

**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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**September 10, 2024**

A Regular Joint Meeting of the El Cajon City Council/Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency, held Tuesday, September 10, 2024, was called to order by Mayor/Chair Bill Wells at 3:01 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 200 Civic Center Way, El Cajon, California.

**ROLL CALL**

Council/Agencymembers present:	Goble, and Metschel
Council/Agencymembers absent:	Kendrick
Deputy Mayor/Vice Chair present:	Ortiz
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 THE FLAG led by Mayor Wells and MOMENT OF SILENCE.**

**POSTINGS:** The City Clerk posted Orders of Adjournment of the August 13, 2024, meetings and the Agenda of the September 10, 2024, meetings in accordance with State Law and El Cajon City Council/Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency Policy.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- National Preparedness Month

Mayor Wells acknowledged students from Valhalla High School, who were present in the audience.

**CONSENT ITEMS: (1 – 10)**

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

Approve Minutes of the August 13, 2024, Meetings of the El Cajon City Council/Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency.

2. Warrants

Approve payment of Warrants as submitted by the Finance Department.

3. Approval of Reading Ordinances by Title Only

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

4. Continuation of Emergency for Storm Damage Repairs to Public Facilities

Adopt Resolution No. 136-24 proclaiming the Continuation of Emergency for Storm Damage Repairs to Public Facilities.

5. Continuation of Emergency for Sewer System Repairs

Adopt Resolution No. 137-24 proclaiming the Continuation of Emergency for Sewer System Repairs.

6. El Cajon Housing Authority Annual Report (Fiscal Year 2023-2024)

Acting as the El Cajon Housing Authority:

1. Approve the attached 2023-2024 Annual Report; and

**CONSENT ITEMS: (Item 6 - Continued)**

2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to transmit it, in a form substantially as presented, to the California Department of Housing and Community Development as required by State Law.

**PULLED BY A MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL:**

7. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Vehicle Purchases

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council adopts the next Resolution, in order, to authorize the replacement of vehicles and capital purchases of new vehicles for Public Works and Public Safety utilizing American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARP23).

**DISCUSSION:**

Discussion ensued amongst the City Council and staff in regards to:

- ARPA deadlines;
- Vehicles reaching the full depreciation;
- ARPA Federal limitations;
- No City vehicles are retired early; and
- State mandate to replace old vehicles with electric vehicles.

Adopt Resolution No. 138-24 to authorize the replacement of vehicles and capital purchases of new vehicles for Public Works and Public Safety utilizing American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARP23).

8. CalRecycle Beverage Container Recycling Grant

Adopt Resolution No. 139-24 to:

1. Authorize the City Manager or such person designated by the City Manager, to apply for, and if awarded, accept the CalRecycle Beverage Container Recycling City/County Grant for FY2024-25 (CALCCPP25); and
2. Authorize the City Manager or such person designated by the City Manager, to execute any documents and agreements necessary to apply for and receive the grant funds.

9. Revision of Classification Specification for Building Inspector

Approve and authorize the proposed changes to the Building Inspector classification specification.

**CONSENT ITEMS: (Continued)**

10. Service Agreement to Participate in the County of San Diego Roadway Resurfacing Project

Adopt Resolution No. 140-24 to:

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute the County of San Diego Service Agreement for El Cajon Roadway Resurfacing;
2. Appropriate \$258,000.00 of available TransNet EL03 Overlay/Resurfacing funds to increase the budget for the Overlay 2023 (233786PWCP) project and expend these funds for the County Roadway Resurfacing Project, which includes five City streets; and
3. Determine that the project is exempt, pursuant to sections 15301, of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) State Guidelines.

**MOTION BY WELLS, SECOND BY ORTIZ, to APPROVE Consent Items 1 to 10.**

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

**AGENDA CHANGES:**

**City Attorney Foley requested that Item 22, Introduction of an Ordinance to amend ECMC Chapter 8.32, be continued to a future meeting to allow for code update changes to be made.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Brenda Hammond spoke about visiting the Tiny Homes village, and how nice and clean they are. She also mentioned the importance of license plate readers in solving murders in Lemon Grove, CA.

John Bausch spoke about an unsafe building in Downtown El Cajon, which to his opinion, should be condemned.

City Manager Mitchell stated that the building is uninhabited, but that renovations are being performed. Mr. Mitchell added he will provide the City Council with more information about the building.

Bobby T. requested that the City Ordinance that prohibits dogs in the super block be revised. City Manager Mitchell stated that staff will bring an Item to the City Council to consider changes to such ordinance. Dogs are prohibited until further discussion.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

11. Public Hearing for the Consideration to Vacate a Utility Easement at 330-340 North First Street

**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 approve the summary vacation of a utility easement at 330-340 North First Street, established by Council Resolution No. 161-81, April 14, 1981.

**DISCUSSION**

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

Mayor Wells opened the Public Hearing.

No public comment was received for the Item.

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

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

**MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY METSCHEL, Adopt Resolution No. 141-24, to approve the summary vacation of a utility easement at 330-340 North First Street, established by Council Resolution No. 161-81, April 14, 1981.**

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

12. Report on City Infrastructure and Deferred Maintenance

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council receives the Report on City Infrastructure and Deferred Maintenance.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: (Item 12 – Continued)**

**DISCUSSION**

Director of Finance, Clay Schoen, provided detailed information of the Item.

No public comment was received for the Item.

Discussion ensued among Council and Staff concerning the following:

- Technological changes for vehicles;
- Sewer pipes;
- Community Development’s Master Plan; and
- Overall picture of what happens if Measure J fails to pass.

**MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY METSCHEL, to RECEIVE the Report on City Infrastructure and Deferred Maintenance.**

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

13. Addressing the Rising 911 Call Volume from Congregate Care Facilities

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council provides feedback on the options presented or considers alternative options. Additionally, staff recommends that the City Council directs staff to meet with operators of congregate care facilities to share potential policy options, gather their input and suggestions, and return to the City Council with a policy proposal for consideration.

**DISCUSSION**

City Manager Mitchell provided detailed information of the Item.

No public comment was received for the Item.

Discussion ensued among Council and Staff concerning the following:

- Concern for facilities charging patients for lift assist services;
- Facilities being short staffed and using hospitals as weekend service providers;
- Reaching out to care facilities to understand their needs; and
- 911 call volume and cost to the City.

**No Motion required for the Item.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: (Continued)**

14. Annual Review of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Program

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council receives the report as an information item and provides feedback to staff.

**DISCUSSION**

Chief of Police Moulton provided detailed information of the Item.

No public comment was received for the Item.

Discussion ensued among Council and Staff concerning the following:

- Crimes prevented due to the ALPR Program;
- Societal savings;
- Cost of one officer salary covers the purchase of 40+ cameras;
- No breach of personal data by the use of ALPR cameras; and
- Program used to assist with Amber Alerts, felony cases and stolen vehicles.

**No Motion required for the Item.**

15. 2024 Annual Pension Status Report

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council receives the Annual Pension Status report.

**DISCUSSION**

Director of Finance, Clay Schoen, provided detailed information of the Item.

No public comment was received for the Item.

**No Motion required for the Item.**

16. All-Way Stop Sign Request on Greenfield Drive at Souvenir Drive

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council adopts the next Resolution, in order, to establish permanent all-way stop signs on Greenfield Drive at the intersection of Souvenir Drive in order to enhance pedestrian and traffic safety.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: (Item 16 - Continued)**

**DISCUSSION**

City Engineer, Mario Sanchez, provided detailed information of the Item.

Discussion ensued among Council and Staff concerning the following:

- Proximity to other stop signs;
- Light cycle leading to the freeway entrance; and
- Flashing signs to warn drivers of the newly installed All-Way Stop.

Alan Nordholh spoke in support of the proposed All-Way Stop request.

**MOTION BY ORTIZ, SECOND BY METSCHEL, to ADOPT Resolution No. 142-24 to establish permanent all-way stop signs on Greenfield Drive at the intersection of Souvenir Drive in order to enhance pedestrian and traffic safety.**

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

**COMMISSION REPORTS:** None

**ACTIVITIES REPORTS/COMMENTS OF MAYOR WELLS:**

SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments) Board of Directors.

17. Council Activities Report/Comments

Report as submitted.

**ACTIVITIES REPORTS OF COUNCILMEMBERS:**

18. 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.

Council Activities Report/Comments.

Report as submitted.



**ACTIVITIES REPORTS OF COUNCILMEMBERS: (Continued)**

19. COUNCILMEMBER GARY KENDRICK  
METRO Commission/Wastewater JPA; Heartland Communications; Heartland Fire Training JPA.

Council Activities Report/Comments.

Report as submitted.

20. COUNCILMEMBER MICHELLE METSCHEL  
Harry Griffen Park Joint Steering Committee; Heartland Communications – Alternate; Heartland Fire Training JPA – Alternate; METRO Commission/Wastewater JPA – Alternate.

Council Activities Report/Comments.

In addition to the submitted report, Councilmember Metschel added that she attended a Funders Together meeting, a Judiciary meeting with Congressman Darrell Issa and shared information about the Alley Cat Walk and the Chaldean Festival at Hillsdale Middle School.

21. DEPUTY MAYOR 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.

In addition to the submitted report, Deputy Mayor Ortiz stated he did not attend the Homelessness Forum at Meridian Baptist Church. He also added he attended the East County Development Council Gillespie Field Committee meeting.

**JOINT COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:** None

**GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:** None

**ITEM 22 CONTINUED TO A FUTURE MEETING UNDER AGENDA CHANGES**

**ORDINANCES: FIRST READING**

22. Introduction of Ordinance to Amend ECMC Chapter 8.32 – Regulation of Smoking and Secondhand Smoke in Certain Public Areas and Places of Employment

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council:

1. Moves to introduce the next Ordinance, in order;
2. Directs the City Clerk to read the Ordinance by title only; and
3. Directs the second reading of the Ordinance to be placed on the September 24, 2024 City Council agenda.

**ORDINANCES: SECOND READING AND ADOPTION: None**

**CLOSED SESSIONS:**

23. Closed Session - Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation – Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code section 54956.9: One (1) potential case - On August 9, 2024, the Attorney General for the State of California, through Chief Deputy Attorney General, Venus D. Johnson, notified Police Chief Mike Moulton of its belief that the El Cajon Police Department maintains a practice of sharing information captured by its automated license plate recognition system with out-of-state and/or federal law enforcement agencies in violation of state laws (i.e., California Civil Code §1798,90,55 (b)).

**MOTION BY WELLS, SECOND BY METSCHEL, to ADJOURN to Closed Session at 5:09 p.m.**

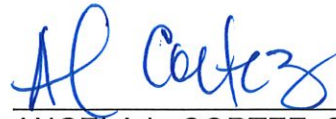
**MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THOSE PRESENT (KENDRICK – Absent).**

RECONVENED to Open Session at 5:23 p.m.

City Attorney Foley reported the following actions:

- No reportable action taken.

Adjournment: Mayor Wells adjourned the Regular Joint Meeting of the El Cajon City Council/Housing Authority/Successor Agency to the El Cajon Redevelopment Agency held this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024, at 5:23 p.m., to Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.



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ANGELA L. CORTEZ, CMC  
City Clerk/Secretary