

**CITY OF MONTEBELLO
1600 WEST BEVERLY BOULEVARD
MONTEBELLO, CALIFORNIA**

**JANUARY 27, 2021
WEDNESDAY
5:30 P.M.**

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 5:38 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:

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

None

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne recessed the meeting into Closed Session at the hour of 5:40 p.m.

Prior to recessing into Closed Session the City Council added one additional matter for discussion listed as 9b.

CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 P.M.

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

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 – EXISTING LITIGATION

Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)

Abraham Yuen v. City of Montebello, et al.

USDC-Central District Case No. 2:20-cv-00755-MWF-PLA

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

6. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Government Code Section 54956.8

Francesca Tucker-Schuyler v. City of Montebello, et al.

Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV22180

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

7. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: 300 San Gabriel Blvd.

Agency's Negotiator: René Bobadilla, City Manager

Negotiating Party: County of Los Angeles

Under negotiation: Price and Terms

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

8. 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.

9. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)

One potential matter

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

9b. CONFERENCE WITH LEAGL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)

One potential matter

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

REGULAR SESSION - 6:30 P.M.

10. INVOCATION Senior Pastor Fernando from Victory Outreach

11. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Carrol Tran

City Council added a Presentation to Recognize Firefighter Captain Steve Cox.

11a. PRESENTATION: RECOGNITION OF FIREFIGHTER CAPTAIN STEVE COX

Item was walked on. Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne presented a Certificate of Recognition to Fire Fighter Captain Steve Cox.

Mayor Pro Tem thanked Captain Steve Cox for protecting the lives and property of residents and going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure everyone from the apartment complex was accounted for.

12. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS ON ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

City Manager Bobadilla announced that on Monday, January 25, Rite Aid began administering Covid-19 vaccines. Vaccines are limited, and residents may register online for an appointment.

13. CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA – CITY MANAGER

Added items 9b and 11a.

14. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman

Written Comments read by the City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman:

Joe Cervera spoke in regards to the Facebook page “You Know You’re From Montebello.”

Alex Hernandez spoke in regards to previously elected members.

Mari Lopez spoke in regards to a fake Facebook profile.

Emma Perez spoke in regards to the Beverly Hospital property.

David Hornback spoke in regards to the business license fees.

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

Rachel Torres requested a call to speak on the implementation of the Hero Pay Program. There was no answer, City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman left a voicemail and thanked her for her interest and concern. Additionally, she submitted a letter from the UFCW Local 770’s in support of the Hero Pay Program.

Ron Herrera, President of Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, submitted a letter in support of the Hero Pay Program.

Rafael Gutierrez spoke in favor of the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

16. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Pro Tem Torres moved, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez, that all items be approved in a single motion with the exception of Item Nos. 17, 18, 19, and 20. Such approval will also waive the reading of any ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

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

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

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne motioned, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Torres discuss the item at a future meeting, by the following vote:

AYES: Torres, Peralta, Cobos-Cawthorne

NOES: Melendez, Jimenez
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

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. The information that was provided did not suffice Councilmember Peralta's request to provide the number of staff and consultants the City plans to hire.

Mayor Pro Tem Torres and Councilmember Peralta requested that the information be provided before the meeting to allow time to analyze the data.

Council directed City Staff to schedule a meeting with Councilmember Peralta to discuss the item and understand the implications of the RFQ. Once the information is provided, Council will direct City Staff to add the item to the Council agenda.

18. EVALUATION OF AN ORDINANCE AS PROPOSED BY COUNCILMEMBER SCARLET PERALTA REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF A "HERO PAY" PROGRAM

City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman presented the item to Council.

Councilmember Peralta spoke in favor of the Ordinance.

Council commended Councilmember Peralta for bringing the Ordinance to the City.

Councilmember Melendez asked City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman to explain the City's plans to respond to a potential lawsuit, potential damages, and enforcement of the Ordinance.

City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman provided an example of possible outcomes and informed the Council that the Ordinance included enforcement provisions.

Councilmember Jimenez suggested that the City hold off on approval to meet with the union and discuss the implementation plan. She stated that the City might have overlooked other groups who should also receive the hazard pay.

