

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE,
CALIFORNIA HELD MARCH 26, 2024.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vargas called the City Council meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 4455 W. 126th Street, Hawthorne, California.

INVOCATION

City Treasurer Marie Poindexter-Hornback gave the evening's invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Clerk Dayna Williams-Hunter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS

1. Councilmember Monteiro presented a Proclamation recognizing March as American Red Cross Month.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Manning, Monteiro, Patterson, Mayor Vargas.
Absent: Councilmember Reyes English.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Jasmine Leon Guerrero, District Representative for **State Senator Steven Bradford**, spoke of how their office can support the City with its concerns about the States's Public Utilities Commission's energy affordability. **Delbra Sturdivant**, President of Love Beyond Autism, thanked the community for its support of the upcoming Autism Awareness Walk. Parks & Recreation/Fine Arts Commissioners **Richard Huhn** and **Hermenia Balboa** promoted the upcoming Art Show happening for the first time since the pandemic. **John Muffaletto** requested the addition of speedbumps along Broadway at major intersections such as Eucalyptus Ave., expressed concerns over homeless residents, called for permitted parking for residents, and reported the recently added parking spaces are drawn inconsistently in length. Mayor Vargas encouraged residents to diligently report matters like this to the City. **Anna Navarro** reported safety concerns due to homeless residents who have been relocated to a motel in her neighborhood. Mayor Vargas directed Ms. Navarro to Hawthorne Police Chief Gary Tomatani and noted several communities have brought a similar concern with Los Angeles County. **A resident** expressed her opposition to Ordinance 2249 (Item No. 05), decrying cannabis use.

CITY CLERK'S CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approval of waiver of full readings of resolutions and ordinances on Tuesday, March 26, 2024's agenda.
3. City Treasurer requests approval of the warrants.

Warrant Nos.:	24963-25278;	195975-196018;	485375-485549;	72767-72769;	10948-10950
Warrant Totals:	\$881,783.79	\$13,122.17	\$1,731,442.42	\$2,314.50	\$284,673.48

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Patterson, to approve the City Clerk's consent calendar.

ROLL CALL AYES: Councilmembers Manning, Monteiro, Patterson, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: Councilmember Reyes English.

BIDS: OPENINGS & RESULTS

4. Bid opening for Zela Davis Park Renovation Improvement (Project #24-04).

City Clerk Dayna Williams-Hunter reported four bids were received for the Zela Davis Park Renovation Improvement (Project #24-04).

The prices are as follows:

MARTINEZ LANDSCAPE COMPANY, INC.	\$1,771,946
HORIZONS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INT'L, INC.	\$3,023,059
LOS ANGELES ENGINEERING, INC.	\$3,280,000
DOJA, INC.	\$3,020,500

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro, to accept the bids and refer them to staff for study and recommendation.

ROLL CALL AYES: Councilmembers Manning, Monteiro, Patterson, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: Councilmember Reyes English.

ORDINANCES

5. **Ordinance No. 2249** (2nd Reading) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 17.87.050 (USES

PROHIBITED) OF CHAPTER 17.87 (MIXED USE OVERLAY ZONE (MU)) TO REMOVE CANNABIS-RELATED USES FROM THE LIST OF USES PROHIBITED, AND APPROVING AN EXEMPTION UNDER SECTION 15061(b)(3) OF CEQA.

Councilmember Monteiro moved, seconded by Councilmember Patterson, to adopt Ordinance No. 2249.

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

NOES: Councilmember Manning.

ABSENT: Councilmember Reyes English.

CITY MANAGER'S CONSENT CALENDAR

6. Receive and file the 2023 Annual General Plan Progress Report and the 2023 Annual Housing Element Progress Report.
7. Progress Payment #3 and Final Acceptance in the amount of \$184,397.80 due to Best Contracting Services, Inc of Gardena, CA for City of Hawthorne Owned Building Roof Rehabilitation (Project #23-06)
8. Progress Payment #2 in the amount of \$482,996.46 due to Klassic Engineering & Construction, Inc of Orange, CA for Hawthorne Housing Rehabilitation of City Owned Properties 2023 (Project #23-09)
9. First Amendment to the Consultant Agreement for Ground Water Monitoring Services ("First Amendment") between the City of Hawthorne ("City") and L. Everett and Associates, Inc. for Continued Operations of Soil Vapor Extraction System at 12601 Hawthorne Blvd.
10. Agreement Between the City of Hawthorne and Aerodome for Services Related to Drone First Responder (DFR) Equipment and Software.
11. Increased Investments in 1-5 year lettered fixed investments through Multi-Bank Securities (MBS).

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro, to approve the City Manager's consent calendar.

ROLL CALL AYES: Councilmembers Manning, Monteiro, Patterson, Mayor Vargas.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Reyes English.

CITY ATTORNEY'S CONSENT CALENDAR

12. Claim For Damages From Jaques Benoit

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve the City Attorney's consent calendar.

ROLL CALL AYES: Councilmembers Manning, Monteiro, Patterson, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: Councilmember Reyes English.

At 6:40 p.m., Mayor Vargas recessed the City Council and called to order the Successor Agency.

SUCCESSOR AGENCY

13. Receive and file Housing Successor Agency Reports for Fiscal Year Ending 2022-23.

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Patterson, to approve accept the bids and refer them to staff for study and recommendation.

