

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK
HELD MAY 13, 2025

Vol. 54 Pg. 265

1. GENERAL

The City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Civic Center, 6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, California, Mayor Ahn presiding.

1A. CALL TO ORDER

1B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Franco, Hoque, Sonne, Traut, Ahn
ABSENT: None

Also present were: Aaron France, City Manager; Chris Cardinale, City Attorney; and Adria M. Jimenez, MMC, Director of Government and Community Relations/City Clerk.

1C. INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Jonathan Lee, Buena Park Police Department Chaplain.

1D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Melissa Dhauw, Senior Management Analyst, Economic Development.

1E. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager France reported the following:

- 44th Annual Memorial Day Remembrance Service, May 26, 2025, 10:00 a.m., in front of the Veterans Memorial at Ehlers Event Center. Retired Army General James W. Comstock will serve as keynote speaker.
- District 4 Community Meeting, June 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at San Marino Elementary School.
- The City was awarded the Families Communities Together (FaCT) Grant with the Friendly Center as a partner agency, in the amount of \$2.3 million over the next five years. City Manager France thanked Director of Community Services Box and his staff as well as Friendly Center staff for their work on the application.
- Buena Park Police Officer Hour of Remembrance Memorial Event, May 14, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in front of the police memorial.
- Military Banner Program kickoff: 30 banners will be displayed along Orangethorpe Avenue, Valley View Street and Beach Boulevard starting on May 14, 2025.

2. PRESENTATIONS

2A. PROCLAMATION HONORING PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL MONTH

Mayor Ahn presented a Proclamation recognizing May 2025 as Peace Officers' Memorial Month to Police Chief Nunes on behalf of the Buena Park Police Department.

Former Mayor and Council Member, and Retired Peace Officer Art Brown spoke to commemorate Peace Officers Memorial Month.

3A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Ahn announced the public may at this time address the members of the City Council on any matters within the jurisdiction of the City Council.

Ebony Harvey, Buena Park resident, spoke regarding parking issues in the northern part of Buena Park, and sought City Council direction for parking options for residents in the affected neighborhood.

There being no additional requests to speak, Mayor Ahn closed oral communications.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (4A – 4H)

Mayor Ahn announced that Consent Calendar Item Nos. 4A through 4H would be acted upon by one motion affirming the actions as recommended on the agenda and agenda bills submitted and inquired if anyone present desired to have any item removed for separate consideration. There being no additional requests for separate consideration, the following action was taken on Item Nos. 4A – 4H:

MOTION: Franco
SECOND: Traut
AYES: Franco, Traut, Hoque, Sonne, Ahn
NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED that all actions recommended on Consent Calendar Item Nos. 4A – 4G be approved.

Minutes

4A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommended Action: Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 15, 2025, and Special and Regular City Council Meetings of April 22, 2025.

APPROVED the recommended action.

Finance 75

4B. RESOLUTIONS APPROVING CLAIMS AND DEMANDS

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolutions approving Claims and Demands.

ADOPTED the following titled resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 14975

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, ALLOWING CERTAIN CLAIMS AND DEMANDS IN THE SUM OF \$2,526,592.54 DEMAND NOS. 430142 THROUGH 430382 CANCELLED NO. 430013

RESOLUTION NO. 14976

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, ALLOWING CERTAIN CLAIMS AND DEMANDS IN THE SUM OF \$1,066,547.54 COVERING REGULAR PAYROLL ENDING APRIL 11, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 14977

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, ALLOWING CERTAIN CLAIMS AND DEMANDS IN THE SUM OF \$18,109.47 COVERING RETIREE PAYROLL ENDING APRIL 30, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 14978

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, ALLOWING CERTAIN CLAIMS AND DEMANDS IN THE SUM OF \$1,072,744.72 COVERING REGULAR PAYROLL ENDING APRIL 25, 2025

Proclamations 119

4C. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 4–10, 2025, AS PROFESSIONAL MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK

Recommended Action: Approve proclamation.

APPROVED the recommended action.

Proclamations 119

- 4D. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 18–24, 2025, AS NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Recommended Action: Approve proclamation.

