

City of Del Rey Oaks

**City Hall
650 Canyon Del Rey Blvd
Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940**



Action Minutes

Tuesday February 27, 2024 - 6:00 PM

City Council – Regular Meeting

Del Rey Oaks City Council

Scott Donaldson – Mayor

John Uy – Vice Mayor

Jeremy Hallock – Councilmember

Kim Shirley – Councilmember

Bill Ragsdale-Cronin - Councilmember

6:00 PM – Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Donaldson.

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Donaldson, Councilmember Uy, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Hallock, and Councilmember Ragsdale-Cronin.

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Guertin, City Attorney Lorca, City Clerk Minami and Police Chief Bourquin

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Donaldson led the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment:

Gary Kreeger: Thanks to the Mayor, Ron Fucci and the Police Department for everything they did during the storm with the swaying PG&E pole at his house.

Carol Kaplan: No action yet by City Council regarding the Surplus Land Act letter.

Proclamation: Mayor Donaldson reads Celebrating Black History Month Proclamation

CONSENT AGENDA: *Action Items*

A. MINUTES: (CEQA: as to all, not a project per Guidelines Article 20, Section 15378)

1. January 23, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
2. December 13, 2023, Regular Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

B. MONTHLY REPORTS: (CEQA: as to all, not a project per Guidelines Article 20, Section 15378)

1. Financials January 2023 – January 2024
2. Fire Department Response Report, January 2024
3. Police Activity Report, January 2024

C. MISCELLANEOUS: (CEQA: as to all, not a project per Guidelines Article 20, Section 15378)

1. Authorize City Manager to release Community Tree Service from any responsibility and approve award of contract to Julian Tree Care for Cal Fire Grant project

A motion was made by **Council Member Ragsdale-Cronin**, seconded by **Council Member Uy** to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion passed unanimously 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Carried Over Item from January 23, 2024, City Council Meeting:

Appeal of Building Official Determination Regarding Square Footage Calculations at 121 Calle Del Oaks

A motion was made by **Council Member Ragsdale-Cronin**, seconded by **Vice Mayor Uy** to continue public hearing until the March meeting.

A motion was made by **Council Member Shirley**, seconded by **Council Member Uy** to approve the continuance of this item to March 26, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting.

Motion passed unanimously 4-1 (Hallock Abstained)

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approve First Reading of Ordinance Regulating Smoking in Multi-Unit Residences

City Manager Guertin reviews staff report for item and explains it's the first reading.

Council Member Hallock: Thanks Council Member Shirley

Council Member Shirley: Thanks Council Member Hallock and City Manager Guertin.

Received a letter of support from the Blue Zone.

Council Member Ragsdale-Cronin: Glad we are doing it but doesn't want the PD to be called and involved with complaints. Hope the Oaks works it out internally.

Mayor Donaldson: Echo's all comments, especially not calling the PD for enforcement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Helen Birdsong: Should be easy transition, thanks everyone.

Oaks Resident: Has asthma and thanks all.

Gonzalo from Monterey County: Call County and not the PD, they will help out.

City Manager Guertin: Takes effect May 1st for new residents and Oct 1st for existing residents.

A motion was made by **Council Member Hallock**, seconded by **Council Member Shirley** to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 318.

Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

B. Approve Mid-Year FY 2023-24 Budget Recommendation

City Manager Guertin: introduced Elizabeth Mariano with RGS.

Elizabeth Mariano: shares her screen to review the status of the city and the recommended changes at mid year.

Council Member Uy: Thanks all.

Council Member Hallock: This is great.

Council Member Shirley: What about grant wiring and strategic planning cost?

City Manager Guertin: Not for grant writing this year, that will go towards Sherman Lows time on the grants that we have been awarded. Strategic Planning will hopefully happen this year, even if the city has to facilitate it.

Council Member Ragsdale-Cronin: Thanks all.

Mayor Donaldson: Taxes are holding steady. Glad that the City Manager is keeping legal fees down this year. Still have delinquent cannabis taxes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gary Kreeger: Vacancy tax is needed.

Mike Hayworth: Great job, let's get used to it!

A motion was made by **Council Member Uy**, seconded by **Council Member Ragsdale-Cronin** to approve Mid-Year FY 2023-24 Budget Recommendations

Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- C.** Receive Information and Provide Direction Regarding Placing a Measure on the November 2024 General Election Ballot to Increase the City's Transient Occupancy Tax by Two Percentage Points

City Manager Guertin: Explains how TOT works in Del Rey Oaks and how it is different because we don't have a conference center and hotel to worry about right now. Reviews the surrounding cities tax rates. The process of putting this on the November ballot, 50% plus 1 is needed. Much needed boost. Potential \$40,0000 if raised from 10% to 12%.

Council Member Hallock: A lot to offer in Del Rey Oaks, wants to encourage a higher increase.

Council Member Shirley: Any potential push back from increase?

Council Member Ragsdale-Cronin: Need to take a bite at the apple, maybe 14% or 15% increase.

Mayor Donaldson: All of our neighbors at 12%, believes we can go higher. Asks the City Manager to speak with other City Managers about it. Good to do it only once, because of the election cost.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ann Ahmadi: Homeowners of STR's won't care. Be careful of wording on ballot.

Gary Kreeger: Location is important, supports an increase.

Mike Hayworth: Time to do 14%.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSSES

Council Member Uy: Just have it on ballot once and go to 15%, others will follow.

Council Member Hallock: Feasible to go up to 15%

Council Member Shirley: Cost of election? Asks City Manager to talk to other cities.

Council Member Ragsdale-Cronin: We will hear about it, if someone doesn't like it.

Mayor Donaldson: Great feedback. Thanks all.

City Manager Guertin: There are cupcakes from Council Member Ragsdale-Cronin because of the 5th cycle Housing Element. Letter regarding 6th Housing Element only 6 pages.

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NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 6:00pm

ADJOURNMENT 7:15pm

Attest:

Date:
