



**MINUTES
CARSON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 26, 2010**

7:30 P.M.

**CONGRESSWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD
COMMUNITY CENTER AT CARSON, HALL B
801 EAST CARSON STREET
CARSON, CA 90745**

AGENDA POSTED: MAY 24, 2010

“In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call the City Clerk’s office at 310-952-1720 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.” (Government Code Section 54954.2)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:04 P.M., by Mayor Dear in Hall B, Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center, located at 801 E. Carson Street, Carson, California 90745.

ROLL CALL: City Clerk Kawagoe called the roll:

Council Members Present: Mayor Jim Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Elito Santarina, Council Member Mike Gipson, Council Member Lula Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Julie Ruiz-Raber

Council Members Absent: None

Other Elected Officials Present: Helen Kawagoe, City Clerk

Other Elected Officials Absent: Karen Avilla, City Treasurer

Also Present: Jerome Groomes, City Manager; and staff:

Jackie Acosta, Administrative Services
General Manager; Ray Cruz, Public Services
General Manager; Vic Rollinger,
Development Services General Manager;

Lisa Berglund, Senior Administrative
Analyst; Trini Catbagan, Finance Officer;
Dan Cisneros, Human Services Manager;
Dani Cook, Community Services
Coordinator II; Cedric Hicks, Recreation
Superintendent; Luchie Magante, Senior
Administrative Analyst; Glenn Turner,
Computer Systems Support Technician; and
Wanda Higaki, Chief Deputy City Clerk

FLAG SALUTE: Mayor Dear led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Public testimony may be given on any agenda item as it is called and will be **LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER SPEAKER**. Please fill out a Speaker Form in order to be identified correctly in the minutes. The forms are provided on the podium in the Council Chambers. All Speaker Forms must be given to the City Clerk at the beginning of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS CONSENT (Items 1-3)

This item was heard at 8:06 P.M.

Item No. 2:

Alford Wofford, 218 W. Carson Street, No. 14, Carson, California 90745, discussed the property owner and property management company and expressed opposition to conversion.

It was moved to approve New Business Consent Calendar Item Nos. 1, 2, and 3 on motion of Dear, seconded by Gipson and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Gipson, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

ITEM NO. (1) CONSIDER SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO DISCUSS RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE UNIFORM COMPREHENSIVE SCHEDULE OF FEES

RECOMMENDATION for the City Council:

1. SET the matter for public hearing on June 15, 2010.

ACTION: Item No. 1 was approved on the New Business Consent Calendar on motion of Dear, seconded by Gipson and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Gipson, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

ITEM NO. (2) CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-054 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, GRANTING AN APPEAL FROM THE DECISION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVING TRACT MAP NO. 071207 FOR THE RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION OF PARK GRANADA MOBILE HOME PARK, LOCATED AT 218 W. CARSON STREET, REVERSING THE DECISION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION, AND DENYING THE APPLICATION OF 218 PROPERTIES, LLC, FOR TRACT MAP NO. 071207 FOR THE RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION OF PARK GRANADA MOBILE HOME PARK (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

RECOMMENDATION for the City Council:

1. WAIVE further reading and ADOPT Resolution No. 10-054, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, GRANTING AN APPEAL FROM THE DECISION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVING TRACT MAP NO. 071207 FOR THE RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION OF PARK GRANADA MOBILE HOME PARK, LOCATED AT 218 W. CARSON STREET, REVERSING THE DECISION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION, AND DENYING THE APPLICATION OF 218 PROPERTIES, LLC, FOR TRACT MAP NO. 071207."