Proclamations 119

- 4E. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 18, 2025, AS ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER (AANHPI) DAY AGAINST BULLYING AND HATE

Recommended Action: Approve proclamation.

APPROVED the recommended action.

Proclamations 119

- 4F. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 2025 AS PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL MONTH

Recommended Action: Approve proclamation.

APPROVED the recommended action.

Proclamations 119

- 4G. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 2025 AS FRONTLINE WORKER APPRECIATION MONTH

Recommended Action: Approve proclamation.

APPROVED the recommended action.

Awards 168

- 4H. SELECTION OF THE 2025 MYRNA HOLMQUIST SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES AND APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS

Recommended Action: 1) Award Jillian Penaredonda a 2025 Myrna Holmquist Scholarship in the amount of \$7,000; and, 2) Award Natalie Stark a 2025 Myrna Holmquist Scholarship in the amount of \$3,000.

APPROVED the recommended action.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**5. NEW BUSINESS (5A – 5F)****Streets & Highways 141 Budgets 47**

- 5A. BUDGET APPROPRIATION FOR THE KOREATOWN FREEWAY SIGNS PROJECT WITH CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS)

Recommended Action: 1) Approve a budget allocation of \$45,281 from the undesignated General Fund balance for the installation of Koreatown freeway signs on Interstate 5 and State Route 91.

Management Analyst Capistrano provided a report regarding a budget appropriation for the installation of Koreatown signs on Interstate 5 and State Route 91. The City is working with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the installation and maintenance of directional signs on the northbound and southbound exits 116 on the I-5 as well as directional signs on the eastbound and westbound exits 23B on SR-91, directing drivers to Buena Park's Koreatown. Caltrans has completed the design and recommends a total of seven signs at appropriate exits as well as directional signs at the exit off-ramps. It was recommended that the City Council approve a budget allocation of \$45,281 from the undesignated General Fund balance for the purpose of facilitating the work order for the installation of the Koreatown freeway signs. Although the total project cost is within the City Manager's signature authority, the City Council approval is required to appropriate the necessary funding.

Vice Mayor Traut spoke in support of the installation of Koreatown freeway signs on Interstate 5 and State Route 91; and, asked about the feasibility of including the City's name in the sign design, and about the funding of signs for Little Arabia.

Council Member Hoque asked about seeking financial sponsorship from Korean businesses and local nonprofits for the installation of the freeway signs.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Mikhael indicated that staff contacted Caltrans about the sign design and was informed that the set design is meant for cultural significance. Therefore, the City name could not be included.

City Manager France explained that the Little Arabia signs were funded by the City of Anaheim. Moreover, staff explored other funding options for the signs. However, the proposed freeway signs do not qualify for any grants available. Additionally, staff did not reach out to Korean businesses and local nonprofits due to the assumption that the City will be paying for the signs.

Mayor Ahn spoke regarding the continuing effort to enhance the economic development and tourism in Buena Park's Koreatown.

Council Member Franco proposed to explore the use of the digital billboards along the Interstate 5 and State Route 91 to advertise Buena Park Koreatown.

MOTION TO AMEND

MOTION: Ahn
SECOND: Traut

MOTION TO AMEND to approve the budget allocation for the Koreatown freeway signs using the Economic Development Fund instead of the undesignated General Fund.

MOTION: Ahn
SECOND: Traut
AYES: Ahn, Traut, Sonne
NOES: Franco, Hoque

MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED to approve the budget allocation for the Koreatown freeway signs using the Economic Development Fund instead of the undesignated General Fund.

Contracts 70 C-3606 Public Works Proj. 125 PW-981

5B. RESOLUTION APPROVING SPECIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH PRO INSTALLATIONS INC., DBA PROSPECTRA CONTRACT FLOORING, A DIVERZIFY COMPANY, FOR THE SENIOR CENTER FLOORING REPLACEMENT PHASE 1 PROJECT

Recommended Action: 1) Adopt a resolution approving specifications for the Senior Center Flooring Replacement Phase 1 Project; 2) Award a contract to Pro Installations, Inc. dba Prospectra Contract Flooring, A Diverzify Company, in the amount of \$197,002; 3) Authorize contingency funds in the amount of \$30,000 in the same purchase order; 4) Authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to make any necessary, non-monetary changes to the contract; and, 5) Authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the contract.

