

**City of Laguna Hills
City Council / Planning Agency
Regular Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, October 14, 2025**

Closed Session - Convening at 5:00 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Sweeney.

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:

Announcement of Closed Session Item(s)

A. Public Employee Appointment and Employment

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)
Title: City Manager

Public Comments on Closed Session Item(s)

There were no public comments on the closed session item.

Convene into Closed Session

Reconvene to City Council Chamber

The City Council reconvened to the City Council Chamber at 6:00 p.m.

Closed Session Report

A. Public Employee Appointment and Employment

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)
Title: City Manager

City Attorney Simonian stated that the City Council convened into closed session pursuant to the authorities listed on the Agenda and reported that the City Council unanimously voted to appoint Bob Wingenroth as the next City Manager of the City of Laguna Hills.

General Business Convening at 6:00 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Sweeney.

Invocation: Mayor Pro Tempore Caskey

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Pro Tempore Caskey

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 Student Liaison Sophia Kim.

2. Schedule of Future Events

2.1 Schedule of Future Events

Community Services Director Gannon announced the upcoming meetings and events.

3. Public Comments

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

Susan Stromswold
Tyler McCourtney

City Attorney Simonian provided comments regarding CR&R services.

4. Consent Calendar

The following individual(s) submitted an electronic public comment on Consent Calendar Item No. 4.9 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:

Zachary McKinley

The following individual(s) provided public comments on Consent Calendar Item No. 4.9:

Andie Chan

A motion to approve the balance of the Consent Calendar with Council Member Wheeler removing Item No. 4.8 and Item No. 4.10 and Council Member Pezold removing Item No. 4.11 was moved by Council Member Wheeler, seconded by Council Member Pezold.

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 September 19, 2025, Special Meeting

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the City Council Minutes for the September 19, 2025, Special Meeting.

4.3 Approval of Minutes for September 23, 2025, Regular Meeting

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the City Council/Planning Agency Minutes for the September 23, 2025, Regular Meeting.

4.4 Approval of Minutes for October 7, 2025, Special Meeting

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the City Council Minutes for the October 7, 2025, Special Meeting.

4.5 Ratification of October 14, 2025 Warrant Register

Recommendation: That the City Council ratify the accompanying Warrant Register for the period from September 12, 2025, to October 2, 2025, in the amount of \$1,311,171.62.

4.6 Development Impact Fees Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Development Impact Fees Annual Report pursuant to California Government Code Section 66006.

4.7 Annual Review of Investment and Portfolio Policy and Delegation of Investment Authority to the City Treasurer

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2025-10-14-1: "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Laguna Hills, California, delegating investment authority to the City Treasurer and approving a policy for the investment of City funds and rescinding Resolution No. 2024-10-22-1."

4.9 Resolution of Opposition to Proposition 50

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2025-10-14-2: "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Laguna Hills, California, Adopting a Position of Opposition to Proposition 50, "Election Rigging Response Act," on the 2025 California Statewide Special Election Ballot."

Items Removed from the Consent Calendar

4.8 Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Agreement to Commission Original Art Work for 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Darkhorse Bronze Memorial Sculpture with Brittany Ryan Studio, LLC

Recommendation: That the City Council approve and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Agreement to Commission Original Art Work for 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines Darkhorse Bronze Memorial Sculpture with Brittany Ryan Studio, LLC.

Council Member Wheeler removed Item No. 4.8 from the Consent Calendar to request additional information.

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

Finance Director Hendrickson responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

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

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

4.10 Multi-Way Stop Control at Bridlewood Drive and Vista Viejo Road

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2025-10-14-3: "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Laguna Hills, California, Designating the Intersection of Bridlewood Drive and Vista Viejo Road as a Multi-Way Stop Intersection and Authorizing the Installation of Multi-Way Stop Controls on Sunburst Avenue on Bridlewood Drive and on Vista Viejo Road."

Council Member Wheeler removed Item No. 4.10 from the Consent Calendar to request additional information.

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

Chief of Police Services Captain Burk responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

At Mayor Sweeney's request, Traffic Commissioner Miller responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

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

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

Mayor Sweeney took Item No. 6.1 out of order on the Agenda to start the public hearing at the scheduled fixed time of 6:30p.m.

6. City Council Public Hearings

6.1 Second Public Hearing to Consider Composition of Districts for Commencing the Process to Transition to By-District Elections

Recommendation: That the City Council: 1. Receive and file districting public participation presentation prepared by the City's retained expert demographer National Demographics Corporation and 2. Conduct the Second Public Hearing necessary for commencing the process to transition to by-district elections, review and consider input regarding the composition of districts from interested members of the public, and provide further direction to City staff.

