

**CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK PUBLIC MEETING ROOM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD**

6:00 P.M. – REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Erickson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Riley Brady led the Pledge of Allegiance.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Nik Roybal read the City's Land Acknowledgement.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmember Heilman, Councilmember Meister, Councilmember Shyne, Vice Mayor Byers, and Mayor Erickson.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Wilson, City Attorney Langer, Administrative Services Director Jimenez, City Clerk Crowder, and Assistant City Clerk Morales.

REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA:

City Attorney Langer reported that the City Council received one written comment for the Item on the posted agenda. The City Council discussed the one item on the posted agenda and did not take any reportable action.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilmember Meister requested that Items 6.A. and 6.B. be moved to the Consent Calendar as Items 2.R. and 2.S., respectively. She also requested that Items 2.H., 2.J., and 2.M. be moved to Excluded Consent.

Mayor Erickson requested that Items 2.H. and 5.B. be heard together.

Motion by Councilmember Meister, seconded by Councilmember Heilman, to approve the February 5, 2024 agenda, as amended (5/0).

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS:

Councilmember Meister requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of former City Commissioner Patrick Shandrick's mom, Marilyn Joy Shandrick.

Councilmember Heilman requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Jeffrey Solomon, spouse of former City employee Fran Solomon.

Mayor Erickson requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Chita Rivera.

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PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Erickson presented a certificate to Riley Brady for leading tonight's Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Erickson presented certificates to Anawalt Lumber and Luxe Paws.

Mayor Erickson presented a Proclamation in honor of "Community Cats Day" to MJ Godges and Renee Sotile.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

DANI SHAKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding Item 2.F.

JACKIE SUBECK, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding Item 2.F.

ALEX KARDOS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding Item 2.F.

SCOTT SCHMIDT, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding Item 2.F.

JAY HANDAL, LOS ANGELES, spoke regarding Item 2.F.

STEVE MARTIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding Item 2.F. He also requested that the City Council adjourn in memory of the three service members that lost their lives in Syria.

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding Items 2.I., 2.J., 2.K., 2.L., 2.O., and 2. P.

GEORGE NICKLE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding Item 6.A.

NIK ROYBAL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding Items 2.M. and 6.A.

JEFF BARTON, WEST HOLLYWOOD, on behalf of the Doheny Terrace HOA, spoke regarding the necessity for Vice Mayor Byers to recuse herself. He also spoke about public safety in the community and requested additional patrols in his neighborhood.

YSLA TELLEZ, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding Item 2.F.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager David Wilson reminded everyone that February is Black History Month and shared upcoming events celebrating it. He also shared that City staff will provide an update on the City's DEI and GARE initiatives with the City Council in March.

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FISCAL IMPACT ON CONSENT CALENDAR:

City Clerk Crowder stated that the Fiscal Impact on the Consent Calendar with the addition of Items 6.A. and 6.B. was \$285,817 in expenditures, \$400,000 in revenue, and (\$0) in waived fees.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR:

2.A.,B.,C.,D.,E.,F.,G.,I.,K.,L.,N.,O.,P.,Q.,R.,S. Motion by Councilmember Heilman, seconded by Vice Mayor Byers, and approved (5/0).

2.A. POSTING OF AGENDA:

SUBJECT: The agenda for the meeting of Monday, February 5, 2024 was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, the Sheriff's Station, and at the West Hollywood Library on Wednesday, January 31, 2024.

ACTION: Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

2.B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

SUBJECT: The City Council is requested to approve the minutes of the prior Council meeting.

ACTION: Approved the minutes of January 22, 2024. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

2.C. APPROVAL OF DEMAND REGISTER NO. 942 [L. QUIJANO, C. CORRALES, S. HERNANDEZ]:

SUBJECT: The City Council shall receive the Demand Register for period ending January 26, 2024 pursuant to Sections 37201 to 37210 of the Government Code of the State of California.

ACTION: Approved Demand Register No. 942 and adopted Resolution No. 24-004, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD ALLOWING AND APPROVING THE PAYMENT OF DEMANDS ON DEMAND REGISTER NO. 942". **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

2.D. CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION [J. JIMENEZ, M. CROWDER, R. RICHARDS]:

SUBJECT: The City Council is receiving notification that the City's third-party administrator Carl Warren & Co. has denied two (2) Claims for Damages. The first from Michael Anthony Baron and the second from Nationwide Insurance Company, representing Rafael Manzano.

