

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE,
CALIFORNIA HELD APRIL 23, 2024.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Vargas called the City Council meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 4455 W. 126th Street, Hawthorne, California.

INVOCATION

City Manager Von Norris gave the evening's invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Former Mayor Guy Hocker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Vargas reported the absences of Mayor Pro Tem Manning and Councilmember Reyes English are excused.

Present: Councilmembers Monteiro, Patterson, Mayor Vargas.

Absent: Councilmembers Manning, Reyes English.

PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS

1. Hawthorne Homeless Services quarterly program update- Dulce Medina

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Arleen Romero, President of Sociedad Jose Marti, encouraged the Councilmembers to continue to contribute to her organization so it can continue to contribute to Hawthorne. Former Mayor **Guy Hocker** spoke his objections to Hawthorne changing to become a Charter City as discussed at the last meeting and listed many former Hawthorne elected officials who agree. **Rob Williams** expressed concerns about the traffic in his 132nd St. neighborhood where the two speed humps are not having the desired impact, suggesting adding a third speed hump near Inglewood Ave. and signage. **Shaneel Singh** reported there are also safety issues with vehicular speeding on his neighborhood on 119th St. along with burnouts in area intersections, burglaries from homeless residents, vandalism, and drug use. He requested additional Hawthorne Police Department (HPD) presence. **Ray Holler** reported the homeless camp under Interstate 405 at Yukon Ave. and along the Dominguez Channel. He thanked the Council for supporting the elevated Hawthorne Blvd. option for Los Angeles Metro Rail expansion. **James Raddick** stated his support for switching to Charter City status to better align with other area cities. **Israel Howard** reported he was recently treated disrespectfully by the HPD while questioning the inconsistent enforcement of parking violations in his neighborhood. **Daniel Granados**, Hawthorne Public Library Manager, updated the Council on new programming.

CITY CLERK’S CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approval of waiver of full readings of resolutions and ordinances on Tuesday, April 23, 2024’s agenda.

3. City Treasurer requests approval of the warrants.

Warrant Nos.:	25610-25911;	196302-196043;	485718-485900;	73110-73111;	10953
Warrant Totals:	\$842,986.68	\$4,982.78	\$2,902,640.34	\$128.14	\$11,820.00

4. Approval of City Council meeting minutes for the regular meeting of February 27, 2024.

RESOLUTIONS

5. Resolution No. 8458 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hawthorne, California ordering the director of Public Works / City Engineer to prepare a report for the Street Lighting Maintenance District of the City of Hawthorne for fiscal year 2024-2025 as required by the Streets and Highways Code Section 22622.

6. Resolution No. 8459 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hawthorne, California, Proclaiming the Week of May 5, 2024 to May 11, 2024 as “Municipal Clerk’s Week.”

Councilmember Patterson moved, seconded by Mayor Vargas to approve the City Clerk’s consent calendar. (Items 2-6)

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

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Manning, Reyes English.

BIDS: OPENINGS & RESULTS

7. Publicly receive, open and declare sealed bids for 120th St Improvements – Crenshaw Blvd to Felton Ave, Phase II (Project # 21-03)

City Clerk Dayna Williams-Hunter reported four bids were received.

The prices are as follows:

SEQUEL CONTRACTORS, INC.	\$3,195,100
ALL-AMERICAN ASHPALT, INC.	\$3,942,942
HARDY & HARPER, INC.	\$3,465,000
PALP, INC. DBA EXCEL PAVING	\$3,418,650

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

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

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Manning, Reyes English.

PUBLIC HEARINGS (FIRST READING AND ADOPTIONS)

8. Public Hearing on the Draft 2024-2025 Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs, Draft Substantial Amendment to the 2021-2022 Action Plan for the Home Investment Partnerships – American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Program, and Draft Substantial Amendment to the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan

City Clerk Williams-Hunter reported no written communications were received.

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

Consultant David Muñoz of LDM Associates, Inc. reported on the administration and implementation of the City's United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-funded programs, including Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs.

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro, to accept the presentation.

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

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Manning, Reyes English.

CITY MANAGER'S CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Vargas announced Item Nos. 15-17 will be considered separately from Item Nos. 09-14.

9. Construction of Speed Humps on Broadway from Inglewood Ave to Grevillea Ave, Eucalyptus Ave from Broadway to El Segundo Blvd and 119th St from Atkinson Ave to Van Ness Ave
10. Receive and file the Single Audit Report for FY 2022-2023.
11. Progress Payment #1 in the amount of \$123,500.00 due to Pardess Air Inc of Los Angeles, CA for Hawthorne Memorial Center HVAC System Upgrade (Project #23-08).
12. Bridge of Hope Community Housing (BHCH) Citigaurd Professional Services Agreement First Amendment

13. Progress Payment #4 in the amount of \$606,835.80 due to Klassic Engineering & Construction, Inc of Orange, CA for Hawthorne Housing Rehabilitation of City Owned Properties 2023 (Project #23-09)
14. Bridge of Hope Community Housing (BHCH) LA CADA Professional Services Agreement First Amendment

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

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

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Manning, Reyes English.

15. Amendment No. Three to Agreement No. 5793 Between The City of El Segundo and the City of Hawthorne For Supplemental Law Enforcement (Jail) Services.

