

**MINUTES**

---

**THE CITY OF MONTEBELLO CITY COUNCIL MET AT THE ABOVE TIME AND PLACE IN A REGULAR SESSION.**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne called the meeting to order at the hour of 6:41 p.m.
- 2. ROLL CALL:** City Clerk C. Jimenez  
**MEMBERS PRESENT (Via Zoom):** Torres, Peralta, Jimenez, Melendez, Cobos-Cawthorne  
**STAFF PRESENT:** City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman, City Manager Bobadilla
- 3. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:** City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

None

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne recessed the meeting into Closed Session at the hour of 6:01 p.m. congruent to the Successor Agency Closed Session. At the hour of 6:32 p.m. Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne reconvened the meeting.

**CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 P.M.**

The City Attorney shall provide a briefing on the item listed for Closed Session as follows:

City Attorney announced that during Closed Session Item #6 was discussed and that Council would resume Closed Session at the end of the meeting to discuss Item Nos. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Closed Session resumed at 7:54 p.m.

**4. THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES**

Government Code Section 54957

Consultation with City Manager, Police Chief, City Attorney and other related City officials.

City Council received a briefing from the City Manager, Police Chief, City Attorney and other related officials.

**5. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)

Consideration of Initiation of Litigation - One matter

City Council received a briefing. No action taken. Nothing to report.

**6. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**

Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: 901 Via San Clemente, Montebello, CA  
Agency's Negotiator: René Bobadilla, City Manager  
Negotiating Party: Trendsports  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

City Council received a briefing. No action taken. Nothing to report.

**7. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**

Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: 1345 N. Montebello Blvd.  
Agency's Negotiator: René Bobadilla, City Manager  
Negotiating Party: M&M Realty

City Council received a briefing. No action taken. Nothing to report.

**8. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**

Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: 612 West Whittier Blvd., Montebello, CA  
Agency Negotiator: René Bobadilla, City Manager  
Negotiating Parties: Mario Mojarro and Fabian Garcia  
Under Negotiations: Both - price and terms of payment

City Council received a briefing. No action taken. Nothing to report.

**9. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**

Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: 715 West Whittier Blvd., Montebello, CA  
Agency Negotiator: René Bobadilla, City Manager  
Negotiating Parties: Pace Development  
Under Negotiations: Both - price and terms of payment

City Council received a briefing. No action taken. Nothing to report.

**10. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATIONS**

Government Code Section 54957.6

Agency designated representative: René Bobadilla  
Unrepresented employees: Various unrepresented Directors  
(consideration of side-letter)

City Council received a briefing. Council unanimously accepted the side letter.

**REGULAR SESSION – Resumed at 7:01 P.M.**

**11. INVOCATION**

Pastor John Vianney

**12. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Director of Human Resources, Nicholas Razo

**13. PRESENTATION: RECOGNITION OF CITY COMMISSIONERS**

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne presented certificates for Commissioners who served in the following Advisory Groups:

Traffic and Safety Commission: Fredrick Klemundt, Mike Torres, Delia Lopez, and Louise Samaneigo

Civil Service Commission: Joseph Lucero, Razmig Sarkissian, Anna Raygoza, Maribel Briseno, and David Matanga

Culture and Recreation: Oliver Jimenez, Edgar Ortiz, Henry Fimbres, and Randy Beas

Golf Commission: Barney Santos, Joe Capiello, and Dillan Arreola

Planning Commission: Sona Mooradian

Youth Commission: Leslie Membreno, Ani Ouzounian, Jraven Boothe, and David Perez

Investment Committee: Rosemarie Vasquez, Abraham Lim, and Maricruz Raygoza

**14. PRESENTATION: RECOGNITION OF JOY FOUNDATION FOR TOY DISTRIBUTION**

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne presented certificates to members of the Joy Foundation for organizing a Toy Distribution with the City.

**15. PRESENTATION: RECOGNITION OF HEARTS OF COMPASSION**

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Hearts of Compassion.

**16. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS ON ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

City Manager Bobadilla reminded the Community to stay safe during this pandemic.

