

WALNUT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pacheco called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: M/Pacheco led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: M/Pacheco, MPT/Ching, C/Freedman, C/Tragarz, C/Wu
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: None

Also present: City Manager Wishner; Assistant City Manager Weiner; Assistant City Manager Rooney; Administrative Services Director Ogawa; City Attorney Leibold; City Engineer Gilbertson; Deputy Community Services Director Jensen; Community Services Superintendent Barcelo; Senior Planner Vasquez; Senior Management Analyst Layman; Senior Management Analyst Guerra; Management Analyst Ramos; Public Information Officer Maio; Administrative Assistant Markel; and City Clerk De Dios

INVOCATION – NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Pastor Dion Kurniadi from City Blessing Church led the invocation.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Proclaiming the Month of July as “Parks and Recreation Month”**

Council proclaimed July 2021, “Parks and Recreation Month” and presented the proclamation to Parks and Recreation Chair Cajulis.

- **Recognition of Outgoing Youth Advisory Commissioners**

Council thanked the following Outgoing Commissioners for their efforts and wished them the best in their future endeavors: Audrey Day, Nisha Lerdsuwanrut, Dustin Shim, Andy Wu, Jeremy Lin, and Maximilian Pollalis.

- **Recognition of Outgoing Planning Commissioner Tony Koo**

Council recognized and thanked Tony Koo for his years of service on the Planning Commission.

- **Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Hatami – Provide update on Countywide crime statistics**

Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Hatami provided information on crimes committed in Los Angeles County.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL:

Joseph Trevizu stated that he would like Council to call for a vote of no confidence for District Attorney Gascón and send a letter to County Chief Executive Office requesting executive action.

Eva Thiel-Maiz provided information from Supervisor Hilda Solis' office.

Christina Pacheco, Gayle Pacheco, and Lucy Yang thanked Mayor Pacheco and acknowledged his efforts in the community while on the City Council.

M/Pacheco shared a summary of the accomplishments of the Mayor and City Council this past year.

There being no further input, it was unanimously moved by Council to close oral communications. Motion carried.

COUNCIL REORGANIZATION:

1. **Annual Reorganization of the City Council to Select the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem**

Recommendation: That the City Council select a Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem in accordance with the prescribed nomination procedures.

CA/Leibold opened the floor for nominations for Mayor of the City of Walnut.

M/Pacheco nominated MPT/Ching for mayor.

VOICE VOTE FOR ERIC CHING AS MAYOR

AYES: **COUNCILMEMBERS:** Ching, Freedman, Pacheco, Tragarz, Wu

NOES: **COUNCILMEMBERS:** None

ABSTAIN: **COUNCILMEMBERS:** None

ABSENT: **COUNCILMEMBERS:** None

There being no further nominations for mayor and it being a majority vote, CA/Leibold declared Eric Ching, Mayor of Walnut.

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The Oath of Office was administered to M/Ching by Pastors Tan, Djuhana, and Lay of City Blessing Church.

M/Ching opened nominations for Mayor Pro Tem.

M/Ching nominated C/Wu for Mayor Pro Tem.

VOICE VOTE FOR DR. ALLEN WU AS MAYOR PRO TEM

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: *Ching, Freedman, Pacheco, Tragarz, Wu*
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*

There being no further nominations for mayor pro tem and it being a majority vote, CA/Leibold declared Dr. Allen Wu, Mayor Pro Tem of Walnut.

The Oath of Office was administered to MPT/Wu by CC/De Dios.

M/Ching thanked his fellow councilmembers and CM/Wishner, ASD/Ogawa, CA/Leibold, ACM/Weiner, and ACM/Rooney for their contributions. He also thanked residents.

MPT/Wu thanked his fellow councilmembers and staff for their efforts.

Council congratulated M/Ching and MPT/Wu, and thanked C/Pacheco for his time as Mayor.

MINUTES

2. Approval of the June 23, 2021 City Council Meeting

MOTION ON ITEM 2

C/Pacheco made a motion to approve Item 2 as amended; seconded by MPT/Wu. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: *Ching, Freedman, Pacheco, Tragarz, Wu*
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: *None*

COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR:

3. **Resolution No. 21-37 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Walnut Allowing Certain Claims and Demands in the Amount of \$889,640.08, Demand No. 162775 through No. 162862, Both Inclusive Fiscal Year 2020-21**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 21-37.

4. **Resolution No. 21-38 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Walnut Allowing Certain Claims and Demands in the Amount of \$287,172.16, Demand No. 162863 through No. 162876, Both Inclusive Fiscal Year 2021-22**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 21-38.

5. **Brookside Project – Adoption of Resolution No. 21-26 denying Conditional Use Permit (CUP) 2015-006 for a Residential Planned Development (RPD) on a 25.8-acre Property located at 800 Meadowpass Road (APN: 8709-093-001, 002, & 003)**

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 21-26; denying CUP 2015-006 for a Residential Planned Development and subsequent development of the Brookside Project.

6. **Appropriation Request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Lighting Open Space Maintenance District (LOSMD) Zone 7 Water Budget**

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Reduce LOSMD Zone 7 Reserves by \$15,000; and
2. Appropriate \$15,000 from General Fund Reserves to LOSMD Zone 7 FY 2020-21 Zone 7 Water (19-7700-6250).

7. **Tract No. 82206 Final Acceptance (808 Francesca Drive)**

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Approve Tract No. 82206;
2. Accept on behalf of the city, the dedication of easements for pedestrian access, fire lane, public utility, sanitary sewer, and ingress and egress purposes so designated on the Final Tract Map;
3. Authorize the City Clerk and City Treasurer to endorse the certificates as shown on the Final Tract Map; and
4. Authorize the Mayor to execute the Subdivision Agreement.

