

CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
September 1, 2020
SOUTH EL MONTE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1415 N. SANTA ANITA AVENUE
SOUTH EL MONTE, CA 91733

1. ROLL CALL

Chairperson Romo called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Blanco, Duarte, Ortega, and Chairperson Romo

ABSENT: Commissioners: Aguilar, Diaz, and Raygoza-Covarrubias

Also present: Jayson Perez, Recreation Coordinator; and Noelia Saucedo, Senior Recreation Leader.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Duarte led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PRESENTATIONS None.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Duarte, seconded by Ortega and carried 4-0 “absent” (Aguilar, Diaz, and Raygoza-Covarrubias) to approve the agenda.

AYES: Blanco, Duarte, Ortega, and Chairperson Romo

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Aguilar, Diaz, and Vice-Chairperson Raygoza Covarrubias

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairperson Romo opened public comments.

Mayor Olmos thanked the Community Services Commission for their services. She asked that the Community Services Commission come out to support the Census team at the next couple of events. Mayor Olmos thanked Chairperson Romo for her support with Census car parade and at the Census event that took place on Merced Avenue and Hayward Way.

Chairperson Romo closed public comments.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Adjourned Regular Meeting - March 3, 2020

A motion was made by Duarte, seconded by Romo and carried 3-0 “absent” (Aguilar, Diaz, and Raygoza-Covarrubias) to approve the above referred minutes. Commissioner Ortega sustained from voting and asked Miss Saucedo if she can verify if he was absent at the March 3rd meeting. He stated that he attended the meeting.

AYES: Blanco, Duarte, and Chairperson Romo
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Aguilar, Diaz, and Raygoza-Covarrubias
SUSTAINED: Ortega

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None.

8. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

8.a. **COMMUNITY SERVICES MONTHLY INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Mr. Perez reported on the Community Services Department activities for the month of August.

8.b. **Report on Department's Programming during COVID-19**

Mr. Perez presented a report that listed events that were either cancelled or modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He mentioned that the City has modified the following events: Memorial Day, Patriots Day, Veteran's Day, Harvest Festival, and the Toy Drive.

Mr. Perez stated that the 5K has been cancelled for this year.

Mr. Perez stated that that for the time being the Youth Basketball program has been cancelled for this fiscal year due to recommendations that came from Los Angeles County Public Health Department. He mentioned the T-Ball is still on hold depending on the state's and county's recommendation.

Mr. Perez announced that the Recreation Department has virtual programs and classes for example; 10K step challenge, talent show, and Little Mr. and Miss South El Monte Virtual Baby Pageant.

Mr. Perez stated that the Senior Services Division has been closed to the public since Monday, March 16th for the health and safety of the seniors. He mentioned that the senior center has been providing home delivered meals to safeguard seniors from having to leave their home to secure a meal. He mentioned that seniors receive 5 frozen meals a week. Mr. Perez mentioned that the senior center will be hosting Grandparents Day Drive-Thru on Thursday, September 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Commissioner Ortega asked if the City is prepared to host programs if Los Angeles County and Governor Newsom lifts the COVID-19 restriction. Mr. Perez stated that the department will be prepared if restrictions are lifted.

Mr. Perez stated that the skate park and tennis courts have been opened with modifications.

Commissioner Ortega stated that the City parks have signs posted notifying residents that they are closed to the public. He also mentioned that he has noticed that there have been residents coming to the park. He asked who enforces this and tells residents that the parks are closed due to the pandemic. Mr. Perez stated that it would be Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and the City Manager.

Commissioner Ortega asked if the boxing gym is closed to the public. City Manager Barbosa stated that the boxing gym is closed to the public.

Mayor Gloria Olmos answered Commissioner Ortega's question regarding the City parks being closed. She stated that the parks are closed.

Commissioner Blanco asked who cooks the meals that are being delivered to the seniors. City Manager Barbosa stated that Huntington Culinary still provides the meals, but there are certain frozen meals they do not cook. She stated that Huntington Culinary does not have the capability of freezing them in mass production, so this means that Huntington Culinary works with another vendor who is located in the City of West Covina.

Chairperson Romo suggested having volunteers do some cards to send to the senior with their lunch meals. That maybe it will lift up the seniors' spirit a little bit.

9. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Ortega suggested having a community group walk. Mayor Gloria Olmos stated the issues with that activity due to the pandemic and social distancing requirements.

Commissioner Blanco wanted to thank the Senior Services Department for sending the (PPE's) Personal Protective Equipment to all the seniors that are receiving the meals.

Mr. Perez reminded that Commissioners Comments is meant for the commissioners to report on meetings attended at City expense (for example, City events, conferences, etc.) He asked that any ideas or recommendation regarding programming should be placed on the agenda to be discussed at the commission meetings.

Commissioner Duarte asked for clarification on commissioners' comments. He asked if someone on the commission brings an idea regarding programming it can be discussed under commissioners' comments. City Manager Barbosa stated that the City Council along with the Planning, Patriotic, and Community Services Commissions follow the Brown Act. Therefore, it is required that any agenda items should be placed on.

10. COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA

a. CHAIRPERSON CESIAH ROMO

1. Possibility to start a food bank in South El Monte

Chairperson Romo asked if the City can compose a list of food banks around the community and post it on the City Website. She stated that Pastor Charlie's church only gives food baskets on Wednesdays and the San Gabriel Valley Senior and Community Services Center only gives food baskets on Mondays.

2. Make "SEM Count" 2020 Census Activities

Chairperson Romo mentioned that she pleased with City for making successful activities to help promote the 2020 Census. She mentioned that she and her family participated in the City's Census Car Parade.

- b. **VICE-CHAIRPERSON YOBANA RAYGOZA-COVARRUBIAS**
 - 1. Commissioners partake in a zoom training

Miss Saucedo stated that a zoom workshop has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th at 6:00 p.m. She mentioned that the training will be scheduled on the day that there should be a regular commission meeting, but will be strictly a workshop, therefore she will not be requesting for agenda items.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business coming before this body, Chairperson Romo adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m. to a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.