

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE,
CALIFORNIA HELD DECEMBER 12, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Alex Vargas called the City Council meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 4455 W. 126th Street, Hawthorne, California.

INVOCATION

Pastor John Jefferson gave the evening's invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Officer Santos Jimenez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL Present: Councilmembers Katrina Manning, Alex Monteiro, L. David Patterson, Mayor Pro Tem Reyes English, Mayor Alex Vargas.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Vontray Norris, City Attorney Robert Kim, City Clerk Dayna Williams-Hunter, City Treasurer Marie Poindexter-Hornback.

PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation – Pastors Recognition – Manning

Councilmember Manning presented Certificates of Appreciation to Pastor John Jefferson, Bishop John Richardson, Pastor Gregory Guich and Pastor Larry Weaver.

2. Presentation for New City Hall Expansion and Civic Park – Office Untitled

Consultant Office Untitled provided a presentation on the future City Hall and courtyard development.

3. Presentation for New Senior Center – RA-DA

Rania Alomar, from RA-DA provided a presentation for the development of the new Senior Center.

4. Artificial Intelligence- The Future Unleashed

Information Technology Systems Manager Josh Armstrong provided a presentation on Artificial Intelligence (AI), including potential uses for AI for City Hall operations and services.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

John Jefferson thanked the City Council for his Certificate of Appreciation, announced an upcoming Christmas food giveaway event and announced parent class graduations. **Ronnie Manson** commented he delivered hot meals for the Thanksgiving holiday. **Gordon Michael Mego** provided comments on potential underground parking options and on Hawthorne Blvd. **Kyle Orlemann** provided comments on including religious leaders of different faiths and a potential Veteran’s Memorial Wall. **James Johnson** provided comments on requesting a bicycle lane on El Segundo near Eucalyptus Ave.

CITY CLERK'S CONSENT CALENDAR

5. Approval of waiver of full readings of resolutions and ordinances on Tuesday, December 12, 2023’s agenda.
6. Approval of City Council meeting minutes for the regular meeting of October 10, 2023 and special meeting of November 28, 2023.
7. City Treasurer requests approval of the warrants for December 12, 2023.

RESOLUTIONS

8. Resolution No. 8445 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CITY MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE AND VONTRAY NORRIS.
9. Resolution No. 8446 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO CITY ATTORNEY EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE AND ROBERT M. KIM.
10. Resolution No. 8447 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF THOSE EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE PART-TIME HAWTHORNE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION.

Councilmember Reyes English moved, seconded by Councilmember Patterson to approve the City Clerk's consent calendar (Items 5 - 10). City Manager Norris and City Attorney Kim stepped out of the Council Chambers before the vote on items 9 and 10 due to conflict of interest.

ROLL CALL AYES: Councilmembers Manning, Monteiro, Patterson, Mayor Pro Tem Reyes English, Mayor Vargas.

NOES: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS (FIRST READING AND ADOPTIONS)

11. Public Hearing and Introduction of Ordinance. No. 2247 (1st Reading) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 17.29.040 (DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS) OF CHAPTERS 17.29 (CM – MIXED COMMERCIAL CLASSIFICATION) TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE HOUSING ELEMENT BY REMOVING CONSTRAINTS TO RESIDENTIAL AND MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENTS, AND APPROVING AN ADDENDUM TO THE HAWTHORNE GENERAL PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT. Motion to introduce.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff Recommends that the City Council introduce Ordinance No. 2247.

City Clerk Williams-Hunter announced this was the time and place for the Public Hearing and introduction of Ordinance No. 2247.

Mayor Vargas opened the public hearing and called for public comments.

No members of the public provided public comments.

Mayor Vargas closed the public hearing.

Ordinance No. 2247 was introduced by Councilmember Monteiro.

ORDINANCES

12. Ordinance No. 2246 (2nd Reading) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 2.17.040 (TERMS OF OFFICE) OF CHAPTER 2.17 (YOUTH COMMISSION); AMENDING SECTION 2.18.040 (TERMS OF OFFICE) OF CHAPTER 2.18 (CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION); AMENDING SECTION 2.19.020 (MEMBERS) OF CHAPTER 2.19 (VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMISSION); AMENDING SECTION 2.20.040 (TERMS OF OFFICE) OF CHAPTER 2.20 (SENIOR CITIZENS' COMMISSION); AMENDING SECTION 2.22.040 (TERMS OF OFFICE) OF CHAPTER 2.22 (PARK, RECREATION AND FINE ARTS COMMISSION); AMENDING SECTION 2.28.090 OF CHAPTER 2.28 (PLANNING COMMISSION) OF THE HAWTHORNE MUNICIPAL CODE; AND MAKING A FINDING OF EXEMPTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

Councilmember Monteiro moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Reyes English to adopt Ordinance 2246.

