

**City of Laguna Hills
City Council / Planning Agency
Regular Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

General Business Convening at 6:00 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Sweeney.

Invocation: Pastor David Atkins of Laguna Country Methodist Church

Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Pezold

Roll Call of City Council Members

Present:

Mayor Joshua Sweeney
Mayor Pro Tempore Don Caskey
Council Member Erica Pezold
Council Member Jared Mathis
Council Member Dave Wheeler

Absent:

1. Presentations and Proclamations

1.1 Laguna Hills High School Student Liaison Report

The City Council received a report from Laguna Hills High School 2024 Spring Student Liaison Alternate Forrest Frey.

1.2 Certificates of Recognition for Outgoing Parks and Recreation Commissioner Sanjay Mathur and Outgoing Traffic Commissioner Manuel Hernandez

Outgoing Commissioners Sanjay Mathur and Manuel Hernandez were not available at the meeting to receive their Certificates of Recognition.

1.3 Oaths of Office and Certificates of Appointment for Two Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Three Traffic Commissioners

Mayor Sweeney administered the ceremonial Oaths of Office and presented Certificates of Appointment to Parks and Recreation Commissioners Harry Huggins and Patricia Thee and Traffic Commissioner Mark Jones. Commissioners Mark Schaff and Michael Caputo were not available at the meeting to receive their Certificates of Appointment.

2. Schedule of Future Events

2.1 Schedule of Future Events

Deputy City Clerk McDonald announced the upcoming meetings and events.

3. Public Comments

The following individual(s) submitted an electronic public comment on non-agendized items that was received, forwarded to the City Council prior to the meeting, posted on the City's website, and announced into the record by City Clerk Lee:

Cynthia Jensen-McMullin

The following individual(s) provided public comments on non-agendized items:

Cynthia Jensen-McMullin

4. Consent Calendar

A motion to approve the balance of the Consent Calendar with Council Member Pezold removing Item No. 4.5 and Item No. 4.7 was moved by Council Member Pezold, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Caskey.

Roll Call Vote Result: Passed

Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

Ayes: Mayor Sweeney, Mayor Pro Tempore Caskey, Council Member Pezold, Council Member Mathis, Council Member Wheeler

Nays: None

Abstain: None

4.1 Waive Reading in Full of all Ordinances and Resolutions on the Agenda

Recommendation: That the City Council waive reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions on the agenda and declare that said titles which appear on the public agenda shall be determined to have been read by title and further reading waived.

4.2 Approval of Minutes for March 25, 2025, Special Meeting

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the City Council Minutes for the March 25, 2025, Special Meeting.

4.3 Approval of Minutes for March 25, 2025, Regular Meeting

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the City Council Minutes for the March 25, 2025, Regular Meeting.

4.4 Ratification of April 8, 2025 Warrant Register

Recommendation: That the City Council ratify the accompanying Warrant Register for the period from March 14, 2025, to March 27, 2025, in the amount of \$1,395,568.80.

4.6 Resolution Updating City Council Policy 102 - Procedure for Order of Authority

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2025-04-08-2: "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Laguna Hills, California, Updating City Council Policy No. 102 Regarding a Procedure for Order of Authority."

Items Removed from the Consent Calendar

4.5 Initiation of the 2025 Weed Abatement Program

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2025-04-08-1: "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Laguna Hills, California, Declaring Weeds and Rubbish on Specified Private Property to be a Public Nuisance, Commencing Public Proceedings, and setting a Public Hearing for May 13, 2025."

Council Member Pezold removed Item No. 4.5 from the Consent Calendar to request additional information.

A motion to approve staff's recommendation was moved by Council Member Pezold, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Caskey.

Roll Call Vote Result: Passed

Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

Ayes: Mayor Sweeney, Mayor Pro Tempore Caskey, Council Member Pezold, Council Member Mathis, Council Member Wheeler

Nays: None

Abstain: None

4.7 Support for Assembly Bills 3, 423, 424, 425, and 492, and Senate Bill 329

Recommendation: That the City Council authorize the Mayor to send a letters of support for Assembly Bills 3, 423, 424, 425, and 492, as well as Senate Bill 329, which seek to strengthen oversight, licensing, and regulatory enforcement of alcohol and drug recovery or treatment facilities to ensure the safety and well-being of individuals in recovery and the communities in which these facilities operate.

Council Member Pezold removed Item No. 4.7 from the Consent Calendar to provide comments on the item.

A motion to approve staff's recommendation was moved by Council Member Pezold, seconded by Council Member Mathis.

Roll Call Vote Result: Passed

Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

Ayes: Mayor Sweeney, Mayor Pro Tempore Caskey, Council Member Pezold, Council Member Mathis, Council Member Wheeler
Nays: None
Abstain: None

5. Planning Agency

There were no separate Planning Agency Business Items for this meeting.

6. City Council Public Hearings

6.1 Approval of User Fee Study and Adoption of Comprehensive Fee Schedule

Recommendation: That the City Council:

- 1) Conduct a public hearing; and
- 2) Adopt Resolution No. 2025-04-08-3: "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Laguna Hills, California, Establishing and Adopting Updated Development Processing Fees and Other City Rates, Charges, and User Fees for Various Governmental Services and Finding that the Action is Statutorily Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Per Section 15273 of the CEQA Guidelines and Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8)."

Finance Director Hendrickson reviewed the information provided in the staff report and responded to Council Member requests for additional information. Jeff Wakefield, Senior Manager, Government Consulting Partners, Inc., provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

City Manager Hildenbrand responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

Community Development Director Lowe responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

Mayor Sweeney opened the public hearing and upon seeing no one rise, closed the public hearing.

A motion to approve staff's recommendation was moved by Mayor Pro Tempore Caskey, seconded by Council Member Pezold.

Roll Call Vote Result: Passed

Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

Ayes: Mayor Sweeney, Mayor Pro Tempore Caskey, Council Member Pezold, Council Member Mathis, Council Member Wheeler

Nays: None

Abstain: None

7. Administrative Reports

7.1 City Manager

7.1.1 Proposed Lease Agreement for Serenity Escrow, Inc. at 24031 El Toro Road, Suite 300, Laguna Hills, CA

Recommendation: That the City Council discuss and provide direction to staff. If the direction is to proceed with leasing the office, staff recommends authorizing the City Manager to negotiate the final terms of the lease agreement and to execute the lease agreement.

City Manager Hildenbrand reviewed the information provided in the staff report and responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

Assistant City Manager Ames responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

A motion to continue the item was moved by Council Member Wheeler, seconded by Council Member Pezold.

A substitute motion to make Suite 300 available for lease as recommended by staff and to relocate the City Council offices to Suite 255 was moved by Mayor Sweeney, seconded by Council Member Mathis.

Roll Call Vote Result: Passed

Yes 4, No 1, Abstained 0

Ayes: Mayor Sweeney, Mayor Pro Tempore Caskey, Council Member Mathis, Council Member Wheeler

Nays: Council Member Pezold

Abstain: None

8. Matters Agendized and Presented by City Council Members

There were no matters agendized by City Council Members.

9. City Council Member Committee Reports

9.1 Committee Assignment Report

The City Council received reports from City Council Members on the City Council Committee Assignments listed in the staff report.

10. City Council Member Comments

Council Member Wheeler

Council Member Wheeler provided comments on rules of decorum for meetings.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the City Council at this session, Mayor Sweeney declared the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Jennifer Lee, City Clerk

ATTEST:

Joshua Sweeney, Mayor

Approved at meeting of April 22, 2025.