

**PARAMOUNT CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

City of Paramount, 16400 Colorado Avenue, Paramount, CA 90723

CALL TO ORDER:

The adjourned meeting of the Paramount City Council was called to order by Mayor Daryl Hofmeyer at 5:02 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, 16400 Colorado Avenue, Paramount, California.

**ROLL CALL OF
COUNCILMEMBERS**

Present: Councilmember Tom Hansen
Councilmember Diane J. Martinez
Vice Mayor Peggy Lemons
Mayor Daryl Hofmeyer

Absent: Councilmember Gene Daniels

Mayor Hofmeyer excused Councilmember Daniel's absence. He stated that Councilmember Daniel's wife, Lucie, had passed away earlier in the afternoon and requested a moment of silence.

STAFF PRESENT:

John Moreno, City Manager
John E. Cavanaugh, City Attorney
Kevin Chun, Assistant City Manager
Christopher Cash, Public Works Director
Karina Liu, Finance Director
Maria Meraz, Public Safety Director
William Pagett, City Engineer
Clyde Alexander, Assistant Finance Director
Chris Callard, Public Information Officer
John Carver, Assistant Community Development Director
Lana Chikami, City Clerk
Steve Coumparoules, Management Analyst
Marco Cuevas, Community Development Planner
Jaime De Guzman, Senior Accountant
Danny Elizarraras, Management Analyst
Antulio Garcia, Development Services Manager
Magda Garcia, Senior Com. Serv. & Recreation Supervisor
Yecenia Guillen, Asst. Com. Serv. & Recreation Director
Margarita Gutierrez, Finance Supervisor
Sarah Ho, Assistant Public Works Director
John King, Planning Manager
Adriana Lopez, Assistant Public Safety Director
Wendy Macias, Public Works Manager
Jonathan Masannat, Management Analyst
Patrick Matson, Human Resources Manager

City Manager Moreno announced the availability of Spanish translation services to meeting attendees.

Mayor Hofmeyer stated that he wanted to address issues regarding the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and the air quality readings in Paramount. He said that there is a lot of information and then read the following statement from the City:

- First, I want to strongly express that this concerns and affects ALL of us.
- This is not us versus them. We all live here, many of us for many, many years. The health, safety and well-being of everyone in town are our top priority.
- It is extremely important that we all understand the information we are receiving from the AQMD.
- We need to learn things as soon as the AQMD learns them and it needs to be presented in a way that everyone can understand.
- Along those lines, I want everyone to know that we are looking to form some kind of committee that will bring everyone together.
- We want everyone reading from the same page in order to follow what AQMD is doing, and to get all the correct information out to our residents.
- You know, Paramount was not a planned community like Lakewood or Cerritos. As things started changing from agriculture and dairies many decades ago, a lot of industry came in.
- A lot of this happened before we were a city. The county pretty much had an open door policy for development.
- This is why we have industry next to homes. It's like this in a lot of Southeast Los Angeles County. We deal with these challenges every day.
- It's important to know what a city can and can't do by law.
- We don't write air quality or soil pollution laws.
- We are not the enforcement agency for these laws. We are unable to issue permits or levy fines.

- The AQMD and state agencies do all of those things, and we have trusted them to protect us.
- In the same way you trust the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) when buying your groceries or the County Health Department when eating at restaurants.
- Maybe we put too much trust in them because they don't seem to be very good at communicating with the cities they're supposed to be protecting.
- Here's one thing we will be doing. We are working with our City Attorney's office to see if we can temporarily halt any new metal companies from opening in the City until the AQMD can get things under control.
- Now let me share with you the latest activity in town.
- The AQMD has had air-quality monitors in some of our industrial areas for a few years.
- Recently they asked about putting more in and we helped get them up as fast as possible. Normally this would require permits, BUT WE WAIVED THEM.
- We helped them get permission from Southern California Edison to install the monitors on utility poles. And believe me, Edison is not always easy to work with.
- We also offered to put the monitors on City-owned stop signs and street signs.
- One of the monitors found the elevated levels of hexavalent chromium. According to the AQMD, one source has been located and they are looking for additional sources in this part of town.
- Unfortunately, before the AQMD let us know about any of this, they sent out a press release.
- And at the town hall meeting last week, their staff gave an extremely technical presentation that, at least for me, was hard to understand.
- I don't think most of the questions that residents asked got very good answers, either.
- Also, here's what they didn't say at the meeting but what an AQMD official told the Press Telegram newspaper.

