

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE,
CALIFORNIA HELD JANUARY 22, 2013.**

Mayor Juarez called the City Council, Parking Authority and Housing Authority meetings to order jointly and concurrently at 6:07 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 4455 W. 126th Street, Hawthorne, California.

ROLL CALL-Present: Councilmembers Valentine, Michelin, Vargas, Mayor Juarez
Absent: Councilmember Reyes English (excused).

Pastor Patrick Cazares from River of God Church gave the evening's invocation. Sam Peña led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Terrie Norris from the Independent Cities Risk Management Authority (ICRMA) presented the Gary Martin Risk Management Award to the city for reducing its liabilities claims cost by 12% over the previous five year period.

Mark Hardison, Assistant Director of Community Services, showed a brief video of the winners of the Home Decorating Contest and presented them with certificates. First place went to Richard Benavides Velez, second place to Jennie Cervantes and third place to Andy Garcia.

Finance Manager Lani Emmich gave an update on the Mid Year Budget.

1.

Under oral communications **Patricia Donaldson**, President & CEO Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce, thanked Council for their consideration for the website. Announced that the next mixer will be held on Thursday at South Bay Ford. Introduced new Chamber members Sam Nasser with Allstate Insurance and Naldi with Hawthorne Healthcare and Wellness Center. **James Radeck** questioned whether the \$3000 stipend that Council receives could be construed as an illegal gift of city funds. Feels the City Attorney was disrespectful and insubordinate when he would not comply with a request made by Councilmember Valentine. **Jose Gutierrez** spoke on an article from the Daily Breeze regarding the City Attorney's refusal to provide information to two City Councilmembers. Feels this behavior was disrespectful and would like Council to demonstrate its leadership ability by placating this type of behavior so it doesn't happen again and tarnishes the City. **Daniel Granados**, the new Hawthorne Library Manager, introduced himself to the community. **Kyle Orleman** announced that the Open Air Burn Pit Registry Act was signed into law within the past two weeks. This will track the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans in terms of any health problems they have as a result of being exposed to particulates from the open air burn pits during their overseas deployments. More information is available at www.burnpits360.org. Announced that the Vietnam Veterans of America South Bay Chapter 53 will be giving out four \$1000 scholarships to high school seniors who live in the South Bay area. Feels the situation at the last meeting was undignified and makes her lack confidence in employee's ability to do their job. **Frances Stiglich** questioned how many times a Councilmember could be absent or late before they are removed.

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 Valentine, that the reading of the City Council minutes of the regular meeting of December 11, 2012 and the regular meeting of January 8, 2013 be waived and that they be approved and adopted.

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

4.

Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Valentine, to waive full readings of resolutions and ordinances on January 22, 2013's agenda.

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

5.

The City Treasurer submitted a financial statement regarding warrants.

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

Warrants Nos.: 191465-107747 ; 433992-434211 ; 18810-19267

Warrant Totals: \$1,336,750.27 ; \$1,149,710.03 ; \$850,686.62.

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

The City Manager, Michael Goodson, presented the following agenda and requested approval of the indicated recommendation:

6.

Approve Construction and Installation of a speed hump on 138th Street between Isis Avenue and Grider Avenue.

Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Valentine to approve item 6 of the City Manager's consent calendar.

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

The City Attorney, Kunle Aderonmu, presented the following agenda and requested approval of the indicated recommendation:

7.

Approve Proposed Settlement of USAA (Insured Arlene Munson) in the amount of \$5,579.06 where plaintiff alleges property damages.

Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Michelin to approve this Settlement.

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

8.

Approve settlement agreement between City of Hawthorne and City of Pomona regarding reallocation of sales tax revenue.

Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Michelin to approve this Settlement.

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

The City Attorney, Kunle Aderonmu, recommended that the claim filed on behalf of Former Assistant City Attorney Robert Kim alleging money damages be denied in its entirety.

Mayor Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Michelin, that the claim filed on behalf of Former Assistant City Attorney Robert Kim alleging money damages be denied in its entirety.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Vargas, Valentine, Mayor Juarez.

NOES: None. ABSTAIN: Councilmember Michelin.

ABSENT: Councilmember Reyes English.

10.

Under Council's Discussion/Action Items

a. - Car2Go Program – (Mayor Juarez)

After receiving feedback from Cars2go, the issues of block by block parking restrictions on Hawthorne Blvd. and residential parking districts cause Cars2go to seek parking exemptions on anything over a two hour time period. After discussion, Council agreed to come back with a revised permit agreeable to both the city and Cars2go

11.

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

City Treasurer **Lubenec** thanked Finance Manager for the mid year budget report. Announced that SpaceX has been with the city for five years. Congratulated the winners of the Holiday Home Decorating contest. Welcomed librarian Daniel Granados and thanked him for joining the City of Hawthorne. Congratulated Mayor Juarez and all the kids for their participation with the VIP soccer tournament that he attended this past Saturday.

City Clerk **Huber** reported that the mailbox at the post office on Inglewood Avenue was taken down due to mail theft and vandalism and asked that the City Manager look into finding a secure way to bring it back. Feels that preferential parking needs to be further expanded due to businesses that are using residential streets for parking as it is not right that citizens have to walk a block to get to their own homes. Announced that the Historical Society has set July 20th as Good Neighbors Day. The next meeting of the Historical Society will be February 6th at 6pm at the museum. Thanked the city for allowing the Historical Society to use the old police station for their museum.