ROLL CALL AYES: Councilmembers Manning, Monteiro, Patterson, Mayor Vargas.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: Councilmember Reyes English.

At 6:41 p.m., Mayor Vargas adjourned the Successor Agency and reconvened the City Council.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

14. City Clerk and City Treasurer Salaries

Councilmember Manning recommended offering \$1,200 for the City Clerk and City Treasurer along with keeping the Item as an Ordinance.

Councilmember Patterson reported as elected officials the Councilmembers are paid \$1,200 a month and the sum will increase to \$1,900 in January of 2025.

Councilmember Manning clarified her recommendation is the increase to \$1,200 for the City Clerk and City Treasurer would also happen in January of 2025.

Councilmember Patterson recommended \$1,200 for the City Treasurer and \$1,600 for the City Clerk beginning in January of 2025.

In response to Mayor Vargas' inquiry, Councilmember Manning confirmed she is amiable to moving the timeline up to July of 2024 to coincide with the new Fiscal Year.

City Attorney Robert Kim confirmed he will bring back an amended Ordinance to the second meeting in April for a first reading with the amended Ordinance making the compensation for both positions \$1,200 per month taking effect on July 1, 2024. The Councilmembers agreed.

15. Women's History Month and Mother's Day Event

Councilmember Manning reported she and Mayor Pro Tem Reyes English are hosting an upcoming Women's History Month and requested sponsorship from her Council peers' stipends to help cover the cost of food. She added their contributions will be divided between Mother's Day and Women's

History Month events. Councilmember Monteiro pledged \$500. Mayor Vargas and Councilmember Patterson both agreed but added they will have to confirm their available funds.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

City Treasurer Poindexter-Hornback thanked the Council for approving her request to transfer \$5.5 million from the City's money market account to its investment account earmarked for short-term treasury bonds to take advantage of high interest rates and boost the General Fund.

City Clerk Williams-Hunter reminded residents her office provides notary services.

Councilmember Manning thanked all who supported the Business Expo, job fair, and panel discussion – particularly City staff. She promoted the upcoming Women's History Month event and Mother's Day brunch.

Councilmember Monteiro agreed with Mr. Muffaletto's call for speed bumps on Broadway. He thanked the City of Carson and the City of Gardena for their State of the City event invitations. He thanked Ms. Leon Guerrero for coming to the meeting and noted Assembly Bill 205 was rushed through the legislative process leading to the current issues with the law. He echoed Ms. Sturdivant's promotion of the Autism Awareness Walk. He encouraged nominations for Volunteer Appreciation Day. He promoted the upcoming South Bay Cities Council of Governments General Assembly focused on artificial intelligence. He clarified the City is not promoting cannabis through Ordinance 2249 but rather attempting to regulate and encourage safe cannabis usage. He added a dispensary is safer than the street and the City can also collect Sales Tax. He requested the meeting be adjourned in memory of Erick Chavez's mother.

Councilmember Patterson added the Hawthorne Business Connect to the list of upcoming events to mark on calendars. He reported he can donate \$250 from his stipend for Councilmember Manning's events. He encouraged residents to apply for vacancies on the City's Commissions. He called for partnership with a non-profit on an expungement clinic like those held by neighboring cities.

Councilmember Manning requested an update from City Manager Von Norris on the urgent care facility.

Mayor Vargas reported on behalf of Mayor Pro Tem Reyes English there will be an upcoming social event for Hawthorne's Community Emergency Response Team members and participants. He reported City Hall will be closed on Monday in celebration of Cesar Chavez Day. He stated angst about legalized cannabis should be redirected to the State as the City is only following its mandate. He reported attending the City of Carson and City of Gardena's State of the City events, lauding both. He added his Council peers and Hawthorne City staff joined him at these events and all were excited about what Hawthorne is doing relative to its neighbors. He reported presenting about the City to a recent South Bay Association of Realtors meeting, adding he discussed a need to maintain affordable housing for long-term Hawthorne residents amidst rising prices. He reported attending the recent Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, North Hawthorne Community Association Easter Egg Hunt, and the Islamic Center of Hawthorne's interfaith meeting.

Mayor Vargas stated the Council meeting will adjourn in memory of Hawthorne Community Television Supervisor Erick Chavez's mother and Deputy City Clerk Diana Cucalon's father. He requested a moment of silence for them.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Vargas called for oral comments. No public comments were received.

Mayor Vargas recessed the Council into Closed Session at 7:16 p.m.

16. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1))

Name of Case: Herman Roberson v. City of Hawthorne, et al.
 U.S. District Court Case No. 2:10-CV-06913-DMG-JPR

Mayor Vargas called the City Council meeting back to order at 7:36 p.m. following recess with all Councilmembers present except for Councilmembers Patterson and Reyes English.

City Attorney Kim reported the City Council met in Closed Session on Item No. 16 and has agreed to a settlement of \$51,000 for the dismissal of the case. He added the Council's vote was 4-0 in favor on the Settlement Agreement and to authorize the City Attorney to sign the Agreement on the City's behalf.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Vargas adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:37 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

Passed and approved on the ____ day of _____ 2025.

Dayna S. Williams-Hunter
City Clerk