- Hexavalent chromium is not easily carried by the wind and the sample they found did not pose any immediate danger to residents.
- The AQMD found one resident living in the area where the levels were present.
- I point these things out not to deny any real threats, but that AQMD needs to be clear and forthright in their communications with us, and not frighten our residents.
- They're saying the area of the readings is around Jefferson, Texaco, Illinois and Monroe streets.
- They don't know who is causing it yet, and their investigation is ongoing. And we are going to put pressure on them to get it figured out quickly.
- I want to also say something about the State taking soil samples in town. Some people have been saying the City wouldn't allow the samples to be taken. This is NOT true.
- They did take samples in 2014 from a number of parkways and tree wells around town including a parkway across from Village Skate Park. The sample from this parkway came back at safe levels.
- Then the State wanted to take samples from the park itself. Our City Attorney wrote them a letter saying we would like to cooperate but we'd first like to see a plan.
- We never heard back. We figured if this was of immediate concern they would have had the decency to get back to us.
- I'm telling you all of this to stress that we're concerned and will work with anybody to find answers but we need to be communicating in an honest, open way.
- To get there, this is what we're doing.
- To completely understand and stay on top of the monitoring results, we proactively hired a consultant who specializes in these things. We did this months ago.
- As I mentioned, we're looking at a temporary halt to new metal companies in town.
- We've already put our business license data and City Code Enforcement officers at the disposal of AQMD.

- We're trying to get AQMD to share more information with us and with you.
- This would include frequent briefings and holding more public meetings. And asking them to make the information more understandable.
- We have written to the Board of Directors of AQMD asking them to please get their staff members to work with us better.
- We want them to collect more data and facts and make sure it's all tested properly.
- And we're going to form the committee I mentioned, and very soon.
- Let me close with this. We're glad that AQMD is in town.
- We support everything they're doing and we will continue to provide all the help we can.
- We're committed to getting every bit of information out to the community, as well as finding the source of these levels.
- And we agree that it needs to move fast and cover as wide an area as necessary.
- This is personal for us.
- Everyone on this dais has lived here for most of their lives.
- We've raised our families here, sent our children and grandchildren to school in Paramount.
- And we're committed to making things better in this regard.
- Thank you for listening.

Copies of the statement were made available in English and Spanish at the meeting, and City Manager Moreno stated that it would also be available on the City's website page.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Laurie Guillen, 15324 Bixler Avenue, Paramount: Ms. Guillen addressed the City Council regarding air pollution and stated that she has contacted the City's Assemblyman, the Health Department, and the environmental specialists in the Paramount area regarding this. She commented on the City Council dragging their feet on dealing with the air pollution issue and told them that the community's health is very important and personal to her. She expressed her concern for all those breathing in the air and requested that the City Council enact a zoning moratorium on future forging and grinding companies in Paramount. She also stated that AQMD is in the process of developing regulations for regulating and monitoring grinding; however, due to it being a lengthy process, she asked that grinding be done indoors.

Ms. Guillen also said that she and other community members' confidence level in the City Council has diminished. She stated that health should come before profit. She also commented on a political sign at the Mayor's residence. And, in closing, Ms. Guillen asked the City Council to consider her requests and said that she would be happy to work with them.

Ms. Cindy Guillen-Nelson, 15133 Rancho Centina, Paramount: Ms. Guillen-Nelson came before the City Council to discuss cancer-causing toxins in Paramount. She stated that she and her family are lifelong Paramount residents and expressed her deep concern for the community's health due to the elevated levels of hexavalent chromium 6 readings recently reported by the AQMD at a town hall meeting. She stated that the AQMD reported the presence of hexavalent chromium to be 350 times the average levels in Paramount and discussed the long-term effects of inhaling it, including the increased chance or probability of developing cancer.

Ms. Guillen-Nelson asked that the City Council provide full cooperation with entities who want to do testing and give them access to install monitoring devices, including the South Coast AQMD, Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), California Air Resources Board, L.A. County Certified Unified Program Agencies, and environmentalists (like the Californian Communities Against Toxics).

She also said that City Manager Moreno stated, at the November 10, 2016 town meeting, that he would allow DTSC to do testing at Village Park and access to any other regulatory agencies without red tape. Ms. Guillen-Nelson said that Mr. Moreno must be held accountable and keep his

word. She also requested the following: 1) that the City Council not permit any more forging and grinding companies to come into Paramount, 2) implement strict regulations to limit the emissions of toxins in the air by the metal companies currently operating in Paramount and shut down companies that don't comply or are in violation, and 3) do not allow any more recycling businesses in Paramount. Additionally, she asked that the City Council not approve tonnage increases to the existing recycling businesses in Paramount until the AQMD has determined what impact those type of businesses will have to the environment and the type of pollutants they will emit. Ms. Guillen-Nelson said that revenue from businesses is not needed or wanted if it jeopardizes the community's health, especially children's health.