Councilmember **Vargas** inquired on what has been done regarding customer service issues at City Hall. City Manager Goodson replied that recording devices will be installed in the business license office to further allow us to evaluate complaints and issues as they come up. Suggested contacting Congresswoman Maxine Waters to see if she can help in getting an outdoor mailbox back at the post office. Reminded residents that he has open office hours the day before Council meetings. This is an opportunity for residents to meet with Councilmember Vargas regarding issues on the agenda or to just talk in general. Noted that the Vietnam Veterans of America is a good charity to donate your clothes and household items to as the items go directly to veterans. Directed that the City Attorney look at the issue of the \$3000 to make sure we are in good legal standing. Is happy that Council is willing to move forward with Car2Go as it is a good opportunity to be progressive by going green and saving the environment. Welcomed new librarian Daniel Granados. Hopes that Council can work together to increase the quality of life in Hawthorne.

Councilmember **Valentine** requested that www.burnpits360.org be put on the city Veteran's webpage. Attended the League of California Cities conference in Sacramento and reported that Proposition 30 is expected to generate \$6 billion and Proposition 39 \$1billion. The League believes that since there are 38 new legislators and the opportunity for them to serve up to 12 years, there will be a real chance to create good lasting policy which they think they can have an impact on. They believe an important key issue will be enterprise zones. The league has a long standing policy to support enterprise zones more than ever since with the loss of redevelopment, they are the only remaining tools that cities have left that focus on economic development and creating jobs. It was also recommended that cities adopt a resolution supporting enterprise zones. The League will also support FB33 for Infrastructure Financing Districts. If the bill were enacted, cities could create Financing Districts and as an example, use tax increments for our water system. SB1 will be introduced by Steinberg and that is a similar bill. Requested an action/discussion item at the next Council meeting for a resolution in support of Enterprise Zones and directed staff to follow up in six months with a status report on SB33 and SB1 with a view toward Council support for that legislation as well. Attended the 21st Annual Empowerment Congress of Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas which featured a forum where all five candidates for Los Angeles Mayor were provided an opportunity to introduce their platform to a large audience. Encouraged residents to educate themselves on which candidates will bring good government and economic benefit to our region. Welcomed Daniel Granados, the new Community Library Manager, and looks forward to working with him. Thanked Council for being receptive to Car2Go as it will be a great economic engine for the South Bay and it is environmentally beneficial. Congratulated the Chamber of Commerce for bringing businesses to the city. Congratulated Dennis Hernandez for receiving the ICRMA award. Thanked those who participated in the Holiday Home Decorating contest and congratulated the winners of the contest.

Councilmember **Michelin** thanked Dennis Hernandez and the rest of the staff for their ICRMA award and the work they do in this area. First place went to Richard Benavides Velez, second place to Jennie Cervantes and third place to Andy Garcia. Congratulated the winners of the Home Decorating contest and thanked Mark Hardison and Ms. Balboa for all work they do in bringing this contest about. Welcomed and thanked new businesses Allstate and Hawthorne Wellness Center for coming to Hawthorne. Encouraged support of Hawthorne businesses by attending their mixer this Thursday at South Bay Ford from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Thanked the Hawthorne Historical Society for the warm welcome at their meeting held at Pizza Show. The meeting included a living history of Pizza Show by owner Gary Evans. The next meeting of the Historical Society will be held on February 6th at 6pm at the museum. Reported that the Board of Supervisors said no to the storm drain tax. Commented that while watching the inauguration, that is the one day that Washington works together but they should be that way the whole year and so should be also the City of Hawthorne so hopefully we can take this year and work together and carry on that spirit.

Mayor **Juarez** congratulated Rosalinda Martinez and Sgt. Chris Cognac on the Battle of the Badges blood drive which generated 15 pints of blood that will go towards saving 45 lives. Announced that there will be hazardous waste and e-waste round up on April 20th at the Betty Ainsworth Center. Welcomed Daniel Granados, the new library manager, and looks forward to reading to the kids. Requested that Planning take a look at the ordinance regarding paint colors for businesses to see if there is a need for an update and also report on how often it is reviewed. Requested a recap from Planning Director Gregg McClain of the first ad hoc meeting held last week which is setting the tone for the vision of Hawthorne Blvd. and Imperial. Mr. McClain reported that the ad hoc committee serves as the steering committee under the terms of the grant. The meeting was mostly an opportunity to catch everybody one up on what had been done in the past and provide reading material for everyone on the committee so that they can all be on the same page. Strategy was mapped out before selecting a consultant. There is a large pool of applicants and the steering committee is going to make the recommendation to the City Council for the selection of the consultant pursuant to the grant. They talked briefly about the role of the committee relative to the role of the consultant. They will be meeting again in March to go through the applications from the RFP. Commented on the great work that is going on at the historical society and appreciates the time that the volunteers are putting into keeping the museum open. Congratulated Norb Huber on his re-election as president of the historical society. Regarding the removal of the mailbox at the post office, suggested Lawndale or LAX as an alternative to dropping off one's mail.

12.

Mayor Juarez adjourned the regular meeting at 8:18 p.m.

01/22/13

Norbert Huber
City Clerk