

MINUTES
LAWNDALE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
April 21, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Pullen-Miles called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, 14717 Burin Avenue, Lawndale, California.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor Pro Tem Pat Kearney, Councilmember Bernadette Suarez, Councilmember Sirley Cuevas, Councilmember Francisco M. Talavera arrived at 7:01 p.m.

Other Participants: City Manager Dr. Sean M. Moore, City Attorney Gregory M. Murphy, City Clerk Erica Harbison, Assistant City Clerk Yvette Palomo, Deputy City Manager/Director of Human Resources Raylette Felton, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Captain Nicole Palomino, Municipal Services Director Michael Reyes, Finance Director Hrant Manuelian, Community Services Director Jason Minter, Public Works Director Luis (Lucho) Rodriguez, Community Development Director Peter Kann

B. CEREMONIALS (Flag Salute and Inspiration)

Mayor Pro Tem Kearney led the flag salute. Pastor George Magdalany of Hope Chapel Hawthorne provided the inspiration.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

1. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update

Captain Palomino summarized the recent law enforcement activities and invited the community to attend the next Neighborhood Watch meeting scheduled for May 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Harold E. Hofmann Community Center.

D. PRESENTATIONS

2. Presentation by South Bay Cities Council of Governments on Housing Focused Case Management Program and Los Angeles County Measure A

— Presentation by Ronson Chu, Senior Project Manager, South Bay Cities Council of Governments and Jonathan Said, Homeless Services Manager, St. Margaret's Center (Catholic Charities).

Ronson Chu, Senior Project Manager of South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) provided a presentation about their Housing Focused Case Management Program and Los Angeles County Measure A.

Councilmember Suarez invited Senior Project Manager Chu to attend a Homelessness Solutions Standing Committee meeting.

At the request of Mayor Pullen-Miles and Mayor Pro Tem Kearney, Senior Project Manager Chu provided information about the Los Angeles County Homeless Court services, how the City can participate, and their partnership with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board.

E. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (Public Comments)

Ray Hollar, Resident, commented on his recent experience when trying to get help for houseless residents.

Ryan, Resident, commented in support of the Local Transit Network (LTN) plan, bicycle infrastructure, and on South Bay Bicycle Coalition Plus (SBBC+) active transport corridor program.

Andrew Blackney, Resident, announced that he is a SBBC+ representative, invited the City to participate in the Redondo Beach Blvd Active Transportation Corridor Metro Project, commented on making the corridor safer for students and on the public comment submitted for Closed Session Item 17. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation.

Chandler Weber, Public Information Officer of United States Small Business Administration (SBA), provided information on how his office assists small businesses, homeowners, renters and discussed deadlines to apply for disaster assistance.

Matthew Brown, Resident, asked the City to consider installing Bocce courts.

Josh Gorman, Beautification Committee member, invited residents to submit their artwork for the City's Art in Public Places project, and to attend Beautification Committee meetings held every second Thursday of the month, on the second floor of the Harold E. Hofmann Community Center.

Holly Osborne, Redondo Beach Resident, commented on Metro's Right-of-Way (ROW) measurements.

Michelle Pino, Library Manager, thanked everyone that attended the Library Fest and announced the library's upcoming events.

Chelsea Schreiber, Resident, thanked the City Councilmembers for the Easter Egg Hunt event.

F. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Councilmember Talavera thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting, apologized for being late, commented on an incident at his property, expressed support of installing Bocce courts, thanked Beautification Committee member Gorman for announcing the Art in Public Places project, commented on working together for the safety of the homeowners on the ROW, and apologized to Library Manager Pino for not attending the Library Fest.

Councilmember Suarez thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting, commented on addressing the homelessness topics mentioned by SBCCOG Senior Project Manager Chu at the upcoming Homelessness

Solutions Standing Committee meeting, requested additional information on the Redondo Beach Blvd Active Transportation Corridor Metro Project, asked staff to follow up on the public comment about Bocce courts, and thanked Beautification Committee member Gorman for attending tonight's meeting to remind everyone of the Art in Public Places project.

Councilmember Cuevas thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and speaking, commented that she enjoyed her time at the Library Fest, thanked Resident Blackney for the informational packet he provided, for representing Lawndale in the SBBC+, and Beautification Committee member Gorman for reminding everyone about the Art in Public Places project and for providing updates on the Beautification Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Kearney thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting, commented that he had a great time at the Library Fest, he will contact Residents Ryan and Blackney regarding SBBC+, Bocce is a fun sport, asked why Church buildings are not included in the SBA program, and thanked Beautification Committee member Gorman for the updates.