ACTION: Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

2.E. ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 24-01 (2ND READING) "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD REPEALING SECTION 3.36.092 OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE, WAIVING BUSINESS

TAX CERTIFICATE FEES AND SELECT OUTDOOR DINING FEES AND WAIVING PARKING CREDIT FEES UNDER MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 10.28” [M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will waive further reading and adopt Ordinance No. 24-01, repealing Section 3.36.092 of the West Hollywood Municipal Code, waiving business tax certificate fees and select outdoor dining fees and waiving parking credit fees under Municipal Code Chapter 10.28.

ACTION: Waived further reading and adopted Ordinance No. 24-01 “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD REPEALING SECTION 3.36.092 OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE, WAIVING BUSINESS TAX CERTIFICATE FEES AND SELECT OUTDOOR DINING FEES AND WAIVING PARKING CREDIT FEES UNDER MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 10.28”. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

2.F. ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 24-02 (2ND READING) “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PAUSING THE DEADLINES AND AMENDING THE WAITLIST PROVISIONS IN SECTION 5.70.035 OF CHAPTER 5.70 (CANNABIS USES) OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE AND AMENDING CHAPTER 3.36 (BUSINESS LICENSE TAX) OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE TO CREATE A TEMPORARY TAX REBATE FOR ALL CANNABIS BUSINESSES FOR SIX MONTHS” [M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will waive further reading and adopt Ordinance No. 24-02, pausing the deadlines and amending the waitlist provisions in Section 5.70.035 of Chapter 5.70 (cannabis uses) of the West Hollywood Municipal Code and amending Chapter 3.36 (business license tax) of the West Hollywood Municipal Code to create a temporary tax rebate for all cannabis businesses for six months.

ACTION: Waive further reading and adopt Ordinance No. 24-02, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PAUSING THE DEADLINES AND AMENDING THE WAITLIST PROVISIONS IN SECTION 5.70.035 OF CHAPTER 5.70 (CANNABIS USES) OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE AND AMENDING CHAPTER 3.36 (BUSINESS LICENSE TAX) OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE TO CREATE A TEMPORARY TAX REBATE FOR ALL CANNABIS BUSINESSES FOR SIX MONTHS”. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

2.G. COMMISSION AND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SYNOPSES [M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will receive Synopses from the Rent Stabilization Commission and the Women’s Advisory Board, regarding actions taken at their recent meetings.

ACTION: Received and Filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

2.H. UPDATE ON MAJOR COMMERCIAL AND MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS [N. MARICICH, J. ALKIRE, B. GALAN]:

SUBJECT: Staff will be providing a quarterly update on the status of major commercial and mixed-use development projects, as requested by the City Council.

ACTION: This Item was moved to the Excluded Consent Calendar.

2.I. SUBMITTAL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD'S ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 [L. QUIJANO, C. CORRALES, K. BARENG]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will receive the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

ACTION: Received and filed the City of West Hollywood's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and related documents for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

2.J. UPDATE ON VACATION (SHORT-TERM) RENTAL COMPLIANCE EFFORTS [D. RIVAS, V. ADOMAITIS]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will receive an update on Vacation (Short-Term) Rental compliance efforts within the City of West Hollywood.

ACTION: This Item was moved to the Excluded Consent Calendar.

2.K. UPDATE OF THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES [Y. QUARKER, A. LOVANO, H. MOLINA]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider approving the City's updated legislative priorities, which guide the advocacy work of the City's Legislative Affairs team and the City's Sacramento and Washington, DC lobbying teams.

ACTION: Approved the updated Legislative Priorities. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

2.L. UPDATE REGARDING 2024 CICLAVIA EVENT [Y. QUARKER, C. SMITH, M. REATH]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider accepting an Open Streets Grant from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) for a CicLAvia event, whose route includes West Hollywood on Sunday, August 18, 2024.

ACTION: Authorized the acceptance of \$400,000 Open Streets Grant Cycle 5 funding from Metro, to be shared between the City of West Hollywood and the City of Los Angeles, for a CicLAvia route, which includes West Hollywood, to be held on Sunday, August 18, 2024. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