Councilmember Monteiro moved, seconded by Mayor Vargas to approve Item 15.

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

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Manning, Reyes English.

HPD Sgt. Bradley Jackson discussed the City's five-year partnership with the City of El Segundo Police Department (ESPD) for jail services, adding the fees charged to ESPD are in line with the County's Fee Schedule.

16. Approval of Agreement Between The City of Hawthorne and the City of Gardena For Supplemental Law Enforcement (Medical Director) Services.

Dr. Joe Nakagawa of the HPD reported the department is on the forefront of medical training for police officers, leading to many Hawthorne residents having their lives saved and requests from other cities to have their officers similarly trained by the HPD.

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro, to approve Item 16.

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

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Manning, Reyes English.

Mayor Vargas lauded how the HPD is an innovative trendsetter and other cities are looking to Hawthorne for expertise with medical services, jailing, helicopter, and other services.

17. Proposed Funding Option for Capital Improvement Projects

Consultant Mike Mejia, Managing Director of Ramirez and Company, Inc., presented on a variety of funding options for the City's projected \$95 million worth of upcoming Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), focusing on the potential issuance of Lease Revenue Bonds.

Mayor Vargas moved, seconded by Councilmember Monteiro to accept Item 17

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

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Manning, Reyes English.

CITY ATTORNEY'S CONSENT CALENDAR

18. Claim For Damages from Terrance Louis McCauley and Jaxton J., a Minor.

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

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

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Manning, Reyes English.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

City Treasurer Poindexter-Hornback reported attending the Art Festival, the Pancake Breakfast at the Hawthorne Historical Society, and Earth Day. She confirmed making the \$5.5 million investment transaction approved at the March 26th City Council meeting.

City Clerk Williams-Hunter reminded residents there is an online form for a public records request or they can be made in person at her office, noting the County and not the City manages birth, marriage, and death certificates. She requested feedback from residents about the possibility of providing Agendas in Spanish. She reported on the upcoming Mother's Day celebration, Food Drive, and Coffee with the Clerk.

Councilmember Monteiro commended the Art Festival with its high youth participation, the Pancake Breakfast, a local basketball competition, and Earth Day. He lauded the HPD for its officers participating in a safety-focused community question and answer session. He stated he will donate \$500 from his stipend funds for Sociadad Jose Marti's upcoming festival. He promoted an upcoming fundraiser for the HPD's K-9 unit, a Fair Housing Workshop, and a Hawthorne Senior Center bus trip to the Los Angeles County Fair. He endorsed Mr. Mejia's ability to help the City fund its CIP. He cautioned residents about the County issuing a West Nile virus alert from local mosquitos.

Councilmember Patterson commended the Art Festival, Earth Day, and encouraged residents to reach out to him if they have questions about his positions. He noted there are conflicting definitions of a Charter City in the public due to prevailing misinformation. He clarified the Council could put anything it wants into a Charter but it does allow the City to not be bound by some law requirements providing for flexibility while conversely being sometimes less nimble about modifying civic policies. He added he respects differing opinions but takes offense to the dissemination of false information. He thanked Councilmember Monteiro and City staff for their efforts with the City's homeless issues. He commended the HPD and noted how much it has improved its public interactions since his youth but added his hopes Mr. Howard's situation is being taken seriously. He commended the CDBG and HOME plans.

Councilmember Patterson addressed discussions at recent meetings by condemning unprofessional comments made by Mayor Vargas. He accused Mayor Vargas of intentionally lying to push an anti-Charter agenda out of fears a Charter would strip powers from the mayoral office. He decried covertly racist attacks made against him and his employment, declaring them unprofessional violations of the City's Code of Conduct. He called for an Ordinance outlying consequences for violating Code of Conduct policy by the Mayor's lying about him. He requested the seats on the dais be rearranged so he does not have to sit next to Mayor Vargas going forward and announced he would leave the meeting before Mayor Vargas's upcoming report. He left the Council Chambers.

Mayor Vargas noted Councilmember Patterson is not at his seat but he is in the building so he can make his comments. He stated the timing of the Special Meeting prevented residents from being present and voicing their Charter opposition. He reported the Charter was defeated 61% to 39% in the November 2022 election. He added this matter is actually about salaries because those cannot be increased unless you are a Charter City but it should be placed on a ballot for residents to decide.

Councilmember Monteiro stated this is a lie and left the meeting.

Mayor Vargas stated being a Charter City does not protect Hawthorne from State mandates and takes away residential rights while allowing for a less ethical contract bidding process. He reported several California cities went bankrupt immediately after switching to a charter. He stated Councilmember Patterson only wants a Charter for a salary increase. He added he will stand with residents and oppose the measure while focusing instead on homelessness, affordable housing, keeping the City safe, and maintaining the City's economic rise over the past 10 years. He stated having the Charter Special Meeting at 3:30 p.m. on a Friday is nefarious. He decried Councilmember Patterson for making it a racial matter and claiming harassment.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Vargas adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:08 p.m. in memory of Art Osborne.

CERTIFICATION

Passed and approved this 8th day of April 2025.

DAYNA WILLIAMS-HUNTER,
HAWTHORNE CITY CLERK