Mayor Pullen-Miles thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting, Resident Brown for bringing Bocce to their attention, Beautification Committee member Gorman for reminding everyone about the Art in Public Places project, Library Manager Pino for the Library Fest event, Resident Hollar for commenting on the homelessness services issues, Resident Ryan for speaking about the Local Transit Network (LTN) plan, asked staff to post the SBA information on the City's website, and commented that the City will look vibrant when art is added to the utility boxes.

G. CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Motion to read by title only and waive further reading of all ordinances listed on the Agenda

— Recommendation: that the City Council read by title only and waive further reading of all ordinances listed on the agenda.

4. Accounts Payable Register

— Recommendation: that City Council adopts Resolution No. CC-2504-019 authorizing the payment of certain claims and demands in the amount of \$282,734.95.

5. Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Regular Meeting - April 7, 2025

— Recommendation: that the City Council approve the minutes.

6. Consideration of Claim for Damage

— Recommendation: that City Council reject the claim filed by Law Offices of McCune & Harber, LLP, on behalf of the City of Redondo Beach and instruct staff to process the appropriate

correspondence to the claimant.

7. Adopt Resolution to Approve Fiscal Year 2024-25 Annual Review and Records Retention Schedule Update to City Council Policy No. 77-04 Records and Information Management

— Recommendation: that the City Council adopt Resolution No. CC-2505-023 updating City Council Policy No. 77-04 with Exhibit A Records Retention Schedule for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kearney and seconded by Councilmember Cuevas to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

H. ADMINISTRATION

8. Consider Cancellation of July 7, 2025, City Council Meeting

— Recommendation: that the City Council 1.) Cancel the scheduled City Council meeting on July 7, 2025, due to the Fourth of July Holiday; or 2.) Make no changes to the City Council meeting scheduled for July 7, 2025; or 3.) Provide the City Manager and staff with alternative direction.

In response to Councilmember Cuevas' questions, City Manager Dr. Moore responded that City Council meetings are typically cancelled the Monday before the holiday, and a Special Meeting can be called if needed.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kearney and seconded by Councilmember Suarez to cancel the scheduled City Council meeting on July 7, 2025, due to the Fourth of July Holiday. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

9. Presentation by Andrew Njumba, Assistant Deputy Director, Sewer Maintenance Division, Los Angeles County Public Works; Regarding Notification of Proposed Rate Increase - Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District

— Recommendation: that the City Council acknowledge the notification received from the Los Angeles County Public Works Department regarding the proposed rate increase for the Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District. This is only an informational report about the LA County's Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District Proposed Rate Increase. No City Council action is required.

Public Works Director Rodriguez presented the staff report.

Los Angeles County Public Works Assistant Deputy Director Andrew Njumba provided a presentation on the notification of proposed rate increase of consolidated sewer maintenance district.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Kearney's questions, Assistant Deputy Director Njumba stated that it is a 3-year fixed-rate increase, the last two years will be increased by the rate of inflation as determined by the Consumer Price Index, and fees for vacant properties are added to the property taxes.

At Public Works Director Lucho's request, Assistant Deputy Director Njumba announced that the public hearing is scheduled for June 24, 2025 at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration and information on how to

protest the rate increase will be available in May 2025.

By consensus, the City Council acknowledged the notification received from the Los Angeles County Public Works Department regarding the proposed rate increase for the Consolidated Sewer Maintenance District, and received and filed the report.

10. Traffic Calming Efforts for 147th Street

— Recommendation: that City Council 1.) Direct staff on the installation of temporary lighted traffic barrels at all street intersections on 147th Street; or 2.) Direct staff to continue gathering proposals from traffic engineering firms for the Traffic Calming Devices policy and Traffic Calming efforts on 147th Street, and present them to City Council for approval and funding.

City Manager Dr. Moore commented that staff is continuing to research calming efforts.

City Attorney Murphy announced that Councilmember Cuevas is recused from commenting on the issues on 147th Street under the Political Reform Act and Fair Political Practices Commission Regulations because her property is within 500 feet of the area at issue and indicated that stepping down from the dais during the discussion would be appropriate.

Public Works Director Rodriguez presented the staff report.

Mayor Pro Tem Kearney commented that he does not support creating a roundabout or installing delineator posts, and asked for the status of reflective tape for stop signs.

Public Works Director Rodriguez responded that there are 62 stop signs that will benefit from reflective tape, the materials cost estimate is \$10,000, currently there is no budget set aside for that project, and he will invite a traffic engineer to provide information on raised pavement markers.