- 2.M. TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART EXHIBITION BY JANET ZWEIG [L. BIERY, R. EHEMANN, M. MITCHELL]:**
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider approving an Agreement with Janet Zweig for a temporary public art exhibition titled A Poetry Generator for WeHo for installation on the traffic median at Santa Monica Blvd and Doheny Drive from January 2025 to January 2027.
ACTION: This Item was moved to the Excluded Consent Calendar.
- 2.N. AGREEMENT WITH NORTHSOUTH GIS LLC FOR GIS CONSULTING SERVICES [L. QUIJANO, E. TSIPIIS]:**
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider approving the Agreement for GIS Consulting Services with NorthSouth GIS LLC.
ACTIONS: 1) Approved an Agreement for Professional Services with NorthSouth GIS LLC. for GIS Consulting Services in an amount not-to-exceed \$200,000; and 2) Authorized the City Manager or designee to execute documents incident to the Agreement. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**
- 2.O. AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES WITH HR&A FOR HOUSING ELEMENT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT (REPLACEMENT OF ABOVE LOWER-INCOME PROTECTED UNITS) [N. MARICICH, F. CONTRERAS, T. FARRIS, M. MONTENEGRO]:**
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider approval of an Agreement for Services with HR&A Advisors, Inc. (“HR&A”) to conduct a feasibility study regarding the replacement of above lower-income protected units in new developments. The study supports implementation of the 6th Cycle Housing Element and associated City Council-initiated directive.
ACTION: Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.
- 2.P. DECLARE THAT CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN WEST HOLLYWOOD AT 1047 AND 1057 N. CRESCENT HEIGHTS BOULEVARD IS EXEMPT SURPLUS LAND PURSUANT TO THE SURPLUS LAND ACT; AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE TO DISPOSE OF THE PROPERTY [L. BIERY, B. LEAGUE, A. BARTLE]:**
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider a resolution declaring real property located at 1047 and 1057 N. Crescent Heights Boulevard exempt surplus property pursuant to the Surplus Land Act.
ACTIONS: 1) Adopted Resolution No. 24-005: “RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DECLARING PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54221 THAT REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE AGENCY LOCATED AT 1047 AND 1057 N. CRESCENT HEIGHTS AVENUE IS EXEMPT SURPLUS LAND FOR PURPOSES STATED HEREIN, AND FINDING THAT SUCH DECLARATION IS EXEMPT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT” declaring that, pursuant to the Surplus Land Act, certain real property interests located at 1047 and 1057 N. Crescent Heights Boulevard in West Hollywood are

exempt surplus property; 2) Authorized staff to submit such resolution to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (“HCD”) and proceed to negotiate the disposition of the exempt surplus property; and 3) Upon HCD approval or the expiration of HCD’s review period, authorize the City Manager or designee to execute documents incident to the Agreement. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

2.Q. COMMEMORATION OF V-DAY 2024 [Y. QUARKER, A. LOVANO, L. FOOKS]:

SUBJECT: The West Hollywood City Council will consider commemorating V-Day, the global activist movement to end violence against all women (cisgender and transgender), those who hold fluid identities, nonbinary people, girls, and the planet.

ACTIONS: 1) Directed staff to coordinate appropriate activities commemorate V-Day; and 2) Directed the Communications Department to utilize all appropriate communications tools to promote the City’s annual commemoration of V-Day. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

2.R. (6.A.) DIRECTION TO WORK WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO ADDRESS VEHICULAR NOISE IN WEST HOLLYWOOD [J. HEILMAN, Y. QUARKER, A. LOVANO, H. MOLINA, J. DEL TORO]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider directing staff to work with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station to develop a strategy to address vehicular noise disturbances in West Hollywood.

ACTIONS: 1) Directed staff to work with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station to develop a strategy for addressing vehicular noise problems in West Hollywood; and 2) Directed staff to report to the City Council on the proposed strategy during the regular semi-annual community safety update for further Council consideration prior to implementation. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

2.S. (6.B.) A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE CONFLICT IN ETHIOPIA AND STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA [S. SHYNE, Y. QUARKER, A. LOVANO, J. DEL TORO, M. WATSON]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider adopting a resolution condemning the conflict taking place in Ethiopia and standing in solidarity with the people of Ethiopia. The current conflict has evolved into a complex humanitarian crisis with millions of people in need of assistance due to food shortages, displacement, and a lack of basic services.

ACTIONS: 1) Adopted Resolution No. 24-006: “A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE CONFLICT IN ETHIOPIA AND STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA”; and 2) Directed staff to send a letter to President Joe Biden and copies of the letter to Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, USAID Administrator Samantha Power, Senators Alex Padilla and Laphonza

Butler, Representative Adam Schiff, California Governor Gavin Newsom, California State Senator Ben Allen, and California Assembly Member Rick Chavez Zbur, and others as deemed appropriate. Approved as part of the Consent Calendar. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

3.A. APPEAL OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S APPROVAL TO DEMOLISH A COMMERCIAL BUILDING AND CONSTRUCT A SEVEN-STORY MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT CONTAINING 110 RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT UNITS ABOVE 3,795 SQUARE FEET OF GROUND FLOOR COMMERCIAL SPACE OVER A SUBTERRANEAN GARAGE WITH 115 PARKING SPACES LOCATED AT 8025 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, INCLUDING A FINDING THAT THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT FROM CEQA UNDER A CLASS 32 CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FOR INFILL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (14 CCR § 15332) [N. MARICICH, J. ALKIRE, D. VU]:

SUBJECT: This item is an appeal of the Planning Commission's adoption of Resolution No. PC 23-1530, which found the project to be exempt from CEQA under Section 15532 (In-fill Development Projects) and approved the demolition of an existing two-story commercial building and construction of an approximately 82,510-square-foot, seven-story, mixed-use building containing 110 residential apartment units above approximately 3,795 square-feet of ground floor commercial space over a two-level subterranean garage with 115 parking spaces. The approved project includes 15 units of on-site affordable housing and utilizes a density bonus and concessions pursuant to West Hollywood Municipal Code § 19.22.050 and the State Density Bonus Law under Government Code § 65915.

