

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Study Session and Regular Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

3:00 PM

City Council Chambers
68-700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero
Cathedral City, CA 92234

- **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Mark Carnevale called the Study Session Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

- **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mark Carnevale, Mayor
Nancy Ross, Mayor Pro Tem
Raymond Gregory, Councilmember
Ernesto Gutierrez, Councilmember
Rita Lamb, Councilmember

- **AGENDA FINALIZATION**

There were no changes to the agenda.

1. **CLOSED SESSION**

2. **STUDY SESSION**

- A. **Finance Advisory Committee Interview**

The City Council interviewed Chip Yarborough for the vacant seat on the Finance Advisory Committee.

Should the Council choose to appoint Mr. Yarborough to fill the vacant seat, the formal appointment will be made during the regular meeting.

- B. **Cathedral City Police Department 2023 Crime Stats**

Commander Rick Sanchez, Cathedral City Police Department, provided an overview of the 2023 Crime Stats. He covered the following information during his presentation:

- Five-Year Crime History
- Two-Year Crime History

- 2019-2023 Property Crimes
- 2019-2023 Violent Crimes
- 2023 NIBRS Crimes Against Persons
- 2023 NIBRS Property Crimes
- 2023 NIBRS Crimes Against Society
- Future Crime Reduction Strategies

Danny Lee, feels that Cathedral City is the safest place to live. He honors the work that all of the members of the Police Department do. He thanked Chief Crum for his leadership.

C. Fourth of July Response to Fireworks

Jon Enos, Commander, Cathedral City Police Department provided an overview of the Fourth of July Responses to Fireworks for 2024. He covered the following items in his presentation:

- Calls for Service
- Operation Plan
- Enforcement of Fireworks
- Community Education/Police Department

Michael Contreras, Fire Chief, provided an overview of what the Fire Department will be doing in the coming months in an effort to educate the community and be proactive.

D. Fire Department Cadet Program

Michael Contreras, Fire Chief, provided an overview of the Cathedral City Fire Cadet Program. He provided the following information during his presentation:

- What is a Cadet Program
- What is the Process
- What does it look like
- Fiscal Impact
- Timeline

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 4:49 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING – 5:30 PM

• CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mark Carnevale called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Rita Lamb led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **INVOCATION (MOMENT OF REFLECTION)**

Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Ross offered the Moment of Reflection.

- **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mark Carnevale, Mayor
Nancy Ross, Mayor Pro Tem
Raymond Gregory, Councilmember
Ernesto Gutierrez, Councilmember
Rita Lamb, Councilmember

- **AGENDA FINALIZATION**

Item 5E. Declaration of Surplus Land, was pulled from the agenda and will be brought back for consideration at a later date.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Adriana Rojo, invited the City Council to the upcoming Cathedral City High School Interact's Cinco De Mayo Event, which will be held at the Cathedral City Senior Center.

Jens Mueller, expressed his concern with code violations in the City and the enforcement by staff. He would like to see a change and will be back to check on the progress in four weeks.

2. **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Rita Lamb reported on the following:

- Desert Recreation District Programming and discussed the Cathedral City High School Swim Program and free swim lessons
- She thanked Chip Yarborough for applying to serve on the Finance Advisory Committee and thanked all those who volunteers to serve
- Her attendance at the Commissioner's Appreciation Dinner
- Her attendance at the Fire Department's Ambulance Pushback event at Fire Station 3
- Her attendance at Spring Fest at Century Park
- Her participation on the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Board
- Her attendance at the 7th Annual Coachella Valley Business Conference and Economic Forecast
- Her attendance at the Agnes Pelton House Historic Preservation Designation marker unveiling
- The upcoming Cathedral City Senior Center's Open House and Cactus Club Pancake Breakfast

- The upcoming City shredding event, which will be held on Saturday May 4, 2024
- The Salvation Army's pickle ball classes
- The Desert Sun's article about Cathedral City resident Michael Seagar's morning walk across the Ofelia Bringas Bridge

Councilmember Raymond Gregory reported on the following:

- Celebrated his birthday
- His attendance at the Fire Department's Ambulance Pushback event at Fire Station 3
- His attendance at Spring Fest at Century Park. He thanked all those involved including the SCRAP Gallery, Evening Rotary, Boys and Girls Club and the Library
- His attendance at the Agnes Pelton House Historic Preservation Designation marker unveiling
- His attendance at the Riverside County Transportation Commission Special Implementation Committee Meeting
- His attendance at the Congressional Art Awards Ceremony, which was held at Desert Art Woman Gallery

Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Ross discussed the fundraisers she has hosted to raise money for various charities, which is a way for the community to come together.

Councilmember Ernesto Gutierrez reported on the following:

- His attendance at the Coachella Valley Fast Pitch Competition
- His attendance at the Commissioner's Appreciation Dinner
- The need to educate the residents about City Ordinances
- The resident calls he received related to Code Enforcement issues and illegal food vendors
- His interaction with a Developer who was having issues with the process to develop a piece of property in the City
- The inquiry he received about the City's plan to mitigate fireworks this coming 4th of July
- He feels there needs to be a reorganization of Code Enforcement to help beautify the City
- His visit with Horizon neighborhood residents
- The CARE program offered through Southern California Edison

Mayor Mark Carnevale reported on the following:

- The Earthquake Preparedness event at Date Palm Country Club
- His attendance at the Invisible Wounds 22K Walk at Dennis Keat Soccer Park
- His attendance at the Commissioner's Appreciation Dinner
- His attendance at Spring Fest at Century Park
- His video shoot with the Chamber of Commerce
- His attendance at the Fire Department's Ambulance Pushback event at Fire Station 3

- His interview with the Roggin Report
- The calls he received related to how great the Code Enforcement Department is

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Waive Full Reading of Ordinances on Agenda**

M.O. 2024-64

B. **Approval of April 10, 2024, Study Session and Regular City Council Meeting Minutes**

Recommendation: Approve the Study Session and Regular City Council Minutes of April 10, 2024.

M.O. 2024-65

C. **Award Professional Services Agreement to Willdan Engineering for Construction Engineering Support Services on HSIP Cycle 9B: Varner Road Safety Improvements Project**

Recommendation: To award a professional services agreement to Willdan Engineering, in the amount of \$104,014 for professional construction engineering support services for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Cycle 9B Project: Varner Road Safety Improvements and approve a ten percent (10%) contingency in the amount of \$10,401 for any unforeseeable construction costs, thereby, bringing the total construction engineering budget for this project to \$114,415; and, authorize the City Manager to execute the required contract documents; and, authorize the City Engineer to request insurance policies and issue the notice to proceed.

M.O. 2024-66

D. **Approval of the Parks and Community Events Commission (PACE) support of the Free Movies for Kids at the Mary Pickford Theater 2024**

Recommendation: To approve \$800 from the Parks and Recreation Commission's (PACE) FY 2022-2023 Small Events Budget to support the Mary Pickford Free Movies for Kids Event for the 2024 Summer Program.

M.O. 2024-67

E. **Council Appointments to Various Local Agencies**

Recommendation: To review the list of Local Agency Assignments and ratify the appointments.

M.O. 2024-68

F. Special Use Permit 2025 Coachella Valley Bully Fest

Recommendation: To approve Special Use Permit 2023-004 for the Coachella Valley Bully Fest to be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025, in the Cathedral City Community Amphitheater.

M.O. 2024-69

A motion was made by Councilmember Gregory and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

RESULT:	PASS [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Raymond Gregory, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Nancy Ross, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Carnevale, Ross, Gregory, Gutierrez, Lamb
NOES:	
ABSENT:	
ABSTAIN:	

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. City User and Regulatory Fees Update

Recommendation: To adopt a resolution updating and establishing user and regulatory fees.

Kevin Biersack, Director of Financial Services, provided an overview of the proposed Schedule of User and Regulatory Fees intended for use in Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

Mayor Mark Carnevale opened the Public Hearing to receive public comments, seeing none, he closed the Public Hearing and returned discussion to the City Council.

Reso 2024-15

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ross and seconded by Councilmember Gregory to adopt a resolution updating and establishing user and regulatory fees.

RESULT:	PASS [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Nancy Ross, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Raymond Gregory, Councilmember
AYES:	Carnevale, Ross, Gregory, Gutierrez, Lamb
NOES:	
ABSENT:	
ABSTAIN:	

5. **LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

A. **Appointment to the Finance Advisory Committee**

Recommendation: To consider appointing Louie “Chip” Yarborough to serve on the Finance Advisory Committee to fill an unexpired seat with a term continuing through June 30, 2026, based on the interview conducted during the Study Session portion of the meeting held on April 24, 2024.

M.O. 2024-70

A motion was made by Councilmember Gutierrez and seconded by Councilmember Gregory to appoint Louie “Chip” Yarborough to serve on the Finance Advisory Committee to fill an unexpired seat with a term continuing through June 30, 2026.

RESULT:	PASS [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Ernesto Gutierrez, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Raymond Gregory, Councilmember
AYES:	Carnevale, Ross, Gregory, Gutierrez, Lamb
NOES:	
ABSENT:	
ABSTAIN:	

B. **Mi Chavela Fest City Sponsorship Request**

Recommendation: To approve the City sponsorship of \$5,000 for Luchador Brewing’s Mi Chavela Fest in the Cathedral City Community Amphitheater on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ross to approve a City sponsorship of \$5,000 for Luchador Brewing’s Mi Chavela Fest in the Cathedral City Community Amphitheater on Saturday, September 14, 2024. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

C. **Approve Public Arts Commission's Recommendation for a Call for Artists for the Ocotillo Bench Painting project and authorize \$16,150 in Art in Public Places funds for the project.**

Recommendation: To approve the Public Arts Commission’s recommendation for a Call for Artists for the Ocotillo Bench Painting project and authorize \$16,500 in Art in Public Places funds for the project.

M.O. 2024-71

A motion was made by Councilmember Gregory and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross to approve the Public Arts Commission’s recommendation for a Call for

Artists for the Ocotillo Park Bench Painting project and authorize \$16,150 in the Art in Public Places funds for the project.

RESULT:	PASS [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Raymond Gregory, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Nancy Ross, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Carnevale, Ross, Gregory, Gutierrez, Lamb
NOES:	
ABSENT:	
ABSTAIN:	

D. Special Use Permit (SUP) Procedure & Rental Costs Update

Recommendation: To adopt the new Special Use Permit (SUP) procedure and the new rental fees for Downtown venues that were previously free to rent for event organizers.

M.O. 2024-72

A motion was made by Councilmember Lamb and seconded by Councilmember Gregory to adopt the new Special Use Permit (SUP) procedure and new rental fees for Downtown venues that were previously free to rent for event organizers.

RESULT:	PASS [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Rita Lamb, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Raymond Gregory, Councilmember
AYES:	Carnevale, Ross, Gregory, Gutierrez, Lamb
NOES:	
ABSENT:	
ABSTAIN:	

E. Declaration of Surplus Land

Recommendation: To adopt Resolution No.____ declaring that certain 1.8-acre vacant land parcel located at 68-600 thru 68-618 East Palm Canyon also identified by Assessor's Parcel Number 687-475-006 as surplus land and direct the City Manager's office to follow the procedures set forth in the Surplus Land Act, California Government Code Section 54220 et seq., as amended on January 1, 2020, for the sale of surplus land.

This item was pulled from the agenda and will be brought back for consideration at a later date.

F. Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/2024 & 2024/2025 Operating Budget Adjustments

Recommendation: To review the fiscal year (FY) 2023/2024 budget reallocations and approve the FY 2024/2025 recurring budget adjustments.

M.O. 2024-73

A motion was made by Councilmember Lamb and seconded by Councilmember Gregory to approve the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 recurring budget adjustments.

RESULT:	PASS [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Rita Lamb, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Raymond Gregory, Councilmember
AYES:	Carnevale, Ross, Gregory, Gutierrez, Lamb
NOES:	
ABSENT:	
ABSTAIN:	

G. Refunding of Successor Agency 2014A and 2014B Tax Allocation Bonds

Recommendation: To adopt a resolution and authorize certain actions of the Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Cathedral City authorizing the issuance of tax allocation revenue refunding bonds and approving indentures, bond purchase agreements, escrow agreements, a preliminary official statement and a continuing disclosure agreement.

Reso SA-2024-01

A motion was made by Councilmember Gregory and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ross to adopt a resolution and authorize certain actions of the Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Cathedral City authorizing the issuance of tax allocation revenue refunding bonds and approving indentures, bond purchase agreements, escrow agreements, a preliminary official statement and a continuing disclosure agreement.

RESULT:	PASS [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Raymond Gregory, Councilmember
SECONDER:	Nancy Ross, Councilmember
AYES:	Carnevale, Ross, Gregory, Gutierrez, Lamb
NOES:	
ABSENT:	
ABSTAIN:	

6. DISCUSSION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no discussion on future agenda items.

7. CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mark Carnevale adjourned the April 24, 2024, City Council Meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Mayor, City of Cathedral City

City Clerk, City of Cathedral City