

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

**Lemon Grove Community Center**

3146 School Lane, Lemon Grove, CA 91945

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Racquel Vasquez called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Mayor Racquel Vasquez, Councilmember Liana LeBaron, Councilmember Jennifer Mendoza and Councilmember Alysson Snow

Absent: Councilmember George Gastil

**Staff Members Present**

Lydia Romero, City Manager; Kristen Steinke, City Attorney; Joel G. Pablo, City Clerk; Izzy Murguia, Public Works Director; Shaun Dershem, Executive Assistant; Deputy Fire Chief - Operations Todd Nelson, Heartland Fire and Rescue; and Sergeant Ken Seel, San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilmember LeBaron led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Changes to the Agenda**

City Manager Lydia Romero announced written notification was received from Councilmember LeBaron to pull **Item No. 1.B, 1.D and 1.E** from the Consent Calendar and those items will be moved following Reports to Council.

**Presentations** - None

**Public Comment**

Mayor Vasquez opened the public comment period.

In Person:     John L. Wood  
                  Craig Morris  
                  David Brauner  
                  Pam Brauner  
                  Andrew Bean  
                  Debbye Tellez  
                  Gene Carpenter  
                  Brenda Hammond  
                  Mat Kostrinsky, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
                  (AFSCME) Local 127  
                  Chris Williams  
                  Mejgan Afshan, Borderlands for Equity

Sarah Farouq, Borderlands for Equity  
 Sami Ortelova, Borderlands for Equity  
 Oren Robinson, Jewish Voice for Peace  
 Layla, Borderlands for Equity  
 Sophia, Borderlands for Equity  
 Julie, Borderlands for Equity  
 Yasmeen Obeid  
 Cheryl Robertson  
 Yusef Miller

Written: Barbara Gordon

### **Future Discussion Items**

Councilmember Snow with the support of Mayor Pro-Tem Mendoza directed staff to place on a future Council Agenda a Council Initiated Item to discuss and consider adoption of a Ceasefire and Immediate Peaceful Resolution regarding the Israeli – Palestinian conflict.

*In response to Council deliberation on the further discussions regarding the January 2024 Winter Storm Event, City Manager Romero indicated staff is working to identify a date to conduct a Special Meeting of the City Council (Stormwater Management Workshop).*

### **Consent Calendar**

**Action:** Motion by Councilmember Snow, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Mendoza to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 1.A and 1.C.

#### **The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** LeBaron, Snow, Mendoza, Vasquez

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Gastil

1.A Waive Full Text Reading of All Ordinances on the Agenda

**Action:** Waived the full text reading of all ordinances on the published meeting agenda.

1.B City of Lemon Grove Payment Demands

**Action:** Item Pulled from Consent Calendar via Changes to the Agenda.

1.C Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes

**Action:** Approved the minutes of the Lemon Grove City Council meeting held on January 16, 2024 (*minutes are verbatim due to technical issues*).

- 1.D A Resolution Ratifying an Emergency Declaration and Ratifying the Emergency Repair of a Storm Drain at 6971 Broadway (4/5<sup>th</sup> Vote Needed)

**Action:** Item Pulled from Consent Calendar via Changes to the Agenda.

- 1.E Adopt a Resolution Authorizing Emergency Repairs at 7701 Nichals Street (4/5<sup>th</sup> Vote Needed)

**Action:** Item Pulled from Consent Calendar via Changes to the Agenda.

**Public Hearing(s):** - None

### **Reports to Council**

2. Discussion on Recommended Street Rehabilitation for Streets with a Pavement Condition Index of 25 or Below [**Item Continued from February 6, 2024 meeting**]

Mayor Vasquez introduced Izzy Murguia, Public Works Director to present the staff report.

Mayor Vasquez opened the public comment period.

In Person: Mat Kostrinsky, AFSCME Local 127  
Brenda Hammond  
Chris Williams

Councilmember LeBaron left the dias at 8:39 p.m. and returned at 8:45 p.m.

Round 1: Councilmembers provided questions/comments to staff.

Round 2: Councilmembers provided questions/comments to staff.

**Action:** Received the report. Via Council consensus, approved staff's recommendation and directed staff to add an additional allocation of \$500,000 to include paving streets in: Zone 1 – Cedral Place; Zone 2 – Crestline Drive, Haven Drive, and Mudder Street; Zone 3 – Buena Vista Avenue; Zone 4 – Nobel Street.

### **Pulled Consent Calendar Items**

- 1.B City of Lemon Grove Payment Demands

City Manager Lydia Romero and City Attorney Kristen Steinke fielded questions from Councilmembers.

**Action:** Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Mendoza, second by Councilmember Snow to ratify Demands covering January 17, 2024 through January 30, 2024.

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Snow, Mendoza, Vasquez

**Noes:** LeBaron  
**Absent:** Gastil

- 1.D A Resolution Ratifying an Emergency Declaration and Ratifying the Emergency Repair of a Storm Drain at 6971 Broadway (4/5<sup>th</sup> Vote Needed)

Public Works Director Izzy Murguia answered questions from Councilmembers.

**Action:** Motion by Councilmember Snow, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Mendoza to adopt **Resolution No. 2024 – 4002** Authorizing Emergency Repairs at 6971 Broadway and finding: (1) The public interest and necessity demand immediate expenditure of public money to safeguard life, health or property, and the City Council and/or the City Manager may expend any sum required in the emergency for the construction or completion of any building structure or improvement without submitting the expenditure to bid; and (2) The emergency will not permit a delay resulting from a competitive solicitation for bids, which is necessary to respond to the emergency; and (3) Finding the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15301(a) (existing facilities) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Snow, LeBaron, Mendoza, Vasquez  
**Noes:** None  
**Absent:** Gastil

- 1.E Adopt a Resolution Authorizing Emergency Repairs at 7701 Nichals Street (4/5<sup>th</sup> Vote Needed)

Public Works Director Izzy Murguia provided background information on the matter and answered questions from Councilmembers.

**Action:** Motion by Councilmember LeBaron, second by Councilmember Snow to adopt **Resolution No. 2024 - 4003** Authorizing Emergency Repairs at 7701 Nichals Street and finding: (1) The public interest and necessity demand immediate expenditure of public money to safeguard life, health or property, and the City Council and/or the City Manager may expend any sum required in the emergency for the construction or completion of any building structure or improvement without submitting the expenditure to bid; and (2) The emergency will not permit a delay resulting from a competitive solicitation for bids, which is necessary to respond to the emergency. (3) Finding the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15301(a) (existing facilities) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Snow, LeBaron, Mendoza, Vasquez  
**Noes:** None  
**Absent:** Gastil

## **City Council Reports on Meetings Attended at the Expense of the City**

### **Councilmember Snow**

- February 8, 2024 – Attended San Diego Chamber of Commerce’s 153<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- Attended the San Diego Association of Government – East County Subregion Board Briefing
- February 12, 2024 – Met with the Mexican Consulate
- February 13, 2024 – Attended the Fair Housing Program
- February 14, 2024 – Attended the League of California Cities: Legislative Forecast and Review of Governor’s Budget
- February 15, 2024 – Attended Know Your Right’s Presentation with the Alliance San Diego, Legal Aid Society of San Diego and Mexican Consulate
- February 16 and 17, 2024 – Participated and worked with the Lemon Grove Food Distribution
- February 20, 2024 – Attended the East County Chamber of Commerce: Government Affair’s Committee

### **Councilmember LeBaron**

- Met with residents affected by the January 2024 Winter Storms.

### **Mayor Pro-Tem Mendoza**

- February 3 and 4, 2024 – Community Cleanup
- February 12, 2024 – Attended the California League of Cities Meeting
- February 14, 2024 – Attended the Lemon Grove Clergy Meeting
- February 17, 2024 – Participated in the Lemon Grove Food Distribution

### **Mayor Vasquez**

- February 8, 2024 – Attended the National Association of Real Estate Brokers; Black History Month
- February 9, 2024 – San Diego Association of Governments - Executive Committee meeting
- February 15, 2024 – Center for National Aviation - Technical Training Unit – Black History Event
- February 17, 2024 – Attended the Commissioning of the USS John L. Canley

### **City Manager Report** - None

### **Closed Session**

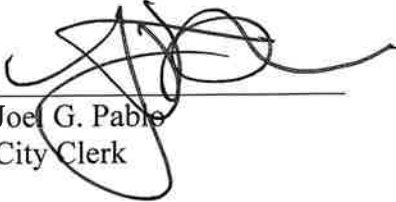
City Attorney Kristen Steinke read the Council into Closed Session. The Council adjourned into Closed Session at 9:14 p.m.

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Government Code §54956.9(d)(2) (4)) 1 case

The Council reconvened from Closed Session at 9:53 p.m. City Attorney Steinke stated Councilmember LeBaron recused herself and has no reportable action from Closed Session.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Vasquez adjourned the meeting at 9:53 p.m. She mentioned that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council is set for Tuesday, March 5, 2024.



Joel G. Pable  
City Clerk

*Approved by Council on May 7, 2024*