

City Council Special Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2020

of the public wish to address the Council on any *agendized* Closed Session matter, the Council shall allow such person to address the Council on such matter prior to going into Closed Session, provided that all persons wishing to address the Council on an *agendized* Closed Session matter shall fill out a speaker card and be subject to a speaker's time limit of 3 minutes per speaker and further provided that the Council shall be under no obligation to respond to or deliberate upon any specific questions or comments posed by a speaker or take action on any issue raised by a speaker beyond such action as the City Council may be lawfully authorized to take on an *agendized* Closed Session matter pursuant to the Brown Act (Govt. Code Section 54950 et seq.).

Mayor Quintero invited members of the public to address the City Council on Closed Session Item 6.1.

Mayor Quintero and the City Council recessed into Closed Session at approximately 6:13 pm. Mayor Quintero and the City Council reconvened from Closed Session at approximately 7:01 pm.

City Attorney Rick Olivarez reported out of Closed Session with respect to Item 8.1.

- 6.1 Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) Conference with Legal Counsel--Existing Litigation regarding the following related matter: Greater SGV Safe Community Foundation v. City of El Monte, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 19STCP05662.

General update, no final action

- m) Mayor Quintero
- s) Mayor Pro Tem Morales 5-0

7. **SPECIAL MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING AGENDIZED MATTERS ONLY: None**

As provided under **Government Code Section 54954.3**, this time has been set aside for persons in the audience to provide comment or make inquiries on matters appearing on this **Special Meeting agenda only**. Although no person is required to provide their name and address as a condition to attending a meeting, persons who wish to address the body are asked to state their name and address. Each speaker will be limited to three (3) continuous minutes. Speakers may not lend any portion of their speaking time to other persons or borrow additional time from other persons. All comments or queries presented by a speaker shall be addressed to the body as a whole and not to any specific member thereof. No questions shall be posed to any member of the body except through the presiding official of the meeting, members of the body are under no obligation to respond to questions posed by speakers but may provide brief clarifying responses to any comment made or questions posed. The body may not engage in any sort of prolonged discussion or deliberation with any speaker or group of speakers on matters that are not listed on this Special Meeting agenda.

Enforcement of Decorum: The Chief of Police of the City of El Monte, or such member, or members of the Police Department as the Chief of Police may designate, shall serve as the Sergeant-at-Arms of the meeting. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall carry out all orders and instructions given by the presiding official for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the meeting. While members of the public are free to level criticism of policies and the action(s) or proposed action(s) of the body or its members, members of the public may not engage in behavior that is disruptive to the orderly conduct of the proceedings, including, but not limited to, conduct that prevents other members of the public from being heard when it is their opportunity to speak or which prevents members of the audience from hearing or seeing the proceedings.

Members of the public may not threaten any person with physical harm or act in a manner that may reasonably be interpreted as an imminent threat of physical harm. All persons attending the meeting must adhere to policies barring harassment based upon a person's race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical handicap, medical condition, marital status, gender, sexual orientation or age.

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8. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

8.1 A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER FOR FIRST READING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL MONTE ENACTING A MODIFIED TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS DUE TO THE NONPAYMENT OF RENT FOR RESIDENTIAL TENANTS WHERE THE FAILURE TO PAY RENT RESULTS FROM INCOME LOSS RESULTING FROM THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19).

RECOMMENDATION OF BUSINESS ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Open the public hearing;
2. Receive a brief overview from staff and pose questions;
3. Receive public comment;
4. Close the public comment portion of the public hearing;
5. Pose closing questions to staff;
6. Deliberate and then close the public hearing; and
7. Approve for First Reading by Simple Majority Vote subject to a minimum three "Yes" vote requirement.

Total Cost: N/A

Account No: N/A

Is the cost of this item budgeted? N/A

Ordinance No. 2972

m) Mayor Quintero
s) Mayor Pro Tem Morales **5-0**
Open P.H.

Maria Jimenez Ramirez – What about rent? What happens if you can't pay in full?

Yaida L. Meza – I'm a property manager, so just to clarify, if rent is not being able to be paid for March-May, tenants have August-October to pay it back, correct?

Estela Balderrama – Really what happens if we can't pay the rent in full will we be evicted?