**17. CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA – CITY MANAGER - None**

**18. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Raymund Valdez, requested a call to speak on street sweeping. There was no answer, Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne directed City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman to call the resident at the conclusion of Public Oral Communications.

Written Comments read by the City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman:

M. Pedroza – spoke about severance pay for executives.

Jorge Sanchez II.– spoke in regards to social media posts made on Facebook that involved Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne.

Kendall Carcamo Torres – spoke in regards to Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne’s personal finances.

City Staff called Raymund Valdez and there was no answer. City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman left a voicemail and thanked him for his interest and concern.

**19. PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON OPEN SESSION ITEMS (30 MINUTES)**

UFCW Local 770's submitted a letter in support for the Delivery Fee Ordinance.

- 20. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Councilmember Jimenez moved, seconded by Councilmember Melendez that all items be approved in a single motion with the exception of Item Nos. 21, 22, and 23. Such approval will also waive the reading of any ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**21. CITY COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS**

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne directed staff to create an application for the Commissions/Committees. Additionally, she requested that the application include the name of the Councilmember the applicant would like to work with.

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne asked staff to provide Council with copies of the agendas and minutes of each Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Torres suggested having a Study Session to discuss the intent of each Ad Hoc and understand ongoing issues that have or have not been addressed.

City Manager Bobadilla stated that he had a discussion with Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne to develop Quarterly Special Study Sessions for City Council. He informed City Council that City Staff would be requesting their availability to establish a schedule.

The following external Committee Appointments were made:

| <b>ORGANIZATION</b>                                                        | <b>2021 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES</b>                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ashiya Sister City Committee                                               | Jimenez (Delegate)                                                      |
| League of California Cities – Los Angeles Chapter                          | Cobos-Cawthorne (Delegate)<br>Torres (Alternate)<br>Jimenez (Alternate) |
| League of California Cities<br>Los Angeles County City Selection Committee | Cobos-Cawthorne (Delegate)<br>Peralta (Alternate)                       |
| San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments                                  | Peralta (Delegate)<br>Melendez (Alternate)                              |
| Montebello Chamber of Commerce                                             | Peralta (Delegate)                                                      |
| Capital Projects Committee - Alameda Corridor East Authority (ACE)         | Peralta (Delegate)<br>Melendez (Alternate)                              |
| California Contract Cities Association (CCA)                               | Cobos-Cawthorne (Delegate)                                              |
| Gateway Cities Council of Governments                                      | Jimenez (Delegate)<br>Torres (Alternate)                                |
| Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)                      | Peralta (Delegate)<br>Melendez (Alternate)                              |

|                                                     |                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts          | Cobos-Cawthorne (Delegate)<br>Peralta (Alternate)        |
| Southeast Area Animal Control (SEAACA)              | Cobos-Cawthorne (Delegate)<br>Melendez (Alternate)       |
| Los Angeles County Vector Control District (LACVCD) | Avik Cordeiro (Resident)<br>2 Year Term (Appointed 2020) |
| Independent Cities Association                      | Torres (Delegate)<br>Melendez (Alternate)                |

**22. REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR ON-CALL ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Councilmember Peralta moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Torres to continue the item at the upcoming Regular Council Meeting, by the following vote:

AYES: Torres, Peralta, Cobos-Cawthorne  
 NOES: Melendez, Jimenez  
 ABSENT: None  
 ABSTAIN: None

It is recommended that the City Council authorize City Staff to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for on-call architectural and engineering services.

Councilmember Peralta asked City Staff to provide additional information prior to this item being approved. She is asking Staff to provide information in regards to whether additional staffing will be required to handle the various consultants and contracts and any potential administrative costs that would affect the budget. Additionally specify burden to the current staff and whether the City would need additional staff to handle a bench like system. She requested that the report be provided before the meeting.