Assistant Engineer Esparza-Almaraz provided a report regarding the approval of specifications and award of contract for the Senior Center Flooring Replacement Phase 1 Project. The Project will include: removal and replacement of existing flooring; repair, restoration, and refinishing of wood parquet flooring; and flooring material specifications – linoleum and carpet. It would also cover the Senior Center: Activity Center Lobby, Hallways, Administrative Offices, Adult Daycare, Gift Shop, Einstein Room, Picasso Room, Game Room, Wood Multi-Purpose Room, and Computer Labs. Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2025 and be completed by July 2025. The Project was advertised for competitive bids on March 19, 2025, and five (5) bids were received and publicly opened on April 29, 2025. The lowest bid was from Universal Flooring Systems, but Addendum Nos. 1 and 2 were not included. The second lowest bid and lowest responsive bid was submitted by Prospectra Contract Flooring of Cerritos, CA, in the amount of \$197,002. This contractor possesses the required license and has completed similar projects for other agencies such as Vista Unified School District, Fallbrook Union Elementary School District, Mt. San Jacinto Community College District, Elk Grove Unified School District, Newport-Mesa Unified School District, and California State University, Sacramento. It was recommended that the City Council award the contract for the Senior Center Flooring Replacement Phase 1 Project to Pro Installations, Inc., dba Prospectra Contract Flooring, a Diverzify Company, and approve \$30,000 for contingency funds.

MOTION: Sonne
SECOND: Ahn
AYES: Sonne, Ahn, Franco, Hoque, Traut
NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED to approve the recommended action and ADOPTED the following titled resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 14979

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING SPECIFICATIONS FOR SENIOR CENTER FLOORING REPLACEMENT PHASE 1 PROJECT IN SAID CITY

Contracts 70 C-3607

5C. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BKF ENGINEERS FOR THE KNOTT AVENUE STORM DRAIN UPSIZE PROJECT (ORANGETHORPE AVENUE TO MELROSE STREET)

Recommended Action: 1) Approve a Professional Services Agreement with BKF Engineers in the amount of \$89,995 for the design services for the Knott Avenue Storm Drain Upsize Project (Orangethorpe Avenue to Melrose Street); 2) Authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to make any necessary, non-monetary changes to the agreement; and, 3) Authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the agreement.

Associate Engineer Miller provided a report regarding the approval of a professional services agreement with BKF Engineers for the design services for the Knott Avenue Storm Drain Upsize Project (Orangethorpe Avenue to Melrose Street). The intersection of Knott Avenue and Orangethorpe Avenue has experienced persistent ponding issues primarily due to the existing storm drain system lacking sufficient capacity to convey storm water into the Fullerton Creek Channel. City staff is in the process of hiring an engineering firm to assess the existing infrastructure and develop an improved storm drain system to provide adequate capacity to address the ponding issue. Staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to retain a consultant to provide professional design services for the Knott Avenue Storm Drain Upsize Project (Orangethorpe Avenue to Melrose Street), and nine (9) proposals were received on April 7, 2025. Following the evaluation, staff determined that BKF Engineers is the most qualified firm for the City's needs based on their understanding of the scope of work, project schedule, cost-effectiveness, and relevant experience. BKF Engineers has successfully delivered similar design projects for the City in the past, including the Altura Boulevard and Rosecrans Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation Projects. It was recommended that the City Council enter into an agreement with BKF Engineers for professional design services, including plans, specifications, cost estimates, and construction support. The design phase is scheduled to commence in May 2025 and is anticipated to be completed by October 2025.

MOTION: Sonne
SECOND: Franco
AYES: Sonne, Franco, Hoque, Traut, Ahn
NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED to approve the recommended action.

