



City Hall Council Chamber
1515 Sixth Street, Coachella, California
(760) 398-3502 ♦ www.coachella.org

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL CLOSED SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING

OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA

THE COUNCIL SITTING AS THE COACHELLA SANITARY DISTRICT,
COACHELLA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, COACHELLA FINANCING AUTHORITY,
COACHELLA EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL ACCESS CABLE CHANNEL CORPORATION,
COACHELLA WATER AUTHORITY, SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE COACHELLA REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
AND COACHELLA PARKS AND RECREATION FOUNDATION

April 10, 2024

5:00 PM – CLOSED SESSION
6:00 PM – REGULAR MEETING

<p>In-Person Meeting Location:</p> <p>Coachella City Hall Council Chamber 1515 Sixth Street Coachella, CA</p>	<p>If you would like to attend the meeting via Zoom, here is the link:</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88457271898?pwd=REdzU1NoQmpVSFhWTDVaZ0VCekYxdz09 Or One tap mobile : 16699006833,,88457271898#,,, *606140# Or Telephone: US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 884 5727 1898 Passcode: 606140</p> <p>Spanish: El idioma español está disponible en Zoom seleccionado la opción en la parte de abajo de la pantalla</p>
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- Public comments may be received **either in person, via email, telephonically, or via Zoom** with a limit of **250 words, or three minutes:**
 - **In Real Time:**

If participating in real time via Zoom or phone, during the Public Comment Period, use the “**raise hand**” function on your computer, or when using a phone, participants can raise their hand by pressing *9 on the keypad.
 - **In Writing:**

Written comments may be submitted to the City Council electronically via email to cityclerk@coachella.org. Transmittal **prior to the start** of the meeting is required. All written comments received will be forwarded to the City Council and entered into the record.
 - If you wish, you may leave a message at (760) 262-6240 before 5:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting.
- The **live stream** of the meeting may be **viewed online** by accessing the city's website at www.coachella.org, and clicking on the "**Watch Council Meetings**" tab located on the home page, and then clicking on the "live" button.

CALL TO ORDER: - 5:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Coachella was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Hernandez.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmember Dr. Figueroa, Councilmember Delgado, Mayor Pro Tem Virgen, City Clerk Zepeda, and Mayor Hernandez

City Treasurer Aviles via Zoom

Absent: Councilman Galarza (he arrived at 5:15 pm during Closed Session)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

“At this time the Council/ Board/Corporation/Authority may announce any items being pulled from the Agenda or continued to another date or request the moving of an item on the agenda”

Motion: To approve the Agenda

Made by: Councilmember Figueroa

Seconded by: Mayor Pro Tem Virgen

Approved: 4-0, Unanimous roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmember Dr. Figueroa, Councilmember Delgado, Mayor Pro Tem Virgen, and Mayor Hernandez

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Councilman Galarza

PUBLIC COMMENTS (CLOSED SESSION ITEMS):

None

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)
One (1) Potential Case

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING: - 6:00 P.M.

The City Council reconvened into open session at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Councilman Galarza lead the Pledge of Allegiance

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No reportable action.

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/DIRECTION:

2. Presentation - The Animal Rescue Center of California

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

NONE

CONSENT CALENDAR:

(It is recommended that Consent Items be acted upon simultaneously unless separate discussion and/or action is requested by a Council Member or member of the audience.)

3. Regular Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2024, of the City of Coachella, Coachella Sanitary District, Coachella Fire Protection District, Coachella Financing Authority, Coachella Educational and Governmental Access Cable Corporation, Coachella Water Authority, Successor Agency to the Coachella Redevelopment Agency and Coachella Parks and Recreation Foundation
4. Investment Report – January 31, 2024

Motion: To approve the Consent Calendar

Made by: Councilmember Galarza

Seconded by: Mayor Pro Tem Virgen

Approved: 5-0, Unanimous roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmember Dr. Figueroa, Councilmember Delgado, Councilmember Galarza, Mayor Pro Tem Virgen, and Mayor Hernandez

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

NEW BUSINESS CALENDAR (LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE):

NONE

PUBLIC HEARING CALENDAR (QUASI-JUDICIAL):

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS):

The public may address the City Council/Board/Corporation/ Authority on any item of interest to the public that is not on the agenda but is in the subject matter jurisdiction thereof. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes.

Paulina Callamus, appreciated Kirk's work and was unaware of the services ARC does in the City of Coachella She would like the council to help with fund for ARC and told a dog story about Noble that went to the shelter and was not saved on time.

Josie Jimenez, requesting council to assist in securing a memorial flag for her father and 2 of his brothers who served in military. Was requested to get the DD214 form. Mayor asked Josie to speak with Maritza Martinez to assist.