Mayor Erickson opened the Public Hearing.

The City Council provided their disclosures.

City Clerk Crowder indicated that the Public Hearing was noticed as required by law.

Senior Planner Doug Vu provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated February 5, 2024.

Marjan Abubo, on behalf of the Appellant Supporters Alliance for Environmental Responsibility (SAFER), reasserted the reasons that they appealed this project.

Jeff Seymour, on behalf of the Applicant, indicated that the applicant does not have an initial statement; however, he noted that he is available for any questions from City Council.

The following members of the public came forward to speak:

MICHAEL PITKIN, UNKNOWN, spoke regarding people experiencing homelessness in the City.

STEVE MARTIN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the frivolousness of this appeal. He commented on the assertions about particulate matter due to construction vehicles.

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding environmental concerns and the need to review projects cumulatively.

Marjan Abubo, on behalf of the Appellant Supporters Alliance for Environmental Responsibility (SAFER), spoke about the additional correspondence that was submitted prior to the public hearing.

Alex Massachi, on behalf of the Applicant, spoke about the environmental review.

Councilmember Meister asked for clarification on a comment made by the appellant regarding a previous appeal. Planning Manager Jennifer Alkire responded to this inquiry. Councilmember Meister also inquired about the mixed-use overlay zone incentive. Ms. Alkire responded.

Mayor Erickson inquired about the hardship to submit the appeal given the cost. Staff clarified that the appellant chose to pay rather than gather the 50 signatures.

Councilmember Meister could not support the appeal based on the assertions stated.

Councilmember Shyne commented that the assertions made do not meet the threshold, so she will uphold the appeal.

Councilmember Heilman also spoke on the assertions outlined in the appeal. He commented on each assertion and noted that he cannot support the appeal.

Vice Mayor Byers reiterated that it does not appear that the community supports the appeal and for this reason, she cannot support the appeal.

Mayor Erickson concurred with his colleagues indicating that he cannot support the appeal.

Mr. Vu indicated for the record that the title of the Resolution is incorrect and that it should be 110 residential units, rather than 115 residential units.

Mayor Erickson closed the public hearing.

ACTION: The City Council adopted Resolution No. 24-007: “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DENYING THE APPEAL FILED BY SUPPORTERS ALLIANCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY, ADOPTING A CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15332 FOR IN-FILL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, AND AFFIRMING THE PLANNING COMMISSION’S CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF A DEMOLITION PERMIT AND DEVELOPMENT PERMIT TO DEMOLISH AN EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDING AND CONSTRUCT A SEVEN-STORY MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 3,795 SQUARE FEET OF GROUND FLOOR COMMERCIAL SPACE AND 110 RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT UNITS ABOVE A TWO-LEVEL SUBTERRANEAN GARAGE WITH 115 PARKING SPACES LOCATED AT 8025 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA.” **Motion by Councilmember Heilman, seconded by Councilmember Shyne, and approved (5/0).**

4. LEGISLATIVE:

4.A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD, AMENDING WEST HOLLYWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 1.16.010 PUBLIC PLACES FOR POSTING NOTICES [M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider an Ordinance to update the public places for posting notices in the West Hollywood Municipal Code. This amendment reflects the City’s current posting locations.

Councilmember Meister inquired if the Aquatics and Recreation Center (ARC) could be a posting location rather than the Sheriff’s Station. City Clerk Crowder indicated that the Sheriff’s Department is a posting location because it is open 24 hours a day which provides the community access to agendas, notices, etc. in the lobby at any time. She further noted that we could do courtesy postings at the ARC as we do at the Library.

ACTIONS: 1) Introduced on First Reading Ordinance No. 24-01, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD, AMENDING WEST HOLLYWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 1.16.010 “PUBLIC PLACES FOR POSTING NOTICES”; and 2) Directed staff to start a courtesy posting at the City’s Aquatics & Recreation Center (ARC). **Motion by Councilmember Heilman, seconded by Councilmember Meister, and approved (5/0).**

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

***Due to technical issues, the City Council took a brief recess.*

**5.A. SKY SANCTUARIES: SAN VICENTE STREETScape PLAZA UPDATE
[J. ROCCO, R. ABRAMSON, G. YOLLES]:**

SUBJECT: The City Council will receive an update on the revised design, updated budget range projections, and potential funding opportunities and provide direction regarding further developing a new environmentally inspired community gathering space on San Vicente Boulevard north of Melrose Avenue and south of Santa Monica Boulevard.