Contracts 70 C-1516**5D. RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE WASTE DISPOSAL AGREEMENT (WDA) WITH THE COUNTY OF ORANGE**

Recommended Action: 1) Approve a second amendment to the Waste Disposal Agreement (WDA); 2) Authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to make any necessary, non-monetary changes to the agreement; and, 3) Authorize the City Manager and the City Clerk to execute the agreement.

Public Works Manager Hunt provided a report regarding the approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Waste Disposal Agreement (WDA) with the County of Orange. The current WDA between all Orange County cities/sanitary districts and the County of Orange will expire on June 30, 2025. In January 2022, Orange County Waste and Recycling (OCWR) notified cities of its intent to revise the WDA to align with legislative requirements, such as Senate Bill 1383, that require local governments to divert organic waste away from the landfills. OCWR presented a proposed successor agreement to the WDA, titled the Waste Infrastructure System Enhancement (WISE) agreement. The WISE agreement suggested increasing the landfill disposal rate from \$42.65 to \$82.00 per ton. It also suggested a rebate program for composted organic waste and an allocation of capital expenditures for organics recycling infrastructure at County landfills. The Orange County City Manager Association (OCCMA) formed a committee in December 2024 to negotiate a successor agreement to the WDA and requested an extension of the current WDA to allow time for such negotiations. OCR has agreed to the OCCMA committee's requested extension under the terms of the proposed amendment, which generally provides for a 12-month extension of the current WDA and a 2.6% disposal fee increase, per the escalation formula in the current WDA. If the OCCMA committee and OCWR do not reach mutually agreeable terms by September 30, 2025, monthly updates will be provided to all cities/sanitary districts beginning in October 2025. It was recommended that the City Council approve a second amendment to the Waste Disposal Agreement (WDA) to ensure stable disposal rates and collaboration between all cities/sanitary districts in Orange County for an additional year.

Council Member Franco asked about the possibility to opt out or negotiate the landfill disposal rate increase of 92.3% through the WISE agreement.

Public Works Manager Hunt indicated that there is ongoing negotiations pertaining to the successor agreement to the WDA, and the option for the City to opt out and find another place to dispose the waste.

MOTION: Sonne
SECOND: Franco
AYES: Sonne, Franco, Hoque, Traut, Ahn
NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED to approve the recommended action and ADOPTED the following titled resolution:

RESOLUTION NO.14980

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2009 WASTE DISPOSAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF ORANGE

Contracts 70 C-3577**5E. EXTENSION OF EXCLUSIVE NEGOTIATING AGREEMENT WITH BOARDWALK ENTERPRISES, LLC FOR CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 7711-7733 BEACH BOULEVARD**

Recommended Action: 1) Approve and authorize the City Manager to execute a three-month extension to an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement (ENA) with Boardwalk Enterprises, LLC, in a form approved by the City Attorney, to finalize financial feasibility, project construction schedule, and review of developer's financial capacity for the City-owned property at 7711- 7733 Beach Boulevard for an aquarium, butterfly exhibit, laser maze, ice-cream shop and retail development.

Adi Knishinsky, Boardwalk Enterprises, LLC, discussed the updates on the Buena Park Boardwalk project, specifically the current site conditions, project status, site plan, elevations, site sections, rendered view, and goal of 2027 opening.

Director of Community and Economic Development Foulkes provided a report regarding an extension to the Exclusive Negotiating Agreement (ENA) with Boardwalk Enterprises, LLC. The ENA approved by the City Council in November 2024 had an effective date of January 13, 2025. Pursuant to the ENA, Boardwalk Enterprises, LLC was required to make progress towards completing six milestones culminating in a preliminary design and agreement on the terms and conditions governing disposition and development of the property. Director Foulkes reported that as of May 13, 2025, significant progress has been made with the developer having completed four of the six milestones. Although the developer has not completed all the milestones identified in the first phase of the ENA, City staff supports an extension of the ENA to provide additional time to complete the remaining two milestones: financial feasibility and evidence of developer's financial capacity. It was recommended that the City Council approve the ENA to be extended an additional three months from the July 13, 2025, date. The new ENA expiration date would be October 13, 2025, with the City Manager retaining authority to extend the ENA for up to 30 days if necessary for the developer to complete the milestones.

