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 27th day of April, 2021, at 8:04 p.m., to Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

ANGELA L. CORTEZ, CMC
City Clerk/Secretary