



CITY OF NEWARK CITY COUNCIL

City Administration Building, City Council Chambers

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Minutes

Thursday, January 27, 2022
7:00 P.M.

A. ROLL CALL

Mayor Nagy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Council Members Bucci, Collazo, Freitas, and Vice Mayor Hannon.

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation on Union Sanitary District from General Manager Paul Eldredge

Mr. Eldredge provided a summary of Union Sanitary District services and significant projects. A copy of the presentation is on file with the City Clerk.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Alan Chin spoke against turning the Towne Place Suites Hotel at 39802 Cedar Boulevard into affordable housing for the homeless. He stated that homeless services would attract more homeless and that large cities have not solved the homeless problem. He stated that 1,500 signatures have been gathered against the project and requested that the City Council place the topic on the next meeting agenda.

Vipin Boyanapalli stated that he opposed the plan too. He said that he was scared when walking with his children. He stated that the City Council should address better schools, improve roads, and maintain sidewalks instead of this plan.

Zoe Siegel stated that she applauded the City's initiative to address the homeless crisis. She said that people need compassion for the homeless.

Ou Li stated that the project did not solve the fundamental problems. She asked what would be the qualifications of the residents and what services would they receive. She stated her concern about providing shelter without a specific plan to share with the community.

Vishal Chawathe stated that she did not approve the plan and that current residents should be the priority. She stated that people should move if they cannot afford to live here. She stated that her million-dollar home would be targeted by the homeless.

Mona R. stated that she supported the plan and that people should not compare Newark to San Francisco. She stated that the homeless are our neighbors and that people are creating fear. This project would get people off the streets and provide support.

J opposed the plan to build the shelter at this location and asked why this location and why were they not informed. J stated that there was work available and he did not think that people out of work justified this project.

Nadia stated that she opposed the plan. She asked what were the City's answers to the questions posed. She said that at the last meeting the majority of speakers stated their opposition and the City Council approved the plan.

Sneha suggested building the project at another location in City because this project was close to the high school, daycare, and children. She stated that the schools were not good, and was concerned about crime and drugs coming to the City with this project.

Ray stated that he supports people who need help. He suggested that the City withdraw the application and allow the city of Fremont to receive the grant money instead. He stated that Fremont had the infrastructure and amenities to support this project.

Stephanie Chan stated her support of the project and did not agree that the majority of the residents opposed the project. She stated that homelessness is a big problem and we should do our part to help. She requested that the City move forward with the project

Justin stated that he opposed the plan and shared his experiences of living next door to the hotel and the homeless in the area.

Ronak Shah stated that he opposed the plan, and thought it would invite other homeless to the area. He suggested reserving a percentage of homes in new developments for low income or homeless people instead of this project.

Rajesh stated that he opposed the project. He stated that he was concerned with the lack of public notification, the limited plan information, and how the City would budget for the project in the coming years. He did not think the project would solve homelessness. He requested that information be shared on a wider scale.

Anant Rishi stated his support for the project, and noted that there is a large working homeless population. Mental issues should not be counted against this project. The City needs to manage the homeless issue soon, before it becomes a larger problem.

Ashley Mo stated that she opposed the project and did not think it was the right location.

She expressed concern that if people were evicted from the project, that they would stay in the area.

Raza Jafi stated that he opposed the project due to the location. He stated that he did not know why people were homeless and thought they needed mental help.

Aakah Verma oppose the project due to the location and stated that the homeless cannot be helped at the cost of the neighbors.

Daoud stated that he did not approve the project and preferred all low-income housing. He stated that there were jobs available and thought that mental illness caused the homeless. He suggested increasing funding for the Police Department.

Karthick Rao stated that the project was in a residential area and will impact children. The safety of the residents needs to be considered and asked why this location. What happens when funding stops for the project.

Karan Misra stated that she was proud of Newark for taking on this project. She lives in Sanctuary Village and understood the concerns, but did not think that they outweighed the benefits of the project. She hoped that the City could educate the community on the project.

City Manager Benoun stated that Project Homekey item was not on the agenda. Per the Brown Act, items not on the agenda could not be discussed by the City Council. He stated that a community meeting was held in November and notification was sent to the property owners within a 500 foot radius of the project. The comments received at that meeting were positive. The City Council received public input on the project at the January 13, 2022, meeting. This Item will be scheduled at a future meeting to discuss an affordable housing agreement. He stated that staff would work to address the misunderstandings of the project through community engagement.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Bucci moved, Council Member Collazo seconded, to approve Consent Calendar items D.1 through D.7, that the resolutions be numbered consecutively, and that reading of the titles suffice for adoption. The motion passed, 5 AYES.

