

**Minutes
Santee City Council
Council Chamber – Building 2
10601 Magnolia Avenue
Santee, California
June 16, 2020**

This Special Meeting of the Santee City Council was called to order by Mayor John W. Minto at 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor John W. Minto, Vice Mayor Laura Koval and Council Members Stephen Houlahan and Rob McNelis – 4. Absent: Council Member Ronn Hall – 1.

Officers present: City Manager Marlene Best, City Attorney Shawn Hagerty, and City Clerk Annette Ortiz.

2. Budget Workshop

The City Manager introduced the Item and the Finance Director provided a PowerPoint presentation; each Department Head made brief comments regarding their department's budget.

City Council recessed at 6:15 p.m. and reconvened at 6:20 p.m. due technical difficulties.

Public Speakers:

- Shelley Lund
- Joshua Petrie
- Theresa McCarthy
- Daniel Bickford

Vice Mayor Koval thanked staff for their hard work on the proposed budget; commented on a SANDAG study of the projections for economic recovery using a U-shaped recovery but has seen other reports projecting a V-shaped recovery; she inquired who the City collaborated with to determine the City's projections; she referenced a SANDAG report which detailed the City's employment sector and requested staff reach out to the businesses regarding Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding; she requested the City consider prioritizing a Development Impact Fee study to ensure the City is charging the appropriate fees; she inquired whether the City could benefit from CARES Act funding to assist with infrastructure projects; she suggested using commercial space to offer services for seniors and inquired whether delaying Phase 1 of the Community Center would result in a cost savings.

Council Member McNelis stated he is cautious to rely on the current projections for economic recovery and appreciates staff looking at it in a U-shaped recovery; he

expressed concerns regarding property tax increases, due to a 35 percent reduction in housing availability in San Diego County.

City Council recessed at 6:50 p.m. and reconvened at 6:54 p.m. due to technical difficulties.

Council Member McNelis requested clarification between other fee studies that have been conducted during his tenure as a Council Member; he inquired how the fees are legally spent and allocated based on how the fees are collected and suggested deferring the Development Impact Fee study until next Fiscal Year.

Council Member Houlahan thanked the Fire Chief for his help in modifying the County Service Area 69 contract; he suggested making efficiencies through joining a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program, such as getting electric vehicles for the City and using the CCA to pay for charging stations, as well as finding ways to reduce electric costs to City buildings; he suggested the City consider changing the franchise fee/agreement for waste hauling services; he stated Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) would be receiving CARES Act money and the City should look to improving trolley ridership.

Mayor Minto thanked staff for their hard work on the budget; he stated the City is exploring other industries that bring diversity in jobs within the City; he is interested in more training to help place people in jobs.

Vice Mayor Koval stated Santee's unemployment rate has fared better than other City's; she also added that while a CCA is a priority for the Council, she does not want to give false hopes that a CCA would be profitable in the first year and it may take time to return the City's investment; she urged the City to be cautious on timing when entering into a CCA agreement, and expressed concerns with having a voting structure similar to SANDAG; she mentioned the example of Solana Beach's CCA raising rates.

3. CARES Act:

The City Manager introduced the Item and the Finance Director provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to Council questions.

Mayor Minto stated he supports finding ways to help businesses that are required to do tenant improvements in order to reopen; he mentioned he would like to make sure City Hall is properly set up to be safe and sanitary to help as many people as we can moving forward; he would also like to make sure the parks are safe for citizens to enjoy.

Council Member Houlahan stated he wants to prioritize businesses which have been closed and need improvements to reopen; he urged the City to be a model on how to respond to the current events; he suggested the money be used for outreach and awareness; he supports using the money for a public restroom at City Hall; he wants to keep children safe at parks with fencing and other improvements; he encouraged providing assistance to service organizations like Santee Santa's and the Santee Food

bank; he suggested using some of the funds for rental assistance; he also requested a banner to help demonstrate racial harmony.

Mayor Minto added, he would like staff to reach out to dental offices and other medical offices which are required to make changes in order to reopen.

Vice Mayor Koval suggesting using the Santee Chamber Magazine to help businesses with free advertising; she commended staff for prioritizing Personal Protective Equipment improvements and sanitation prioritization; she requested making employment centers a priority; she suggested using part of the funds for rental assistance; she also inquired about more information related to a food truck event.

Council Member McNelis concurred that the City should prioritize helping small businesses that are required to make improvements or changes to reopen; he does not support building a new bathroom at City Hall due to the cost, he suggested using existing facilities in the City's community rooms instead; he supports the idea of creating an event to highlight local restaurants and food trucks; he mentioned the idea of utilizing the Santee Chamber Magazine to provide advertising for businesses is a great idea.

Vice Koval agreed with Council Member McNelis on utilizing existing City facilities to provide a public restroom at City Hall.

The City Manager clarified the concept of the food truck event.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Prepared By:


James Jeffries, Assistant City Clerk

Date Approved: August 12, 2020


Annette Ortiz, CMC, City Clerk