Architectural and Urban Designer Garen Yolles provided background information as outlined in the February 5, 2024 staff report.

Councilmember Heilman expressed concern with the project because the new Metro line may go down San Vicente. He also expressed concern with the significant change from the initial item that was approved by Council. Urban Design and Architecture Studio Manager Ric Abramson responded. Councilmember Heilman mentioned a streetscape project along Sunset that was similar to this that was costly and removed shortly after installation. He noted that we have a public gathering space at the park. Further, he expressed concern with the proposed metro rail. City Manager Wilson indicated that the main reason for bringing this item is to get approval to move forward with grant funding.

Councilmember Meister commented that this is a positive project for the City and supports moving forward.

Councilmember Shyne spoke about the previous Council item. She shared that the design is stunning; however, the cost is too high. She agrees that staff needs to work with Metro to address concerns expressed by Councilmember Meister. She noted that the City should proceed with obtaining grants, and that the City expend no more than \$2 million dollars.

Vice Mayor Byers spoke about the climate and resiliency goals of this project. She supports the alternative recommendation.

Mayor Erickson expressed concern with the amount of time that the Urban Design and Architecture Studio spent on this item rather than the other development projects in the pipeline. He further expressed concern with the height, and the change to San Vicente Boulevard.

Councilmember Heilman expressed concern with emergency vehicles. He reiterated Mayor Erickson's comment about the developments that are in the pipeline and focusing our energy there.

ACTIONS: 1) Received an update on the community engagement process and updated Sky Sanctuaries: San Vicente Streetscape Plaza concept design; 2) Received updates on latest funding opportunities and direct staff to pursue local, State, and Federal grants or other public-private

partnerships to offset various costs for the design and construction of the streetscape plaza; 3) Directed staff to retain a technical consultant (estimated cost of \$130,000) and increase the budget for the current design and consulting team (estimated cost of \$ 95,000) in order to complete the required technical study within six months in order to apply for the July 2024 grant application deadline for the Los Angeles County Safe Clean Water Infrastructure Grant Program; 4) Allocated \$225,000 from General Fund Reserves; 5) Directed staff to work with Metro to ensure that there aren't any issues with the alignment and construction of the rail line proposed along San Vicente; and 6) Authorized the City Manager to evaluate and apply for appropriate grants as they arise. **Motion by Councilmember Meister, seconded by Councilmember Shyne, and approved (3/2 – noting the “no” votes of Mayor Erickson and Councilmember Heilman).**

**The City Council took a recess at 8:06 p.m. and returned at 8:12 p.m.*

**Items 2.H. and 5.B. were heard together.*

5.B. UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION [J. ROCCO, R. ABRAMSON, M. BARKER, S. CAMPBELL, H. COLLINS, J. GILMOUR, L. BIERY, B. LEAGUE, A. BARTLE]:

SUBJECT: Staff will provide a quarterly update on major capital improvement projects related to City-owned properties and public parks (exclusive of infrastructure related projects), including status of the projects and timelines. The projects are listed in priority of completion.

Councilmember Meister inquired about relocating Block by Block to 8225 Santa Monica Blvd., so that they have a location in “enter City”. Property Development Manager Brian League responded.

Councilmember Heilman inquired about the long-term use of the site at Crescent Heights and Santa Monica Blvd. Mr. League responded. City Manager David Wilson also noted that the order of items listed in the staff report is the priority of the items. Councilmember Heilman also inquired about the space at the Aquatics and Recreation Center (ARC) under the grand staircase. He thanked staff for their hard work on these projects.

Mayor Erickson inquired about the surface parking lot at Crescent Heights and Santa Monica Blvd. Facilities and Field Services Division Manager Helen Collins responded. Mayor Erickson inquired with City Manager Wilson if the Council could offer a bonus for completing the project sooner. He also inquired about the AIDS Monument. Urban Design and Architecture Studio Manager Ric Abramson responded.

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke to thank Councilmember Heilman for requesting this item. He also spoke about the

infrastructure improvements mentioned in the staff report. Additionally, he inquired about the Melrose Triangle.

NIK ROYBAL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the AIDS Monument and utilizing our social media tools to provide an update to the community. He spoke regarding the City Playhouse and Plummer Park.

RICK WATTS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the Crescent Heights site and possibly widening Crescent Heights. He also mentioned 1280 Sweetzer.