1. Approval of Audited Demands
2. Approval of January 6, 2022, and January 13, 2022, minutes
3. Adopt a Resolution confirming the continued existence of a local emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Resolution No. 11305

4. Adopt a Resolution Finding That There is a Proclaimed State of Emergency; Finding That Meeting in Person Would Present Imminent Risks to the Health or Safety of Attendees as a Result of the State of Emergency; and Authorizing Continued Remote Teleconferenced Meetings of the Legislative Bodies of the City of Newark for the 30 Day Period Beginning January 27 Pursuant to AB 361

Resolution No. 11306

5. Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contractual Services Agreement with Environmental Services Inc. and Authorizing Amendment of the 2020-2022 Biennial Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 to Provide Funding for General Plan Updates related to the Services Associated with the 2023-2031 Housing Element

Resolution No. 11307

Contract No. 22001

6. Approval of resolutions to add class specifications for Police Support Services Manager, Aquatic Activities Specialist, and Accounting Technician I/II to the classification plan; add full-time personnel allocations to the 2020-2022 Biennial Budget and Capital Improvement Plan for one Police Support Services Manager, one Aquatic Activities Specialist, and one Accounting Technician I-II, and delete one Communications Supervisor and one Accounting Technician I; approve a side letter with the Newark Police Management Association to add the classification of Police Support Services Manager and salary range to the Memorandum of Understanding, and approve a side letter with the Newark Association of Miscellaneous Employees to add the classification of Aquatic Activities Specialist and salary range to the Memorandum of Understanding. Resolution No. 11308 to 11311

7. Approval of resolutions to add full-time personnel allocations to the 2020-2022 Biennial Budget and Capital Improvement Plan for one Crime Analyst, one additional Information Systems Technician, and one additional General Laborer; add a class specification to the Classification Plan for Crime Analyst; and approve a side letter with the Newark Police Management Association to add the classification of Crime Analyst and assigned salary range to the Memorandum of Understanding.

Resolution No. 11312 to 11313

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing and tabulation of ballots for annexation of Tract 8453 to Zone 7 – Harbor Pointe of Landscaping and Lighting District No. 19 and, if no majority protest exists, adopt a resolution approving the final Engineer’s Report and approving the annexation of Tract 8453 to Zone 7 – Harbor Pointe of Landscaping and Lighting District No. 19
Resolution No. 11314

Senior Civil Engineer Cangco gave the staff report recommending approval.

In response to Council Member Collazo’s request to improve the appearance of the roundabouts, Senior Civil Engineer Cangco stated that they were not complete and mor changes would be made to the appearance..

Vice Mayor Hannon suggested lowering some of the landscaping.

Mayor Nagy opened the Public Hearing at 8:32 p.m.

No one requested to speak.

Mayor Nagy closed the Public Hearing closed at 8:33 p.m.

City Clerk Harrington opened the ballot and announced the vote in support of annexation.

Moved by Council Member Collazo, seconded by Council Member Freitas to adopt the resolution approving the final engineer’s report, and approving the annexation of Tract 8453 to Zone 7 – Harbor Pointe of Landscaping and Lighting District No. 19. The motion passed, 5 AYES.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

G. CITY COUNCIL MATTERS

1. Adopt a resolution approving the Mayor's appointment to the Planning Commission
Resolution No. 11315

Mayor Nagy recommended the appointment of Lori Bogisch to fill the unexpired term of Karen Bridges on the Planning Commission.

Council Member Bucci encouraged the unappointed applicants to consider applying for

other positions in the future.

Moved by Vice Mayor Hannon, seconded by Council Member Bucci to adopt a resolution appointing Lori Bogisch to the Planning Commission. The motion passed, 5 AYES.

Mayor Nagy asked when the roundabout at Central Avenue and Willow Street would be finished. Public Works Director Fajeau advised that they anticipate the developer completing the work this construction season. He noted that a PG&E vault in the roadway would have to be adjusted before the project may move forward.

Vice Mayor Hannon complimented the Planning Commission candidate pool and agreed with Council Member Bucci's earlier comment. He complimented Karen Bridges for her services on the Planning Commission.

Council Member Freitas stated that the new chair of the Alameda County Transportation Commission would like to tour the City. He requested that Public Works Director Fajeau join them.

Council Member Collazo stated that the roundabouts in Mexico were beautiful and that Newark's roundabouts should be beautiful too. She complimented Karen Bridges for her service to the City. Shop Newark.

H. CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Title: City Manager

Mayor Nagy stated that the closed session would not be held.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Nagy adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Sheila Harrington, City Clerk