

**Minutes  
Santee City Council  
Council Chamber – Building 2  
10601 Magnolia Avenue  
Santee, California  
June 10, 2020**

This Regular Meeting of the Santee City Council was called to order by Mayor John W. Minto at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Mayor John W. Minto, Vice Mayor Laura Koval and Council Members Ronn Hall, Stephen Houlahan and Rob McNelis – 5.

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

**INVOCATION** was given by Gary Lawton – Calvary Chapel Santee

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Mayor Minto.

Mayor Minto made a brief statement commending the Council Members, citizens and Sheriff personnel for their professionalism and patience during these challenging times.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Council Member McNelis registered an abstention from Item 4. Council Member Hall registered an abstention from Item 5. The City Clerk announced that public comments were submitted for Items 4, 8, and 9.

- (1) **Approval of Reading by Title Only and Waiver of Reading in Full of Ordinances and Resolutions on the Agenda.**
- (2) **Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Santee City Council for the April 22, 2020, Regular Meeting. (City Clerk – Ortiz)**
- (3) **Approval of Payment of Demands as Presented. (Finance – McDermott)**
- (4) **Item Pulled for Discussion.**
- (5) **Resolutions Approving the Engineer's Report and Declaring the City Council's Intention to Levy Assessments and Setting a Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Town Center Landscape Maintenance District Annual Levy of Assessments. (Finance – McDermott)**
- (6) **Resolutions Approving the Engineer's Report and Declaring the City Council's Intention to Levy Assessments and Setting a Public Hearing**

for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Santee Roadway Lighting District Annual Levy of Assessments. (Finance – McDermott)

- (7) Rejection of Bid for Fountain Maintenance and Repairs RFB #20/21-20043. (Community Services – Maertz)
- (8) Item Pulled for Discussion.
- (9) Item Pulled for Discussion.

**ACTION:** Council Member Houlahan moved approval of the Consent Calendar with the exception of Item 4, 8, and 9.

Council Member Hall seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye; Vice Mayor Koval: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Aye; Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes: 5. Noes: 0.

Council Member Hall abstained from Item 5.

Items Pulled from Consent Calendar:

- (4) **Item Pulled for Discussion Resolutions Approving the Engineer's Report, and Declaring the City Council's Intention to Levy Assessments and Setting a Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Santee Landscape Maintenance District Annual Levy of Assessments. (Finance – McDermott)**

Council Member McNelis registered an abstention, muted his microphone and turned off his camera.

**PUBLIC SPEAKER:**

- Michele Perchez

**ACTION:** Council Member Houlahan moved approval of staff recommendation.

Council Member Hall seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye; Vice Mayor Koval: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Aye; Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Abstain. Ayes: 4. Noes: 0. Abstain: 1.

Council Member McNelis rejoined the meeting.

- (8) **Authorize a Second Amendment to the Agreement for Professional Services Between the City of Santee and Fireworks & Stage FX America for an Amount not to Exceed \$30,000.00. (Community Services – Maertz)**

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

- Brett Pepin
- Heather Pepin
- Mary Hyder

**ACTION:** Council Member Houlahan moved approval of staff recommendation.

Council Member McNelis seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye; Vice Mayor Koval: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Aye; Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes: 5. Noes: 0.

- (9) **Second Reading and Adoption of an Ordinance Adding Chapter 2.40.150 “Electronic and Paperless Filing of Fair Political Practices Commission Campaign Disclosure Statements” to Title 2 of the Santee Municipal Code Relating to Electronic and Paperless Filing of Fair Political Practices Commission Campaign Disclosure Statements. (City Clerk – Ortiz)**

**PUBLIC SPEAKER:**

- Mary Hyder

**ACTION:** Council Member Houlahan moved approval of staff recommendation.

Council Member McNelis seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye; Vice Mayor Koval: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Aye; Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes: 5. Noes: 0.

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT: (15 minutes)**

- (A) Rudy Reyes expressed concerns related to racism in Santee.
- (B) Keanu Aholelei expressed concerns about the skatepark at Woodglen Vista Park.
- (C) Alison Liebrecht provided suggestions on how to help bring the community together.
- (D) Anonymous expressed concerns with individuals in front of local businesses during protests.
- (E) Daniel Bickford expressed concerns with a comment made by Council Member Hall during the June 5, 2020 Emergency Meeting.

Council Member Houlahan moved to reorder Council Reports to be heard after the first portion of Non-Agenda Public Comment.

Council Member McNelis seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye; Vice Mayor Koval: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Aye; Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes: 5. Noes: 0.

**CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Council Members made brief comments regarding the civil unrest; how the situation was handled, how the situation personally affected them and helped them grow and understand; and how Santee can do better as a City and community.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

- (10) **Public Hearing for Conditional Use Permit (P2017-1) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (AEIS2017-2) and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program Prepared Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act for a 6,267-Square-Foot Commercial Retail Building Consisting of a Convenience Store and a Drive-Through Coffee Shop on a 1.02-Acre Vacant Parcel of Land Located at 8606 Graves Avenue in the General Commercial (GC) Zone (APN: 384-142-21). Applicant: Michael A. Grant. (Development Services – Kush)**

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:52 p.m. The Director of Development Services introduced the Item and the Associate Planner provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to Council questions.

**PUBLIC SPEAKER:**

- Nicole Boghossian
- Lyndsey Brown
- Jeff Hughes
- Mary Hyder
- Mike
- Thao Hughes
- Richard J. Moyer III, Psy.D., provided photos

**ACTION:** Council Member McNelis moved approval of staff recommendation.

Vice Mayor Koval seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye; Vice Mayor Koval: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Aye; Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes: 5. Noes: 0.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:40 p.m.

- (11) **Resolution Amending the Program Year (PY) 2019 Annual Action Plan and Approving an Amendment to the Citizen and Community Participation Plan. (Development Services – Kush)**

The Public Hearing was opened at 8:41 p.m. The Director of Development Services introduced the Item and the Senior Management Analyst provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to Council questions.

**PUBLIC SPEAKER:**

- Mary Hyder

**ACTION:** Council Member McNelis moved approval of staff recommendation.

Vice Mayor Koval seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye; Vice Mayor Koval: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Aye; Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes: 5. Noes: 0.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:45 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**(12) Alternative Measure Establishing City Council Term Limits. (City Attorney – Hagerty)**

The City Attorney introduced the Item, presented the staff report and responded to Council questions.

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

- Anonymous
- Christina Deesen
- Daniel Bickford, Santee Term Limits Committee
- Evlyn Andrade
- Janet Garvin
- Janet McLees
- Loretta Cole
- Lori Scribner
- Mary Hyder
- Michele Perchez
- Patti La Bouff
- Elizabeth Walk
- Samson Osburn

Council Member Houlahan opposed an alternative measure, stating citizens already gathered signatures and qualified an initiative for the ballot in November.

**FAILED MOTION:** Council Member Houlahan moved to not adopt the Resolution.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Vice Mayor Koval stated the citizen initiative would put the City at a disadvantage when it comes to representation at SANDAG and other agencies if the Council representation changes so often.

Council Member Hall suggested making a hybrid of the citizen initiative and Council term

limit Resolution by allowing a four-term limit maximum regardless of being a City Council Member or Mayor.

Council Member McNelis stressed the importance of having Council Members with institutional knowledge and history; he stated that at times staffers at the State and local level have more influence and power because of the longevity in their positions; he referenced his experience on the Heartland Fire Training Facility Authority Commission; he mentioned that any Council Member could be replaced at any time as a result of a recall or election; he also stated this would provide an option to voters who want term limits but that he does not support the citizen initiative.

Mayor Minto referenced how the proposed Resolution would be more similar to the term limits of the State Legislature; he stated he has seen new Mayors and Council Members not be effective when they are representing their City on a State or local level; he also mentioned that giving the citizens a choice is a good thing; he stressed the importance for seasoned Council Members to train new Council Members so they can be successful.

**ACTION:** Council Member McNelis moved approval to adopt the Resolution.

Mayor Minto seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye; Vice Mayor Koval: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Aye; Houlahan: No, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes: 4. Noes: 1.

**(13) Resolution Amending the Management Services Agreement of the City Clerk. (Human Resources – Hardy)**

The Director of Human Resources provided a brief staff report.

**PUBLIC SPEAKER:**

- Mary Hyder

Council Member Houlahan stated that the City Clerk has been an incredible addition to the City and has been an innovator by bringing new services to the City.

**ACTION:** Council Member Houlahan moved approval of staff recommendation.

Council Member Hall seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye; Vice Mayor Koval: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Aye, Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes: 5. Noes: 0.

**(14) Acceptance of the Draft 2020-2024 San Diego Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and Authorize the City Manager to Certify its Completion. (Development Services – Kush)**

The Director of Development Services introduced the Item and the Senior Management Analyst provided a PowerPoint presentation.

**ACTION:** Council Member McNelis moved approval of staff recommendation.

Council Member Hall seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye; Vice Mayor Koval: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Aye; Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes: 5. Noes: 0.

**(15) Resolution Awarding the Construction Contract for the Mission Gorge Road Streetlight Project CIP 2017-02, HSIPL 5429 (030) and Appropriating Santee Roadway Lighting District Zone A Funds. (Development Services – Kush)**

Vice Mayor Koval registered an abstention, turned off her microphone and camera.

The Director of Development Services introduced the Item.

**ACTION:** Council Member McNelis moved approval of staff recommendation.

Council Member Houlahan seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye, Vice Mayor Koval: Abstain and Council Members Hall: Aye; Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes:4. Noes: 0. Abstain: 1

Vice Mayor Koval rejoined the meeting.

**(16) Resolution Awarding the Construction Contract for the School Area Streetlight Project CIP 2017-03, HSIPL 5429 (031) and Appropriating Santee Roadway Lighting District Zone A Funds. (Development Services – Kush)**

Council Member Hall registered an abstention, turned off his microphone and camera.

The Director of Development Services introduced the Item.

**ACTION:** Council Member McNelis moved approval of staff recommendation.

Council Member Houlahan seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye, Vice Mayor Koval: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Abstain, Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes:4. Noes: 0. Abstain: 1.

**(17) Resolution Authorizing Award of the Contract for Landscape and Horticultural Management Services for Area 1 (City Parks and Facilities) to Steven Smith Landscape Incorporated Per RFP #20/21-40018. (Community Services – Maertz)**

Vice Mayor Koval and Council Member Hall registered an abstention, turned off their microphones and cameras.

The Director of Community Services introduced the Item and the Senior Management Analyst provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to Council questions.

**ACTION:** Council Member Houlahan moved approval of staff recommendation.

Council Member McNelis seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye, Vice Mayor Koval: Abstain, and Council Members Hall: Abstain, Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Ayes: 3. Noes: 0. Abstain: 2.

Vice Mayor Koval and Council Member Hall rejoined the meeting.

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT: (Continued)**

- (A) Anonymous expressed concerns with a comment made by Council Member Hall during the June 5, 2020 Emergency Meeting.
- (B) Anonymous expressed concerns with a comment made by Council Member Hall during the June 5, 2020 Emergency Meeting.
- (C) Christopher Bout thanked the City Council and Staff for their work during protests.
- (D) Gary Buzel expressed concerns with a comment made by Council Member Hall during the June 5, 2020 Emergency Meeting and requested more updates regarding civil unrest.
- (E) Ted DuVall expressed concerns with racist symbols and acts in Santee.
- (F) Eid Fakhouri expressed concerns related to racism and commented on his experience during protests in Santee.
- (G) Erin D. expressed concerns related to the Confederate flag.
- (H) Michael Evans-Layng, PhD expressed concerns related to the American flag.
- (I) Gloria Jardon expressed concerns regarding racism and intolerance; she also provided suggestions on how to address the issue.
- (J) Kimberly Hansen expressed concerns related to racism and the Confederate flag.
- (K) Joan Irving suggested the City Council ban Confederate images.
- (L) Lynda Marrokal thanked the Mayor, Council and staff for their work and addressed a comment made by Council Member Hall during the June 5, 2020 Emergency Meeting.
- (M) Mike Forzano addressed issues between individuals protesting and individuals wanting to defend businesses.
- (N) Michael Ranson expressed concerns that there will be accusations of corruption and deception related to Fanita Ranch and requested the City make the public comment portion of the Environment Impact Report review easy for the citizens to access.
- (O) Rudy Reyes expressed concerns related to racism during the curfew.
- (P) Caillie Roach expressed concerns related to racists acts in Santee and a comment made by Council Member Hall during the June 5, 2020 Emergency Meeting.
- (Q) Rob Schick stated he would defend his home if Antifa threatens to cause harm.



- (R) Ryn Corbeil suggested Council denounce the display of the Confederate flag.
- (S) August Scalzitti expressed concerns about the Carlton Oaks Golf Course and changing the General Plan for development projects.
- (T) Justin Schlaefli expressed concerns related to a comment Council Member Hall made during the June 5, 2020 Emergency Meeting.
- (U) Steve Stelman commended the Mayor on the appointees to the Community Oriented Policing Committee and requested improved communication from the Sheriff's Department on incidents of intolerance.
- (V) Teresa Van Devere urged the City Council to not defund the Sheriff's Department.
- (W) Elizabeth Vaughan commended the peaceful protests on Sunday, June 7, 2020.
- (X) Mike Vecchio expressed concerns with individuals protesting and individuals wanting to defend businesses; he commended the Mayor, Council and Sheriff for their efforts in making the City safe.
- (Y) Jenilee Viloso expressed concerns related to the Confederate flag and urged the Council denounce displays of the Confederate flag.
- (Z) Mike Aiken commended the Mayor and Council for their leadership during the recent protests.
- (AA) Rob Vigil requested the City help revitalize the Santana National and Santee Pioneer baseball fields.

Council Member Houlahan thanked the public for taking the opportunity to communicate with the Council; he expressed his hopes that the Council can rise to the task of bridging racial relations in the City; he mentioned that after this experience things will change and must change; he wanted to speak with the individuals who came out to protect businesses in Santee, however vigilantism is dangerous; he spoke with members of the "Defender" group and commended the speaker in that group for his leadership after seeing violent acts; he encouraged the public to use their 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights to freedom of speech.

Vice Mayor Koval clarified that the American flag is the flag of Santee and addressed comments related to the Confederate flag.

Mayor Minto addressed the displays of the Confederate flag.

#### **CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:**

This item was moved to be heard after the first session of Non-Agenda Public Comment.

#### **CITY MANAGER REPORTS:**

None.

#### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:**

None.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Council Members recessed at 10:29 p.m. and convened in Closed Session at 10:34 p.m.

**(18) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION**

(Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1))

Name of case: Preserve Wild Santee, Climate Action Campaign, and  
Center for Biological Diversity v. City of Santee et al.

Case Number: 37-2020-00007331-CU-TT-CLT

Council Members reconvened in Open Session at 11:02 p.m. with all members present. Mayor Minto reported that direction was given to staff on Item 18.


**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 p.m.

Prepared By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Jeffries, Assistant City Clerk

Date Approved: August 12, 2020

  
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Annette Ortiz, CMC, City Clerk