



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

May 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber - 1243 National City Boulevard
National City, CA

Present:
Councilmember Molina
Councilmember Rodriguez
Councilmember Yamane
Vice-Mayor Bush
Mayor Morrison

Others Present:
Scott W. Huth, Interim City Manager
Barry J. Schultz, City Attorney
Carlos Aguirre, Director of Community Development
Walter Amedee, Emergency Manager
Bruce Foltz, Director of Finance
Alex Hernandez, Chief of Police
Lydia Hernandez, Director of Human Resources
Tonya Hussain, Deputy City Clerk
Martha Juarez, Assistant Director of Engineering/Public Works
Martin Reeder, Assistant Director of Community Development

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of National City was called to order at 6:26 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: Molina, Rodriguez, Yamane, Bush, Morrison

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

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Vice-Mayor Bush led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **INVOCATION**

Delivered by Word of Life Worship Center Pastor Benny Madrid.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Morrison summarized the process for acceptance of live public comment allowing two (2) minutes per comment.

In-person comment

Brian Clapper
Dukie Valderrama
Jeremy Day
Ted Godshalk
Maria Severson
Doyle Morrison
Luisa McCarthy
Marissa Cuevas
Claire Groebner
Ed Nieto
Cynthia Quinonez
Purita Javier
Cesar Javier
Sherry Gogue
Alisha Morrison
Alexander Gutterud
Micaela Polanco
Gregory Martinez
Geoffrey Schrock

Written Comment

Alexander Gutterud
Ted Godshalk

In accordance with City Council Policy 104, the allotted time of 30 minutes had been reached for Public Comment. Mayor Morrison continued remaining speakers to the end of the meeting.

6. **PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITION**

6.1 Proclamation: Marisa Ugarte Day

Mayor Morrison introduced Marisa Ugarte Day, who accepted the Proclamation.

6.2 Recognition: Maeve Nieva - 2025 LEO of the Year for the State of California

Mayor Morrison recognized Maeve Nieva.

6.3 Proclamation: National Public Works Week

Mayor Morrison introduced Assistant Director of Engineering/Public Works Martha Juarez who introduced Ardurra Group Operations Director Carmen Kasner. Carmen Kasner provided information about National Public Works Week. Assistant Director Juarez thanked staff for their work.

7. **REGIONAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS (Limited to Five (5) Minutes each)**

Councilmember Yamane and Rodriguez had no report.

Councilmember Molina provided an update on the SANDAG Board of Directors Meeting and the adopted budget.

Vice-Mayor Bush reported on the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System and the San Diego County Air Pollution Control Board.

Mayor Morrison spoke to the upcoming meeting of the Sweetwater Authority.

Councilmember Rodriguez left the dais at 7:39 p.m. and returned at 7:40 p.m.

8. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Yamane, seconded by Councilmember Molina to approve the Consent Calendar with the exception of Items 8.6, 8.13, and 8.14 pulled for public comment.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Vice-Mayor Bush left the dais at 7:40 p.m. and returned at 7:45 p.m.

- 8.1 Approval of Reading by Title Only and Waiver of Reading in Full of Ordinance on this Agenda

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 8.2 Accept the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 State Homeland Security Grant Program funds to purchase equipment for the Police and Fire Departments.

Adopted Resolution No. 2025-46.

Adopt the Resolution Entitled: "Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Approving and Authorizing 1) the Mayor to Execute the Standard Assurances for the FY24 State Homeland Security Grant Program and 2) the Establishment of Appropriations in the Amount of \$33,828 in the Reimbursable Grants City-Wide Fund with a Corresponding Revenue Budget for the Purchase of Equipment for the Police and Fire Departments."

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 8.3 Adoption of Resolution initiating proceedings for the levy and collection of assessments for the Landscape Maintenance District No. 1 (Mile of Cars) for fiscal year 2025-26.

Adopted Resolution No. 2025-47.

Adopt the Resolution Entitled, “Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Initiating Proceedings for the Levy and Collection of Assessments for the Landscape Maintenance District No. 1 (Mile of Cars) for Fiscal Year 2025-26.”

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 8.4 Adoption of Resolution Approving the Annual Report for Landscape Maintenance District No. 1 (Mile of Cars) for the Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Adopted Resolution No. 2025-48.

Adopt the Resolution Entitled “Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Approving the Annual Report for the Landscape Maintenance District No. 1 (Mile of Cars) for Fiscal Year 2025-26.”

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 8.5 Intention to Conduct a Public Hearing on June 3, 2025 and to Levy and Collect Assessments for the Landscape Maintenance District No. 1.

Adopted Resolution No. 2025-49.

Adopt the Resolution Entitled, “Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Declaring Its Intention to Conduct a Public Hearing on June 3, 2025 and to Levy and Collect Assessments for the Landscape Maintenance District No. 1 (Mile of Cars) for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.”

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Item pulled for discussion.

- 8.6 Appropriation of funds in the amount of \$300,000 from the Clean Mobility Options (CMO) Voucher Program for the Free Ride Around National City (FRANC).

Adopted Resolution No. 2025-50.

Assistant Director of Engineering/Public Works Martha Juarez address City Council questions.

Public comment provided by Thomas Rike. Written comment received from Ted Godshalk.

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution Entitled, “Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Authorizing the Establishment of an Appropriation and Corresponding Revenue Budget in the Amount of \$300,000 from CALSTART, Inc., Through the California Air Resources Board, for the Free

Ride Around National City Neighborhood Electric Vehicle On-Demand Shuttle Service.”

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Molina, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 8.7 Authorize the Buildout of Six (6) Police Utility Interceptors for the National City Police Department

Adopted Resolution No. 2025-51.

1) Waiving the Formal Bid Process Pursuant to NCMC Section 2.60.110(B) Regarding Exceptions to Formal Competitive Bidding and Authorizing Purchase and Installation Services from American Emergency Products in a Not-to-Exceed amount of \$197,000 to Complete the Buildouts for Six Police Utility Interceptors for the National City Police Department; 2) Authorizing a Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Adjustment to Establish an Appropriation in the Amount of \$65,000 in the Vehicle Acquisition Fund; and 3) Authorizing the City Manager to Approve Adjustments of up to \$19,700 to the Not-to-Exceed Amounts for the Purchase as a 10% Contingency for Unforeseen Fluctuations in Pricing.”

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 8.8 Direct Install Landscape Participation Agreement with San Diego County Water Authority

Adopted Resolution No. 2025-52.

Adopt the Resolution Entitled, “Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Authorizing the City Manager or Designee to Execute a Direct Install Landscape Participation Agreement with the San Diego County Water Authority for Conversion of Commercial Non-Functional Turf to Water Efficient Landscaping on a Portion of City Property Adjacent to 200 E. 12th Street.”

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 8.9 First Amendment to the Affordable Housing Density Bonus Agreement with 129 NCB, LLC

Adopted Resolution No. 2025-53.

Adopt the Resolution Entitled: “Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the First Amendment to the Affordable Housing Density Agreement for 129 National City Blvd in National City with 129 NCB, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company.”

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

8.10 Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ)

Receive and File the Informational Report

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

8.11 Projects to Receive Funding from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account in Fiscal Year 2025-26 through the Local Streets and Roads Funding Program.

Adopted Resolution No. 2025-54.

Adopt the Resolution Entitled, "Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, 1) Approving the 8th Street and Roosevelt Avenue Active Transportation Corridor Project, CIP 19-44, to Receive Funding from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account through the Local Streets and Roads Funding Program as Required by Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017; and 2) Authorizing the Establishment of a Gas Tax (RMRA) Fund Appropriation and Corresponding Revenue Budget of \$1,538,604 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026."

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

8.12 Temporary Use Permit – 7th Annual End of Summer Car Show and Cruise hosted by the San Diego Lowrider Association at Kimball Park on Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with No Waiver of Fees

Approve the Application for a Temporary Use Permit Subject to Compliance with all Conditions of Approval with No Waiver of Fees and in Accordance with City Council Policy 802.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Vice-Mayor Bush left the dais at 7:49 p.m. and returned at 7:50 p.m.

Item pulled for discussion.

8.13 Warrant Register No. 38 for the Period of 3/14/25 through 3/20/25 in the Amount of \$1,529,180.78

Public comment received from Thomas Rike.

Recommendation: Ratify Warrants Totaling \$1,529,180.78

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Yamane, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez to ratify the warrants for agenda items 8.13 and 8.14.

Item pulled for discussion.

8.14 Warrant Register No. 39 for the Period of 3/21/25 through 3/27/25 in the Amount of \$2,925,940.36

Public comment received from Thomas Rike.

Recommendation: Ratify Warrants Totaling \$2,925,940.36

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Yamane, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez to ratify the warrants for agenda items 8.13 and 8.14.

9. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING

9.1 Second Public Hearing, Adoption of an Ordinance of the City Council of National City, California, Repealing Ordinance No. 2017-2442, as Amended by Ordinance No. 2023-2521, and Adopting an Ordinance Establishing Sewer Service Charges for FY26 through FY30

Adopted Ordinance No. 2025-2542.

Assistant Director of Engineering/Public Works Martha Juarez and Ardurra Group Operations Director Carmen Kasner provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Morrison opened the Public Hearing at 8:04 p.m.

There was no public comment.

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Molina, seconded by Councilmember Yamane to close the Public Hearing.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Hearing closed at 8:04 p.m.

Recommendation: Hold Public Hearing and Adopt Ordinance Titled, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Repealing Ordinance No. 2017-2442, as Amended by Ordinance No. 2023-2521, and Adopting an Ordinance Establishing Sewer Service Charges for Fiscal Years 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028, 2028-2029, and 2029-2030."