The City Council spoke in support of the Buena Park Boardwalk project and extending the ENA with Boardwalk Enterprises, LLC.

Lynda Luistro, Buena Park Resident, spoke regarding her concerns and suggestions for the Buena Park Boardwalk project.

MOTION: Sonne
SECOND: Traut
AYES: Sonne, Traut, Franco, Hoque, Ahn
NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED to approve the recommended action.

Codes 64

5F. CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 5.62 TO THE BUENA PARK MUNICIPAL CODE ESTABLISHING LICENSING AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS PERFORMING WORK ON LARGE PROJECTS

The City Council will consider adopting an ordinance requiring license contractors and subcontractors performing work on specified construction projects to make certain disclosures as a condition to issuance of a construction permit from the City, including a list of any subcontractors that will be working under the permit and past violations by the contractor of labor code requirements.

Recommended Action: 1) Adopt an ordinance adding Chapter 5.62 (Licensing and Disclosure Requirements for Contractors) to Title 5 (Business License and Regulations) to the Buena Park Municipal Code and establishing licensing and disclosure requirements for contractors and subcontractors performing work on specified projects.

City Attorney Cardinale provided a report regarding the consideration of adopting an ordinance requiring license contractors and subcontractors performing work on specified construction projects to make certain disclosures as a condition to issuance of a construction permit from the City, including a list of any subcontractors that will be working under the permit and past violations by the contractor of labor code requirements. After the March 25, 2025 study session presentation, the City Council directed staff to return with a draft subcontractor ordinance that could be implemented within the City's existing administrative processes and applied to the following categories: (A) residential projects with 20 or more units; (B) commercial or industrial projects of 20,000 square feet or more; or (C) projects, regardless of type, valued at \$5 million or more. The City Council also expressed a desire that the ordinance be enforceable through administrative citations issued to any offending contractor/subcontractor. If approved, the draft ordinance would essentially codify the City's current administrative process and make it mandatory as opposed to permissible on larger construction projects. The ordinance would become effective thirty days after adoption.

Council Member Franco and Vice Mayor Traut spoke regarding the intention to promote transparency and accountability towards contractors and subcontractors working in the City.

Jimmy Elrod, Western States Regional Council of Carpenters Representative, spoke in support of the proposed contractor disclosure ordinance.

MOTION: Franco
SECOND: Traut
AYES: Franco, Traut, Hoque, Sonne, Ahn
NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED to approve the recommended action and ADOPTED the following titled ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO.1752

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, ADDING CHAPTER 5.62 (CONTRACTOR LICENSING AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS) TO TITLE 5 (BUSINESS LICENSES AND REGULATIONS) TO THE BUENA PARK MUNICIPAL CODE ESTABLISHING LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR AND DISCLOSURE CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS PERFORMING WORK ON SPECIFIED PROJECTS

6. PUBLIC HEARING

No Public Hearing items.

7. MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL REPORTS AND CALENDAR

7A. REPORT

Council Member Sonne reported the following:

- April 26 Love Buena Park
- April 28–30 CalCCA Conference
- May 4 Paul Sonne's Birthday
- May 7 Buena Park Rotary Awards Luncheon
- May 8 BP Lieutenant Judy Williams' Final Call
- May 12 OCPA Board Meeting

Council Member Sonne calendared a discussion on seeking CPU Resilience Project Grant in early June.

Council Member Franco announced that he will be co-hosting an online workshop on immigration on May 16, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. For more information, residents may contact Council Member Franco; and, calendared a study on multi-family residences in association with SB 1383, elimination of food waste from the waste stream.