Gabriel Ramirez – Can we extend the time to pay rent from 60 days to 120 days? Is there going to be a loan program to pay the rent?

m) Mayor Quintero
s) Councilmember Velasco **5-0**
Close P.H.

m) Mayor Quintero
s) Mayor Pro Tem Morales **5-0**
Ordinance No. 2972

9. REGULAR AGENDA:

9.1 Approval of a Side Letter #3 to the 2018-2020 MOU with the El Monte Police Officers' Association Covering the Period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022

RECOMMENDATION OF BUSINESS ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Approve Side Letter #3 with the El Monte Police officers' Association (EMPOA), covering the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022.

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Total Cost: (\$70,000)

Account No: Various

Is the cost of this item budgeted? N/A

m) Mayor Quintero

s) Mayor Pro Tem Morales

3-2 (Councilmembers Ancona and Martinez Muela No)

9.2 Approval of a Resolution Declaring a Local Emergency Due to the Public Threat Caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

RECOMMENDATION OF BUSINESS ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Adopt a Resolution declaring a local emergency due to the public threat caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Total Cost: N/A

Account No: N/A

Is the cost of this item budgeted? N/A

Resolution No. 10108

m) Mayor Quintero

s) Mayor Pro Tem Morales

5-0

10. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA:

10.1 Discussion Regarding Emergency Action Plan.

10.2 Discussion Regarding Emergency Response Fund.

10.3 Discussion Regarding Emergency Reimbursement Tracking.

10.4 Discussion Regarding Small Business Support Center.

10.5 Virtual City Hall Presentation.

11. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS:

11A. Mayor Quintero

11A.1 Discussion regarding Safe at Home Order.

I want to share a few comments first we received an update on the Safe at Home Order and also some information on the Virtual City Hall so please tune in to our website for updates that are taking place.

11A.2 Discussion Regarding Urgency Measures to Suspend All Utility Shut-Offs and Other Potential Economic Relief Options for Customers of the El Monte Water Company and Encourage Other Water Companies Which Provide Water Services to the El Monte Residents to Do the Same.

Also I had an item regarding urgency measures to suspend all utility shut-offs and other potential economic relief options for customers of the El Monte Water Company and encourage other water companies which provide water services to the El Monte residents to do the same as it is San Gabriel Water Company came out with a statement

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and so we are going to be sharing that information as well as the information relating to the El Monte Water Company since publication of this agenda. As updates come up the last thing we want if you just got displaced from a job is to be stressing out whether your water is going to be disconnected and you will have to pay charges related to that.

11A.3 Discussion Regarding Department of Public Health.

One thing that I noticed during this crisis is that we do not have a Public Health Department. The cities of Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Long Beach do have Public Health Departments. Public Health Departments don't have to be huge especially since the County of Los Angeles has a very effective Public Health Department but it would be nice that we at least analyze the possibilities of having something like that in our City. As many of you who have been paying attention to our last Council meetings know that I have been on the topic of a Charter City and coming up with some ideas for how we can improve the way our government functions and in moments like these when we are in crisis we are starting to see gaps that may exist and how we can address those gaps. I am hoping to have that continuing conversation with the Council in the future.

11A.4 Discussion Regarding Public Financing of Campaigns.

Continue to a future date.

11A.5 Discussion Regarding Campaign Finance Limits.

Continue to a future date.

I want to say thank you to the staff for working so hard, thanks to the residents for your patience I know this is a very difficult time. I know we have said it over and over again that it is difficult but unless you are living it and you are going through it so many people are worried and they are stressed and they have anxiety we will be providing information as well for mental health resources as well don't be afraid to ask for help. We will provide some information on mental health assistance no one is judging anyone for reaching out and asking for help asking to talk to another human who is trained and understands how they can help provide support to you during this difficult time at the end of the day we want to get through this together, we want to get through this safe and we want to get through this together as an El Monte Family. This is what we do we provide services and it is the best part of serving all of you is when we get an opportunity to rise up to the occasion and provide the services that are so desperately needed. We have built up a reserve of about \$20M and that reserve was built up in order to deal with situations just like this one that we are in. We are bonding some resources so that we can be in a better place financially as well.