ACTION: Item No. 2 was approved on the New Business Consent Calendar on motion of Dear, seconded by Gipson and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Gipson, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

ITEM NO. (3) CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-053 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, GRANTING AN APPEAL FROM THE DECISION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVING TRACT MAP NO. 071206 FOR THE RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION OF IMPERIAL AVALON MOBILE HOME PARK, LOCATED AT 21207 AVALON BOULEVARD, REVERSING THE DECISION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION, AND DENYING THE APPLICATION OF IMPERIAL AVALON ESTATES, LLC, FOR TRACT MAP NO. 071206 FOR THE RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION OF IMPERIAL AVALON MOBILE HOME PARK (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

RECOMMENDATION for the City Council:

1. WAIVE further reading and ADOPT Resolution No. 10-053, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, GRANTING AN APPEAL FROM THE DECISION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVING TRACT MAP NO. 071206 FOR THE RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION OF IMPERIAL AVALON MOBILE HOME PARK, LOCATED AT 21207 AVALON BOULEVARD, REVERSING THE DECISION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION, AND DENYING THE APPLICATION OF IMPERIAL AVALON ESTATES, LLC, FOR TRACT MAP NO. 071206 FOR THE RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION OF IMPERIAL AVALON MOBILE HOME PARK."

ACTION: Item No. 3 was approved on the New Business Consent Calendar on motion of Dear, seconded by Gipson and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Gipson, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION (Item 4)

ITEM NO. (4) CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL ACTION REGARDING THE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION (PUBLIC SERVICES)

This item was heard at 8:13 P.M.

City Manager Groomes summarized the staff report and recommendation.

Public Comments

Ronald Shimokaji, 1502 E. Carson Street, Sp. 135, Carson, California 90745, suggested that the City Council support a city-wide effort for not only Juneteenth, but also other special events.

RECOMMENDATION for the City Council:

1. DISCUSS and PROVIDE direction to staff.

ACTION: It was moved to approve the same type of support for the Juneteenth Committee as approved for Philippine Independence Day, and to waive the fees for Mills Park, provided that City Manager Groomes deems that no hard costs will be expended from the General Fund on motion of Dear and seconded by Santarina.

City Manager Groomes stated that he required additional information from the Juneteenth Celebration Committee and would meet with the Chairperson.

Mayor Dear clarified that his motion included that the Juneteenth Celebration Committee raise private funds, as did the Philippine Independence Day Foundation, which was accepted by Santarina.

Marvin Clayton, Chairperson, Juneteenth Celebration Committee, clarified that the request of the committee was for the use of the park and briefly discussed the concept of having a low key "backyard barbeque" community event with approximately 200-300 people in attendance with local, free entertainment. In addition, that the committee was entertaining the concept of having a donation basket to raise funds for next year's event.

City Manager Groomes hoped that the committee would be open to the suggestions by staff, with Mr. Clayton concurring.

Mayor Dear further clarified that the motion implied that the City Manager and staff would work with the committee on the details on an administrative level.

During discussion of the motion, event security and event insurance issues were discussed: Whereupon, City Manager Groomes briefly discussed the challenges involved in a hybrid approach to plan community events and informed the City Council that staff would work with the committee, however, there would be areas of disagreement.

Upon inquiry, Recreation Superintendent Hicks reported that, normally, security and Sheriff's Deputies would be required depending upon the age of the group, fifty ore more anticipated attendance, and the park patrol and a permit, on an as-needed basis.

Mayor Dear suggested that at its meeting tomorrow night, that the Juneteenth Celebration Committee plan, budget, and raise money for security, insurance, and to apply for a permit. He briefly discussed the upcoming Memorial Day event at the venue of the Lincoln Cemetery and

the Fourth of July event at the venue of the Home Depot Center, both at no cost to the City of Carson, except for mailing notices, as models to follow.

A discussion ensued regarding the level of support for Philippine Independence Day.

(Council Member Gipson exited and reentered the meeting at 8:46 P.M.)

During discussion of the motion, Council Member Davis-Holmes briefly discussed the following issues: 1) that two Juneteenth events would be taking place on June 19th and 2) that the level of participation for the City-sponsored event was not 300 attendees.

The motion was unanimously carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Gipson, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

WORKSHOP (Item 5)

ITEM NO. (5) CONSIDERATION OF COST SAVING MEASURES AND/OR REVENUE ENHANCEMENTS FOR FY 2009/10 AND FY 2010/11 (ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES)

This item was heard at 8:50 P.M.

