

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE,
CALIFORNIA HELD AUGUST 8, 2012.**

Mayor Juarez called the City Council meeting to order jointly and concurrently at 6: 03 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of the City Hall, 4455 West 126th Street, Hawthorne, California.

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

City Treasurer Thierry Lubenec led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.

Under oral communications no one expressed a desire to be heard.

Mayor Juarez ordered oral communications closed.

Councilmember Vargas requested that the following statement be put on **for the record**.

I oppose tonight's closed session regarding "Appointment of a City Manager" for the following reasons. Last year the City Council voted to have staff approve a consulting firm to conduct the recruitment process. Staff did their job and selected Roberts Consulting Group. A few months ago, without much discussion, three members of the City Council voted to change the process by having the RFP process performed in-house. All city manager candidate applications were due on Thursday, May 24, 2012. At the end of the City Council meeting recently on May 22, 2012, the Mayor announced that he wanted to have a closed session to review all of the applications. I am concerned about the lack of transparency in this process. We have a professional staff to review the applications and to present to the City Council members the most qualified candidates. Instead, we are by-passing professional staff in the false belief that we are better qualified to review these applications. My lack of trust in this Closed Session is because of what happened a few years ago. In April 2010, a city manager was terminated and interim city manager was hired. There was no recruitment process. One person on the City Council pre-selected him and "groomed" him to be the new city manager. There was no transparency. History appears to be repeating itself, although we are now disguising the process as a closed session. The question that begs to be asked is whether another person has been pre-selected or groomed to be the next city manager. The odds are great that if this person has been pre-selected, it is likely that this person has little or no city manager experience. It is likely that this candidate will be a "yes" person to the Mayor. It is likely that this candidate has been contacted by someone on the City Council to turn in his or her résumé. Was their hesitation to trust professional staff to provide the City Council with the applications of the most qualified people because this preselected candidate would not make the cut? These are the issues that I ask the public to consider.

2.

Mayor Juarez recessed the City Council meeting to conduct a **Closed Session**: Public Employee Appointment Pursuant to Government Code §54957. Title: City Manager

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 Public Employee Appointment Pursuant to Government Code §54957. Title: City Manager . It was announced that staff was directed.

3.

Mayor Juarez adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Norbert Huber
City Clerk

08/08/12