Discussion ensued among City Councilmembers and Public Works Director Rodriguez about speeding issues, speed hump requirements, how to improve driver behavior, data on speed humps contributing to vehicle accidents, 147th Street not meeting the criteria for a traffic signal, installing a traffic camera on stop signs and installing reflective tape only on stop signs at 147th Street to study the outcome.

Mayor Pullen-Miles opened public comments.

Sirley Cuevas, Resident, commented on the history of 147th Street, and stated that she hopes the City Councilmembers listen to the residents and find a solution.

Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, Resident, thanked staff for researching traffic calming efforts in a timely manner, commented on finding a solution to improve driver behavior, is in favor of traffic cameras being installed and suggested receiving input from first responders to ensure that traffic calming measures do not interfere with emergency response access.

Andrew Blackney, Resident, commented that general traffic calming measures should be discussed, and that physical implements would improve driver behavior.

Juan, Resident, commented on an incident that a resident had, stated that everyone should work together to find a solution, and agrees that first responders should provide input.

Randall Abram, Resident, commented on the staff report and the traffic study figures, what the City has implemented, recommendations in the traffic study, cost of additional traffic study reports and the liability of accidents caused by speed humps.

Annette Owens, Resident, commented on emergency vehicles driving through street calming measures, and on the differences between various street calming measures.

Mayor Pullen-Miles closed public comments.

Councilmember Suarez thanked everyone that spoke, commented on different short term and long-term options, reducing the street speed limit, does not support installing reflective tape on stop signs, and is in favor of exploring different options to improve driver behavior.

Mayor Pullen-Miles commented that public behavior is affected by public policy, and in favor of exploring road diet improvement options.

Public Works Director Rodriguez commented that a traffic study of the westside will be provided in the future, there is a benefit of adding angled parking on a portion of the street and provided other short-term and long-term options.

Discussion ensued among City Councilmembers and staff regarding the timeframe the different options would take to be implemented, temporary lighted traffic barrels, the cost and bringing the item back to approve the cost.

By consensus, the City Council directed staff to continue gathering proposals from traffic engineering firms for the Traffic Calming Devices policy and Traffic Calming efforts on 147th Street, gather the cost for short term options, and present them to City Council for consideration.

11. Consideration to Terminate Metro Right-of-Way Maintenance License

— Recommendation: that City Council to discuss the possible termination of the License agreement and provide direction to staff for next steps.

Public Works Director Rodriguez presented the staff report.

In response to Mayor Pullen-Miles' question, City Manager Dr. Moore provided the history of the ownership of the Right-of-Way (ROW) and commented that the City will not have access to maintain the ROW if City Council terminates the Metro Right-of-Way Maintenance License.

Dave Bradford, BNSF Railway Company Southern California Division Engineer introduced himself.

Public Works Director Rodriguez commented on permits BNSF Railway Company applied for to install no crossing signs.

In response to Councilmember Cuevas's question, Southern California Division Engineer Bradford responded that Metro would be responsible for maintenance if the maintenance license is terminated.

In response to Councilmember Cuevas's question, City Manager Dr. Moore responded that an item will be added to a future agenda to bring BNSF Railway Company staff back to discuss other issues.

Councilmember Cuevas commented in opposition to terminating the Metro Right-of-Way Maintenance License because Metro may not maintain the ROW as needed.

Mayor Pullen-Miles opened public comments.

Ray Hollar, Resident, commented on the amount the City pays to maintain the ROW, asked who maintenance requests should be reported to if the maintenance agreement is terminated and commented in favor of terminating the ROW maintenance license.

Annette Owens, Resident, commented on the funds that the City has paid toward maintaining the ROW and in favor of terminating the ROW maintenance license.

Chelsea Schreiber, Resident, commented in favor of terminating the ROW maintenance license.

Randall Abram, Resident, commented on the effects terminating the ROW maintenance license may have.

Mayor Pullen-Miles closed public comments

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Kearney's questions, City Manager Dr. Moore responded that Metro can be invited to attend a City Council meeting to answer questions, including reimbursement to the City for maintaining the ROW.

Councilmember Suarez commented on the reasons that she brought this item forward, the possibility of recuperating the cost of maintenance, the increase in crime, and using funds more effectively.

In response to Mayor Pullen-Miles' question, City Attorney Murphy responded that an amendment to the license agreement would need to be made to recuperate the cost of maintenance.

Councilmember Cuevas commented that the City risks losing green space if the ROW maintenance license is terminated.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Kearney's questions, Public Works Director Rodriguez stated that Mariposa Landscapes, Inc. can be asked to maintain the ROW less frequently to minimize the cost.

By consensus, the City Council directed staff to invite Metro staff to a future City Council meeting and provide information on whether neighboring Cities have a maintenance agreement with Metro for the ROW.

12. Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2025

— Recommendation: that the City Council receive and file the Quarterly Investment Report for the quarter ended March 31, 2025.

By consensus, the City Council directed staff to invite Metro staff to a future City Council meeting and provide information on whether neighboring Cities have a maintenance agreement with Metro for the ROW.

By consensus, the City Council received and filed the Quarterly Investment Report for the quarter ended March 31, 2025.

13. Approve an Agreement for the Purchase and Installation of Shade Covers at Charles B. Hopper Park

— Recommendation: that the City Council approve an agreement with USA Shade for an amount not-to-exceed \$24,985.13 for the purchase and installation of three (3) shade covers at Charles B. Hopper Park.

Community Services Director Minter presented the staff report.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Kearney and seconded by Councilmember Cuevas to approve an agreement with USA Shade for an amount not to-exceed \$24,985.13 for the purchase and installation of three (3) shade covers at Charles B. Hopper Park. The motion passed with a vote of 5.

I. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Dr. Moore deferred his time to Community Services Director Minter.

Community Services Director Minter invited everyone to attend the City's Youth Day Parade on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., on Manhattan Beach Boulevard, and west of Prairie and the Lawndale Elementary School District Spring Extravaganza & Parade from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Lawndale City Hall.

J. ITEMS FROM CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

14. Reduction in Site Plan Review Deposits

— Recommendation: that the City Council 1.) Direct staff to lower the Site Plan Review fee/deposit to \$1,600; or 2.) Provide further direction to staff.

Community Development Director Kann presented the staff report.

In response to Councilmember Cuevas's question, Community Development Director Kann stated that an average of \$900 is refunded at the end of projects.

City Manager Dr. Moore commented that in reviewing projects, it was determined that a project costs an average of \$1,600, the amount is being lowered to help the community and residents, and it was requested by Mayor Pullen-Miles.

Discussion ensued among City Councilmembers and staff about the time spent reviewing site plans, what is reviewed, simplifying the process for residents, and numerous revisions of site plans.

Councilmember Suarez requested that the site plan review process be agendized.

A motion was made by Mayor Pullen-Miles and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kearney to direct staff to lower the Site Plan Review fee/deposit to \$1,600. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

15. Report of Attendance at Meetings

Councilmember Talavera attended the City's Easter Egg Hunt event, a Senior Lunch and is looking forward to participating in the Youth Day Parade on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Councilmember Suarez attended the California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) Board of Directors meeting,

asked if customer service training for staff can be agendized, Lemonade Day be discussed, and for the status on the request for a customer service survey to be conducted by a third party.

Community Development Director Kann responded that he has done research and is in communication with an Information Technology Technician to implement the customer service survey.

Councilmember Cuevas attended the City's Easter Egg Hunt event, asked if it is possible to combine the event at one park, attended the Second Annual Wilson 'N William Theatre Showcase, Library Fest, CCCA Board of Directors meeting, and asked if the Shop Local Rebate Program is still active and encouraged residents to shop locally.

Finance Director Manuelian responded that the Shop Local Rebate Program is active, and funds are still available.

Mayor Pro Tem Kearney attended a CCCA Liability Trust and Oversight Committee meeting, the City's Easter Egg Hunt event, Library Fest, Neighborhood Watch meeting, provided history on why the egg hunt held at two parks, and agreed that Metro's Board of Directors should be expanded.

Mayor Pullen-Miles attended the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts meeting, the City's Easter Egg Hunt event, Library Fest and a Los Angeles County City Selection Committee meeting.

K. CLOSED SESSION

16. Conference with Labor Negotiator

— The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6, with the City Manager, the City Attorney, and the City's negotiators, regarding labor negotiations with Local 1895, Council 36, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, representing the City's mid-management and classified employees.

17. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

— The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d) (1), to discuss existing litigation: Name of Case: City of Lawndale v. LA Investment, LLC (LA Superior Court Case No. 20TRCV00065).

City Attorney Murphy read the aforementioned Closed Session matters by title only.

A written public comment was received regarding Agenda Item K.17. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation, from Theodore S. Wolter of Klinedinst Attorneys.

The City Council convened into closed session at 9:49 p.m.

The City Council reconvened from closed session at 10:34 p.m.

City Attorney Murphy announced that there was no reportable action for Closed Session Item No. K.16 Conference with Labor Negotiator and announced that for Closed Session Item No. K.17 Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation, the City Council gave direction to settle the case, and if settlement terms are reached, a settlement agreement be brought back for City Council's a approval.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Mayor Pullen-Miles adjourned the meeting at 10:36p.m.



Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor



Erica Harbison, City Clerk

Approved: May 5, 2025