

MEETING MINUTES CITY OF MILPITAS

Minutes of: Special Meeting of the Milpitas City Council
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: Meeting held via teleconference
Milpitas, CA

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Nuñez called the special meeting to order at 5:20 PM. City Clerk called the roll. The meeting took place via teleconference and webinar.

PRESENT: Vice Mayor Nuñez, Councilmembers Dominguez and Montano

ABSENT: Mayor Tran was absent at roll and arrived in the meeting at 6:00 PM. Councilmember Phan was absent at roll call and arrived at 5:28 PM.

PLEDGE

City Attorney Chris Diaz led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVE AGENDA

On a motion by Councilmember Dominguez and seconded by Councilmember Montano, by a vote of three in favor, with two members absent (Mayor Tran and Councilmember Phan), the special meeting agenda was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The City Attorney asked Councilmembers if they had any personal conflicts of interest or reportable campaign contributions. By roll call, no conflicts were reported.

PUBLIC FORUM

City Clerk Mary Lavelle read aloud one comment from resident Yolie Garcia concerning the permit parking program for The Pines neighborhood.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Report from Assistant City Manager

Assistant City Manager Ashwini Kantak reported on Covid-19 pandemic response activities in the City of Milpitas. Councilmembers provided feedback to staff and requested staff to return with additional information about costs related to a ramp up of COVID-19 testing at the testing site at the Sports Center. A directive for use of face coverings (including masks) in Milpitas was supported by all members of the City Council.

Motion: to consider the County executive order and direct staff to research and implement a City Manager's regulation with a plan for a requirement to wear masks or face coverings in the City of Milpitas, similar to other cities such as Fremont and San Francisco, effective at the end of the week

Councilmember Dominguez asked the City Manager and City Attorney if staff could explore alternate methods besides fines, if issued, for not wearing face coverings, possibly community service in lieu of paying a fine. The City Attorney responded these citations would be handled through an administrative process first, then fines.

Motion/Second: Councilmember Montano/Councilmember Dominguez

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 5
NOES: 0

Motion: to direct staff to form partnerships with community groups and work with Milpitas Unified School District to make face coverings available to community

members; help the community adhere to the regulation to use face coverings; and to explore costs for funding this effort, and report back to Council

Motion/Second: Councilmember Dominguez/Vice Mayor Nuñez

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 5
NOES: 0

Councilmember Dominguez made a motion for staff to work with the City Council Housing Subcommittee to ensure the unhoused get housed, and be placed on the County's wait list, to ensure they can isolate themselves, get tested for coronavirus, and conduct social distancing. No second was offered, so no vote was taken.

Councilmember Montano stated her concern about landlords raising rents during this time of coronavirus, and asked the City Attorney to look into methods for preventing that in Milpitas, per the Council's Housing Subcommittee.

2. Report from Recreation Director

Recreation Director Renee Lorentzen described the change in current Recreation Services and events in response to Covid-19 in the community, which included the cancelation of major events and classes through August.

Mayor Tran asked about the possibility of hosting the City's annual 4th of July fireworks, without an event at Cardoza Park/Sports Center. Councilmembers commented on his idea, with concerns on costs, public safety, community celebration and available staff. The Mayor's recommendation was to keep an option alive for the fireworks part of the celebration, with an emphasis on safety.

Motion: to accept the report from the Recreation Director and to direct staff to find a way to celebrate the 4th of July safely in Milpitas in 2020; to check with the County of Santa Clara, to ask the City Attorney to review the current contract with the City's fireworks vendor, to consider showing a display on highway electronic billboard signs, and to investigate different ways to celebrate Independence Day and to return with a report, for possible action, to the City Council in two weeks

Motion/Second: Vice Mayor Nuñez/Mayor Tran

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 3
NOES: 2 (Dominguez, Montano)

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tran adjourned the special City Council meeting at 8:15 PM.

The foregoing minutes were approved by the Milpitas City Council on May 5, 2020.

Mary Lavelle, City Clerk