Council Member Hoque reported the following:

- April 23 Senior Volunteer Recognition
- April 25 CESD District Showcase
- April 26 Love Buena Park
- April 28 OCFA Station 62 Visit
- April 29 Wescom Knott's Berry Farm Branch Grand Opening
- April 30 North OC Satellite Office at Cypress College Ribbon Cutting
- May 1–2 SCAG 2025 Regional Conference and General Assembly
- May 2 Raymond Temple Elementary School Carnival
- May 3 Buena Park Police Open House
- May 7 Move Your Way Event and Resource Fair Opening Ceremony
- May 7 Buena Park Rotary Awards Luncheon
- May 7 Mother's Day Paint and Sip
- May 8 Walker Jr. High School Tour
- May 10 Community Outreach Meeting – Friendship Park Project
- May 12 Community Services Staff Development Day

Council Member Hoque and Vice Mayor Traut jointly calendared mobile recreation on wheels; and Council Member Hoque and Council Member Franco jointly calendared a Construction Career and Apprenticeship Resource Fair 2026, including Police and Fire.

Vice Mayor Traut reported the following:

- April 24 AUHSD/City of Buena Park Liaison Meeting
- April 24 OCFA Executive Committee Meeting
- April 28 OCFA Station 62 Visit
- April 29 Wescom Knott's Berry Farm Branch Grand Opening
- April 30 Launch of the YES Workforce Development and College Bound Programs at Cypress College in Partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs
- May 1–2 SCAG 2025 Regional Conference and General Assembly
- May 8 City Selection Committee Meeting

Vice Mayor Traut reported attending the May 8, 2025 City Selection Committee meeting wherein he served as an alternate voting delegate. Moreover, the following individuals have been elected to serve: City of Los Alamitos Mayor Shelley Hasselbrink for the Airport Land Use Commission; City of Brea Mayor Blair Stewart for the OC Emergency Medical Care Committee; City of Brea Council Member Christine Marick for the OC Waste Management Commission; and, City of Stanton David J. Shawver for the OC Waste Management Commission – District 4. Moreover, Vice Mayor Traut reported attending the SCAG 2025 Regional Conference and General Assembly held May 1-2, 2025, at Desert Springs, CA. Vice Mayor Traut attended sessions related to city hall work efficiencies, homeowners' insurance, and use of AI in the workplace. Finally, Vice Mayor Traut calendared to review prior settlement agreements within the past two years between the City of Buena Park and OCTA at the next scheduled City Council meeting.

Mayor Ahn reported the following:

- April 26 Love Buena Park
- April 29 Wescom Knott's Berry Farm Branch Grand Opening
- May 3 Buena Park Police Open House
- May 7 ACC-OC Event: CalOptima Pace and Street Medicine Tour
- May 8 Community Outreach Meeting – Friendship Park Project
- May 10 Community Outreach Meeting – Friendship Park Project

Mayor Ahn calendared a traffic study by Betty Middle School and Emery Elementary School due to complaints received regarding vehicles speeding at and around the schools.

8. RECESS/RECONVENE

Mayor Ahn recessed the meeting at 6:20 p.m. and announced the meeting would be reconvened in the City Council Chamber. The meeting was reconvened at 6:32 p.m.

9. STUDY SESSION (9A – 9C)

9A. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION ON THE ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL CROSSWALK ENHANCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Assistant City Engineer Arabolu provided a report regarding the assessment of potential crosswalk enhancements and additions at various locations; and discussed current conditions, analysis and potential options for pedestrian safety improvements at several intersections, including: 1) Western Avenue near Rick Gomez Park, 2) Commonwealth Avenue at Darlington Avenue, 3) Auto Center Drive at Dale Street, and 4) Whitaker Street at Indiana Avenue. Staff sought City Council direction to proceed with the potential options for pedestrian safety improvements at several intersections as presented.

Council Member Sonne spoke regarding her concerns about vehicles speeding and pedestrian safety at some of the major intersections in the City. Council Member Sonne also expressed her preference of moving forward with option B.

Council Member Hoque asked about exploring grants available to fund the potential crosswalk enhancements, and suggested that the City Council consider obtaining feedback from the Traffic and Transportation Commission on the options presented.

Assistant City Engineer Arabolu indicated that there are very few grants available for installing signal lights or signalized intersections.

Following the discussion, the City Council directed the Traffic and Transportation Commission to review and consider the crosswalk enhancements and additions at various locations; and return to the City Council with recommendations at a subsequent meeting.