ROLL CALL AYES: Councilmembers Monteiro, Patterson, Reyes English, Mayor Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Manning

GENERAL MATTERS

13. 2023 California Legislative Update

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff Recommends that the City Council Receive and File.

Councilmember Patterson moved, seconded by Mayor Vargas to receive and file Item 13.

ROLL CALL AYES: Councilmembers Manning, Monteiro, Patterson, Mayor Pro Tem Reyes English, Mayor Vargas.

NOES: None.

CITY MANAGER'S CONSENT CALENDAR

14. Alley Improvement Project – CDBG Funds (Project # 24-06) – Out to Bid.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff recommends that the City Council approve the Plans and Specifications and authorize the Director of Public Works to advertise for construction bids with a return date of January 9, 2024.

15. Alondra Park Multi-Benefit Stormwater Capture Project Cost Sharing Payment of \$500,000 per Partnership Agreement Dated September 5, 2023

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff recommends that the City Council approve and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute this payment for its cost share to the Los Angeles County Public Works of Alhambra, CA.

16. Agreement between the City of Hawthorne and Office Untitled for Design Services for the City Hall Expansion & Civic Center Park (Project # 24-01)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the agreement between Office Untitled and authorize the City Manager to negotiate project costs, execute the agreement and any and all amendments thereto with any minor non-substantive changes to be made by Council.

17. Progress Payment #1 in the amount of \$633,164.74 due to GRBCON, Inc. of Baldwin Park, CA for Sewer Main and Miscellaneous Storm Drain Improvement Project 2023 (Project # 23-04).

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff recommends that the City Council approve this Progress Payment #1 to GRBCON, Inc of Baldwin Park, CA.

18. Progress Payment #2 in the amount of \$315,837.00 due to Huntington Beach Electric Inc of Huntington Beach, CA for Hawthorne Jim Thorpe Park and City Hall Council Chambers Lighting Project (Project #23-07)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff Recommends that the City Council approve this Progress Payment #2 to Huntington Beach Electric Inc of Huntington, CA.

19. Agreement Between the City of Hawthorne and Rania Alomar Architect, INC (RA-DA) for Design Services for City of Hawthorne Senior Center (Project #24-03)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff recommends that the City Council adopts agreement between RA -DA and Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate Project Costs, Execute the Agreement, and any and all amendments, thereto, with any minor non-substantive changes to be made by Counsel.

20. City of Hawthorne's Investment Report for the quarter ended September 30, 2023.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff recommends that the City Council receive, approve and file the City of Hawthorne's Investment Report for the quarter ended September 30, 2023 of FY 23-24.

21. Review of the Quarter 1 Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff recommends that the City Council receive, approve, and file the Quarter 1 Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

22. Progress Payment #2 in the amount of \$253,427.40 due to Martinez Landscape Company, Inc. of Sylmar, CA for General Maintenance (Project #22-05).

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff recommends that the City Council approve this Progress Payment #2 to Martinez Landscape Company, Inc. of Sylmar, CA.

23. Payment in the amount of \$34,880.00 due to Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust for Zela Davis Park Renovation.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff recommends that the City Council approve this payment to Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust.

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Manning to approve the City Manager's Consent Calendar (Items 14 to 23)

ROLL CALL AYES: Councilmembers Manning, Monteiro, Patterson, Mayor Pro Tem Reyes English, Mayor Vargas.

NOES: None.

CITY ATTORNEY'S CONSENT CALENDAR

24. Claim for Damages – Jhosep A. Sono-Rosas

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Deny the Claim for Damages of Jhosep A. Sono-Rosas

25. Agreement Between the City of Hawthorne and Karpel Solutions for Criminal Case Management Software

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Staff recommends that the City Council approve the agreement with Karpel Solutions for criminal case management software in an amount not to exceed \$29,000.00, authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and any related documents, and authorize the purchase order and encumber funds for the same.

26. Claim for Damages of Leonard Hardaway

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Deny the Claim of Leonard Hardaway.

Councilmember Manning moved, seconded by Councilmember Patterson to approve the City Attorney's Consent Calendar (Items 24 to 26)

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mayor Vargas recessed the Council meeting to open the Housing Authority meeting.

