



**MINUTES  
CARSON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 29, 2010**

**6:00 P.M. – Closed Session  
7:00 P.M. – Open Session**

**AGENDA POSTED: JUNE 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 6:33 P.M., by Mayor Dear in the Council Chambers, Carson City Hall, located at 701 E. Carson Street, Carson, California 90745.

**ROLL CALL:** Chief Deputy City Clerk Higaki noted the following:

Council Members Present: Mayor Jim Dear, Council Member Mike Gipson, Council Member Lula Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Ruiz-Raber

Council Members Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Elito Santarina (Entered at 6:33 P.M.)

Other Elected Officials Present: Karen Avilla, City Treasurer

Other Elected Officials Absent: Helen Kawagoe, City Clerk

Also Present: Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Assistant City Attorney; Jerome Groomes, City Manager; Jackie Acosta, Administrative Services General Manager; Ray Cruz, Public Services General Manager; Victor Rollinger, Development Services General Manager; Lisa Berglund, Senior Administrative Analyst; Zarah Cruz, Public Information Manager;

Robert Eggleston, IT Manager; Glenn Turner, Computer Systems Support Technician; Dan Cisneros, Human Services Manager; Cedric Hicks, Recreation Superintendent; Isabella Meni, Transportation Coordinator II; Regina Ramirez, Community Center Supervisor; Ken McKay, Public Safety Services Manager; Wanda Higaki, Chief Deputy City Clerk; and Joy Simarago, Deputy City Clerk

Captain Abram, Carson Sheriff's Station

### **CLOSED SESSION (Item 1)**

#### **ITEM NO. (1) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (CITY MANAGER)**

RECOMMENDATION for the City Council:

1. A closed session will be held, pursuant to Government Code § 54957.6, with the City Manager and Administrative Services General Manager, regarding labor negotiations with AME, Supervisors Association, Professional Association, AFSCME Local 809, ACE, Unclassified, and Unrepresented employees.

**ACTION:** This item was scheduled for Closed Session.

**RECESS:** The City Council was Recessed at 6:33 P.M. by Mayor Dear to a Closed Session to discuss the item described on this evening's agenda.

**RECONVENE:** The City Council was Reconvened at 7:28 P.M. by Mayor Dear with all members previously noted present with Davis-Holmes and Santarina absent.

(Mayor Pro Tem Santarina and Council Member Davis-Holmes entered the meeting at 7:29 P.M.)

#### **REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

City Manager Groomes provided the Closed Session report as follows:

Council met in Closed Session with the labor negotiators. There were various alternative negotiating strategies discussed and direction was given. There was no reportable action.

**FLAG SALUTE:** Mayor Dear lead those present in the Flag Salute. He requested a moment of silence for the men and women serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and for those all over the world protecting America's freedoms and liberty.

#### **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.**  
**SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY (Items 2-3) 7:00 P.M.**

**ITEM NO. (2) CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE UNIFORM COMPREHENSIVE SCHEDULE OF FEES (ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES)**

Mayor Dear declared the continued Public Hearing open **TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE UNIFORM COMPREHENSIVE SCHEDULE OF FEES.**

**Public Comment**

Constance Turner, Regional Manager, representing Southern California Edison, 1924 E. Cashdan Street, Compton, California 90220, thanked City Manager Groomes and staff for the opportunity to review the proposed fee schedule and requested additional meeting time with staff to continue discussions regarding SCE's items of concern.

**Staff Report**

City Manager Groomes summarized the staff report and recommendation.

Administrative Services General Manager Acosta discussed the proposed revisions to the Uniform Comprehensive Schedule of Fees as shown in Exhibit No. 1. Additionally, she highlighted and discussed some of the changes to the proposed revisions as follows:

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C. City Treasurer, 2. Convenience Fee for online tax-based transactions, change 2% to 2.75% of tax due.

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F. Economic Development – Planning, survey of other cities was done, still under the market, planning fees much less than other cities.

Council Member Davis-Holmes requested that the planning fees be revisited for a comparison analysis to be in line with neighboring cities and be brought back for discussion and to include in the motion which Mayor Dear concurred.

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G. Development Services – Engineering, 13. Install Handicap Parking Space (Paint curb blue and install sign) fee of \$250.00, not TBD.

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G. Development Services – Transportation, 2. Public Transit, a. Carson Circuit, change \$0.75 for regular and student fares to \$1.00.

