



**Friday, May 29, 2020**  
**Minutes of the Adjourned Regular Meeting of the City Council**  
**of the City of Palm Springs**

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, by Governor Newsom, this meeting was conducted by teleconference and there was no in-person public access to the meeting location.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

An Adjourned Regular Meeting of the Palm Springs City Council was called to order by Mayor Kors on Friday, May 29, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, City Hall, located at 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, California.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Kors led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Councilmembers Grace Elena Garner, Lisa Middleton, Dennis Woods; Mayor Pro Tem Christy Holstege; and Mayor Geoff Kors

**Absent:** None.

**City Staff**

**Present:** David H. Ready, City Manager; Jeffrey Ballinger, City Attorney; Marcus Fuller, Assistant City Manager; and Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk, were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

**REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION:**

The Adjourned Regular Closed Session of the City Council of May 29, 2020, was called to order by Mayor Kors at 12:00 p.m., with all members present.

The meeting convened into Closed Session to discuss the following items as listed on the Regular Closed Session Meeting Agenda:

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1):

4348 Lockwood Avenue LLC et al. v. City of Palm Springs et al.,  
Case No. RIC 1703102, Superior Court of the State of California, County of Riverside

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - MATTERS CREATING SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2):**

Six (6) matters that, under the existing circumstances, the City Attorney believes creates significant exposure to litigation.

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER INITIATION OF LITIGATION Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4):**

Under existing facts and circumstances, there are three (3) matters the City Council has decided or may decide to initiate litigation.

**CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR Gov't Code § 54956.8**

Property Description:	APNs 677-444-010; 677-444-013; and 67470 Sarah Street, Cathedral City, CA 92234
Agency:	City of Palm Springs
City Negotiator:	Marcus Fuller, City Engineer/Assistant City Manager or Designee
Negotiating Parties:	Luis A. Avila Paz, Rosario Avila and Maria Avila
Under negotiation:	Price and Terms of Payment
Property Description:	APNs 680-170-051 and 680-170-014
Agency:	City of Palm Springs
City Negotiator:	Marcus Fuller, City Engineer/Assistant City Manager or Designee
Negotiating Parties:	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Under negotiation:	Price and Terms of Payment
Property Description:	Palm Springs Visitor's Center (APN 504-040-053)
Agency:	City of Palm Springs
City Negotiator:	Marcus Fuller, City Engineer/Assistant City Manager or Designee
Negotiating Parties:	Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)
Under Negotiation:	Price and Terms of Payment
Property Description:	502-210-023 (2-acre portion located at the northwest corner of East Baristo Road and El Cielo Road)
Agency:	City of Palm Springs
City Negotiator:	David Ready, City Manager or Designee
Negotiating Parties:	
Under Negotiation:	Price and Terms of Payment (Lease)

Property Description: 505-182-010 and 505-182-004 (Adjacent parcels located at the southwest corner of North Palm Canyon Drive and Stevens Road)

Agency: City of Palm Springs and Successor Agency of the Former Redevelopment Agency of the City of Palm Springs

City Negotiator: David Ready, City Manager or Designee

Negotiating Parties: Under Negotiation

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment (Sale)

Property Description: 3.6 Acres at SE corner of Indian Canyon Drive and San Rafael Road APN 501-031-028

Agency: City of Palm Springs

City Negotiator: David H. Ready, City Manager or Designee

Negotiating Parties: Community Housing Opportunities Corporation (CHOC)

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment (Sale)

Property Description: Boulders Property (Lots 1-45 of Tract Map 31095/APNs 504-150-011 through -055); Crescendo Property (APN 504-040-046); Rimrock Property (APN 681-480-011); Gene Autry Property (APNs 677-540-028 & 677-540-029); Block G of parcel map 36446 (APN 513-560-048)

Agency: City of Palm Springs

City Negotiator: David H. Ready, City Manager or Designee

Negotiating Parties: Under Negotiation

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6:

City Negotiator: David Ready, City Manager or Designee  
Perry Madison, Director of Human Resources  
Bryan Reyes, Chief of Police  
Peter Brown, Attorney

Employee Organizations: Management Association of Palm Springs  
Palm Springs Firefighters Association  
Palm Springs Fire Management  
Palm Springs Police Management Association  
Palm Springs Police Officers Association  
Public Employees Association of Palm Springs  
All Unrepresented Employees

City Attorney Ballinger noted that the City Council and certain labor groups have agreed to defer the annual cost of living adjustment (COLA); reported that the City Council received briefings and provided direction to staff regarding the agendaized Closed Session Items but did not take any reportable action.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:**

At the request of City Attorney Ballinger, the City Council on a motion by Councilmember Garner, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Holstege, carried 5-0, to add to the agenda discussion of impacts and response to the local emergency related to the novel coronavirus, based on the need for action came to the City's attention after the posting of the agenda and action is needed prior to the next City Council meeting. In addition, Mayor Kors requested adding City Council and City Manager requests and upcoming agenda development to the agenda.

**1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****A. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID- 19); FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 ADJUSTED BUDGET AND FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVIEW**

City Manager Ready presented the staff report.

The City Council expressed gratitude towards the labor groups for their willingness to defer the annual COLA.

Councilmember Garner spoke on the importance of funding the Library and community centers, noting that they provide vital resources to residents.

Councilmember Woods noted that the City Council will need to continue to monitor the budget on a monthly basis and adjust as necessary.

Mayor Pro Tem Holstege spoke on the need for a cost/benefit analysis related to economic development and tourism, noting the need to invest in the local economy.

**MOTION BY MAYOR COUNCILMEMBER MIDDLEGON, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER, CARRIED 5-0, direct staff to return with a draft budget, based on a rolling budget concept with Scenario A, as outlined in the staff report.**

**B. DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS AND RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS**

City Attorney Jeffrey Ballinger presented the staff report.

Mayor Kors noted that the Governor has given leeway to counties and municipalities to open hotels and short-term lodging for leisure travel.

The City Council voiced concern regarding "rogue" hotels which have begun operating without proper safety protocols and certain municipalities which have refused to act in response to the illegal reopening, citing concerns related to unfair competition and public health and safety; agreed that the City should continue to lobby the State and County to enact regulations for a consistent, safe, and responsible reopening of lodging options.

Councilmember Woods recused himself from discussing short-term lodging, noting that he has a financial conflict of interest and left the Council Chamber at 2:40 p.m.

Mayor Kors reported that the County recently announced that short-term vacation rentals may operate effective immediately; noted that property owners are required to obtain City permits and follow safety guidelines.

The City Council directed staff to send a letter to the State and County requesting parity of hotels with short-term lodging.

Councilmember Woods returned to the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

**CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER REQUESTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA DEVELOPMENT:**

Councilmember Garner discussed the need for the City Council to set goals and priorities; voiced support for purchasing body worn cameras for the police department; encouraged residents to fight against racism, noting that the Library has many resources on the topic.

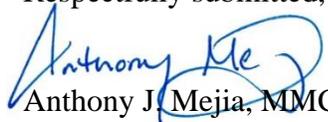
Councilmember Middleton spoke on the need to diversify the local economy and setting a reserve policy which considers the volatility of sales and transient occupancy taxes.

Mayor Kors requested that staff develop an anti-bullying policy for youth programs offered by the City; requested that staff agendize consideration to support a constitutional amendment to overturn Proposition 209 slated for the November 2020 Election.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The City Council adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Anthony J. Mejia, MMC  
City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL: 07/09/2020