Council Member Pezold does not have a legal conflict of interest; however, due to a potential ethical conflict of interest arising from her friendship with attorney Michelle R. Jackson, she recused herself from the item.

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

Dr Justin Levitt, Vice-President, National Demographics Corporation (NDC) provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

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

City Clerk Lee responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

Mayor Sweeney opened the public hearing.

Mayor Sweeney closed the public hearing.

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

Vote Result: Passed

Yes 3, No 1, Abstained 0

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

Nays: Council Member Wheeler

Abstain: None

Items Removed from the Consent Calendar (continued)

4.11 2025 Holiday Lighting and Decorations Agreement with Trovao and Associates, Inc. dba The Christmas Light Guy Company

Recommendation: That the City Council: 1. Waive competitive formal bidding requirements and procedures set forth in the City of Laguna Hills Municipal Code (LHMC) Section 3-08.090 with regard to approval of the proposed Holiday Lighting and Decorations Agreement with Trovao and Associates, Inc. dba The Christmas Light Guy Company, as it is hereby found and determined, pursuant to LHMC Section 3-08.110, that the recommended contract is for entertainment services and community support and 2. Approve the proposed Holiday Lighting and Decorations Agreement and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the Agreement.

Council Member Pezold rejoined the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Council Member Pezold removed Item No. 4.11 from the Consent Calendar to request additional information.

Community Services Director Gannon responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

City Attorney Simonian responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

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

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.

7. Administrative Reports

7.1 Interim City Manager

7.1.1 Review of Funding Needs for City-Owned Buildings, Streets, Parks, Open Spaces, and Other Infrastructure

Recommendation: That the City Council: 1. Receive and file the report concerning City-owned buildings and streets and 2. Direct the Interim City Manager to develop and release Requests for Proposals for the development of a Parks and Open Space Needs Assessment, and a Storm Drain and Bridge Infrastructure Needs Assessment.

Interim City Manager Ames reviewed the information provided in the staff report, provided a PowerPoint presentation, and responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

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

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

7.1.2 Removal of Juniper Shrubs along Paseo de Valencia between La Paz Road and Alicia Parkway

Recommendation: That the City Council provide direction to City staff.

Interim City Manager Ames reviewed the information provided in the staff report, provided a PowerPoint presentation, and responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

The following individual(s) submitted an electronic public comment on Item No. 7.1.2 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:

Martha Morrissey	Emily Zeif	Christopher Zeif
Stephanie Riddle	Martha Harcherl	Stephen Morrissey
Marilyn Schultheis		

OCFA Fire Division Chief Summers responded to Council Member Requests for additional information.

City Attorney Simonian responded to Council Member requests for additional information.

A motion to approve staff's recommendation to use Specialty Mowing Services for removal and DMS Facility Services for replanting while also incorporating Rooted Volunteer Campaign events to assist with replanting was moved by Council Member Pezold, seconded by Council Member Mathis.

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

7.2 City Attorney

7.2.1 City Manager Employment Agreement

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No.2025-10-14-4: "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Laguna Hills, California, Approving and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a New City Manager Employment Agreement."

Mayor Sweeney provided introductory remarks on the item and welcomed Bob Wingenroth to the City of Laguna Hills.

Newly Appointed City Manager Wingenroth provided comments.

City Attorney Simonian orally reported a summary of the recommendation for final action on the compensation of the City Manager as required per Government Code section 54953.

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

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

Mayor Sweeney

Mayor Sweeney reported on the United Nations University's Japan-United States Leadership Summit he recently attended and indicated that he will be bringing a report of the conference to a future meeting.

Council Member Pezold

Council Member Pezold provided comments on Mayor Sweeney's recently attended summit.

Council Member Pezold provided comments regarding the need for bathrooms and seating at Costeau Park and requested staff to look into the issue.

Council Member Wheeler

Council Member Wheeler provided comments on Mayor's Sweeney's recently attended summit.

Council Member Mathis

Council Member Mathis provided comments on decorum.

Council Member Caskey

Council Member Caskey provided comments on decorum and indicated that he looks forward to Mayor's Sweeney's report on the recently attended summit.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the City Council at this session, Mayor Sweeney declared the meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Jennifer Lee, City Clerk

ATTEST:

Joshua Sweeney, Mayor

Approved at meeting of October 28, 2025.