CF 10.3

Ms. Betty Green, 15717 South Aravaca Drive, Paramount:

Ms. Green addressed the City Council regarding parties lasting all night in her neighborhood and traffic concerns at Alondra Boulevard/Delcombre Avenue and by the Post Office. Mayor Hofmeyer directed Public Works Director Cash to contact Ms. Green.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. ORDINANCE NO. 1077
(Adoption)
Adding Section 29-6.4 (k)
to Chapter 29, Article II, of
the Paramount Municipal
Code Limiting or
Stopping, Standing or
Parking in Designated
Tow Away Zones
CF 73

It was moved by Vice Mayor Lemons and seconded by Councilmember Martinez to read by title only, waive further reading, and adopt Ordinance No. 1077, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT ADDING SECTION 29-6.4 (k) TO CHAPTER 29, ARTICLE II, OF THE PARAMOUNT MUNICIPAL CODE LIMITING OR STOPPING, STANDING OR PARKING IN DESIGNATED TOW AWAY ZONES." The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Hansen, Martinez
Vice Mayor Lemons, Mayor Hofmeyer
NOES: None
ABSENT: Councilmember Daniels
ABSTAIN: None

NEW BUSINESS

2. Installation of a Disabled
Parking Zone in Front of
8425 Elburg Street
CF 73.3

Public Works Director Cash reported that staff received a request from Ms. Maria Reyes for the installation of a disabled parking zone in front of her home at 8425 Elburg Street for her son, who has a Disabled Person Placard, due to limited parking in the neighborhood. Mr. Cash stated that staff inspected the site and found that on-street parking can be limited and that the resident's driveway is too narrow to provide ADA accessibility to a vehicle. And, if approved, he

said that 15 feet of curb in front of 8425 Elburg Street would be marked blue for disabled parking only. Mr. Cash also stated that the Public Works Commission, at its November meeting, recommended to the City Council approval of the request for a disabled parking zone.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Lemons and seconded by Councilmember Martinez to approve a request for the installation of a disabled parking zone in front of 8425 Elburg Street. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Hansen, Martinez
Vice Mayor Lemons, Mayor Hofmeyer
NOES: None
ABSENT: Councilmember Daniels
ABSTAIN: None

3. PUBLIC HEARING
Host Fee Agreement
Between the City of
Paramount and
Paramount Resource and
Recycling, Inc.
CF 86.4

It was moved by Vice Mayor Lemons and seconded by Councilmember Martinez to take this item off calendar. The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Hansen, Martinez
Vice Mayor Lemons, Mayor Hofmeyer
NOES: None
ABSENT: Councilmember Daniels
ABSTAIN: None

4. RESOLUTION NO.
16:029
Establishing Social Media
Use Policy, Standards
and Procedures
CF 39.2

Assistant City Manager Chun gave the report and commented on the necessity to adopt a policy regulating the use of social media communication platforms due to the fast-changing landscape of digital communication media and the increase in the use of social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, etc.

Mr. Chun provided an overview of the proposed Social Media Use Policy, Standards, and Procedures and stated that the policy establishes the following internal procedures for the use of social media:

- All of the City's social media postings by departments and offices will be subject to review by the City's Public Information Officer or designee.
- The City's social media site shall comply with all appropriate City of Paramount policies and procedures.
- The City's social media sites are subject to the California Public Records Act and Proposition 59, amending Article 1, Section 3 of the California Constitution.

- The City reserves the right to restrict or remove any content that is deemed in violation of the policy or any applicable law (e.g., obscene language or sexual content, threatening or defaming any person or organization, promotion of illegal activity, and the promotion of commercial services or products).
- The City reserves the right to remove any user or visitor who violates the policy.
- Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube are the social media platforms approved by the City. The use of other platforms must be approved by the City's Public Information Officer or designee.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Lemons and seconded by Councilmember Hansen to read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 16:029, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT ESTABLISHING A SOCIAL MEDIA USE POLICY, STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES." The motion was passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Hansen, Martinez
Vice Mayor Lemons, Mayor Hofmeyer
NOES: None
ABSENT: Councilmember Daniels
ABSTAIN: None

COMMENTS FROM STAFF

There were none.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

There were none.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Hofmeyer recessed the meeting at 5:25 p.m. to discuss the following closed session items:

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: Century Boulevard and Ruther Avenue
Agency Negotiator: City Manager
Negotiating Party: City of South Gate
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED
LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of
Section 54956.9:

No. of potential cases: One

At 6:37 p.m., City Attorney Cavanaugh announced that no
action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City
Council, Mayor Hofmeyer adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.
to a meeting on December 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

/s/ Daryl Hofmeyer

Daryl Hofmeyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Lana Chikami

Lana Chikami, City Clerk