Mayor Pro Tem Torres suggested moving forward to assist the small group of frontline workers and potentially add other frontline groups at a future time.

Councilmember Peralta motioned, seconded by Councilmember Melendez to approve an Urgency Ordinance for Hazard Pay, the premium pay will consist of an additional \$4 per hour worked, the premium pay will be in effect for 180 days and unless extended shall expire in 180 days, and further wave reading of the Ordinance.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Introduce and Adopt the attached Ordinance adding chapter 5.10, relating to grocery or drug store workers in Montebello, and establishing labor standards requirements for premium pay for grocery or drug store workers working in

Montebello; declaring the urgency thereof; and declaring that this ordinance shall take effect immediately; and

2. Introduce the attached Ordinance adding chapter 5.10, relating to grocery or drug store workers in Montebello, and establishing labor standards requirements for premium pay for grocery or drug store workers working in Montebello; declaring as a regular ordinance; or
3. Provide direction to City Staff and City Attorney to review, analyze and prepare an Ordinance to effectuate and implement a "Hero Pay" Program for Frontline Grocery and Drug Retail Employees employed by defined retail operators within the City of Montebello; or
4. Take such additional or alternative action that may be desirable.

Motion carried unanimously.

The second reading of the Ordinance will be brought back at the next City Council Meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS

19. PARK FACILITIES MASTER PLAN AND FACILITIES NEED ASSESSMENT UPDATE

David Sosnowski provided a presentation of the item.

Council commended Mr. Sosnowski for the presentation and thanked the residents that participated in the assessment.

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne asked Council to repost the link to gather additional community input for the City's facilities.

1. Receive and file an update on the Park Facilities Master Plan (PFMP) and Facilities Needs Assessment (FNA).
2. Take such additional, related, action that may be desirable.

20. RECEIVE AND FILE THE FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (CAFR)

Michael Solorza provided a presentation of the item.

Council commended Mr. Solorza for the presentation and congratulated him for their accomplishment in receiving the Government Finance Officers Association Award.

It is recommended that the City Council receive and file the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and presentation.

CONSENT MATTERS

21. APPROVE ISSUING A BUS LIFT REPLACEMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP), NO. 21-25

Mayor Pro Tem Torres motioned, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez that the City Council:

1. Approve Issuing a Bus Lift Replacement Request for Proposal (RFP), No. 21-25; and
2. Take such additional, related, action that may be desirable.

Motion carried unanimously.

22. AWARD A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR CITYWIDE CUSTODIAL SERVICES (RFP 21-20)

Mayor Pro Tem Torres motioned, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez that the City Council:

1. Award a Professional Services Agreement to Ultimate Maintenance Services in an amount not-to-exceed Three Hundred Forty-Six Thousand and Eight Hundred Dollars (\$346,800) annually for the initial year of a three-year (3-year) term (total cost of \$1,040,400) for Citywide Custodial Services.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement on behalf of the City.

Motion carried unanimously.

23. AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF 90% OF THE RETENTION FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH GENTRY BROTHERS, INC. FOR C.P. # 866 – BEVERLY BOULEVARD STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Mayor Pro Tem Torres motioned, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez that the City Council:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to release 90% of the Retention Funds, in the amount of \$41,247, for the construction contract with Gentry Brothers, Inc. for C.P. # 866 – Beverly Boulevard Street Improvements Project.

Motion carried unanimously.

24. PAYMENT OF BILLS: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY WARRANT REGISTER OF DEMANDS DATED JANUARY 27, 2021

Mayor Pro Tem Torres motioned, seconded by Councilmember Jimenez that the City Council:

Adopt the proposed Resolution approving the Warrant Register dated January 27, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

25. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - CONTINUED IF NECESSARY

COUNCIL ORALS

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

1. Councilmember Peralta

- a. COVID Vaccination Update
- b. Message for Mary De Sevilla and Jocelyn Roehrick from Girls Scout Troop 5031
- c. Facilitating accessibility of Council agendas for residents who do not have access to computers.

