



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

**June 12, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber - 1243 National City Boulevard
National City, CA**

Present: Mayor Morrison
Vice-Mayor Molina
Councilmember Bush
Councilmember Rodriguez (*arrived at 4:08 p.m.*)
Councilmember Yamane

Others Present: Armando Vergara, Interim City Manager
Ashlin Lutes , Deputy City Attorney
Shelley Chapel, City Clerk
Carlos Aguirre, Housing Authority Director
Molly Brennan, Administrative Services Director
Paul Valadez, Budget Manager
Ben Martinez, Acting Community Development Director
Sergio Mora, Fire Battalion Chief
Joyce Ryan, Director of Library and Community Services
Jose Tellez, Chief of Police
Roberto Yano, Director of Public Works and City Engineering

1. CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of National City was called to order at 4:06 p.m. via teleconference and in the Council Chamber, located in City Hall, 1243 National City Boulevard, National City, California.

2. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Bush, Rodriguez (*arrived at 4:08 p.m.*), Yamane, Molina, Morrison

Interpretation in Spanish provided by Carlos Diaz and Luisa Diaz de Leon.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Bush led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Morrison summarized the process for acceptance of live public comment allowing three (3) minutes per comment and introduced City Clerk Chapel.

Five (5) speakers provided in-person comments and two (2) written comments. There were no registrants for virtual comment.

In-person comments:

Larry Emerson

Sherry Gogue

Edward Nieto

Daniel Perez

Joan Rincon

5. **STAFF REPORT**

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Preliminary Budget Workshop

Interim City Manager Armando Vergara introduced Molly Brennan, Administrative Services Director who presented the item utilizing a PowerPoint Presentation.

Recommendation: Review, receive presentation, and provide direction.

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Bush, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez to move forward with the City Council District Budgeting in the amount of \$100,000.

Motion carried by 3-2 vote.

Ayes: Bush, Rodriguez, Yamane

Nays: Molina, Morrison

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Bush, Seconded by Councilmember Yamane to direct staff to look at rehabilitation of the Las Palmas Wellness Center and Restrooms and to defer spending any additional design money on the new wellness center.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked for a friendly amendment to include within the proposal the splash pad as well as two (2) restrooms. The maker of the motion and seconder agreed with the friendly amendment. Also, to include the option to ask assistance from A.R.T.S. with rehab project.

Vice-Mayor Molina requested clarification from Deputy City Attorney Lutes regarding the consequences of this action, considering the Las Palmas Wellness Center project had previously been approved with a budget by the City Council.

Mayor Morrison called for recess at 5:45 p.m. and all members present returned to the dais at 6:02 p.m.

Deputy City Attorney Lutes requested point of clarification from Councilmember Bush on the motion. The maker of the motion confirmed the motion was to postpone the Las Palmas Wellness Center and the \$2.7 million and have staff bring back an option for rehab. Deputy City Attorney Lutes clarified that the request was to have staff bring back a new project that would involve a rehab instead of the current project and Councilmember Bush agreed.

Deputy City Attorney Lutes advised the City Council that as requested, to choose to not fund the project right now and ask staff to come back with a new project later with the rehab would require the item to return to a future City Council meeting if included in the motion.

Motion carried by 3-2 vote.

Ayes: Bush, Rodriguez, Yamane

Nays: Molina, Morrison

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Bush, to move forward with hiring two (2) police dispatchers and two (2) officers. Motion withdrawn.

Motion by Councilmember Bush, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez to hire two (2) police dispatchers and two (2) police officers, to continue with previous direction to hire three (3) firefighters with the 4-0 staffing requirement with it, and continue the status quo on tree trimming.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked the maker of motion to amend the motion to include the remaining items that were previously discussed and supported, which included: One-time positions of \$25,000 for Street Sign Replacements; \$50,000 for Chamber of Commerce; \$250,000 for Civic Center Kimball Rec Master Plan; \$100,000 for National City Blvd and Harbison; Quality of Life Overtime; Storm Drain Rehab; and, the on-going enhancement decisions that were also supported that include PD and Fire, after-school program, tree trimming, amortization, and district budgeting. Additionally requested staff to look at overtime.

Vice-Mayor Molina asked for clarification of the motion.

Councilmember Bush restated the motion: Approve the on-going enhancement decision items which include the four (4) new police staff (2 dispatchers and 2 police officers), three (3) new firefighters and the 4-0 staffing, the after-school programs, tree-trimming, engineering permit tech, amortization, City Council District Budgets, reduced recreation fee and approve the one-time enhancement decision items, Street Sign Replacement, Chamber of Commerce, Granger Hall Relocation, Civic Center Kimball Rec Master Plan, Clean-up at National City Blvd and Harbison, Public Works Quality of Life Overtime, Pavement Rehab, Storm Drain Rehab, and for staff to look at further overtime reductions.

Motion carried by 3-2 vote.

Ayes: Bush, Rodriguez, Yamane

Nays: Molina, Morrison

In-person comments:

Ed Nieto

Thelma

Geoffrey Schrock

Joan Rincon

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Morrison adjourned to the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of National City, Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, located in City Hall, 1243 National City Boulevard, National City, California.

The meeting adjourned 6:51 p.m.

Shelley Chapel, MMC, City Clerk

The foregoing minutes were approved at the Regular Meeting of August 1, 2023.

Ron Morrison, Mayor