MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA HELD AUGUST 14, 2012.

Mayor Juarez called the City Council, Parking Authority and Housing Authority meetings to order jointly and concurrently at 6:04 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 4455 W. 126th Street, Hawthorne, California.

ROLL CALL-Present: Councilmembers Reyes English, Valentine, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Juarez
Absent: None.

Father King from St. Joseph's Church gave the evening's invocation. Ron Manning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Juarez introduced Gwynne Shotwell, the President of SpaceX, and presented her with a banner signed by the citizens of Hawthorne at Good Neighbors Day.

Mayor Juarez presented a Proclamation to Ron Jeffries for the unselfish act of courage and compassion he displayed when assisting an off duty police Officer who was being assaulted by two gang members.

Mayor Juarez presented a Proclamation honoring Donald Rowe, Hawthorne Community Library Manager, for serving as the library manager for the past four years and being an active and involved member of our community.

Councilmember Valentine introduced Allen Patashnick from METRO who spoke on extending Measure R and what the community can do to support this initiative. Measure R will extend the current Measure R program by 30 years and make additional funds available to sell bonds for the purpose of accelerating seven major transit projects and up to eight highway projects. The measure also allows funding priorities to be shifted between projects within sub regions of Los Angeles County if approved by 2/3 votes of the METRO board.

Councilmember Valentine introduced Katrina Manning, President Holly Park Homeowners Association, who presented Taylor Kay with a scholarship award of $500 from the Holly Park Homeowners Association.

1.

Under oral communications **Alma Marquez**, on behalf of Senator Roderick Wright, invited everyone to attend the 3rd Annual School Readiness Fair that will be taking place at Jessie Owens Park on August 25th from 10am to 3pm. **Patricia Donaldson**, President Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce, announced that the installation of officers will be held on August 30th at 7:30am at the Memorial Center. **Bob Flores** introduced himself to the Council. He will be running for the newly created 43rd Congressional district in November and looks forward to reaching out to the Council. **Allen Richards** feels that Resolution 7488 regarding median parking on the boulevard has several discrepancies and should be rewritten. **Gordon Mego** spoke on how the Hawthorne Plaza Mall could bring much needed revenue were it to be revived as a shopping, dining and entertainment destination. The Hawthorne Action Committee is having a detailed survey entitled Hawthorne Renaissance filled out by residents to compile data for this project. **Laura Walters** with LA County Fire reminded everyone not to leave their kids or pets in cars in the heat. At home make sure pets have a lot of shade and water. There are also cooling centers for residents that can be found all over the County by calling 211. Also cautioned to not use candles in a power outage blackout as they can cause fires, but rather use flashlights. **Jose Gutierrez** hopes that Council will approve to install the speed humps at Wilton Place. Thanked the city manager for all that he has done to benefit the community and wished the city attorney his best. **Darlene Love** thanked everyone who attended National Night Out at Holly Park. Spoke on grandson Steve Love and his successes as a director. Spoke in support of the city manager and the city attorney. **Katrina Manning** thanked everyone for coming out to National Night Out and a special thanks to the general manager of Republic Waste for providing extra backpacks when they ran out. Also thanked the Hawthorne Police Department, LA Urban Homes, Target, Pacifica House, Councilmembers Vargas and Michelin for their participation and donations at National Night Out. Hopes Council will vote for the speed humps. Spoke in support of the city manager. Asked that we shift our focus on getting the mall back and not on getting rid of people like the city manager and the city attorney. **Frances Stiglich** requested that anyone who wants to work on the helicopter project to call her at 310-676-1820.

2.

Mayor Juarez recessed the Parking Authority and Housing Authority meetings to conduct the meeting of the City Council.

3.

Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Reyes English that the reading of the City Council minutes for the regular meeting of July 24, 2012 be approved and adopted.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Michelin, Valentine, Vargas, Mayor Juarez.
NOES: None.

4.

Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Reyes English, to waive full readings of resolutions and ordinances on August 14, 2012's agenda.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Valentine, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Juarez
NOES: None.

5.

The City Treasurer submitted a financial statement regarding warrants.

Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Reyes English, that the following warrants, properly audited and signed, be paid.

Warrants Nos.: 103086-103434 ; 431488-431781 ; 16512--16514

Warrant Totals: $745,113.33 ; $1,654,255.00 ; $566.68

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Valentine, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Juarez.
NOES: None.

RESOLUTIONS

6.