**23. CONSIDERATION OF AN URGENCY ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY LIMIT ON THE CHARGES IMPOSED BY THIRD-PARTY DELIVERY SERVICES ON LOCAL RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND FOR 90 DAYS AFTER THE COUNTY/STATE ORDER PROHIBITING ON-PREMISES DINING IS LIFTED**

Councilmember Peralta thanked the UFCW Local 770 for their letter of support. She hopes that this Ordinance will provide residents and workers much needed relief through the Regional Stay-at-Home Order.

Council thanked Councilmember Peralta for bringing this item to the City.

Councilmember Jimenez motioned, seconded by Councilmember Peralta that the City Council:

1. Introduce, waive reading, and consider adoption by a 4/5th vote an Urgency Ordinance to establish a temporary limit on the charges imposed on local retail food establishments by third-party delivery services during the COVID-19 pandemic and for 90 days after the County/State Order prohibiting on-premises dining is lifted; and
2. Find that the recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines per Section

15061(b)(3), the General Rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have a significant effect on the environment.

3. Take such additional, related, action that may be desirable.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **CONSENT MATTERS**

**24. AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF MONTEBELLO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WASHINGTON BOULEVARD COALITION ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND CONNECTIVITY STUDY AS A MEMBER OF THE WASHINGTON BOULEVARD LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT COALITION**

Councilmember Jimenez motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Melendez that the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager to participate in a four-city Economic Analysis and Connectivity Study as part of the Washington Boulevard Light Rail Transit Coalition; and,
2. Amend the Fiscal Year 2020-21 adopted budget by increasing appropriations by \$70,000 in the Measure M Fund (Account No. 222-30-300-6040.10); and,
3. Take additional steps necessary per the Washington Boulevard Light Rail Transit Coalition Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion carried unanimously.

**25. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING CHANGES TO CHAPTER 2.44 OF THE CITY OF MONTEBELLO MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMISSION AND CREATING A TRAFFIC AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Councilmember Jimenez motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Melendez that the City Council:

Adopt the attached Ordinance amending Chapter 2.44 of the City of Montebello Municipal Code (MMC) relative to the existing Traffic and Safety Commission and creating a Traffic and Safety Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

**26. AUTHORIZE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE SIXTH AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT NO. 3066 WITH INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Councilmember Jimenez motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Melendez that the City Council:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the Sixth Amendment to Professional Services Agreement No. 3066 with Infrastructure Engineers reducing the monthly retainer for engineering staff augmentation from \$39,589 to \$31,720.

Motion carried unanimously.

**27. AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF UPGRADED OFFICE WORKSPACE FURNITURE FROM BLUESPACE INTERIORS**

Councilmember Jimenez motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Melendez that the City Council:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into a purchase agreement for upgraded office workspace furniture from BlueSpace Interiors for the Finance Department in an amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

**28. APPROVE FIRST AMENDMENT TO VEHICLE BODY REPAIR AND PAINTING AGREEMENT NO. 3690**

Councilmember Jimenez motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Melendez that the City Council:

1. Approve the First Amendment to Agreement No. 3690, extending maintenance services with Montebello Autocraft, Inc. ("Autocraft") for a one-year term with the City of Montebello for vehicle body repair and painting; and
2. Authorize the City Manager and/or his Designee to execute the first amendment on behalf of the City; and
3. Take such additional, related action that may be desirable.

Motion carried unanimously.

**29. APPROVE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH BLAIS & ASSOCIATES INC. FOR GRANT WRITING SERVICES**

Councilmember Jimenez motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Melendez that the City Council:

1. Approve a Professional Services Contract with Blais & Associates, Inc. for Grant Writing Services; and
2. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with Blais & Associates, Inc. for grant writing services for three (3) years for an amount not-to-exceed \$195,000 with the option of two (2), one-year extensions at \$65,000 each year, for a maximum contract term of five (5) years and a total not-to-exceed contract value of \$325,000.
4. Take such additional, related action that may be desirable.

Motion carried unanimously.