Laura Morales, President of the non-profit of Desert Paws Sanctuary was established June 2023, consisting of four board members. She was raised in the City of Coachella. The organization is 100% volunteer. Growing up, they bought pets and was not aware about rescue organizations. Their first adoption was in 2017 (Bailey) who was rescued from streets of Coachella and used for breeding. She requested for the council to support ARC and other animal rescue group.

Chris Jones lives in old Trilogy of La Quinta. She has been volunteering with Animal Action League, a mobile neuter/spaying. She found Two dogs in a parking lot and they adopted. They helped get two dogs get medical health. It is important to support the animal rescue groups.

Natalie Rivera and Yvanna Angelson, youngest volunteer for Desert Paws Sanctuary. She told the story of Marble and how he was found in Coachella streets with a BB pellets with fractured vertebrae. She spoke on behalf of their kids, who are the future. She has been rescuing animals since she was a kid. She requested support to rescue the animals.

REPORTS AND REQUESTS:

Council Comments/Report of Miscellaneous Committees.

Councilmember Delgado would like to implement something in place in support of ARC. She requested for Kirk to come up with dates for spay/neuter and catch and release events so that the council can respond and donate since his non-profit directly helps and benefits the City of Coachella. She attended the Women's Summit. She felt very uncomfortable since she was not allowed to participate and was humiliated as she sat in the back. She requested logistics and how the event planned and her exclusions from the city manager and Maritza.

Councilmember Dr. Figueroa and City staff attended the Steve Chase Humanitarian Awards event. At the UC Riverside Grant Slam, he was invited to be a judge. He also got to go to the Women's Conference. He is not a woman but he went to support the event. He concurred with Councilmember Delgado's comments regarding the Women's Summit. Having only two women in the council, Councilmember Delgado should have been part of the program and represent, support people "taking up space". Mosquito season's coming. Public can contact CV Vector Mosquito control.

Figueroa stepped away at 7:12 pm and returned at 7:17 pm.

Galarza, celebrated Dolores Huerta's 94th birthday and congratulated her. Angela Zepeda's birthday is today and wished her a happy birthday. Cesar Chavez' birthday was March 31. He attended the Eggstravaganza at Bagdouma Park. April is autism awareness month and he celebrated by wearing a blue tie. Thursday is Farmchella, providing groceries, art, and other resources. Mobius is putting on an event on April 18 at CVHS and later on at City Library. Coachella has the best Mexican food. He invited anyone visiting Coachella.

Mayor Pro Tem Virgen and others are going to Norcal for the well fellowship about water and water infrastructure this weekend. The Women's Summit was March 30 and it was presented to council earlier this year. No questions were asked after the presentation about anything (time, theme, food). There seemed to be no interest. The only question was about being a speaker. Recognition presented to speakers and her was the staff's idea. Councilmember Delgado was asked for assistance in fundraising, she never received any assistance.

Mayor Hernandez commended Councilmember Virgen for stepping up and leading the Women's summit. He welcomed Delgado to do something in the future and has said that before. This was a good example of events that are meaningful for the community. It was a meaningful event to uplift and empower the women. It was a job well done and this one is a lessons learned and they need to move forward. About the schedules of meetings, for May council meetings, three councilmembers will not be here and there will be no quorum. He thanked the animal rescue groups. It's a Coachella issue. The council wants to be able to help and implored the groups not to give up the fight. The council will fight with them. They need to work smart and work with the administrators who have a lot of capacity, information and look at it in system's perspective and get the system started. There is a new boxing champion in town - Sebastian Fundora who will be here Friday for a "Meet the Champ" event at 5:30. He was honored as a hometown hero with his sister, Gabriela. He thanked Galarza for championing "Farmchella" to bring a voice to farmers and their families. Coachella has been an international brand and has a Coachella event. The City is bringing down the arts and giving the key to the city to an artist – Carin Leon. He looks forward to attending the Mobius conference happening throughout Coachella that is about music and technology.

City Manager's comments.

City Manager Martin thanked Dr. Figueroa for allowing staff to attend the "Steve Chase Humanitarian Award" event and congratulated him on receiving an award. Kudos to Mayor Pro Tem Virgen, Martiza, Martinez and Celina Jimenez on the Women's Summit. Reminder of Study Session on Monday to talk about the leagues. He wished the City Clerk, Angela Zepeda a happy birthday.

Angela Zepeda, was not available to attend the Women's Summit due to multiple funerals. She commended Mayor Pro Tem Virgen for championing the Women's Summit. The inclusivity and solidarity among women are essential for progress and empowerment of women and crucial to celebrate, and amplify each other voice rather than feel offended.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the City Council and the Agencies, Mayor Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Angela Zepeda
City Clerk