



**Thursday, August 6, 2020**  
**Minutes of the Special 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:**

A Special Meeting of the Palm Springs City Council was called to order by Mayor Kors on Thursday, August 6, 2020, at 5:35 p.m.

**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.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Kors and Councilmember Garner spoke on the recent homicides in Palm Springs and expressed condolences to the victims' families, noting that public safety is the City Council's top priority. Police Chief Reyes addressed that increasing calls for services related to gunshots fired, noting there is an escalating feud between rival gangs; urged the community to work together to help address the ongoing problem and called for a community meeting for the affected community.

Mayor Kors reported on the efforts of the COVID-19 Reopening Taskforce and the new "P.S. Keeping You Safe" campaign.

Councilmember Woods narrated a PowerPoint presentation on a pilot program to expand outdoor dining on Palm Canyon Drive.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:**

City Clerk Mejia requested that the City Council add Item No. 1G to the agenda related to the appointment of Chantal Sanchez to the Parks and Recreation Commission, noting that the interviews concluded on August 5, 2020, and the next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2020.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER MIDDLETON, CARRIED 5-0, accept the order of the agenda with Consent Item Nos. 1B and 1C pulled for separate discussion and add Item No. 1G to the agenda based on the findings that the matter came to the attention of the City after the posting of the agenda and there is a need for immediate action.

**REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION:**

City Attorney Ballinger reported that the City Council met in Closed Session on August 5, 2020, and received briefings and provided direction to staff regarding the agendaized Closed Session Items, but did not take any reportable action; advised that the City Council did not meet in Closed Session on August 6, 2020.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:**

The following individuals recommended that the City Council move forward with a scaled-down version or phased-in approach for the Downtown Park:

Jim Gazan, representing the Measure J Oversight Commission  
Alan Bowley, representing the Parks and Recreation Commission  
Celeste Brackley, representing Palm Springs Resorts  
Paul Patino, representing Palm Springs Resorts  
Steven Boswell, representing Palm Springs Hospitality Association  
Peggy Trott, General Manager of the Rowan Hotel  
Matt Shough  
Aftab Dada  
Jeffrey Bernstein  
David Feltman  
Kathy Weremuik  
Ann Sheffer  
Ellen Goodman  
Naomi Soto  
Nona Watson  
Joy Brown Meredith  
Sid Craig

J.R. Roberts, speaking on Item 4A, urged the City Council to complete the Downtown Park, opining that the park will help rebound the local economy.

Kathy Weremuik, speaking on Item 4B, urged the City Council to move forward with the street renaming in recognition of Lawrence Crossley.

Wes Rankins, speaking on Item 4B, voiced support for the renaming of Crossley Road and Golf Club Drive to Lawrence Crossley Road.

Daniel Algazi, speaking on Item 4B, voiced opposition to the renaming of Crossley Road and Golf Club Drive, opining that the property owners do not support the name change.

Gary Johns, speaking on Item 4A, representing the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation, urged the City Council to consider naming the Downtown Park after Nellie Coffman.

Charlie Ervin, speaking on Item 5B, expressed concern that the proposed resolution does not include actionable policies and programs to benefit the community.

Luz Gallegos, speaking on Item 5B, voiced support and urged City Council approval of the proposed resolution.

Araceli Palafox, speaking on Item 5A, Deputy Director of Lift to Rise, expressed support for the proposed project and hoped to continue to partner with the City to help address homelessness.

Alexis Ortega, encouraged the City Council to support Item 5A; requested that the proposed Resolution under Item 5B be modified to include actionable policies, programs, and funding to address systemic racism.

Jenny Pho, speaking on Item 5A, voiced support for the proposed project, questioning whether homeless individuals in Palm Springs will have priority for these units.

### **CITY COUNCIL, SUBCOMMITTEE, AND CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS AND REPORTS:**

Councilmember Middleton provided an update on the Code Place Project, noting a temporary closure of Random Road to install a storm drain; spoke in memory of Dan Barber, who lost his life to COVID-19, and requested that the City Council adjourn tonight's meeting in his memory.

Mayor Kors spoke on his memories working with Dan Barber to advocate for LGBT issues and expressed condolences to the family.

Councilmember Garner encouraged residents to apply to serve on a City Board or Commission.

Councilmember Woods spoke in support of the "P.S. Keeping You Safe" signage and encouraged everyone to wear face coverings.

Mayor Pro Tem Holstege provided an update on the activities of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments Public Safety Committee; urged residents to complete the U.S. Census; announced upcoming stakeholder meetings related to plastic food ware and polystyrene products.

Mayor Kors reported on the activities of Palm Springs Resorts; announced that the Desert Healthcare District approved funding for the continuation of the crisis response teams and wrap-around services; reported on a conference call hosted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors related to federal emergency funding related to COVID-19.

**1. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLSTEGE, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Consent Calendar, with the removal of Item Nos. 1B and 1C for separate discussion.

**A. APPOINTMENTS TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLSTEGE, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Appoint Roberto Alejandro Martinez to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term ending June 30, 2021.
2. Appoint Jerry Joseph Alcorn to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term ending June 30, 2023.

**B. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF THREE PORTABLE MESSAGE BOARDS FOR COVID-19 MESSAGING CITYWIDE**

This item was excluded from the Consent Calendar. Please refer to page 5 of these minutes for a summary of that action.

**C. AMENDMENT NO. 5 TO ASSEMBLY BILL 2766 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS AND MEMBER JURISDICTIONS TO PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OF THE REGIONAL PM10 STREET SWEEPING PROGRAM**

This item was excluded from the Consent Calendar. Please refer to page 6 of these minutes for a summary of that action.

**D. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2028 OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, ADDING SECTION 92.29.00 TO THE PALM SPRINGS ZONING CODE TO ALLOW FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD DESERT OVERLAY ZONES (CASE 5.1507 ZTA)**

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLSTEGE, CARRIED 5-0, to adopt Ordinance No. 2028 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, ADDING SECTION 92.29.00 TO CHAPTER 92 OF THE PALM SPRINGS ZONING CODE RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD DESERT OVERLAY ZONES."

**E. APPROVAL OF A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH LOS ANGELES SMSA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP FOR A NON-EXCLUSIVE USE OF GROUND SPACE AT CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3601 EAST MESQUITE DRIVE**

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLSTEGE, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Approve a Lease Agreement by and between Verizon Wireless and the City of Palm Springs for non-exclusive use of ground space at City-owned property at 3601 East Mesquite Drive.
2. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute all the necessary documents.

**F. RESOLUTION SETTING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2020**

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLSTEGE, CARRIED 5-0, to adopt Resolution No. 24790 entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE REGULAR MEETING PLACE, DAYS, AND TIMES AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 24785."

**G. APPOINTMENT TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION – URGENCY ITEM**

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLSTEGE, CARRIED 5-0, to appoint Chantal Sanchez to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term ending June 30, 2021.

**EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**B. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF THREE PORTABLE MESSAGE BOARDS FOR COVID-19 MESSAGING CITYWIDE**

Mayor Kors voiced support for the purchase of portable message boards, noting that they can be used for other purposes than COVID-19 messaging.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WOODS, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER MIDDLETON, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Authorize a Purchase Order in an amount of \$50,282.83 to California Barricade Inc., of Santa Ana, California, for three WANCO Portable, programmable Mini 3-Line Message Sign Boards with a hydraulic lift, solar-powered and security battery box locks.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

**C. AMENDMENT NO. 5 TO ASSEMBLY BILL 2766 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS AND MEMBER JURISDICTIONS TO PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING OF THE REGIONAL PM10 STREET SWEEPING PROGRAM**

In response to City Council inquiry, Assistant City Manager Fuller explained the importance of street sweeping as a public health measure, noting that funding is derived from other sources than the General Fund.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER MIDDLETON, SECOND BY MAYOR KORS, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Approve Amendment No. 5 to AB 2766 Memorandum of Understanding between the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) and Member Jurisdictions to maintain contributions from the cities and the County at 75% to provide Sustainable Funding of the Regional PM10 Street Sweeping Program, through June 30, 2024.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 5 to the AB 2766 Memorandum of Understanding.

**2. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.**

**3. LEGISLATIVE: NONE.**

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. REVIEW OPTIONS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION ON AN INTERIM DESIGN FOR PHASED CONSTRUCTION OF THE DOWNTOWN PARK, CITY PROJECT NO. 15-07**

Assistant City Manager Fuller narrated a PowerPoint presentation. In response to City Council inquires, Mr. Fuller advised that there are challenges due to the project being mid-way and having already ordered custom products; advised that the City could be penalized for delay of the project if a decision is not made whether to move forward; noted that the alternative projects may not be ADA accessible; advised that the maintenance cost for the original park design are estimated at \$25,000 for landscaping, \$25,000 for the water feature, and \$100,000 for janitorial service for the Police Substation and public restrooms.

In response to City Council inquiry, Mark Rios, of Rios Clementi Hale Studios, spoke on the process and intentions when designing the Downtown Park; noted that most public comments expressed a desire for shaded areas, water features, and flexible spaces for events; opined that alternative designs other than the original project would not result in the destination attraction that was envisioned by the City; addressed the elements which activated the Grand Park in Los Angeles, noting the importance of water features; pointed out that completing the park at a later time will be significantly more costly than completing it now; voiced concern regarding the ability to find matching building material if the project is completed in phases.

In response to City Council inquiry, City Manager Ready stated that his personal preference is to complete the Downtown Park as initially designed; noted that Measure J revenues are exceeding projections and that final numbers will be presented at a City Council meeting in September.

Mayor Pro Tem Holstege voiced support for completing the Downtown Park, noting the importance of providing ADA access and that overall costs will significantly increase with a phased approach.

Mayor Kors voiced concern with moving forward with the original park design, noting that the Measure J funds could be used to preserve public safety services; pointed out that the City Council reduced staffing by 80 positions and cannot afford median landscaping and other services due to the budget shortfall; commented on neighborhood park projects that were previously approved and canceled due to the lack of funding, opining that the City Council should prioritize improvements at neighborhood parks.

Councilmember Garner agreed with moving forward with the original park design, opining that any alternative plan will likely stay in place for an extended period; stated that the original design is more conducive to outdoor activities and flexible for special events.

Councilmember Middleton advised that she struggles to fund the original park design due to the budget shortfall and future uncertainties; pointed out that the alternative plan is functional and affordable.

Councilmember Woods spoke on the need for the City to maintain its world-class image, noting that Downtown Park will be a significant attraction.

**MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLSTEGE, CARRIED 3-2 (COUNCILMEMBER MIDDLETON AND MAYOR KORS VOTING NO), to:**

1. Delegate additional authority of \$140,000 to the City Manager to approve and execute construction contract change orders with Fast-Track Construction Corporation, a California corporation, for additional work related to structural repairs to the existing underground parking garage and deck along the west side of the Downtown Park site.
2. Directed staff to move forward with construction of the full Downtown Park design.

**RECESS/RECONVENE**

The City Council recessed at 10:09 p.m. and reconvened at 10:20 p.m. with all members present.

**B. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE RENAMING OF CROSSLEY ROAD AND GOLF CLUB DRIVE TO LAWRENCE CROSSLEY ROAD BETWEEN EAST RAMON ROAD AND EAST PALM CANYON DRIVE (CASE 5.1376 SNC) AND DECLARING THE ACTION EXEMPT FROM CEQA**

Planning Services Director Fagg narrated a PowerPoint presentation. In response to City Council inquiries, Director Fagg discussed impacts on GPS systems, mail delivery, and identified businesses and residences impacted by the street name change.

During the course of discussion, the City Council directed staff to reach out to residents and businesses regarding their next steps and how to minimize inconveniences.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER, SECOND BY MAYOR KORS, CARRIED 5-0, to adopt Resolution No. 24791 entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, HONORING THE LEGACY OF LAWRENCE CROSSLEY AND HIS POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS AND THE GREATER COMMUNITY BY APPROVING THE RENAMING OF CROSSLEY ROAD AND GOLF CLUB DRIVE TO LAWRENCE CROSSLEY ROAD BETWEEN EAST RAMON ROAD AND EAST PALM CANYON DRIVE (CASE 5.1376 SNC)," with direction to set the effective date to January 1, 2021.

**C. CONTINUED DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION ON THE IMPACTS AND RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19), INCLUDING CONFIRMATION OF EXISTING EMERGENCY ORDERS**

City Attorney Ballinger presented the staff report. In response to City Council inquiries, City Attorney Ballinger advised that staff continues to address code violations with the owners of an exotic resort; noted that the resort was advertising and holding events with live entertainment

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER MIDDLETON, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER, CARRIED 5-0, to confirm the existing City emergency orders.

**D. APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 TO CONTINUE THE INNOVATION HUB MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH COACHELLA VALLEY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP UNTIL JUNE 30, 2021; APPROVE RENT FORGIVENESS AT 3111 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON FROM JULY 1, 2020, UNTIL JUNE 30, 2021; AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS**

Director of Community and Economic Development Virata presented the staff report.

Following discussion, MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLSTEGE, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER MIDDLETON, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Appropriate funds in the amount of \$200,000 to continue the Innovation Hub Management Agreement with Coachella Valley Economic Partnership until June 30, 2021.
2. Approve forgiveness of monthly rental payments for CVEP at 3111 E. Tahquitz Canyon (Agreement A6037) for a period of twelve months beginning July 1, 2020, until June 30, 2021.
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.
4. Direct staff to agendize an update on the activities of CVEP in six months.

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. APPROVE A FUNDING COMMITMENT OF HOMELESS HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3 MILLION FOR A COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT IN THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS**

Director of Community and Economic Development Virata narrated a PowerPoint presentation regarding Project Home Key.

Greg Rodriguez, summarized the proposed project and funding sources; highlighted the success of similar projects throughout the State. In response to City Council inquiries, Mr. Rodriguez noted that many of the units are move-in ready and that renovations will be phased-in; advised that third-party vendors will provide food services with service to individual rooms while units undergo renovations to add kitchenettes; pointed out that this proposal is for permanent supportive housing and will not serve as a drop-in emergency shelter.

Mayor Pro Tem Holstege voiced support for the proposal, noting the importance of creating new permanent affordable housing units and leveraging the State's grant to address homelessness; noted that the State is providing funding for these types of housing projects in an effort to quickly house the homeless due to the COVID-19 pandemic; pointed out that the County can proceed with a homeless shelter or permanent housing project without the City Council's approval.

Councilmember Middleton pointed out that the City's funding would not be released until the County submits a detailed project budget and evidence that funding is in place.

City Manager Ready advised that if the City Council supports the proposal, staff will begin negotiating a funding agreement, including site selection, for the City Council's final approval.

Councilmember Woods expressed concern that low-income housing projects are concentrated in northern Palm Springs, opining that such projects should be spread throughout the City; spoke on the importance that the County maintain the facility and surrounding area in good condition, citing examples of County projects not adequately maintained; pointed out that this proposal is being rushed and urged the County to develop a robust community outreach program.

Mayor Kors cited other affordable housing projects throughout the City, pointing out that a new affordable housing project is proposed within District 3; stated that the project will achieve the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) requirements.

**MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLSTEGE, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER, CARRIED 5-0, to:**

1. Approve a funding commitment for a Permanent Supportive Housing Project in the City of Palm Springs to be acquired and rehabilitated by the County of Riverside Department of Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions in the amount of \$3 million from the City's Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Grant.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute a "funding commitment letter" to the County memorializing City Council's intent to provide \$3 million in HHAP funds, with a final funding agreement submitted to the City Council for approval at a future meeting.

**B. RESOLUTION DECLARING SYSTEMIC RACISM AS A HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS THAT RESULTS IN DISPARITIES IN FAMILY STABILITY, HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLNESS, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, INCARCERATION, AND HOUSING, AND REAFFIRMING THE CITY COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS**

City Manager Ready presented the staff report.

During the course of discussion, the City Council considered added the term “homophobia” to the resolution and determined to retain focus on addressing racism; agreed to amend the resolution to add the following:

- Institute mandatory racial equity and implicit bias training with the goal of reaching all of Palm Springs’s leadership, management, and staff in a timely manner.
- Encourage and make racial equity and implicit bias training available to all community partners as well as residents.
- Identify clear goals and objectives, including periodic reports to City Council, to assess the progress and capitalize on opportunities to further advance racial equity.
- Create an Equity and Social Justice Committee to develop further the City’s response to advancing social justice throughout the City’s activities and advise the City Council on policies and practices to advance its resolved intentions. Regular reports shall be provided to the City Council on the Committee's work, and a final set of recommendations shall be prepared within nine months for City Council consideration.

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLSTEGE, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER GARNER, CARRIED 5-0, to adopt Resolution No. 24792 entitled, “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING THAT SYSTEMIC RACISM IS A HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS THAT RESULTS IN DISPARITIES IN FAMILY STABILITY, HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLNESS, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, INCARCERATION, AND HOUSING AND REAFFIRMING THE CITY COUNCIL’S COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS,” as amended.

**C. DISCUSSION OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Kors noted that future agendas will include a budget update, modifications to distance waiver criteria for cannabis-related businesses, creation of an Equity and Social Justice Committee, and issuance of an apology for the actions related Section 14.

Councilmember Garner requested that staff agendize discussion regarding housing and rent control for a City Council meeting in September 2020.

Mayor Pro Tem Holstege requested that staff agendize consideration of the plastic foodware and polystyrene ordinance for a City Council meeting in September 2020.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Christian Jelmberg, Street Life Project, spoke on his organization's efforts to address homelessness and urged the City and County to develop holistic solutions, including tiny home campuses.

Brad Anderson, suggested that the City Council defund the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District and appoint their own Public Health Official rather than relying on Riverside County Public Health Officer Dr. Cameron Kaiser.

Ronson Souza, spoke in support of defunding the Police Department and reallocating funding to benefit communities of color.

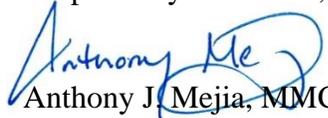
**CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER REQUESTS AND UPCOMING AGENDA DEVELOPMENT:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The City Council adjourned at 11:35 p.m., in memory of Dan Barber, Chair of One-PS Los Compadres Neighborhood Organization.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Anthony J. Mejia, MMC  
City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL: 10/08/2020