

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

NOVEMBER 29, 2022

A special meeting of the Santa Monica City Council was called to order by Mayor Himmelrich at 6:07 p.m., on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at City Council Chambers, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Sue Himmelrich
Mayor Pro Tem Kristin McCowan
Councilmember Phil Brock
Councilmember Gleam Davis
Councilmember Lana Negrete
Councilmember Oscar de la Torre

Absent: Councilmember Christine Parra

Also Present: City Manager David White
City Attorney Douglas Sloan
City Clerk Denise Anderson-Warren

CONVENE/PLEDGE

On order of the Mayor, the City Council convened at 6:07 p.m., with all members present except Councilmember Parra. Councilmember Davis led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA
MANAGEMENT**

Motion by Mayor Himmelrich, seconded by Councilmember Davis, to: 1) allow the three Santa Monica High students speak at the beginning of the meeting on the proposed laureate program; 2) hear the Statement of Apology prior to Closed Session; 3) at the request of one of the sponsors, continue Item 8.D. to December 13th meeting; and, 4) suspend the Council rules to reopen public comment on the continued items. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote, with all members present, with Councilmember Parra absent.

**PUBLIC INPUT FOR
CLOSED SESSION,
SPECIAL AGENDA
ITEMS AND CONSENT
CALENDAR ONLY:**

Members of the public Denise Barton, David Morris, commented on closed session items.

Members of the public Robbie Jones, LaVerne Ross, Joanne Berlin, Gina Frazier, Jamila Williams, Alison Rose Jefferson, Denise Barton, Craig Ali, and Waverly Nebedum commented on special agenda items.

CLOSED SESSIONS

On order of the Mayor, the City Council recessed at 6:59 p.m., to consider closed sessions and returned at 9:48 p.m., with all members present, except Councilmember Parra to report the following:

3.A. Public Employee Evaluation Government Code Section 54957(b): Title: City Manager

The Mayor advised this matter was heard with no reportable action taken.

3.B. Public Employee Evaluation Government Code Section 54957(b): Title: City Attorney

The Mayor advised this matter was heard with no reportable action taken.

SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS:

4.A. Statement of Apology to the African American Community and Their Descendants, was presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

All items were considered and approved in one motion unless removed by a Councilmember for discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Brock, seconded by Councilmember Negrete, to approve the Consent Calendar, reading resolutions by title only and waiving further reading thereof. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote, with Councilmember Parra absent.

MINUTES

5.A. Minutes of City Council - Special Meeting - November 15, 2022, were approved.

PUBLIC INPUT ON REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS:

Member Craig Miller (time donated by Melania Lopez) commented on Item 8.A.

Members of the public Claire Kovac, Isis McDowell and Alyssa Cirelie commented on Item 8.B.

Members of the public Olga Zurawska (time donated by David Morris), Kathy Knight and Zina Josephs commented on Item 8.C.

CONTINUED ITEMS:
PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

8.A. Request of the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission to Receive and Review the Reports Provided by the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission, was presented.

Recommended Action

The Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission has prepared a series of reports and recommendations concerning public safety in Santa Monica, most recently focused on complaint investigations and the status of the Santa Monica Police Department’s implementations of the reforms recommended by the OIR Group following their in-depth after-action report concerning the events of May 31, 2020. Staff recommends that the City Council receive and review the reports provided by the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission.

Questions asked and answered of staff included: if the Council approves the

report, would the Police department object; is it unrealistic for the Council to expect complaint investigations to last longer than six months; what are the next steps to change the in-progress items in the OIR report to completed; and did the commission approve all parts of the memo sent to Council.

Considerable discussion ensued on topics including, but not limited to, that the progress being made on the recommendations from the OIR report need to somehow be made available to the Council and the community.

Motion by Councilmember Brock, seconded by Councilmember de la Torre, to receive and file the report. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote, with Councilmember Parra absent.

Motion by Councilmember Davis, seconded by Councilmember Brock, to direct staff to come up with a way to regularly return to Council and the community with updates on progress the Public Safety Reform Oversight Commission is making on the recommendations from the OIR report. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote, with Councilmember Parra absent.

POET LAUREATE PROGRAM

8.B. Request of Councilmembers Negrete, Parra, and Brock that the City Manager develop and return to City Council with recommendations for a Poet Laureate program for the City of Santa Monica. The program and recommendations shall be developed in collaboration with the Library Board and Arts Commission, was presented.

Question asked and answered of staff included, is there going to be a stipend given.

Motion by Councilmember Brock, seconded by Councilmember Negrete, to adopt the staff recommendation. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote, with Councilmember Parra absent.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS/ BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

8.C. Request of Councilmember Davis that the City Council direct the City Manager to contact the head of each Neighborhood Organization and Business Improvement District listed on the City's website and ask if the organization or its Board of Directors (acting as a Board) will refrain from endorsing or opposing candidates or measures in any future election. If the Neighborhood Organization or Business Improvement District will not make that commitment, then the City Manager is authorized and directed to remove that Neighborhood Organization or Business Improvement District from any listing of such organizations on the City's website and to remove any hyperlinks to the organization's website. In addition, the City Attorney and City Manager are directed to draft a policy that states as a condition of receiving City funding any Neighborhood Organization

or Business Improvement District that makes campaign endorsements must provide a disclaimer on any written campaign endorsement materials stating no public funds are used for campaign purposes and views of the organization do not necessarily reflect the views of the City of Santa Monica or any of its officials, was presented.

Question asked and answered of staff included, how do we know if the money being used is city funds or their private membership funds.

Considerable discussion ensued on topics including, but not limited to: whether or not organizations who receive in-kind services should be included, and add language in the grant agreements that if they oppose or endorse candidates or measures they put a disclaimer on their website stating no public funds are used for campaign purposes.

Motion by Councilmember Davis, seconded by Mayor Himmelrich, to ask the City Manager and City Attorney to 1) work on putting a disclaimer on the city’s website where there are links to groups who receive city funding and that any endorsements made by those groups is not paid for using city fund and, 2) put in any agreement by a group that receives city money, if they endorse or oppose candidates or measures, that they put a disclaimer on their website stating no public funds are used for campaign purposes and the views of the organization do not necessarily reflect the views of the City of Santa Monica or any of its officials. The motion was unanimously approved by the voice vote, with Councilmember Parra absent.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

8.D. Request of Councilmembers Parra, Brock and de la Torre to direct the City Manager to evaluate the impacts and feasibility of changing the Santa Monica Housing Authority Payment Standard basis to Small Area Fair Market Rate and increasing select zip code/unit size categories to 120% SAFMR to mitigate negative impacts as recommended by the Housing Commission by mid-December, was continued to the December 13th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On order of the Mayor, the City Council meeting adjourned at 10:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:
Denise Anderson-Warren
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DocuSigned by:
Sue Himmelrich
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Denise Anderson-Warren
City Clerk

Sue Himmelrich
Mayor