Councilmember Peralta reminded residents over the age of 65 that the Covid vaccines are now available and anyone who wishes to get vaccinated can schedule an appointment through the Los Angeles County Website or by checking with their primary healthcare provider.

Councilmember Peralta stated that she received a letter from the Girl Scouts Troop 5031, the letter was read aloud. The Girl Scouts Troop completed a cleanup on the walking path by the freeway. They asked for the City's help in maintaining the walk path clean area for pedestrians.

Lastly, Councilmember Peralta spoke about mailed out agendas.

City Manager Bobadilla informed the Council that per the Government Code mailed out agendas must be requested in writing on an annual basis. To date, the City has only received one request.

Council directed City Staff to inform the public of the posting of the agenda through social media.

2. Mayor Pro Tem Torres

- a. Proposal to name field after Margaret "Marge" Villa, Montebello native who played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League from 1946-1950

Mayor Pro Tem Torres requested Council consensus to name a field after Margaret "Marge" Villa.

City Attorney Alvarez-Glasman informed the Council that there is no formal process for naming facilities, fields, and streets.

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne directed City Staff to prepare a formal process for Council action.

Mayor Pro Tem Torres requested Council consensus to develop a Language Access Plan to provide translation services for the community.

City Manager Bobadilla informed the Council that the City would develop a Request for Proposals to hire a consultant to develop a Language Access Plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Torres informed the public that updates for the Metro Heights Project at the Montebello Hills can be found on metroheightsinfo.com.

Mayor Pro Tem Torres requested that Councilmember Jimenez be removed as the Delegate for the Gateway Cities Council of Governments due to a public argument.

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne directed City Staff to add this item to the Council Agenda.

Councilmember Melendez commended the City Manager and Executive Staff for providing lunch to the Beverly Hospital Employees.

Councilmember Melendez spoke in regards to Mi Sabroso Michoacan, a local business. The business was hit by a vehicle and their entire kitchen was destroyed he asked the City Manager if the City could implement safety measures for businesses that are located on corner streets. Councilmember Melendez informed the public that the business created a GoFundMe Account to raise money to fix the damage.

Lastly, Councilmember Melendez wished his girlfriend and Councilmember Jimenez a very Happy Birthday.

Councilmember Jimenez thanked the community and City Staff who joined the Run Montebello Run Club. Additionally, she informed the public that the Club would be partnering with The Shops at Montebello to host a Heart Health Awareness Walk. Details will be provided at a later time.

3. Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne

- a. Closed session items- allow for ample discussion time 4-6 item maximum during closed session.
- b. Hiring freeze- consideration of hiring freeze during pandemic

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne proposed a limit for closed session items to allow Council sufficient time to discuss. She also proposed a hiring freeze due to the pandemic and for the safety of City employees.

She spoke on business license fees and suggested reverting to last year's fee due to the pandemic. She directed Staff to add business license fees to the next Council agenda.

She also spoke on implementing a program to purchase gift cards from local restaurants to assist families in need. She requested that this item be added to the next Council agenda.

Lastly, she thanked Montebello Unified School District Board of Education Vice President Jennifer Gutierrez and Board Member Liliana Magaña for responding to the accident on the intersection of Findlay Avenue and Via Compo. She asked for community input to improve the intersection.

ADJOURNMENT

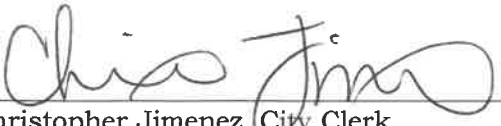
Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. in memory of Ronald Overlander, her uncle, and Freddy Cobos, her father. She asked the community to continue to stay safe and follow precautionary measures.

It was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Torres to adjourn the meeting in memory of Maria Mercedes Ayolo.

Councilmember Peralta requested to adjourn the meeting in memory of Joe Machuca Senior, her uncle, and the countless victims that have lost their lives due to COVID.

Mayor Cobos-Cawthorne requested a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon motion carried unanimously, the minutes of January 27, 2021 were approved as written on March 10, 2021.



Christopher Jimenez, City Clerk