27. City Clerk Williams-Hunter announced this was the time and place for the Public Hearing on the Draft Substantial Amendment to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020-2021 Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

The staff advises that the City Council:

1. Conduct the public hearing and receive comments on the draft Substantial Amendment to the 20-24 Consolidated Plan and 20-21 Action Plan for the use of Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds.
2. Adopt the 20-24 Consolidated Plan and 20-21 Action Plan and authorize the City Manager, or designee, to submit the plan and any necessary amendments to the plan to the United State Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
3. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to negotiate, execute, and amend contracts with subrecipients or professional service providers as necessary to implement the CDBG-CV projects identified.
4. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute, amend, and submit to HUD all plans and documents necessary to administer the CDBG-CV program.

Mayor Vargas opened the public hearing and called for public comments.

No members of the public provided public comments.

Mayor Vargas closed the public hearing.

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro to approve the Draft Substantial Amendment to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020-2021 Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program.

ROLL CALL AYES: Councilmembers Manning, Monteiro, Patterson, Mayor Pro Tem Reyes English, Mayor Vargas.

NOES: None.

Mayor Vargas closed the Housing Authority meeting and reopened the City Council meeting.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- 28.** Moratorium on Autonomous Vehicles, Mini Motorbikes, Electric Scooters, Golf Carts, Car Washes and E-Bikes. (Reyes English)

Councilmember Reyes English expressed concern on the overabundance of these items in the City and their effects on public safety and brought them forward to get Council's thoughts. The City Attorney was directed to look into the feasibility of putting a moratorium on them as well as dental offices, nail salons, and massage parlors. Requested extra media coverage for the Skate in the Park event.

- 29.** Updating our payment methods to include, credit cards, PayPal and etc. (Manning)

Councilmember Manning spoke on the importance of having the business license department being able to take payments from businesses by credit card and other convenient forms of payment. Directed the City Manager to get our credit card system up and running.

- 30.** Oppose the higher fixed charge by SoCal Edison. (Reyes English)

Consensus to send a letter opposing the fixed charge.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

City Clerk Williams Hunter read comments from City Treasurer **Poindexter-Hornback** who was unable to attend the meeting. Comments were provided regarding her one year of service as City Treasurer and thanked the Finance staff for their hard work. Looks forward to the Winter Wonderland event and wished Chief Tomatani a Happy Birthday.

City Clerk **Williams Hunter** wished City Treasurer Poindexter-Hornback a Happy Birthday. Provided comments on the Pastor presentation. Congratulated Councilmember Manning, City Treasurer Poindexter-Hornback and herself on their one year of service to the City. Congratulated grandson Adrian on becoming President of the student body.

Councilmember **Manning** provided comments on her one-year anniversary. Wished Chief Tomatani a Happy Birthday. Commended student James Johnson for his advocacy. Announced that Holly Park Little League registration is open until January 16th and that the Business Expo will be held on March 14, 2024. Apologized if there were other churches she did not reach out to; it was not her intention to exclude anybody.

Councilmember **Patterson** thanked staff for their work on the different projects they are involved with. Gave direction to keep a file regarding annuals evaluations. Requested the City Manager look into joining the National League of Cities.

Councilmember **Monteiro** congratulated City Manager Norris and City Attorney Kim on their contract extensions and for doing an outstanding job. Commended City Manager Norris for the ad hoc committee regarding the future of the City and parking solutions. Reported on attending a Goodwill Career Center grand opening, the 14th Annual Southern California Economic Summit, the Clean Power Alliance meeting, the South Bay Cities of Governments and Southern California Regional Energy Network who presented an award for Gold Level of Achievement to Hawthorne for energy efficiency. Thanked the volunteers who worked on the Saturday cleanup. Informed Council that he will be unable to attend the January 9th meeting due to a conference in Las Vegas. Announced that the CDBG and HOME funds community service grant is due January 12th.

Councilmember **Reyes English** thanked City Manager Norris and his administrative staff for helping to make the 15th Annual Operation Gobble a great success. Announced the annual toy giveaway for December 22nd, the Senior Resources Workshop at Del Aire Park on December 13th, Winter Wonderland at Memorial Park on December 16th, Employee Holiday Luncheon on December 21st, and the Chamber of Commerce Toy Drive on December 22nd at the Memorial Center

Mayor **Vargas** commended City Manager and City Attorney Kim for looking out for the City. Reminded Councilmembers to attend conferences associated with the committees they serve on. Commended City Staff for all the events being held in the City.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor adjourned the regular meeting at 9:16 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

Passed and approved this 11th day of February 2025.

Dayna Williams-Hunter
City Clerk