Councilmember Meister expressed her frustration with the lack of development on sites that were approved for new projects such as the Melrose Triangle. Director of Community Development Nick Maricich indicated that staff sent a memo to Council with updated information.

Mayor Erickson thanked the members of the public who came out to speak. He mentioned a few developments that have been delayed for a long time, and the need for accountability. He asked that the Bond project be included in the next report.

ACTION: 1) Received an update on the City's major capital program. **Motion by Vice Mayor Byers, seconded by Councilmember Heilman, and approved (5/0).**

2.H. UPDATE ON MAJOR COMMERCIAL AND MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS [N. MARICICH, J. ALKIRE, B. GALAN]:

SUBJECT: Staff will be providing a quarterly update on the status of major commercial and mixed-use development projects, as requested by the City Council.

Councilmember Meister mentioned the French Market, noting that the entitlements are expired. She also inquired if there is a tenant at the space as well as replacing the trees that were removed for the development that never happened. Planning Manager Jennifer Alkire responded. Councilmember Meister also inquired about 8920 Sunset. Ms. Alkire responded.

Councilmember Heilman commented that the reason that Council wanted staff to provide these updates was so that they could learn about where projects/developments are in the process, next steps, and possible solutions.

Mayor Erickson inquired about Robertson Lane and if the buildings can be demolished and a surface lot installed. Director of Community Development Nick Maricich shared the Municipal Code section that would

allow the early demolition. Mayor Erickson also inquired about the area under the Grand Staircase at the ARC. City Manager Wilson responded.

Councilmember Meister requested that staff look at the AIDS Monument at Hart Park. She also requested that staff look at the intersection at Santa Monica Blvd. and Crescent Heights. She also mentioned the 9034 Sunset Blvd. project. She provided feedback on the challenges that many of the projects in the pipeline throughout the City.

Director of Community Development Nick Maricich shared that a memo was sent to the City Council that provided additional information.

ACTIONS: 1) Received and filed; and 2) Provided additional direction to staff. **Motion by Vice Mayor Byers, seconded by Councilmember Heilman, and approved (5/0).**

5.C. UPDATE OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 MID-YEAR OPERATING BUDGET AND WORK PLAN PRIORITIES [D. WILSON, C. SAFRIET, M. LINDLEY]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will receive a report on revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2022 23 and a mid-year budget update for the first half of Fiscal Year 2023-24. Updates include proposed mid-year budget adjustments and a report on departmental work plan priorities.

Assistant to the City Manager Christine Safriet introduced Melissa Lindley, the City's new Budget Officer. Ms. Lindley provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated February 5, 2024.

Mayor Shyne inquired about the City's funds surplus in FY22 and FY23. Ms. Lindley responded.

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the need for a historic preservation position. He also inquired if additional City staff are needed.

NIK ROYBAL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding various items identified in the staff report.

Councilmember Meister inquired about "all other revenues". Ms. Safriet responded. Councilmember Meister noted that the City needs to fill vacant properties, and the need to diversify our revenue streams. She commented that surplus revenues should be diverted to Capital Improvements and emergency reserves.

Councilmember Heilman commented on the Mishka Festival and the Maysky Classical Music events, and the need for more funding for the Mishka Festival.

Councilmember Shyne spoke about assisting the business community. She mentioned the comment regarding the need for additional staff, specifically Code Enforcement. She also mentioned creating a Community Liaison position that would liaise with the Sheriff's Department, the community, and the City.

Mayor Erickson spoke about the increase in revenues from the Transient Occupancy Tax. He noted that many other cities wish that they could be West Hollywood. He further mentioned that he would like to see the City's reserve fund increased to 30%.

ACTIONS: 1) Received a report on Fiscal Year 2022-23 revenues and expenditures; 2) Received an update on the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget and approved budget adjustments identified in the attached "Proposed Mid-Year Adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget"; and 3) Received and filed the FY 2023-24 Departmental Work Plan Priorities and FY 2024-26 Two-Year Budget Schedule. **Motion by Vice Mayor Byers, seconded by Councilmember Heilman, and approved (5/0).**

5.D. UPDATE TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY PURSUANT TO AB 1234 (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53232.2 AND 53232.3) TO INCLUDE GUIDANCE RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL [D. WILSON, C. SAFRIET, L. LANGER]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider adopting a resolution updating the expense reimbursement policy to include guidance related to international travel applicable to elected and appointed officials of the City in compliance with Government Code Sections 53232.2 and 53232.3.

Councilmember Heilman commented that any foreign travel should be approved by the City Council.

Councilmember Shyne agreed with Councilmember Heilman's comment. She further noted that she supports Alternative A.