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Molina, seconded by Vice-Mayor Bush to adopt the Ordinance.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

10. **PUBLIC HEARING**

- 10.1 Public Hearing - Amendment to the 2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

Adopted Resolution No. 2025-55.

Assistant Director of Engineering/Public Works Martha Juarez provided a report.

Mayor Morrison opened the Public Hearing at 8:12 p.m.

Public comment was received from Thomas Rike.

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Yamane, seconded by Councilmember Molina to close the Public Hearing.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Hearing closed at 8:14 p.m.

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution Entitled, "Resolution of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Approving an Amendment to the Transnet Local Street Improvement Program of Projects for National City for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029 to Increase Local Transnet Funding for Traffic Signal Install/Upgrade (NC04) in the Amount of \$1,200,000 through a Transfer of Funds from Street Resurfacing (NC03)."

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Molina, seconded by Councilmember Yamane to adopt the resolution.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 10.2 Public Hearing - Introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 8.32.015 of the National City Municipal Code Related to the Keeping of Hen Chickens.

Assistant Director of Community Development Martin Reeder provided a report.

Mayor Morrison opened the Public Hearing at 8:21 p.m.

Public comment:

Thomas Rike

Doyle Morrison

Alisha Morrison

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Yamane, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez to close the Public Hearing.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Hearing closed at 8:25 p.m.

Recommendation: Introduce the Ordinance Entitled: “An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of National City, California, Amending Section 8.32.015 ‘Restrictions on Keeping Certain Animals, Birds, and Reptiles’ of the National City Municipal Code Pertaining to the Allowance of Keeping Additional Hen Chickens.”

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Yamane, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez to continue the Public Hearing to the City Council meeting of August 19, 2025.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

10.3 Public Hearing - Local Public Employee’s Vacant Positions -- Assembly Bill No. 2561.

Human Resources Analyst Hailey Luscher provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Councilmember Rodriguez left the dais at 8:53 p.m. and returned at 8:57 p.m.

Mayor Morrison opened the Public Hearing at 8:53 p.m.

Public comment was received from Jeremy Day and Karla Apalategui.

ACTION: Motion by Vice-Mayor Bush, seconded by Councilmember Yamane to close the Public Hearing.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Hearing closed at 8:58 p.m.

Recommendation: Hold a Public Hearing and Receive the Staff Report and Presentation on Local Public Employees Vacant Positions, Pursuant to AB 2561.

ACTION: Motion by Councilmember Molina, seconded by Vice-Mayor Bush to Hold the Public Hearing and Receive the Staff Report.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

11. **STAFF REPORTS**

Councilmember Molina left the dais at 9:09 p.m. and returned at 9:11 p.m.

Vice-Mayor Bush left the dais at 9:10 p.m. and returned at 9:12 p.m.

11.1 Staff report on potential increases and/or implementation of taxes and fees and the strategic use of reserves to generate additional revenue for National City.

Director of Community Development provided a PowerPoint presentation.

In-person public comment was received from Ed Nieto.

Virtual comment was received from Peggy Walker.

Recommendation: Discuss and provide direction to further study specific increases and/or implementation of taxes and fees and the strategic use of reserves to generate additional revenue for National City.

No vote was taken.

Vice-Mayor Bush left the dais at 9:41 p.m. and returned at 9:42 p.m.

11.2 Discussion: City Manager's Need for Councilmember Participation in Staff-Level Working Groups

Interim City Manager Scott Huth provided a report followed by City Council discussion.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim City Manager Scott Huth stated that he had met with Lions Club representative Brian Clapper regarding the July 4th event.

13. ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

Closing remarks were provided by members of the City Council.

In accordance with City Council Policy 104, remaining speakers for Item 5 provided public comment.

Virtual comment was received from Madison Rapp.

14. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Mayor Morrison introduced City Attorney Schultz who reported on Closed Session agenda Items 5.1 and 5.2.

Item 5.1 – City Council provided staff direction.

Item 5.2 – No reportable action.

CLOSED SESSION

5.1 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Government Code Section 54957.6

Employee Organizations:

Municipal Employees' Association (SEIU, Local 221),
National City Firefighters Association (Local 2744), and
Police Officers Association (POA)

Unrepresented Groups: Executive, Confidential, and Management

Agency Designated Representatives:

Steven Berliner (Labor Negotiator)
Scott Huth (Interim City Manager)
Brian Hadley (Deputy City Manager)
Bruce Foltz (Finance Director)

Paul Valadez (Budget Manager - Finance)
Lydia Hernandez (Human Resources Director)

5.2 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant Exposure to Litigation
Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)
Number of Potential Cases: 2*

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Morrison adjourned to the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of National City, Tuesday, June 3, 2025, 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, located in City Hall, 1243 National City Boulevard, National City, California.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Tonya Hussain, CMC, Deputy City
Clerk

The foregoing minutes were approved at the Regular Meeting of June 17, 2025.

Ron Morrison, Mayor