11B. Mayor Pro Tem Morales

I just want to clarify, thank you Councilmember Velasco for bringing up the need for volunteers at each of our High Schools and in particular the volunteers are needed at El Monte High School, Arroyo and South El Monte High School specifically to helping with the packaging of the food that is distributed for students. There are two shifts to help package the food, please contact the school principals by emails by way of their websites. So three volunteers from 6:00 to 9:00 am and two volunteers from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. So if you are interested we can always make sure that you have that information if you contact our City Hall or if you put a request through our Virtual City Hall.

11B.1 Discussion Regarding Special Fundraising Efforts to Support our Community.

As we all know these are very difficult times not only for our business community but in particular for our families, for our children, for the parents who have just gotten their notification that they have been laid off until further notice. I have asked for some support in reaching out to our business community I know they are going to be hit so I think together all of us can contribute to a particular fund where we would like to set aside to support our community and particular our families in need. Some of the cards that were distributed were donated by Northgate and we can attest that there is an absolute demand for that. If we make a phone call and ask for a donation at this particular time maybe it will be denied but nevertheless we still continue to push forward

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and ask for additional funding from everyone in our community. So I am definitely going to be moving forward on perhaps having this fundraising effort to support the community and start making some very important phone calls. Thank you Chief for providing us that input on how we are activating our patrols and how we are activating our officers to provide the security necessary in our City. Things will likely change for the better but if not I am certain that our Police Department will provide us updates through the website through our new portal and keep us in communication and in close contact. Chief let us know if there are any changes if there are things that our community needs to be aware of and if you are not following their Facebook page please make sure you do there are some great touching stories that are happening in the middle of all this. With that said I want to say thank you to staff for all the work and the long hours you have been putting in we are in this together we are here to support you as well and you make Alma's job look easy thank you for providing her that support and we see you, we hear you and we are thinking about you and your families as well and thank you for all you do.

11C. Councilwoman Ancona

During this time when many of us are called to work remotely, students are asked to engage in remote learning, we are asking our residents to access our virtual City Hall and in this time more than ever we are becoming more dependent on access to internet and a lot of families can't afford it. I know that students accessing google classroom or even their emails to get assignments if they don't have that at home they are unable to access the web during this time off. Asking our residents to access Virtual City Hall and submit request through there and ask for assistance through there if they don't have Wi-Fi or if they don't have a smart phone they are also unable to access it. Keeping in mind our Seniors who may not be very text savvy we haven't always had the need to have internet connectivity until now. I would like to ask the Council to see how we can provide that certain device whether it be partnering with some of our internet providers in low costs internet services and making that available this is something that I plat formed so that we can get things done not only during the pandemic but also in the future. I think this is important, I know there have been other cities who have been looking at getting citywide Wi-Fi. I would like for us to be in the forefront of getting something like this done. I didn't have this on my council communication but it was been on my mind and now in the situation that we are in I find it imperative and almost a necessity for all of our residents, our families, our Seniors at home to have access to internet. I would like to ask staff to do a little bit of research as time permits maybe not at this immediate moment but maybe if there is low cost internet services that we can provide to our residents on our different platforms from the website to social media and maybe they can sign up now to get these services. This is something that I look forward to continue to have further discussion on how we can make this more accessible to residents of El Monte. And lastly, as we are now in March almost April I believe it is time that we have an update on our budget I would very much like to know how we are doing fiscally as we are approaching the year end and we continue to make decisions on how we spend our money.

11D. Councilwoman Martinez Muela

There are a couple of things that I wanted to ask about on behalf of residents that have been contacting me. There are some questions on certain protocols. Primarily, what are some of the things that the Police Department is doing? I know I got a message from one of our residents today asking do people need to have a letter stating that they are going to an essential place. Is the Police Department stopping people randomly? I did check with the Chief and I let him know that this is a concern so I wanted to give the Chief an opportunity to speak about what the Police Department is doing with regards with some of this Safer at Home recommendation.

11D.1 Update from the Chief of Police Regarding Best Practices during COVID-19 and the Changes due to Safer at Home.

Before you go Chief could you please speak a little bit about the patrol that is going on things haven't change? I got another comment from another resident that mentioned unfortunately her car had been broken into and she was concerned that maybe there was another level of patrolling or lack thereof. What is the patrolling like? That was something that was really important and I wanted to make sure that we mention it again because policing doesn't stop. There may be other things that have been cancelled but policing has not been cancelled. I did see a picture that was posted on the El Monte PD

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Facebook or Instagram and it showed the dispatchers and I was really moved by it because my sister is a dispatcher and it says “We are here so that you can stay home” and it makes a difference that they know that they are safe. We see you and we know that you are working hard on our behalf and I know that they have had to take in a lot more phone calls this past week. To our Dispatch Team, Chief if you can pass along my sincere gratitude for those who are there 24/7 as first responders.

Chief I don't know if this question should be going to you but with regards to COVID-19 I know initially last Saturday there were a lot of lines and a lot of panic and there were people who were at our bigger stores like Sam's Club, Home Depot, Smart & Final I do have question I am not sure if you are the right person to answer this but when people are going to these stores is it necessary at this point to institute some type of social distancing and/or that only a certain amount of people can go into the store at a time?

11D.2 Discussion Regarding Financials – Mid-Year Budget.

I want to make sure that the community remembers that we are dealing with something that is very unprecedented and in that our financials, we don't have an open check book to just continue to write checks we have to stay focus on our dollars whether it is in our own family or as an elected official my responsibility is to make sure we are looking at all of our spending. Ms. City Manager when can we expect to see the mid-year budget that was planned and at least if we can see what was planned we can support where you are going but I would still like to understand when we are going to see that mid-year budget and then be able to support you. Thank you very much Council, thank you colleagues, thank you staff, thank you community and like I said spread love and positivity.

11E. Councilman Velasco

I mentioned this last week at one of the meetings that we had about how El Monte is the forefront of this virus or trying to be and trying to work with all the other cities and all of the other colleagues across the Country, across the State and it is important that we have a great relationship with all of our vendors with all of our businesses and all of our partners and one perfect example how partners are very important and for us to be working with them is Gonzalez Northgate Market we had heard about La Habra opening up their stores early for seniors so the City Manager and myself contacted the Northgate owner and because of the relationship that we have with them and because of the relationship that the City Manager has, it made it very easy for us to request that they do the same in El Monte so we are happy to say that we are one of the first cities that did that and now you see the whole country is doing that because of the relationships that we have and that we have developed and it is important that we work with our businesses. Now regarding the Census I just want to make sure very quickly that they have done an extension on it I just received mine and everything is behind so look it up. There are jobs for those who are 18 years and older and it will be for seven months. Please make sure that you get counted because this is going to affect us for the next 10 years.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Adjourn in memory of Donna Crippen, Wife of Mayor Jack Crippen and Mother of Sheila Crippen; and Dr. Beatriz Solis, Director of Healthy Communities South Region for the California Endowment and Sister of Supervisor Hilda Solis.

The next Regular Meeting of the City Council will be held on **April 7, 2020** at 6:00 p.m. This Agenda will be posted on the City's website, www.ci.el-monte.ca.us, and physically posted no less than 72 hours prior to the start of the subject regular meeting. Although it is the City's practice and desire to electronically post a copy of this Agenda along with supporting material as part of its website posting, the size or formatting of certain supporting materials may render their website posting infeasible. Nevertheless, all supporting materials related to any item on this Agenda, that is made available to the members of the council may be inspected by members of the public at the City Clerk's Office located at 11333 Valley Boulevard, El Monte, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 am – 5:30 pm. For more information, please call the City Clerk's Office at 626-580-2016.

To the extent that public meetings and any other authorized gatherings of the City are conducted at a physical location within the City, such meetings and gatherings shall be

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accessible to persons with disabilities, provided that reasonable requests for accommodation are made by contacting the City Clerk at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the time of the meeting. With respect to meetings conducted telephonically or through other electronic means during the State, County and local emergency conditions brought on by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), reasonable requests for accommodation may be made by calling the office of the City Clerk at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting, if possible. The City Clerk may be contacted at (626) 580-2016. The City will use its best efforts to provide reasonable accommodation given the timing, circumstances and economic feasibility of the request, particularly in light of the current emergency conditions. This Agenda and copies of documents distributed at the meeting are available in alternative formats upon request.

Catherine A. Eredia, City Clerk
City of El Monte

APPROVED:

Andre Quintero, Mayor
City of El Monte