Councilmember Meister agreed with Councilmember Heilman that foreign travel should be approved by the City Council. She further commented that 80% of the travel expenditures was made by two Councilmembers. She supports Alternative C, which isn't part of the staff report, but this alternative would provide funding per Councilmember, such as \$10,000 per Councilmember.

Mayor Shyne suggested that City Manager Wilson should have the authority to approve additional travel funds if a Councilmember goes over their budget if the Council elects to go in this direction.

Vice Mayor Byers concurs with Councilmember Heilman and supports Alternative A.

Mayor Erickson supports Alternative A and that Council approves international travel.

City Manager Wilson commented that staff will bring an item to the Finance and Budget Subcommittee.

City Attorney Lauren noted for the record that the Resolution is amended under Section 4.B. – strike No. 3 and make the following No. 3 under Section 4.B. “All international travel requires prior approval by the City Council”. She also noted that all references to international travel locations in Attachment C to the Staff Report will be removed.

ACTIONS: 1) Adopt Resolution No. 24-008: “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD UPDATING THE CITY’S PUBLIC OFFICIALS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY” as amended; 2) Approved Alternative A: Public Officials will be reimbursed for all business-related transportation, lodging, and meals and incidental expenses; 3) Directed that any foreign travel must be approved by the City Council on a case-by-case basis; and 4) Directed staff to return with an item reviewing the City Council’s travel budget and any other recommendations. **Motion by Vice Mayor Byers, seconded by Councilmember Heilman and approved (5/0).**

6. NEW BUSINESS:

6.A. DIRECTION TO WORK WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO ADDRESS VEHICULAR NOISE IN WEST HOLLYWOOD [J. HEILMAN, Y. QUARKER, A. LOVANO, H. MOLINA, J. DEL TORO]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider directing staff to work with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station to develop a strategy to address vehicular noise disturbances in West Hollywood.

ACTION: This Item was moved to the Consent Calendar.

6.B. A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE CONFLICT IN ETHIOPIA AND STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF ETHIOPIA [S. SHYNE, Y. QUARKER, A. LOVANO, J. DEL TORO, M. WATSON]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider adopting a resolution condemning the conflict taking place in Ethiopia and standing in solidarity with the people of Ethiopia. The current conflict has evolved into a complex humanitarian crisis with millions of people in need of assistance due to food shortages, displacement, and a lack of basic services.

ACTION: This Item was moved to the Consent Calendar.

6.C. APPOINTMENTS TO THE LGBTQ+ COMMISSION AND DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD [J. JIMENEZ, M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:

SUBJECT: Councilmember Heilman will make his direct appointments to LGBTQ+ Commission and Disabilities Advisory Board.

ACTIONS: 1) Councilmember Heilman appointed **Michael Roberts** to the **LGBTQ+ Commission** with a term ending February 28, 2025; and 2) Councilmember Heilman appointed **Joseph Green** to the **Disabilities Advisory Board** with a term ending February 28, 2025.

EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR:

2.J. UPDATE ON VACATION (SHORT-TERM) RENTAL COMPLIANCE EFFORTS [D. RIVAS, V. ADOMAITIS]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will receive an update on Vacation (Short-Term) Rental compliance efforts within the City of West Hollywood.

Councilmember Meister asked about the time frame identified in the staff report. Neighborhood and Business Safety Manager Vyto Adomaitis responded. She further inquired if short-term rental providers are considered businesses. Mr. Adomaitis responded.

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding legal versus illegal short-term rentals.

Councilmember Meister inquired about requiring these individuals to file an annual business tax statement. Staff indicated that they would look into this.

ACTION: Received update and filed. **Motion by Councilmember Heilman, seconded by Vice Mayor Byers, and approved (5/0).**

2.M. TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART EXHIBITION BY JANET ZWEIG [L. BIERY, R. EHEMANN, M. MITCHELL]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider approving an Agreement with Janet Zweig for a temporary public art exhibition titled A Poetry Generator for WeHo for installation on the traffic median at Santa Monica Blvd and Doheny Drive from January 2025 to January 2027.

NIK ROYBAL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding concerns with public safety, equity, access, and language. He also inquired about the artist and funding.

Councilmember Heilman appreciates the comments made by Mr. Roybal. He noted his concern with the location. Arts Manager Rebecca Ehemann responded. Councilmember Heilman commented that since it's meant to be interactive, maybe the median isn't the best location. Ms. Ehemann responded.

Mayor Shyne concurred with Councilmember Heilman's comment about moving it to West Hollywood Park.

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Councilmember Meister shared that the reason that she pulled this item is because of the location. She noted that we either delay the installation or a different location, such as West Hollywood Park or the Library.

Mayor Erickson agrees with his colleagues. He commented that the median is difficult to get to and traverse once you're on the median.