9B. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION REGARDING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE FRIENDSHIP PARK PROJECT

The City Council will discuss and provide direction on next steps concerning the Korean Pavilion structure and related amenities proposed for the Friendship Park project.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Mikhael provided a report regarding the design and construction of the Friendship Park project. Staff and Sohn Architects have continued working on the Friendship Park project proposal for months since last presented to the City Council, and staff now returns to provide an update and seek direction on next steps for implementing the proposal. Sohn Architects has completed a preliminary design and site plan for the project. Additionally, Sohn Architects accompanied the City's delegation during its recent trip to South Korea to explore design concepts, identify potential vendors, and tour their facilities. The City received three quotes from South Korean manufacturers. Director Mikhael discussed the costs for the pavilion structure, and other park elements such as river rocks, traditional sculptures, and other art elements available from these manufacturers at an additional per unit cost. Director Mikhael also noted the key challenges in pavilion procurement and construction such as procurement process complexity, skilled craftsperson requirement, finding reliable local contractors, and special inspection needs. Staff proactively reached out to multiple contractors to gauge interest and qualifications for assembling an authentic Korean Pavilion as well as surveyed other agencies that delivered similar projects. Although a number of contractors showed interest in the project, all expressed difficulty in project completion by end of 2025. Furthermore, after evaluating all options, Design-Build is the recommended approach for reasons to allow a contractor to holistically approach the design, procurement, shipping/handling, and skilled labor challenges; simplify project delivery and ensure a more reliable outcome; and mitigate risks by streamlining coordination between design and construction. Staff sought City Council direction to publish a Request for Proposal in which the RFP will include sample proposals from South Korean manufacturers. After a public bid opening, staff will return to City Council for contract approval. Lastly, establish the Design-Build contractor responsibilities.

Director of Government and Community Relations/City Clerk Jimenez announced that Keith Reeves, Buena Park resident, expressed opposition to the to the design and construction of the Friendship Park project, and that Mr. Reeves had to leave prior to the start of the item due to personal reasons.

Art Brown, Buena Park resident, spoke in opposition to the costs associated with the design and construction of the Friendship Park project, and suggested that the money be spent in all City parks rather than one park.

Lynda Luistro, Buena Park resident, spoke in opposition to the design and construction of the Friendship Park project, and regarding her concerns on the cost of the project.

Nayeli Figueroa spoke regarding her concerns on the Friendship Park project, and suggested to employ local workers instead of outsourcing.

Ricky Holloway, Buena Park resident, spoke regarding his concerns on the Friendship Park project, and recommended alternative options to improve the park for City Council consideration.

Director Jimenez announced Buena Park resident Vickie Wagstaff submitted a comment via the online agenda portal in opposition to the design and construction of the Friendship Park project, and read the comment into the record.

The City Council discussed their concerns on the cost of design and construction of the Friendship Park project; improvements on City parks in accordance to the Parks Master Plan; elements that will be added as part of the Friendship Park project; opportunity for fundraising for park design and construction; donation of cultural pieces from the City's Sister City and Friendship City; seeking community feedback on elements that would be incorporated in the Friendship Park project; and directing RJM Design Group, Inc. to spearhead the entire master plan for Friendship Park. Moreover, the City Council asked about clarification on design-build project; funding source for similar pavilions from other cities; potential additional costs such as for repair and maintenance of proposed pavilion; feedback from the community regarding recreational use of park; estimated cost without the construction of the Korean pavilion; and review and discussion of the Friendship Park project by the Community Services and Cultural Engagement Commissions.

Council Member Sonne, Council Member Hoque, Council Member Franco and Vice Mayor Traut spoke in opposition to approving the construction of the Korean-themed pavilion at this time due to the project cost.

Director Mikhael indicated that a design-build project means that the contractor is responsible for the design and construction of the project. Staff found that for similar pavilions from other cities, the cities did the work but funding came from outside sources. With regards to the repair and maintenance of the proposed Korean pavilion, staff is equipped to provide the service for the minimal work needed. The estimated cost of the project without the Korean Pavilion would be \$700,000 – \$800,000 less. Nevertheless, Director Mikhael emphasized that the City would still need to factor in the design and construction of the park project even without the Korean pavilion component.

