

MINUTES

CUDAHY CITY COUNCIL REGUAR MEETING and CITY OF CUDAHY AS SUCCESSOR AGENCY and HOUSING SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE CUDAHY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION JOINT MEETING

July 2, 2019 6:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor / Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council / Agency Member Guerrero
Council / Agency Member Lozoya
Vice Mayor / Vice Chair Alcantar
Mayor / Chair Gonzalez (Arrived at 6:48 p.m.)

ABSENT: Council / Agency Member Garcia

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Jose E. Pulido and Junior Deputy City Clerk, Andres Rangel.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Alcantar.

4. PRESENTATIONS - NONE

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jack Guerrero, requested Council to extend public speaking time to three minutes at the earliest possibly opportunity to appropriately address grievances residents have. He continued to reaffirm his protest of the City's commercialization of marijuana, arguing residents do not want marijuana in their City. He further stated if the City was a predominantly white Anglo-Saxon community, marijuana would not be pushed to the City. He announced he will be calling Wells Fargo Bank, the Justice Department of the United States, and the Federal Reserve Board along with the Office of the Controller of Currency to investigate the City's potential violation of federal banking laws, arguing it is illegal to launder drug proceeds into the federal banking system, as Wells Fargo is a federally regulated financial institution, and therefore profits coming from cannabis businesses cannot legally be stored in a federally regulated bank. He concluded his comments by reaffirming he will not sit idly, as well as encouraged residents to report whatever questionable action they see.

Pamela Munguia, asked the City Clerk to put on record she is requesting to revert public comment time back to three minutes, arguing two minutes is not enough time to address all the concerns she has about the City, specifically the recent shootings that have happened in the City. She went on to speak against the City Manager arguing he has been ineffective since his hiring. She cited the City's dirty streets due to the ineffective overnight parking program, and specifically referenced lack of street sweeper presence on Clara Street. She argued that the

City Manager's last four years in Cudahy has been detrimental, first bringing in cannabis businesses to the City, as well as the allegedly illegal selling of the City's Cecilia Street property. She spoke against apartment developments in the City, arguing the City is already congested, and developing more apartments will negatively affect the community.

Marcos Oliva, asked Council to return public speaking time to three minutes as it was in the past. He went on to remind council and residents that his group brought CERT classes to the City which met once a month at Lugo Park but the classes suddenly stopped. He then requested to bring them back in 2018 to no response from City staff or the City Council. He stressed the significance of having a well-established CERT program in the City, and how it will be an asset to cooperate with neighboring cities. He concluded his comments by commenting about the unfortunate events that have resulted from the Contract Cities events.

Patricia Covarrubias, reminded Council it has to answer to residents, as the residents oversee the Council. She went on to argue that the City Manager makes too much money, considering the City's small size. She further argued that City Manager has left the City worse than how he inherited it, citing lack of recreation services, dirty streets, and bringing the unpopular cannabis businesses to the City. She reminded Vice Mayor Alcantar that residents voted for her under the promise she was going to replace the City Manager. She cited the City Budget reminded residents the City Manager is making approximately \$290,000 per year with benefits and bonuses included, arguing it is too much money coming from the taxpayers' expense.

Trinidad Guillen, told the Council the City is getting worse since the new Council arrived. She mentioned the City suffers from dirty streets, vandalism, and noted Sheriff's may not effectively manage their deputies when a crime is happening in the City. She suggested the Sheriff's to better organize themselves to reflect their high cost. She further reminded the Council to listen to residents in attendance as there is power in their numbers, citing how they have made a difference in other forums such as school board meetings. She went on to ask Vice Mayor Alcantar to do the right thing when she is voting, reminding her residents hold a lot of trust in her. She went on to compare this Council with the older Council, specifically citing the lack of free programs and field space this current Council offers.

Irene Silvestre, spoke against the Council for closing down the gym with short notice. She went on to ask Council who directed the City Manager to close down the gym, reminding them the City Manager is supposed to serve the City Council. She spoke against the City Manager for depleting the City's recreation programs, and reminding Council many residents enrolled in the gym have been enrolled for years. She argued the gym should not be closed simply because Chuze Fitness opened. She commented on the City's dirty streets and ineffective street sweeping services, as well as spoke against the City's waste disposal service provider for their ineffective bulky trash pickup program. She concluded her comments by arguing the City Manager is the root for the problems she is addressing.

Marlene Viera, asked the City Manager to face the public when being spoken to. She went on to questions how City staff decided to close the gym due to budgetary constraints, yet is leaving it open for the boxing classes. She went on to speak against the five day notice gym members received, arguing it is disrespectful to give such little notice. She argued the City never committed to the promises that were given to promote the gym, even though gym members did commit with their promises. She went on to speak against the Council and City staff for depleting all past recreation programs. She further argued that the City's lack of parking enforcement is inviting anyone to park illegally as there are no consequences to their actions.

Susie de Santiago, lamented the lack of communication between the City Manager and residents on matters such as closing down the gym, expressing her frustrations that this is not

the first time gym members were notified on the gym closing on such a short notice and without proper notice channels. She further reminded Council that there would be maintenance, marketing funds, and increased rates to upgrade City equipment. However, those commitments were not completed on behalf of the City. She further argued that the gym is not only room that uses electricity in that building; it is also the maintenance office and teen center. She asked to have the boxing program and the gym co-exists, not only keep the boxing program.