Councilmember Byers shared her different view regarding that median.

ACTION: 1) Directed staff to return to the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission to find a new location; and 2) Directed staff to return to the City Council with a Consent item when the new location is identified. **Motion by Mayor Erickson, seconded by Councilmember Meister, and approved (4/1 – noting the “no” vote of Vice Mayor Byers.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

VICTOR OMELCZENKO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke about his experiences with the Santa Monica Blvd. median at Doheny. He mentioned another site along Sunset that wasn't included in Items 2.H. and 5.B.

RICK WATTS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding the appointment to the Disabilities Advisory Board. He also mentioned the vacancy on the Older Adults Advisory Board. He spoke about the budgets for the City's Boards and Commissions.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORTS:

Councilmember Shyne reported her attendance at the Rainbow Key Awards, the Greater Los Angeles Realtors Association installation of their president and board of directors. She also reported her participation in the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. Additionally, she thanked her colleagues for approving Item 6.B.

Councilmember Heilman requested that the City adjourn in memory of the three service members who lost their life on January 28, 2024 in Syria. The service members were Sergeant William Jerome Rivers of Carrollton, Georgia; Specialist Kennedy Ladon Sanders of Waycross, Georgia; and Specialist Breonna Alexsondria Moffett of Savannah, Georgia. All three were assigned to the 718th Engineer Company, 926th Engineer Battalion, 926th Engineer Brigade, Fort Moore, Georgia. He reported his attendance at the Rainbow Key Awards, the film screening of *Shepherd: The Story of a Jewish Dog*, the Winter Sounds event at The Sun Rose at the Pendry, and the Williams Institute Annual Brunch.

Councilmember Meister reported her attendance at the SCAG Energy and Environment Committee as well as the Regional Counsel. She also attended the Rainbow Key Awards, the Plummer Park Subcommittee meeting, and the film screening of *Shepherd: The Story of a Jewish Dog*. On behalf of Assessor Jeff Prang, she shared information on the homeowner exemption. In addition, she spoke about the number of affordable

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units related to Item 3.A., noting that it is something that the City should be lobbying at the State level.

Councilmember Byers reported her attendance at the National League of Cities Transportation and Infrastructure Services Federal Advocacy Committee meeting, the Los Angeles Affordable Housing Solutions Agency Committee, and the Clean Power Alliance Energy Planning Committee meeting. She attended the World Kindness Day event at West Hollywood Elementary School. She thanked everyone who participated in the Homeless Count, especially City staff for their leadership. She congratulated the many West Hollywood organizations and businesses, including WeHo Pride and the City of West Hollywood. She also congratulated the youth ambassadors at the One Institute for their art history project at the One Gallery. She encouraged the community to participate in the Winter Sounds series. She encouraged everyone to drive safely and take Metro when possible.

Mayor Erickson shared that he gave interviews on the City's Holloway project. He attended the Chamber of Commerce's Mix and Mingle at OR Bar, the Kindness Challenge Event at West Hollywood Elementary, the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, the memorial for Sibyl Zaden, hosted Coffee with the Mayor, Pride at the Park in Culver City, the One Institute's Youth Ambassador for Queer History event, the *Shepherd: The Story of a Jewish Dog*. He also accepted the Blade Awards on behalf of the City. He gave an interview KPFK on homelessness. He presented a Proclamation to Thelma Houston at The Wild. He attended the Rainbow Key Awards and gave a shoutout to City employee, Moya Marquez. He attended the Plummer Park Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting, the Clean Power Alliance Board of Directors meeting, presented a Proclamation to the Envision Church for its 10th Anniversary, and a celebration of life for Bill McNeeley. He congratulated Vice Mayor Byers for her "Most Committed Activist" by the LA Blad. He shared upcoming events. He commented that he would like to discuss the use of Zoom at a future City Council meeting. He shared that a flash flood warning was issued and encouraged everyone to be safe. He also shared information from the American Red Cross and thanked our public safety partners for keeping us safe.

ADJOURNMENT: The City Council adjourned at 10:15 p.m. in memory of Marilyn Joy Shandrick, Jeffrey Solomon, Chita Rivera, Sergeant William Jerome Rivers, Specialist Kennedy Ladon Sanders, Specialist Breonna Alexsondria Moffett of Savannah, Georgia. to its next regular meeting, which will be on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room - Council Chambers.

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PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 20th day of February, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmember:	Heilman, Meister, Shyne, Vice Mayor Byers, and Mayor Erickson.
NOES:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSENT:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSTAIN:	Councilmember:	None.

DocuSigned by:

JOHN ERICKSON

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JOHN M. ERICKSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Melissa Crowder

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MELISSA CROWDER, CITY CLERK