



CITY OF NEWARK

CITY COUNCIL

City Administration Building, City Council Chambers

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Minutes

Thursday, May 23, 2024
7:00 P.M.

A. ROLL CALL

Mayor Hannon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Vice Mayor Freitas, Council Members Collazo, and Jorgens were present. Council Member Bucci was noted absent.

Mayor Hannon announced that item F.2 Capital Improvement Plan would be rescheduled for the June 13, 2024, City Council meeting.

No one in the audience requested to speak on the Capital Improvement Plan.

B. PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Hannon presented a commendation to Joy Lee, student Board Member for the Newark Unified School District Board of Education.

Mayor Hannon presented a commendation to the Newark Rocketry Team for competing in the American Rocketry Challenge and the NASA Student Launch Initiative.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Milind Shyani thanked Public Works Director Fajeau and Senior Landscape Inspector Cianciarolo for their response to his request for additional trees on Newark Boulevard. He asked how residents could help with tree plantings and if there were other modes of communication, besides City Council meetings, to contact the City.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

City Manager Benoun requested the removal of item D.5. Cooperative Agreement with the Alameda County Water District.

Council Member Jorgens moved, Council Member Collazo seconded, to approve Consent Calendar items D.1 to D4 and D.6, that the resolutions be numbered consecutively, and that reading of the titles suffice for adoption. The motion passed, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

1. Approval of Audited Demands
2. Approval of May 9, 2024, minutes
3. Adopt a resolution approving a Consultant Services Agreement with Community Planning Collaborative for Housing Program Management Consulting Services
Resolution No. 11639
Contract No. 24041
4. Adopt a resolution approving the First Amendment to the Software as a Service Agreement with Axero Holdings, LLC and amending the 2022-2024 Biennial Budget and Capital Improvement Plan for FY2024
Resolution No. 11640
Contract No. 22066
5. Removed from Consent Calendar - Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the Alameda County Water District for water main design and construction associated with the Old Town

Streetscape Improvements, Project 1258

6. Adopt a resolution to (1) amend the Employee Classification Plan to delete and add multiple class specifications; (2) amend the Compensation and Benefit Plan for the Management, Supervisory, and Professional Employees Group to add multiple class specifications, and to add salary steps/ranges for each new classification; and (3) amend the City's Salary Schedule in conformance with California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Section 570.5
Resolution No. 11641

NON CONSENT

- D.5 Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the Alameda County Water District for water main design and construction associated with the Old Town Streetscape Improvements, Project 1258

City Manager Benoun stated that two Council Members need to recuse from this item and a quorum was not available to proceed. He stated that staff would reschedule the matter.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Hearing to consider property owners' objections to the 2024 Weed Abatement Program and instruction to the Superintendent of Streets to abate the public nuisances
Motion approved

City Manager Benoun gave the staff report noting that no property owner objections had been received for the 2024 Weed Abatement Program.

Mayor Hannon opened the public hearing at 7:34 p.m.

No one requested to speak.

Mayor Hannon closed the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Vice Mayor Freitas moved, Council Member Collazo seconded to act upon any objections by property owners to the 2024 Weed Abatement Program and to instruct the Superintendent of Streets to abate the public nuisances. The motion passed, 4 AYES, 1 ABSENT.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Presentation by Godbe Research on the results of the community survey conducted to identify community priorities and to update the Hotel Tax

Bryan Godbe, Godbe Research gave the presentation indicating that there was community support for a potential ballot measure to increase the Transient Occupancy Tax. Presentation on file with City Clerk's office.

City Manager Benoun stated that staff would return at a future meeting with a proposed ordinance and ballot question for the City Council to consider placing a ballot measure on the November Election to seek voter approval to increase the Transient Occupancy Tax.

Mayor Hannon called a recess at 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Hannon called the meeting back to order at 8:05 p.m.

2. Presentation of the draft 2024-2026 Biennial Budget

Finance Director Lee provided a budget overview, economic and financial update, the proposed budgets for Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026. Presentation on file with City Clerk's office.

Mayor Hannon requested that the Five-Year Forecast include information that measured staff's projections from previous years.

City Manager Benoun reviewed budget additions and supplements by department.

Mayor Hannon requested that when the budget is reviewed next year, staff indicate funds that were offset by other funding sources, such as developer paid services, to allow the City Council to determine if the money was well

spent.

City Manager Benoun reviewed Mayor and Council Member Salaries, and indicated that they could consider up to a 10% increase, per government code, that would start in January 2025, after the next election.

The City Council discussed a 6% versus a 10% increase. They concurred to budget for a 6% increase and to have staff review comparison cities salary ranges to see if a 10% increase should be considered.

Mayor Hannon requested that on page 62 of the draft budget he would like to know the current vacancy rate for commercial office space. He would also like homeownership statistics broken down based on race.

City Manager Benoun stated that 2024-2026 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan would be scheduled for a public hearing at the June 27, 2024, meeting.

G. CITY COUNCIL MATTERS

Council Member Jorgens thanked staff for the Biennial Budget process guidance. He attended the Newark Memorial Band and Choir concert. He congratulated Newark Memorial High School graduates and his mom on her retirement from the Newark Unified School District.

Council Member Collazo asked about traffic signage at: Lake Boulevard and Chapman Drive stop requires a right turn; Dairy Avenue at Newark Boulevard, suggested a no U Turn sign near Salvation Army; the Old Town Shopping Center exit onto Dairy Avenue suggested one lane signs for each direction. She congratulated her grandson who is graduating from Newark Memorial High School. She thanked everyone who served the country for Memorial Day. Shop Newark.

Vice Mayor Freitas stated that he attended the groundbreaking for Timber Senior Housing and noted that the CEO of Eden Housing complimented the Newark Building Department for approving the project within 90 days. A project in San Francisco took 1,155 days to receive approval

Mayor Hannon stated that he was grateful for the Veterans and their families and honored Memorial Day.

Mayor Hannon announced that he would adjourn the meeting in memory of Union Sanitary District Director Thomas R. Handley.

H. CITY MANAGER UPDATES

I. CLOSED SESSION

J. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hannon adjourned the meeting at 9: 22 p.m. in memory of Union Sanitary District Director Thomas R. Handley.

Sheila Harrington
City Clerk