City Manager Groomes summarized the staff report and recommendation, referred to and discussed Triangle Page 4 of the staff report entitled, "City of Carson Revenue Enhancements and Cost Saving Measures," and reported that June 9, 14, and 22 were dates for possible meetings.

RECOMMENDATION for the City Council:

TAKE the following actions:

1. REVIEW and DISCUSS the staff recommendations on Exhibit No. 1 under the section header "Items recommended for approval on May 26, 2010."
2. APPROVE all items on Exhibit No. 1 under the section header "Items recommended for approval on May 26, 2010."

ACTION: The following items were discussed:

Item No. 37A, Allocate \$4,000 for Mayor, City Council, and City Treasurer Travel

Motion

At the request of Council Member Ruiz-Raber, it was moved to reconsider Item No. 37A on motion of Dear, seconded by Ruiz-Raber and unanimously carried by the following voice vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Gipson, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Administrative Services General Manager Acosta distributed and discussed a breakdown of possible reductions by percent to travel budgets for the elected officials, which was prepared by staff at the request of Council Member Ruiz-Raber:

Motion

Council Member Ruiz-Raber felt that reductions based on a percentage was a fair approach and moved to approve a travel budget for the elected officials, including the City Clerk and City Treasurer, as proposed with 25% reduction, which was seconded by Santarina.

Substitute Motion (Not Considered)

Council Member Gipson felt that reductions should be equitable across the board and not create a disparity and offered a substitute motion to allocate \$6,000 for the City Council, City Clerk, and City Treasurer, which was not considered due to lack of a second.

At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Administrative Services General Manager Acosta reported on the amount spent on travel thus far by the elected officials from the General Fund, as follows: Mayor Dear, \$5,200; Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, \$550; Council Member Davis-Holmes, \$2,100; Council Member Gipson, \$9,500; City Clerk Kawagoe, \$7,350; and City Treasurer Avilla, \$6,250.

City Clerk Kawagoe clarified that she had a higher level of involvement as compared to City Treasurer Avilla because she was elected to offices; that she had cancelled the City Clerks' Conference and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks' Conference, totaling \$3,000; and that she would go along with the City Council and wanted a letter from the City of Carson explaining that it could not afford to pay her travel, and she would deduct the money from her income taxes and that everyone should do the same. Whereupon, Mayor Dear stated that he would ensure that she would be provided a letter should it become necessary.

Substitute Motion (Not Considered)

Council Member Davis-Holmes offered a substitute motion to approve \$4,000 for travel for the elected officials, which was not considered due to lack of a second.

Substitute Motion

Council Member Santarina concurred with the City Clerk's justification and offered a substitute motion to allocate travel as follows: City Treasurer Avilla, \$6,000; City Clerk Kawagoe, \$8,000; Mayor Dear, \$8,000; and Council Members Davis-Holmes, Gipson, and Ruiz-Raber, \$6,000 to each, which was not considered due to lack of a second.

Council Member Gipson reiterated that he felt that reductions should be equitable across the board; that tiers of importance not be set up; and that travel allowance should be consistent among the seven elected officials, with all due respect to City Clerk Kawagoe who was known across the Nation and whose travels promote the City of Carson and who brings back information to the City of Carson.

Substitute Motion (Failed to Carry)

Council Member Davis-Holmes wished to reconsider the substitute motion by Council Member Gipson and offered a substitute motion to allocate \$6,000 for the City Council, City Clerk, and City Treasurer, across the board, which was seconded by Gipson.

Mayor Dear discussed the level of involvement by City Clerk Kawagoe and him, as mayor, and expressed his support of the substitute motion by Mayor Pro Tem Santarina to allocate travel as follows: City Treasurer Avilla, \$6,000; City Clerk Kawagoe, \$8,000; Mayor Dear, \$8,000; and Council Members Davis-Holmes, Gipson, and Ruiz-Raber, \$6,000 to each.

The substitute motion to allocate \$6,000 for the City Council, City Clerk, and City Treasurer, across the board, failed to carry by the following vote:

Ayes:	Council Member Gipson and Council Member Davis-Holmes
Noes:	None Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

Substitute Motion (Failed to Carry)

Mayor Pro Tem Santarina restated his substitute motion to approve a travel budget for the elected officials as follows: City Treasurer Avilla, \$6,000; City Clerk Kawagoe, \$8,000; Mayor Dear, \$8,000; and Council Members Davis-Holmes, Gipson, and Ruiz-Raber, \$6,000 to each, which was seconded by Dear, and failed to carry by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear and Mayor Pro Tem Santarina
Noes: Council Member Gipson, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Substitute Motion

Council Member Ruiz-Raber offered a substitute motion to approve a travel budget for the elected officials, including the City Clerk and City Treasurer, as proposed with 25% reduction, except Mayor Dear and to approve a travel budget for \$7,000, for Mayor Dear, which was seconded by Santarina.

During discussion of the substitute motion, Council Member Gipson felt that it was attempting to show some disparity to the City Treasurer or whoever may be in that office and urged his colleagues to approve a travel budget that would be equitable across the board. He referred to the position of the City Treasurer in HELO and expressed his willingness to give up \$1,000 from his travel budget to the City Treasurer.

City Treasurer Avilla wanted to be clear that the maker of the motion was trying to create a disparity and that it would send a bad message if she were unable to attend the conference this year. She would not be able to attend two conferences this year, one of which would be in Washington, D.C., and the other at another location. She reported that she was scheduled as a guest speaker at WIMG to discuss the City's fraud hotline and that WIMG was covering most of the cost for airfare and meals. An extra \$1,000 would make a difference and would not require her to make a choice. Whereupon, City Clerk Kawagoe reported that as a Board Member of WIMG, she gave up the same conference in order to save money for the City of Carson.

Amended Main Motion

Council Member Ruiz-Raber clarified and amended her main motion to approve a travel budget for the elected officials, including the City Clerk and City Treasurer, as follows: Mayor Dear, \$7,000; Council Members Davis-Holmes, Gipson, and Ruiz-Raber, \$6,000 to each; City Clerk Kawagoe, \$8,250; and City Treasurer Avilla, \$6,000, which was accepted by Santarina.

The substitute motion to approve a travel budget for the elected officials, including the City Clerk and City Treasurer, as proposed with 25% reduction, except Mayor Dear and to approve a travel budget for \$7,000, for Mayor Dear failed to carry by the following vote:

Ayes: None
Noes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Gipson, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Abstain: None
Absent: None

The amended main motion to approve a travel budget for the elected officials for the elected officials, including the City Clerk and City Treasurer, as follows: Mayor Dear, \$7,000; Council Members Davis-Holmes, Gipson, and Ruiz-Raber, \$6,000 to each; City Clerk Kawagoe, \$8,250; and City Treasurer Avilla, \$6,000 was unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Gipson, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

(Council Member Gipson exited the meeting at 9:48 P.M.)

Item No. 38, Suspend Commissioner Stipends

Motion

It was moved to not suspend commissioner stipends and to waive stipends on a volunteer basis on motion of Ruiz-Raber, and seconded by Santarina.

(Council Member Gipson reentered the meeting at 9:52 P.M.)

Public Comments

Ronald Shimokaji, 1512 E. Carson Street, Sp. 135, Carson, California 90745, requested on behalf of Chief Pele Faletofo for a letter of support from the City to businesses to assist their fund-raising efforts for Samoan Flag Day.

Brian Raber, 1843 E. Abbottson Street, Carson, California 90746, acknowledged the important position that City Treasurer Avilla will hold in HELO and discussed the importance of recognition for the City of Carson.

The motion to not suspend commissioner stipends and to waive stipends on a volunteer basis was unanimously carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Gipson, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Item Nos. 2R, 4R, 5R, 6R, 7R, 8R, 9R, 10R, Fee Considerations

Administrative Services General Manager Acosta reported that fee considerations would be discussed on June 15, 2010.

Item No. 33, Park Enforcement Team

City Manager Groomes reported that \$10.7M was the base contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Further, that over and above the base contract, the City of Carson pays \$2.8M for two significant enhancements to the contract – COPS Team and Park Enforcement Team. He clarified that he was not recommending touching the COPS Team.

Captain Bernice Abram, Carson Sheriff's Station, provided and discussed information regarding the contract for law enforcement services, including the Park Enforcement Team, a copy of which was filed with the City Clerk):

Motion

It was moved to not suspend the Park Enforcement Team and to maintain the same level as last year for FY 2010/11 on motion of Ruiz-Raber and seconded by Santarina.

Substitute Motion (Withdrawn)

Council Member Davis-Holmes offered a substitute motion to reduce the Park Enforcement Team by two deputies during the rainy season months from October to March, which was withdrawn since its effect would be the same as the motion by Council Member Ruiz-Raber and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Santarina.

The motion was unanimously carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Gipson, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None

Item No. 1R, Remove UUT \$1,000,000 Cap

(Council Member Davis-Holmes exited the meeting at 10:32 P.M.)

Upon inquiry, City Manager Groomes reported that two entities would be impacted – BP and Conocco Phillips. He subsequently suggested that the City Council could consider lifting the cap as long as there were furloughs; for example, as a year-by-year consideration.

(Council Member Davis-Holmes reentered the meeting at 10:38 P.M.)

Motion

Council Member Gipson stated that he anticipated that furlough days would start at the top and go to the bottom and moved to lift the cap, which was seconded by Davis-Holmes.

During discussion of the motion, Council Member Gipson commented that he liked the suggestion of the City Manager to lift the cap as long as there were furloughs.

Motion Restated

Council Member Gipson clarified and restated that his motion as originally offered to remove the cap, which Davis-Holmes concurring.

Substitute Motion (Not Considered)

Council Member Santarina offered a substitute motion to not remove the cap, which was not considered due to lack of a second.

During discussion of the motion, Council Member Ruiz-Raber referred to the UUT and stated that she wanted to retract her exemption and would be paying her 2% UUT; Mayor Dear felt that if the economy were to improve, it would be a simple process to reinstate the cap; and Council Member Davis-Holmes stated that she could not support saving money for a company, as compared to employee furloughs or layoffs.

Substitute Motion

Council Member Ruiz-Raber offered a substitute motion to remove the \$1M UUT cap during difficult times for the City.

Upon inquiry, Council Member Ruiz-Raber defined "difficult times" as a budget deficit and considering reductions in staff by furlough or layoff and clarified that her substitute motion covered all the years that Carson was having problems; whereupon, Mayor Dear seconded the substitute motion.

During discussion of the substitute motion, Council Member Gipson felt that \$600 could restore special events and Council Member Davis-Holmes inquired whether difficult times included if the City had to dip into the reserves to balance the budget. Whereupon, Mayor Dear clarified that it was not included in the substitute motion.

Council Member Gipson expressed concern about having to dip into the reserves and a discussion ensued.

Motion to Call for the Question and End Debate

It was moved to call the previous question and end debate on motion of Ruiz-Raber, seconded by Santarina and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Gipson, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

The substitute motion to remove the \$1M UUT cap during difficult times for the City was unanimously carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Gipson, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

RECESS: The City Council was Recessed at 11:13 P.M. by Mayor Dear at the request of staff.

RECONVENE: The City Council was Reconvened at 11:33 P.M. by Mayor Dear with all members previously noted present.

Item Nos. 50 and 50A

Mayor Dear inquired whether there were any objections to discuss Item Nos. 50 and 50A, with no objections heard.

Item No. 50, Reduce Hours the Parks Are Open and Hours for All Part-time Recreation Staff
Item No. 50A, Reduce Part-time Hours by 17% (Not Including Recreation)

It was moved to support the staff recommendation for Item Nos. 50 and 50A on motion of Dear and seconded by Ruiz-Raber and carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber
Noes: Council Member Gipson
Abstain: None
Absent: None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 11:49 P.M., by Mayor Dear.

Mayor Jim Dear

ATTEST:

City Clerk Helen Kawagoe