**30. AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH COMPRESSED AIR SPECIALTIES INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF EMERGENCY/ FIRST-RESPONDER AIR COMPRESSOR SYSTEMS**

Councilmember Jimenez motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Melendez that the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute a Sole Source Purchase Agreement with Compressed Air Specialties Inc., a Bauer Compressed Authorized Factory; and

2. Authorize total expenditures in a not-to-exceed amount of \$180,000 to account for two (2) Air Compressors and other supportive/installation services; and
3. Take such additional, related action that may be desirable.

Motion carried unanimously.

**31. PAYMENT OF BILLS: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY/SUCCESSOR AGENCY WARRANT REGISTER OF DEMANDS DATED JANUARY 13, 2021**

Councilmember Jimenez motioned to approve, seconded by Councilmember Melendez that the City Council:

Adopt the proposed Resolution approving the Warrant Register dated January 13, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

**32. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 10, DECEMBER 16 AND DECEMBER 29, 2020**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Upon motion carried unanimously, the minutes of December 10, December 16, and December 29, were approved as written on January 13, 2021.

**33. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - CONTINUED IF NECESSARY**

**COUNCIL ORALS**

**35. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS; REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS; CONFERENCE/MEETINGS REPORTS**

**1. Councilmember Peralta – Accessibility of Commission Meetings; Community Highlight Puroplants**

Councilmember Peralta spoke in regards to hazard pay for essential front line grocery workers that have been exposed to COVID as they continue to work through the pandemic. She asked for Council consensus to direct City Staff to draft a similar ordinance for the next City Council Meeting.

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne directed City Staff to include this Ordinance on the Agenda for the next City Council Meeting.

Additionally, Councilmember Peralta requested Council consensus to direct staff to provide accessibility to Commission Meetings. She asked that Commission Meeting be moved to a virtual platform such as Zoom.

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne directed City Staff to move Commission Meetings to virtual platforms.

Lastly, Councilmember highlighted a community business Puroplants, this business promotes healthier choices and offers volunteer hours. She encouraged residents to visit the business.

## **2. Mayor Pro Tem Torres – Increasing and reestablishing government transparency**

Mayor Pro Tem Torres spoke in regards to increasing and reestablishing government transparency. Thanked City Staff for adding Council Orals to the Agenda to provide community an opportunity to speak on items that Council.

Additionally, he thanked City Staff and Council for their commitment to remain transparent and for putting out a City Newsletter for the Community.

Councilmember Melendez announced that January 8<sup>th</sup> was Bill Walter's birthday. He is an important Community member and would like to highlight his birthday. He further stated that perhaps the City could look into naming a City facility after him.

He also spoke on the Montebello Barnyard Zoo. He and Councilmember Jimenez met with the owners and reassured him that they were there to support him. The Barnyard Zoo received contributions from the Community on their GoFundMe Account.

Councilmember Jimenez thanked Michael Chee, Deputy Director of Public Affairs, and the team for putting together the City Newsletter.

Councilmember Jimenez requested Council consensus to establish a heritage calendar, similar to the Los Angeles County. She asked for City Staff to recognize historical figures and possibly introduce monthly competitions for the residents to participate. She would like to begin with the month of February by recognizing African American Month.

Mayor Pro Tem Torres asked City Manager Bobadilla to include the Heritage Calendar to a Study Session.

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne directed City Staff to recognize the month of February as African American Heritage Month and asked the City Manager Bobadilla to add the Heritage Calendar and Montebello Cares Calendar to the Study Session.

## **3. Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne – COVID-19 Vaccinations for Police**

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne spoke in regards to COVID-19 Vaccinations for Police, she thanked the staff that helped secure, administered, and those who received the vaccine.

She further addressed comments made by the public in regards to severance pay, social media posts, and her personal finances.

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne recessed the meeting back into Closed Session at the hour of 7:54 p.m. to discuss Item Nos. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne reconvened the regular portion of the meeting. City Attorney Alvarez provided a report.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne thanked everyone who stayed late to join the meeting.

Councilmember Peralta motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez. Meeting adjourned at the hour of 9:03 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Upon motion carried unanimously, the minutes of January 13, 2021 were approved as written on February 24, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Jimenez", is written over a horizontal line.

Christopher Jimenez, City Clerk