Marcos Covarrubias, asked Council to discuss the City Manager's future in the City, expressing over the City's recurring lack of funds. He asked Mayor Gonzalez where the cannabis proceeds are being spent, if there are any, noting the funds are not being spent on community development and/or recreation services. He argued it is crucial for the Council to increase public comment time back to three minutes, as there are too many grievances to express on such a limited timeframe. He concluded his comments by requesting Council to remove the City Manager.

Javier Flores, asked Council to remove the City Manager, citing all the promises he did not kept such as an expanded sports program and community pool that never came to fruition. He further argued rather than expanding programs, ballet and sports programs were cut. He spoke against the apartment development projects, arguing they will not do any good to the City, alleging the City Manager is profiting from the developer's investment. He went on to speak against Mayor Gonzalez, telling him he has not been a Council Member long enough to understand the cuts the City Manager has made in his tenure. He argued the reason the City Manager does not hesitate to make the decisions he makes is because he does not live in the City, and therefore does not experience the consequences his decisions make. He concluded his comments by asking Council to not be like past Council Members and make policy with honesty and integrity that benefits community members.

David Rodriguez, reminded Council that gym members worked hard last year to keep the gym open when it was supposed to close. He went on to remind Council that they were also promised advertising funds, gym maintenance, and a sign painted showing the word Gym in front of the building. He argued that Chuze fitness is a for-profit gym, that includes a \$70 initiation fee as apart from the monthly fee, and members are required to put a card in order to deduct the monthly payment fee. He reminded Cudahy gym is the last City ran service, having outsourced everything else. He concluded his comments by asking Council to keep the gym open if the boxing program is still going to be open.

6. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Guerrero, expressed his concern and surprise over the City continuously seeking to close the gym, despite backtracking once hearing the public backlash from supporters that wish to keep the gym open. He directed City staff to add a discussion item reopening the gym. He rationalized, the City does not hesitate paying tens of thousands of dollars to consultants, as well as allowing raises to senior management. However, when a City service, such as the gym, is being discussed, the City hesitates on paying to operate it, citing budgetary constraints. He also asked to add a discussion item regarding an audit for the City's internal controls for the next Council meeting, exploring the idea to involve the California State Controller to evaluate the adequacy of the City's internal controls. He reiterated his comments regarding cannabis in Spanish, arguing federally regulated banks, such as Wells Fargo, cannot accept profits resulting from cannabis business.

Vice Mayor Alcantar, agreed to re-open the gym. She further mentioned she met with gym members over the weekend and discussed how the City can keep the promise it committed to during the initial closure. She suggests having a meeting between City residents, staff, and

Council members to discuss how the City can complete the commitments it initially promised. She announced that the Citizen questions will not be included in the census next year, as well as stressed the importance in participating in next year's census. She directed staff to include community workshops on future budget sessions so the residents know what items are being brought in or taken out in a budget.

Mayor Gonzalez, directed staff to add re-opening the gym as an item for the next agenda, as well as provide a financial impact to keeping the gym open. He went on to ask residents to participate in next year's census. He explained the benefits of partnering with the YMCA, citing the services it provides at a relatively low price. He concluded his comments by inviting residents to the City's third of July event.

7. CITY MANAGER REPORT (information only)

8. REPORTS REGARDING AD HOC, ADVISORY, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEE MEETINGS – NONE

9. WAIVER OF FULL READING OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

MAYOR GONZALEZ MADE A MOTION TO WAIVE THE FULL READING OR RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES. THE MOTION WAS NOT SECONDED. THEREFORE, THE MOTION FAILED.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Consideration to Review and Approve the Draft Minutes of June 18, 2019, for the Regular Meeting of the City Council and the Joint Meeting of the City of Cudahy as Successor Agency and Housing Successor Agency to the Cudahy Development Commission

Presented by the Assistant City Clerk

The City Council is requested to review and approve the City Council / Successor Agency Draft Minutes for June 18, 2019.

Motion: It was moved by Vice Mayor Alcantar, and seconded by Mayor Gonzalez to to review and approve the City Council / Successor Agency Draft Minutes for June 18, 2019. The motion carried (2-1-0) by the following roll call vote.

AYES: Alcantar, and Gonzalez
NOES: Lozoya
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: Guerrero

11. PUBLIC HEARING - NONE

12. BUSINESS SESSION

- A.** Adoption of Resolution No. 19-21, Approving the Co-Development of an Application for Grant Funds for the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) with the Watershed Conservation Authority, for a Park Project or Projects as directed by City Council

Presented by the City Manager

The City Council is requested to:

1. Receive a presentation from Watershed Conservation Authority Project Manager, Bryan S. Moller; and
2. Adopt Resolution No. 19-21, approving the Co-Development of an application for grant funds for the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) with the Watershed Conservation Authority, for a park project or projects as directed by City Council.

Motion: It was motioned by Vice Mayor Alcantar and Seconded by Mayor Gonzalez to Receive a presentation from Watershed Conservation Authority Project and Adopt Resolution No. 19-21, approving the Co-Development of an application for grant funds for the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) with the Watershed Conservation Authority, for a park project or projects as with specific amendments directed by City Council. The motion carried (4-0-1) by the following roll call vote.

AYES: Guerrero, Lozoya, Alcantar, and Gonzalez
NOES: None
ABSENT: Garcia
ABSTAIN: None

13. COUNCIL DISCUSSION – NONE

14. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 – Public Employee Performance Evaluation

Title of Employee: City Manager

ITEM WAS MOVED TO THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

15. ADJOURNMENT

The City Council / Agency meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Jose Gonzalez
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richard Iglesias
Assistant City Clerk