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G. Development Services - Transportation, b. North/South Shuttle, change \$0.75 for regular and student fares to \$1.00.

H. Public Services – Human Services – Early Childhood – increase incrementally for the next three years to full cost recovery.

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H. Public Services – Parks and Recreation, Carson Day Camp round down resident fees if not even amount throughout the programs such as \$38.50 change to \$38.00.

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H. Public Services – Parks and Recreation – 4. Enrichment Programs, should read: e. Cheer Program (10 weeks), Resident fee \$30.00; Non-Resident fee \$35.00.

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H. Public Services – Parks and Recreation, 7. Aquatics Program, b. Recreation Swim (Carson & Scott), Non-Resident fee \$3.00; (Dominguez & Hemingway), Non-Resident fee \$6.00.

Council Member Davis-Holmes requested that this item be revisited and reported that there were mostly non-residents visiting the Hemingway Aquatic Center who were paying only \$1.00. She was not opposed to raising the rates.

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H. Public Services – Parks & Recreation, 10. Adult Sports, Resident and Non-Resident Fees, need to footnote and would consider implementing per team if 51% or more residents then pay resident fee and if 51% or more non-resident then pay non-resident fee.

(Council Member Gipson exited the meeting at 8:08 P.M. and reentered the meeting 8:10 P.M.)

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H. Public Services – Public Safety, 2. Parking Violation Fees, Carson Municipal Code 3254.2 – trucking parking prohibited, fee should be \$65.00 not \$615.00.

Council Member Davis-Holmes requested that this item be brought back.

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H. Public Services – Community Services, 1. Special Interest Classes

Upon inquiry, Administrative Services General Manager Acosta stated that the Special Interest Classes were not reinstated and was working with staff and the city attorney whether to bring back classes again. They must meet IRS rules and that there were some issues with

other cities. She stated that she would provide an updated report regarding the status of the Dana Point appeal hearing with the IRS.

There being no other persons wishing to testify, Mayor Dear declared the continued Public Hearing closed.

RECOMMENDATION for the City Council:

TAKE the following actions:

1. OPEN the continued Public Hearing, TAKE public testimony, and CLOSE the continued Public Hearing.
2. CONSIDER recommended changes to the Uniform Comprehensive Schedule of Fees and PROVIDE direction to staff.

ACTION: It was moved to approve the staff recommendations and with the following notations on motion of Dear:

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H. Public Services – Public Safety, 2. Parking Violation Fees, Carson Municipal Code 3254.2 – trucking parking prohibited proposed increase fee to \$100.00.

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H. Public Services – Parks & Recreation, b. Recreation Swim (Carson & Scott) non-resident fee of \$5.00.

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G. Development Services Transportation, 2. Public Transit, a. Carson Circuit – match with City of Torrance fee of \$1.00 for regular and student fares instead of \$0.75 and b. North/South Shuttle – match with City of Torrance fee of \$1.00 for regular and student fares instead of \$0.75.

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G. Development Services – Engineering, 13. Install Handicap Parking Space (Paint curb blue and install sign), \$250.00 fee instead of TBD.

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C. City Treasurer, 2. Convenience fee for online tax-based transactions fee of 2.75% of tax due instead of 2%.

The motion was seconded by Santarina.

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H. Public Services – Parks & Recreation, 1. Carson Day Camp - round down all resident fees if not even dollar amount, if \$38.50 then \$38.00, etc.

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F. Economic Development – Planning

Administrative Services General Manager Acosta stated that the Planning fees were not full cost recovery and that there was significant room to increase them in line with other cities to full cost and would bring back more information with a more comprehensive survey.

Mayor Dear requested that the Appeal of Planning Commission Decision be added to the list for consideration.

Council Member Davis-Holmes offered a substitute motion that the \$3.00 non-resident fee be charged to keep in line with the other pools which was accepted by Dear and Santarina.

Mayor Dear offered a substitute motion as follows:

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H. Public Services – Parks and Recreation, b. Recreation Swim (Carson & Scott), Resident fee \$1.25, Non-Resident fee \$3.00 and (Dominguez & Hemingway), Resident fee \$1.50, Non-Resident fee \$6.00.

Upon inquiry, Administrative Services General Manager Acosta stated that she would provide a memo regarding the status of the Special Interest Classes and the appeal hearing of City of Dana Point.

City Treasurer Avilla suggested that staff develop a uniform policy or uniform criteria for determining a resident versus a non-resident.

Upon inquiry, Administrative Services General Manager Acosta stated that she would bring back the planning fees at the next budget meeting and that once the resolution of fees were adopted, she would make the resolution available in the Recreation Guide, the Carson Report, and the city website.

Council Member Santarina referred to Triangle Page 13, H. Public Services, Social Services, 2. Special Needs Events for clarification of the meaning of Special Needs Events. Whereupon, Administrative Services General Manager Acosta stated that the Special Needs Program was for adults who were handicapped or mentally or physically challenged.

Mayor Pro Tem Santarina requested that the Special Needs Events be re-titled so that it would be helpful for people to understand that it was for challenged individuals.

The substitute motion was 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

**RECESS:** The City Council was Recessed at 8:48 P.M. by Mayor Dear.

**RECONVENE:** The City Council was Reconvened at 9:13 P.M. by Mayor Dear with all members previously noted present.

Mayor Dear stated that the Transportation Department was reorganizing and explained that employee layoffs were not preferred and that this item would be brought back for Council discussion.

**ITEM NO. (3) PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY 2010/2011 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF FY 2010/11 GENERAL FUND BUDGET (ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES)**

Mayor Dear declared the Public Hearing open regarding the **FY 2010/11 GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF FY 2010/11 GENERAL FUND BUDGET.**

**City Clerk Report**

Chief Deputy City Clerk Higaki reported that notice of the Public Hearing had been given pursuant to applicable law, including but not limited to the timely publication, and such copy of proof received by the City Clerk; postings as required by law and other mailings as requested by individuals and organizations. The affidavits attesting to mailing and publishing such notice were on file in the City Clerk's Office. No written communications were received.

(Council Member Davis-Holmes exited the meeting at 9:15 P.M.)

Mayor Dear directed that all affidavits of notice be made part of the record.

City Manager Groomes summarized the staff report and recommendation and requested that this item be continued to July 20, 2010.

(Council Member Davis-Holmes reentered the meeting at 9:16 P.M.)

**Administration of Oath**

Mayor Dear requested that all persons wishing to testify to stand and take the Oath. There being no persons wishing to testify, Mayor Dear ordered the public hearing continued with no objections heard.

RECOMMENDATION for the City Council:

TAKE the following actions:

1. OPEN the Public Hearing, TAKE public testimony, and CONTINUE the Public Hearing to a date to be determined this evening.
2. CONSIDER and PROVIDE direction regarding the general fund budget for FY 2010/11.

ACTION: Mayor Dear ordered the public hearing continued to July 20, 2010, to be held in the Council Chambers, Carson City Hall, located at 701 E. Carson Street, Carson, California 90745, with no objections heard.

#### **WORKSHOP (Item 4)**

#### **ITEM NO. (4) CONSIDERATION OF COST SAVING MEASURES AND/OR REVENUE ENHANCEMENTS FOR FY 2009/10 AND FY 2010/11 (ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES)**

City Manager Groomes summarized the staff report and recommendation.

He referred to Triangle Page 6, Subtotals after Item N3 and Grand Total, which were based on actions to date which impacted the current year ending June 30, 2010 with the General Fund which resulted to over \$1.3 million of impact savings and reduced the shortfall from the \$9 million by about \$1.3 to \$7.7 million. For next fiscal year starting July 1, 2010, actions taken to date yielded about \$5 million net positive impact to the General Fund with a projected \$8.5 million shortfall for next year.

He stated that there would be additional revenue or expenditure cuts of about \$1 million recommended this evening for discussion and that there were outstanding negotiations related to the labor agreements which have not been factored in.

Additionally, there were funds to be received related to outstanding deposits and unclaimed deposits which would be cumulatively significant and that a notice would be published in the paper identifying them for anyone who was entitled to be reimbursed. Deposits that were not claimed would be retained and added to the General Fund balance.

Administrative Services General Manager Acosta confirmed those deposits belonging to the city without noticing was \$1.6 million and the actual amount to be published was \$717,000.

City Manager Groomes stated that there would be an item on the July 20, 2010 agenda regarding the proposed ordinance concerning the trash collection renegade hauler requesting Waste Management to consider an agreement extension for one additional five year period.

The staff recommendation would be to include consideration that Waste Management would offer to pay the city \$2 million for the benefit of the extension.

#### **Public Comments**

Isabella Meni, 1622 E. 215<sup>th</sup> Place, Carson, California 90745, representing AFSCME Local 809, requested that the City Council reconsider the Park Enforcement Team and suspend for one year.

Bill Smalley, 17700 Avalon Boulevard #111, Carson, California 90746, suggested that the Council retain the Park Enforcement Team; opposed to employee furloughs and layoffs; and referred to Triangle Page 6, Item No. 42, Dial-A-Ride program regarding number three to consider income requirements, that it did not express what the income requirements were at state level or not.

Dr. Boggs, referred to Item No. 42, Modify the Dial-A-Ride program and requested that Council support the seniors who should not be denied services, and referred to Item No. 88, Consider reductions to the leave redemption program for all employees, that must be reduced. She also stated that she was opposed to any tax increase.

Administrative Services General Manager Acosta discussed, Item No. 79, Efficiency Study recommendations, that was completed and results of the study was released. There were approximately 51 items of recommendations from the study. Some items would be considered and implemented and some not recommending at this time. She presented the following items:

- Foregoing of all special events for 2010/2011 with \$450,000 savings (previously acted on)
- Reduction of the part-time hours in Parks and Recreation (previously acted on)
- Recommend increase of youth sports fees and increase room rental rates at the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center (included in the schedule of fees)
- Recommend adding to list combining the Recreation Guide and Carson Report as one document and reduce mailings from 7 per year to 4 per year with cost savings of \$12,000 (Efficiency Study Recommendation)
- Recommend adding to list reduction of staffing in the Public Information Office by one Graphic Artist position by FY 2011/12 (Efficiency Study Recommendation)
- Recommend adding to list consolidation of the Risk Management operations into one division within the Administrative Services Work Group, resulting in the reduction of one full-time Risk Management Analyst position, effective January 2011 (Efficiency Study Recommendation)

There would be further research and discussion on the other items.

Council Member Davis-Holmes requested that staff provide more information and bring back a report to include 1) number of clerical staff citywide, 2) number of employees in the Administrative Services Work Group, and 3) items to be implemented or not from the Efficiency Study recommendations.

Upon inquiry, City Manager Groomes stated that the Efficiency Study Report was shared with all city staff and that a copy was available in the City Clerk's Office.

### **Public Comments**

Dr. Rita Boggs inquired about the cost of the Efficiency Study and referred to a Daily Breeze article related to a table of all the cities in the South Bay regarding payout of code

enforcement services and that the city was paying more and getting less and was on the top of the list of the South Bay.

Mayor Dear requested staff to research and requested a copy of the Daily Breeze article.

City Manager Groomes responded that \$86,000 was paid which represents half of the total contract amount connected to the recommendations summarized by Administrative Services General Manager Acosta which was \$1 million savings. There was a total of \$83,000 spent. He clarified that the city's code enforcement was not for raising money but for keeping the city clean.

Captain Abram offered her heartfelt feelings to the city employees facing reductions along with the county employees. She discussed the infiltration of gangs and requested support to retain the Park Enforcement Team and discussed the program and plan of action.

Council Member Santarina suggested that another workshop be held with Captain Abram, Parks and Recreation Director, and staff to discuss and address issues.

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 June 29, 2010."
2. APPROVE all items on Exhibit No. 1 under the section header "Items recommended for approval on June 29, 2010."

ACTION: The City Council took the following actions:

It was moved for Captain Abram to bring back options with an action plan and continue the Park Enforcement Team item to a workshop or next budget meeting on motion of Davis-Holmes and seconded by Santarina.

Mayor Dear ordered this item continued, with no objections heard.

(Council Member Gipson exited the meeting at 10:49 P.M. and reentered the meeting at 10:50 P.M.)

City Manager Groomes stated that furloughs would be discussed at the next meeting and that meet and confer would be held tomorrow. The next budget meeting would be held the week of July 12 and would include the results of the meet and confer meetings.

Council Member Ruiz-Raber requested more information regarding the North/Shuttle and Dial-A-Ride program.

It was moved to authorize the increase of \$325,000 from the Gas Tax Fund to the General Fund on motion of Santarina, seconded by Gipson and 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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was Adjourned at 11:01 P.M. by Mayor Dear.

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Mayor Jim Dear

ATTEST:

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City Clerk Helen Kawagoe