8. **Request for City to convey an open space conservation easement related to the Three Oaks Development to the LOSMD and additional amendments thereto**

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. That the City Council, acting as the legislative body of the City of Walnut, approve the amended Conservation Easement and authorize the City Manager to execute such easement on behalf of the City of Walnut, as the grantor, subject to any minor modifications as may be approved by the City Attorney; and
2. That the City Council, acting as the legislative body of the City's Lighting and Open Space Maintenance District, approve the amended Conservation Easement and authorize the City Manager to execute the certificate of acceptance on behalf of the Lighting and Open Space Maintenance District, as grantee, subject to any minor modifications as may be approved by the City Attorney.

9. Final Acceptance – FY 2020-21 Annual Sidewalk Repairs Project

Recommendation: That the City Council:

1. Accept the work performed by FS Contractors, Inc. for the FY 2020-21 Sidewalk Repairs Project; and
2. Authorize the City Clerk to file the proper "Notice of Completion."

MOTION ON ITEMS 3 – 9

MPT/Wu made a motion to adopt Items 3 - 9; seconded by C/Pacheco. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: Ching, Freedman, Pacheco, Tragarz, Wu
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: None
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS: None
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/TRANSACTION ITEMS:

10. Discussion Regarding Los Angeles County District Attorney Special Directives

Recommendation: That the City Council discuss the information provided in this report and determine whether or not they wish to adopt a formal resolution, send a letter, provide staff with further direction, or take no action.

ASD/Ogawa provided a staff report.

Deputy District Attorney Hatami provided information relating to District Attorney Gascon's policies and expressed concerns regarding those policies.

Undersheriff Tim Murakami expressed concerns regarding the policies of District Attorney Gascon.

Thea Eskey expressed concerns regarding child abuse in Los Angeles County and District Attorney Gascon. She asked for a vote of no confidence of District Attorney Gascon.

Thea Eskey, Karen Roseberry, Skye Girard, John Carson, Lily Chen, Emelda Hernandez, William Harrison, Randel Kwan, Valli Khan, and Joseph Trevizu expressed support for Council to pass a vote of no confidence of District Attorney Gascon.

Randel Kwan congratulated M/Ching and MPT/Wu, and thanked C/Pacheco for his time as mayor.

CC/De Dios stated that she received 31 emails from the following individuals in support for a vote of no confidence for District Attorney Gascon: Jack Wang, Irene Chin, Joyce Lai, Ngee Kon, Rick Wang, Pol Li, Kevin Yu, Lin Hu, Evans Chen, Celia Lee, James Chen, Lusha Lee, Peter Wong, Fanny Han, Connie Lin, Jemmy Ting, Sharon Chu, Jenny Pan, Laurie Jimenez, Regina Afanador, Lucy Zheng, Melanie Yeh, Jasmine Li, Albert Hsu, Ping Qu, Pei Jen Pan, Devon Cormier, Aileen Pi, Angela Brunson, Elton Ko, and Kuochieh Wu.

CC/De Dios stated that the City Clerk's Office received a petition with 425 signatures in support for a vote of no confidence for District Attorney Gascon.

MPT/Wu stated that a majority of the residents he has spoken to have asked for action to stop Gascon. He stated that he is in favor of action.

C/Tragarz expressed concerns with some of the resolution language.

C/Pacheco stated that he feels the resolution is too weak, though he is in favor of a no confidence vote and believes in a stronger resolution.

C/Freedman stated that she does not want to set a precedent by calling for a vote of no confidence on District Attorney Gascon. She stated that if the city becomes adversely affected by Gascon's special directives, she suggested a resolution and letter that demands the repeal of the special directives that negatively impact the city. She expressed concerns regarding section 2c of the resolution.

Captain Tousey provided crime statistics related to Gascon's policies.

M/Ching stated that he is in favor of a vote of no confidence.

Discussion took place amongst Council and staff regarding: options presented to Council, crime statistics for the City, details of the resolution, special directives from District Attorney Gascon, the definition of a vote of no confidence, clarifications of the alternatives and resolution presented.

C/Pacheco would like to delete the second “whereas” of the resolution and bring the matter back to address the directives issued by Gascon.

CM/Wishner stated that staff can amend the resolution as suggested and draft a letter to be sent after Council approval, specifying the reasons why Council took the vote of no confidence.

MOTION ON ITEM 10

C/Pacheco made a motion to approve the resolution as presented with the exception of the second “whereas” and include Sections 1, 2, 2a, 2b, and 2c; seconded by MPT/Wu. Motion carried by the following voice vote:

AYES: *COUNCILMEMBERS: Ching, Pacheco, Tragarz, Wu*
NOES: *COUNCILMEMBERS: Freedman*
ABSTAIN: *COUNCILMEMBERS: None*
ABSENT: *COUNCILMEMBERS: None*

ANNOUNCEMENTS (COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF):

A. Councilmembers’ report on meetings attended at the expense of the local agency

MPT/Wu shared information from a subcommittee meeting within the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments.

M/Pacheco shared information from a Los Angeles County Sanitation District meeting.

B. Individual Members’ comments and updates

C/Tragarz and C/Freedman shared information from a Mt. San Antonio College groundbreaking ceremony and also recognized the girls’ softball team for their accomplishments.

M/Ching shared Walnut Housing Authority information regarding a property at 21533 Magnolia Street for sale. He mentioned that the property is designated as affordable housing unit and subject to long-term affordability restrictions. If there was interest in more information about eligibility criteria, public may contact City Hall. He also invited the community to attend the upcoming concerts and movies in the park.

COUNCIL LATE BUSINESS: None.

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CLOSED SESSION: None scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the City Council adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 28th day of July 2021.

Eric Ching, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa De Dios, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Ray Markel, Administrative Assistant