Director Box stated that at the community meetings held with regards to Friendship Park, community members discussed their feedback on the general makeup of the park such as playground equipment, lighting, and outdoor exercise equipment to name a few. Additionally, Director Box indicated that the Commissions would review and discuss the conceptual plans created by RJM Design Group, Inc. but not the proposed Korean pavilion.

Steven Sohn, Sohn Architects, spoke regarding the conceptual plan, landscaping, and cultural and recreational elements incorporated into the Friendship Park project.

Following the discussion, a majority of the City Council expressed support for discontinuing plans for the Korean Pavilion, with Mayor Ahn dissenting. The City Council further directed staff and RJM Design Group, Inc. to proceed with the development of a comprehensive master plan for Friendship Park that incorporates cultural elements. Additionally, the City Council requested that the Community Services and Cultural Engagement Commissions review the conceptual design for Friendship Park and provide recommendations for City Council's consideration.

9C. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION REGARDING SENIOR SERVICES OUTREACH PROGRAM

Community Services Supervisor Hurtado provided a report regarding the Senior Services Outreach Program. The Ehlers Senior Center provides a robust array of services, classes, and programs for the senior community in Buena Park. However, staff acknowledges that a number of seniors are either unable or unlikely to travel to the Center to participate. Community Services Supervisor Hurtado discussed several potential satellite locations, such as mobile home parks, City facilities, and public parks, throughout the City where senior programs can be delivered directly to the community. Additionally, staff will engage in discussions with the two mobile home communities within District 4 to assess their interest in participating in or hosting classes and services for their residents. Staff explored various activities and classes designed to promote health, wellness, and lifelong learning, such as a senior walking club at Larwin Park, outdoor fitness classes at the basketball courts in John Beat Park, pickleball classes at Carl Brenner Park, and educational workshops at various other locations throughout the City. The services are intended to be free or low-cost and would be available to all Buena Park seniors, particularly those who may not utilize the Ehlers Senior Center. Furthermore, staff sought City Council direction to proceed with the next steps to the proposed senior services outreach program.

Council Member Hoque spoke regarding the intent of creating a Senior Services Outreach Program to help residents, particularly seniors, who are unable to participate in City programs and events held at the Ehlers Senior Center due to reasons such as lack of transportation. The Senior Services Outreach Program aims to expand the reach of City programs by delivering senior programs directly to the community.

The City Council asked about the resources needed for the proposed senior walking club; specifics on the delivery of the activities and classes; senior shuttle service offered by the City; estimated staffing costs to proceed with the next steps of implementing the proposed program;

Council Member Franco requested an itemized list of supplies spent for the program, and suggested for a City Commission to review the proposed program and provide recommendations to the City Council for consideration.

Vice Mayor Traut spoke in support of moving forward with the Senior Services Outreach Program as a pilot program.

Mayor Ahn suggested for staff to seek seniors' feedback on activities and classes they need.

Community Services Supervisor Hurtado discussed examples of supplies that would be used for the senior walking club. As for the delivery of the activities and classes under such program, staff will begin with securing a location and desired class or activity, followed by outreach and marketing efforts to invite senior members of the community to participate. Moreover, the City is offering transportation for seniors. However, seniors would need to apply and be approved to utilize such shuttle service. Community Services Supervisor Hurtado spoke regarding the cost estimate for staffing to proceed with the next steps to implement such program which is roughly three thousand dollars. At this time, there is no City Commission that reviewed the proposed program.

Following the discussion, the City Council directed staff to proceed with a pilot Senior Services Outreach Program at one of the proposed locations, and return with a report regarding participation for consideration of continuing with the program at a subsequent City Council meeting.

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager France had nothing to report.

11. COMMISSION & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Director of Government and Community Relations/City Clerk Jimenez had nothing to report.

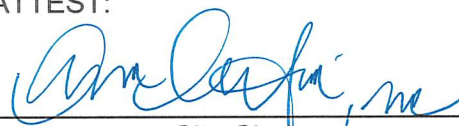
12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Ahn adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk