

City of Chula Vista

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, November 6, 2014

4:00 PM

Council Chambers
276 4th Avenue, Building A
Chula Vista, CA 91910

REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Workshop Meeting of the City Council of the City of Chula Vista was called to order at 4:03 p.m. in the Council Chambers, located in City Hall, 276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, California.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Deputy Mayor Aguilar, Councilmember Bensoussan, Councilmember Ramirez, Councilmember Salas and Mayor Cox

Councilmember Ramirez arrived at 4:09 p.m.

Also Present: City Manager Halbert, City Attorney Googins, City Clerk Norris, and Assistant City Clerk Bigelow

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilmember Salas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

WORKSHOP

14-0621 HOMELESSNESS IN OUR REGION

Staff will present an update on the homeless population within the City of Chula Vista, the complex social issues associated with homelessness, and the City's current efforts to improve the lives of those at risk or experiencing homelessness and reducing the impacts of homelessness on the community.

City Manager Halbert and Deputy City Manager Kachadoorian introduced the item.

Housing Manager Hines presented information on the homeless population within Chula Vista and the San Diego County region.

Lieutenant Redmond presented information on the impacts of homelessness in the Chula Vista community. He provided information on calls for service and transient hotspots.

Housing Manager Hines spoke regarding the homeless services offered through the Development Services Department and local service organizations. She presented information on alternative housing best practices.

Housing Manager Hines stated that four issues associated with unsheltered persons are: congregation and use of public facilities, littering, panhandling and solicitation, and public misconduct. She and Lieutenant Redmond spoke regarding the following best practices implemented to address the issues: educating the community and staff, community policing through environmental design, cleanup and shut down of encampments, and restricting public feeding of transients. Lieutenant Redmond also spoke regarding other efforts to address issues associated with unsheltered persons. Housing Manager Hines presented information on how community members could get involved to help address the issues.

Councilmember Ramirez expressed concern regarding the resources used to address issues related to homelessness and suggested staff investigate ordinances and other potential tools to address the issues.

Chief Bejarano spoke regarding the Police Department response and programs related to addressing homelessness issues in the community, such as the Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) program.

City Attorney Googins provided information regarding the importance of enforcing laws consistently.

Councilmember Salas spoke regarding the social cost and impact on City and other community services, such as hospitals.

Councilmember Bensoussan acknowledged the Police Department and its work with the PERT program. She suggested investigating the cost of providing housing in relation to the cost of providing services to members of the homeless population.

In response to a question from Deputy Mayor Aguilar, Chief Bejarano stated there was not a significant change in the level of homelessness due to AB109, Public Safety Realignment. In response to Deputy Mayor Aguilar, City Attorney Googins and Chief Bejarano discussed potential impacts based on the passage of Prop 47, the Reduced Penalties for Some Crimes Initiative. She requested a report in six to twelve months on the impact of Prop 47.

Councilmember Ramirez spoke regarding the need to consider new, innovative programs and services.

Councilmember Salas suggested investigating potential funds available to assist homeless veterans.

Mayor Cox commended staff on its efforts to address the issues related to homelessness.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:32 p.m., Mayor Cox adjourned the meeting to the Regular City Council Meeting on November 18, 2014, at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

Kerry K. Bigelow, Assistant City Clerk