RESOLUTION NO. 7487

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA PROVIDING FOR THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF THOSE EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY THE HAWTHORNE EXECUTIVE GROUP ("HEG"), ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE HAWTHORNE MUNICIPAL CODE ("HMC") AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE HEG MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ("MOU").

Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Reyes English, that Resolution No. 7487 be approved and adopted.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Valentine, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Juarez
NOES: None.

7.

RESOLUTION NO. 7488

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA ESTABLISHING THE FOLLOWING PARKING RESTRICTIONS:

1.- NO PARKING ON EAST AND WEST SIDES OF HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD FROM THE NORTH CITY LIMIT TO SOUTH CITY LIMIT BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 2:00 A.M. TO 6:00 A.M.

2.- NO PARKING BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 2:00 A.M. TO 6:00 A.M. IN THE MEDIAN PARKING ON HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD FROM EL SEGUNDO BOULEVARD TO ROSECRANS AVENUE.

3.- TWO-HOUR PARKING BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:00 A.M. TO 2:00 A.M. IN THE MEDIAN PARKING ON HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD FROM 133RD STREET TO 134TH STREET.

4.- THREE-HOUR PARKING BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:00 A.M. TO 2:00 A.M. IN THE MEDIAN PARKING ON HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD FROM 129TH STREET TO 130TH STREET (WEST SIDE ONLY), 130TH STREET TO 133rd STREET (BOTH SIDES OF MEDIAN), 134TH STREET TO 135TH STREET (WEST SIDE ONLY), 135TH STREET TO 136TH STREET (BOTH SIDES OF MEDIAN), 137TH STREET TO 139TH STREET (BOTH SIDES OF MEDIAN), 139TH STREET TO 141ST STREET (WEST SIDE ONLY) AND 141ST STREET TO 142ND STREET (EAST SIDE – NORTHERLY HALF ONLY).

Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Valentine, that Resolution No. 7488 be approved and adopted.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Valentine, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Juarez
NOES: None.

8.

RESOLUTION NO. 7494

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA ADOPTING A POLICY PERTAINING TO THE NAMING OF CITY FACILITIES. Motion to adopt.

Councilmember Reyes English, seconded by Mayor Juarez, that Resolution No. 7494 be approved and adopted.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Valentine, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Juarez
NOES: None.

9.

RESOLUTION NO. 7492

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA ADOPTING AN ADDENDUM TO THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR AN EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE SOLID WASTE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND ALLIED WASTE SERVICES OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC AND AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE EXTENDED AND AMENDED AGREEMENT AND APPROVING THE EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT.

Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Reyes English, that Resolution No. 7492 be approved and adopted.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Valentine, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Juarez
NOES: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

10.

Deputy City Clerk Dicrisci announced that this was the time and place for the Public Hearing was on Establishing fees for certain Planning applications, pipeline franchise applications, and public record production requests**.**

City Clerk Department's declaration publication filed. No written communications were received.

Mayor Juarez called for public comments.

No one indicated a desire to be heard.

Mayor Juarez ordered to close the public portion of the hearing. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. 7493

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA ESTABLISHING FEES FOR CERTAIN PLANNING APPLICATIONS, PIPELINE FRANCHISE APPLICATIONS, AND PUBLIC RECORD PRODUCTION REQUESTS.

Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Reyes English, that Resolution No. 7493 be approved and adopted.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Valentine, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Juarez
NOES: None.

11.

Deputy City Clerk Dicrisci announced that this was the time and place for the Public Hearing was on Adopting an Amended Conflict of Interest Code Containing Revised Designated Positions and Disclosure Categories & Repealing Resolution No. 7144.

City Clerk Department's declaration publication filed. No written communications were received.

Mayor Juarez called for public comments.

No one indicated a desire to be heard.

Mayor Juarez ordered to close the public portion of the hearing. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. 7491

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA ADOPTING AN AMENDED CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE CONTAINING REVISED DESIGNATED POSITIONS AND DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES AND REPEALING ALL PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODES.

Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Reyes English, that Resolution No. 7491 be approved and adopted.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Valentine, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Juarez
NOES: None.

The Interim City Manager, Arnold Shadbehr, presented the following agenda and requested approval of the indicated recommendation:

12.

Approve to Award of the construction contract for Hawthorne Municipal Airport Emergency Generator, Airfield Lighting Control and Monitoring System, FAA Airport Improvement Project "AIP" No. 3-06-0101-013-2011, (City Project # 11-03).

13.

Approve the Construction of speed humps on Wilton Place between Imperial Highway and 120th Street, pending the approval from the L. A. County Department of Public Works, the City Council approves installation of speed humps on Wilton Place between Imperial Highway and 120th Street.

14.

Approve to Ratify member to the South Bay Workforce Investment Board. (1) Dr. Sandra G. Horwitz, representing Lawndale Private Business Sector.

15.

Progress Payment #1 and Final to West Coast Rubber Recycling, Inc. for recycled rubber playground mulch in the amount of $87,475.00.

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Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Reyes English, to Approve Items 12 through 15 of the City Manager's Consent Calendar.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Valentine, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Juarez
NOES: None. ABSENT: Councilmember Reyes English.

16.

Under Council's Discussion/Action Items

a.- City Services Survey (Michelin)

Councilmember Michelin thanked city staff for their group effort in putting together the survey for citizens coming to city hall and asked to go forward with it by placing the survey in every department.

b.- Hawthorne Business Permit Process (Michelin)

Councilmember Michelin reported that work was still needed on this item so he requested that it be tabled. Mayor Juarez stated that this item would be discussed tomorrow night at the Mayor's Round Table subcommittee so Councilmember Michelin asked that the committee be provided with all materials.

Councilmember Vargas requested a report on how our business license fees and development impact fees compare to other city's fees.

c.- Misdemeanor Disposition Report (Michelin)

Councilmember Michelin thanked the city attorney's office for coming up with a form that the prosecutors will fill out and forward to Chief Fager for distribution to the police officers. This form will let police officers who have made arrests know the disposition of their cases.

d.- Revolving door policy (Reyes English)

Councilmember Reyes English directed that the city's revolving door policy be extended further than five years.

Under Elected Official Reports and Recommendations. Appointments/Reappointments/ Removal to Commissions/Committees and Boards.

City Treasurer **Lubenec** congratulated Mr. Jeffries for his heroic act in coming to the aid of Officer Hoffman and is glad to see that Officer Hoffman is back on the force and working. Congratulated Katrina Manning and Holly Park for the great job they did with National Night Out. Congratulated Don Rowe on his promotion. Congratulated Taylor Kay on her scholarship award. Thanked Al Richards and the Ramona group for their picnic. Praised City Manager Arnold Shadbehr for the great job he is doing.

Councilmember **Valentine** congratulated Ron Jeffries, the citizen who rescued the police officer that was being assaulted. Thanked Holly Park for continuing the tradition of honoring young scholars and encouraging our young people in going forward to improve themselves. Congratulated Taylor Kay and her parents. Thanked Don Rowe for his wonderful service to the City of Hawthorne, for his participation in city events and for making the library an integral part of the community and is sorry to see him go. Announced that IPC International is hiring security guards in the Inglewood area. They are asking for good communication skills, a strong desire to learn, no criminal history, valid California ID or driver's license, high school diploma or GED, a California guard card and must speak and write fluent English. You can apply at www.ipcinternational.com/careers/apply-online. The greyhound bus company is also hiring 600 bus drivers. No previous driving experience or California driver's license needed. They will train those hired. Applicants need to be over 25 years old and be able to pass a screening test. Salary is $25 per hour. There are some positions for those 22 – 24 years old, but most are for those over 25 years old. For more information, visit www.greyhound.com/en/drivingcareers.aspx

Councilmember **Vargas** thanked Katrina Manning and the Holly Park Homeowners Association for organizing a wonderful National Night Out. Thanked everybody for coming up and expressing their concerns at the podium. Congratulated SpaceX for their accomplishments in exploring outer space. Is proud of our country, the engineers and the people that are supporting our space programs. Is also proud to have SpaceX in our city so we should try to build on that by expanding the influence and the buying power of all the engineers that are working there and might want to live here. Just like Northrop brought a positive impact to the city when they were here, we should work as a team to tap into the good things SpaceX can bring.

Councilmember **Michelin** thanked Father King for his prayer and his leadership in the community. Thanked the president of SpaceX for coming over tonight. Space X have reached out and been a true corporate partner and we look forward to continue that partnership. It was good to see Officer Hoffman and Mr. Ron Jeffries who are the epitomy of what the City of Good Neighbors is all about. Will miss Don Rowe who has been a good friend to the city. Announced that the South Bay Bike Alliance wants to put together a grant for a plan to include a biking system throughout the South Bay and would like Hawthorne to join in this request for the grant. Requested that this item be put on the special meeting agenda of August 20th as it would be too late if it was put on the next regular meeting agenda. Requested that Tom Quintana look into different options to see if the city can have a newsletter or a small magazine printed that would be about the community and that he also put together a list for the public on the different organizations in the city that offer volunteer opportunities. Was great seeing student Taylor Kay receive a scholarship. It would be great to see her on the planning commission or the city council one day since she will be majoring in urban studies. Shares Mr. Richard's concerns regarding the median parking. This is an ongoing issue that will have public input in order to come up with a plan and will be revisited in three months. Thanked Arnold Shadbehr for the surveys and for getting the business input and coming up with a plan. Thanked Mr. Mego for his presentation and for the survey that he brought to the Ramona Park Neighborhood Association picnic to find out what the residents think. Assured that the city is working to resolve as soon as possible the litter issue at the Rite Aid parking lot. Asked that the city manager get in touch with the office of Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas to see if they would partner with the city to get the speed humps placed at Wilton. Was glad to see Ms. Love at National Night Out and is impressed with the play that her grandson Steve Love put together for Hawthorne High. He is Hawthorne's very own director and we look forward to bigger and better things for him. It was great going to National Night out and thanked Katrina Manning and the police department for the backpacks, supplies and goodies they provided for the students. Supports the helicopter funding project that Frances Stiglich is working on and offered the city's help on it. Thanked the city manager for working out negotiations with Republic and thanked Republic for the work they do in the community. Asked that the meeting be adjourned in honor of Hawthorne School District Administrator Steve Tabor's father who recently passed away and was a resident of Hawthorne.

Councilmember **Reyes English** commended Katrina Manning and the Holly Park Homeowners Association for the good job they did on National Night Out, to those that provide services and opportunities for the community at the 90th Anniversary celebration and to the Ramona Neighborhood Association for their picnic. Thanked the city manager for the agreement that was reached with Allied Waste Services. They are doing great things in the city. Councilmember Reyes English had an opportunity to visit the Anaheim land fill where she witnessed first hand the recycling process and encouraged Council to also visit. Requested that at a later time the police chief talk about what the early release of inmates with regards to how rehabilitation programs in the city may or may not affect Hawthorne. Requested that the 9-11 HelpAmerica Foundation be recognized as a Veteran agency and that they be given priority for an ongoing fireworks stand.

Mayor **Juarez** expressed appreciation to the president of SpaceX for her efforts in coming to tonight's meeting to accept the banner. Thanked the Ramona Neighborhood Association for holding their annual picnic. Announced the grand opening of a new pocket park at 118th and Doty which was well received by the residents. Speed humps were also installed to keep cars from driving fast down that street. Requested that the naming of the 118th & Doty pocket park be put on the next agenda as a discussion/action item. Attended the grand opening of new business Grizzly Dance Company located at 13110 Hawthorne Blvd. The owner is world renowned dancer Grizzly Hildago who teaches all kinds of dances to adults and youth. Attended the Los Angeles Division League of California Cities Installation of Officers at Northrop Grumman in Redondo Beach where Sequestration was discussed. Sequestration came about because of the super committee that was made up of Republican and Democrats who could not come up with a solution in terms of the budget. If Congress does not come up with something, starting January 1, 2013, the defense budget is going to be cut by $50 billion which will have a devastating effect on aerospace companies. It has been estimated that this could result in a loss of more than 2 million jobs across the country, driving the unemployment level well above 9%, causing severe harm to our economy. Currently, SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel is putting in a grant should employees need assistance due to job loss. Requested a report on where we are in recovering money that is due to the city.

Mayor Juarez took the closed sessions out of order. He began with Item No. 23.

23.

Mayor Juarez recessed the City Council meeting to conduct a **Closed Session**: Public Employee performance evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) to conduct an employee evaluation concerning the City Attorney.

Appointment of Interim City Attorney (if required).

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council approve the appointment of an Interim City Attorney and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and the Mayor to execute an agreement with Kunle Aderonmu.

Mayor Juarez called the City Council meeting back to order following recess with all Councilmembers present. He announced that the **closed session** was to discuss a Public Employee performance evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) to conduct an employee evaluation concerning the City Attorney.

Tiffany Israel from Aleshire & Wynder, LLP came to the podium and announced that she provides special council services to the city and was asked to be in the closed session tonight to discuss the performance evaluation of the city attorney. In closed session the council voted 3-2 with Mr. Vargas and Ms. Valentine voting against to terminate the city attorney on the grounds that they've lost confidence in his ability to serve as the city attorney.

Under oral communications, Councilmember Valentine requested for the record the following: I want to say something about the items on the closed session agenda. First of all, I want to start by saying to the city attorney, I don't know if this is goodbye for our city attorney, but I want to say a few things for the record. Mr. Miyahira, thank you for your long, loyal and uninterrupted public service to the City of Hawthorne. Russ started as a prosecutor for the city in August of 1986. In the 1990s he started handling the civil litigation in the office, defending the lawsuits brought against the city. In the late 1990s Russ became the assistant city attorney and began working on municipal matters such as advising the city council, the redevelopment agency, housing authority, city departments and commissions. He supervised the litigation and lawsuits. He spent countless hours on the weeks attending to numerous public records

requests in the vault. He prepared agenda bills, contracts, resolutions and ordinances. He insured that the city complied with the Brown Act. He advised Councilmembers and commissioners of conflict issues. In 2009 he was appointed the acting city attorney and in 2011 was appointed the city attorney. He has protected the city, the city's general fund, successfully defended multi million dollar lawsuits and guided the city when the redevelopment agency was abolished. He has done all of these things since 1986 with professionalism and respect. If he is asked to leave tonight, which I hope will not happen, I will miss the high level of legal service he has brought to the city. I will miss his loyalty, his commitment to integrity and hard work and most of all his dedication to this city and I believe everyone who has associated with him will also miss him. Hard work, competence and professionalism seldom comes along in one package but it is all there with Russ Miyahira. I also want to say that I think it is a misguided and antiquated practice to remove employees who do not agree with the political majority. I saw it happen with Lisa Miller who everyone agreed was an extremely competent manager. No one questions that the city attorney Russ Miyahira and Interim City Manager Arnie Shadbehr are excellent employees. I spoke earlier of Russ Miyahira. Everyone who has worked with Arnie Shadbehr has had nothing but glowing comments about his responsiveness to the residents of the City of Hawthorne and his effectiveness. Just a few weeks ago, we were celebrating his bringing to completion the Rosecrans Improvement Project, the first project to be completed with Measure R funding. Mr. Shadbehr has recently presented the city with a balanced budget and successfully negotiated MOUs with all of the employee groups. I might add that the HPOA commended Mr. Shadbehr in public at the dais for his honesty and professionalism in the negotiating process. The proposed removal of the city attorney and reassignment of the interim city manager are not related to competence but these are honest employees and give their best advice for the benefit of the city, not individuals. These are the kind of employees with whom I want to work. You do not get the best product out of employees when they are forced to work in an atmosphere of fear. No employee should have to be afraid to provide well grounded advice to the city council out of fear of losing his or her job if the employee expresses an opinion that is not shared by those in power. Further, I have heard no argument as to how this move will benefit the City of Hawthorne. The proposed removal of the city attorney and reassignment of the interim city manager may throw the city into chaos. The city is in the middle of a process which will result in hiring a new city manager. If we reassign the interim city manager, he will not be able to assist the new city manager in learning the subtleties of leading the departments. Since there is also a purposed removal of the city attorney tonight, the new city manager will also not be able to get assistance from the newly hired city attorney who will himself be looking for guidance. How does this benefit the city? I am also opposed to the hiring of a new city attorney about whom I have no information as to his competence and experience. I have seen no resume concerning him and have had no opportunity to interview him. I do not know where he has worked before or if he has had the kind of critical municipal background that would benefit Hawthorne. In short, I am opposed to this process and I hope that cooler heads will prevail and that this process will be rescinded.

Councilmember Vargas requested for the record the following:

So this is addressing item #23 and it's very important that you guys pay attention to what is happening today. For example, today Mayor Juarez placed an item on the agenda to evaluate the city attorney and possibly to remove him. The city attorney has been working for the city since the mid 1980s. A very long time. Out of the blue, Mayor Juarez placed an item on the agenda to appoint a new interim city attorney. And we are repeating history. The mayor is violating his campaign promises with regards to transparency. Mr. Miyahira has been in the city attorney or interim city attorney's office for four years and not once has Mr. Juarez asked for a performance evaluation before. We know that Mr. Miyahira does win lawsuits and wins judgments for the city. He always keeps us updated on the recent developments in the law and the status of any matter affecting the city's finances. The city attorney helps us with all the opinions with regards to possible conflicts of interest. All of the sudden in the eyes of Mr. Juarez, the city attorney needs to be dismissed and apparently this has been happening behind closed doors with Tiffany Israel from Aleshire & Wynder, a familiar face from three years ago. Rather than transparency, he wants this whole situation to erupt out of nowhere and for no reason. I have known Mr. Juarez for awhile and we used to be allies and we once ran together for city council. He has always made it clear that he does not like Mr. Miyahira and it is enough that he provides us with solid, legal advice, wins his lawsuits and supervises the prosecution division of his office. He does all of this and he doesn't even have a secretary so he does this all by himself. We all know that he works almost everyday and late at night. That's what the employees see out there. He reviews all of the material that comes on the agenda. He tries to block items from reaching the agenda if he feels that this is a violation of the Brown Act even if city councilmember and mayors want to pay attention or not. Mr. Miyahira has worked as a prosecutor, a litigator and a city attorney. His experience is coupled with loyalty, honesty and hard work and no one out here can refute that. The only thing on the mind of Mayor Juarez is firing people and firing staff. He doesn't want the residents to know that he can't bring business to the city and he can't raise revenue to keep the city going forward. Mayor Juarez feels that the only way to be the CEO of a company is to fire dedicated employees. So the message that he is sending to you, all the employees out here is work hard

and you still can be fired. In 2010 Mayor Juarez personally brought in a city manager with the assistance of the consulting attorney that we have out here today. This man was not interviewed or screened by the human resources department or the city council. Mr. Juarez simply picked him. Where is the transparency in that? Where is the transparency in what is happening today? In 2012 mayor Juarez is bringing in another handpicked interim city attorney. We don't have any idea what the qualifications are for this person. Has he been the city attorney of a city? Does he have municipal law experience? Has anyone done a background check on this person? We haven't even seen a resume. Again, Mr. Juarez personally groomed this proposed interim city attorney like he did the previous city manager that he brought before us. We are presently going through a recruitment process for a city manager to pick a new city manager and this process has gone on for many months. We're almost finished. It's like about a month or two away when we're going to conclude this process. Why the change so suddenly? What's going on? Is somebody standing in the way from the handpicked city manager to come in? Now we're being asked to replace a lawyer who has been here for a quarter of a century and who is known and trusted by his fellow coworkers. You all know that. We are being asked to accept a replacement when we haven't even had the courtesy of seeing an application. A person applying to be a box boy at Ralph's market or burger king to serve you a hamburger undergoes a more vigorous screening process than what we're seeing today with this interim city attorney that's being proposed and this is all happening here at the city of Hawthorne. We need to have the public integrity division of the district attorney's office to look into this situation because it does not pass the smell test. This isn't right. Something is wrong. This situation masterminded by Mayor Juarez lacks transparency and again shows why backroom deals should be avoided in public government.

Mayor Juarez moves, seconded by Councilmember Reyes English, to approve the appointment of Interim City Attorney and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and the Mayor to execute an agreement with Kunle Aderonmu.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Reyes English, Michelin, Mayor Juarez

NOES: Councilmembers Vargas, Valentine.

22.

Mayor Juarez called for Oral comments

Under oral communications Kyle Orleman stated that the political games and power trips have to stop on both sides. The people who are elected to represent the citizens of this city need to take into account that the citizens of this city do not want to be the pawns in the power games that are being played. **Cindy Parsons** stated that she was not expecting the result that was just witnessed and that she was extremely disappointed with her elected officials. There was no reason to do what was done and they owe the citizens an explanation. **Frances Stilglich** stated that she does not feel Council is representing the city

Mayor Juarez ordered to close the public portion of the hearing. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Juarez recessed the City Council meeting to conduct a **Closed Session** – Public Employee performance evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) to conduct an employee evaluation concerning the City Manager.

Agreement for consultant services re: Interim Employment as directed by the city council (if required).

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council approve the Interim Employment Agreement and authorize the Mayor to execute agreement.

Mayor Juarez called the City Council meeting back to order following recess with all Councilmembers present. He announced that the **Closed Session** – Public Employee performance evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) to conduct an employee evaluation concerning the City Manager.

Tiffany Israel from Aleshire & Wynder, LLP stated that the City Council an evaluation of the city manager and no action was taken.

24.

Mayor Juarez adjourned in the memory of Lanona LaShan English at 10:34 pm.

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Monica Dicrisci
Deputy City Clerk