



**MINUTES OF JUNE 30, 2020
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SAN GABRIEL CITY COUNCIL**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Menchaca called the special meeting of the San Gabriel City Council to order at 5:35 P.M. on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, with all Council Members and staff participating by teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Tony Ding, John R. Harrington, Jason Pu, Vice Mayor Chin Ho Liao, and Mayor Denise Menchaca.

Council Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: City Manager Mark Lazzaretto; City Attorney Keith Lemieux; Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director Arminé Chaparyan, Chief City Clerk Sharon Clark, and Assistant City Clerk Marilyn Bonus.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

2. NEW BUSINESS

A. ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL SERVICES AGREEMENT

The staff presentation was made by Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director Chaparyan.

Clarifying discussion included animals-sheltered statistics; County animal fees; methodology to reduce the feral cat population; the City's statutory animal control responsibilities; San Gabriel Valley Humane Society (SGVHS) billing in arrears; estimates from other agencies based on last year's figures; alternative service models; and City staff pay rates for animal service duties.

The following provided comments in support of continuing to contract with San Gabriel Valley Humane Society (SGVHS): Charmaine Liccardi, resident; Linda Parmenter; Gloria Sorenson; King Leung Har, resident; Stephanie Burns, resident; Sharon Sakai; Mike Fawcett, resident; Karen McCarley, resident; Rachel Conger; Helen; Elia Bagheri, resident; Sean Terauchi, resident; Lorelei Hernandez; Tek, resident; Mary Ellen Robertson, resident; Gail Nance, resident; Virginia Gladwin, resident; anonymous; Susie Ogihara; Elena Lu, resident; Loraine Mason; Daisy Kwan, resident; anonymous; Cindy Talavera; Tona Merlo; Julia Kennedy; and Isela Bowles, resident.

The following provided comments in support of contracting with SGVHS for one year: Alice Wong, resident; Thomas Wong, resident; Kathy Bremer; Juli Costanzo, resident; Tom Araujo, resident; Joan Mezori, resident; Claudette Leslie, resident; Elizabeth Olson; Catherine Rice, resident; and Debbie Kilgore, resident.

Mary Valenzuela provided comments expressing disappointment in Council Member conduct during the last City Council meeting.

Richard Valenzuela, Jr. provided comments expressing disappointment in Council Member conduct during the last City Council meeting and in support of continuing to contract for one year with SGVHS.

The following provided comments in opposition to contracting with SGVHS: George Valdez; and Cheri Cabot, resident.

Chasity Jennings-Nunez provided comments in support of allowing the contract to expire while researching other options.

Discussion included salaries paid by other agencies for shelter and animal control officers; the option of monthly billing in arrears; availability of non-profit tax forms to see how money is spent; opportunity cost to owners, and stress to animals and owners for sheltering at a farther location; on-call hours for animal control officers; preference for a one-year contract; possibility of a future Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with other cities for animal services; sheltering provision and cost models; paying for actual costs; financial sustainability of SGVHS; preference for a six-month contract; COVID-19 effect on number of animals sheltered; variation on number of service calls from year to year; dog license renewals come due in July and under a six-month contract, SGVHS would keep the license fees they collect for the entire year; number of employees needed at SGVHS; euthanasia statistics; and concern about only two cities contracting with SGVHS and how it would affect costs if one city leaves.

A motion was made by Mayor Menchaca, seconded by Council Member Pu, to approve the six-month agreement with the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society at \$175,000, allowing SGVHS to retain the licensing fees collected; with an option to extend for another six months at \$175,000.

Additional discussion included whether the County will pick up animals anywhere in the County; the requirement to shelter animals for five days, which the City pays for; health screening, vaccination, and pick-up expenses; the City's responsibility for stray and wild animals, rather than pets; capacity of alternative sheltering facilities; losing the licensing fees if the City doesn't identify an alternative service option within a six-month contract period; and the possibility of having a network of providers who would compete on best service and lowest cost, rather than a single-source contract.

Motion carried by a vote of 4-1 as follows:

AYES: DING, PU, LIAO, MENCHACA

NOES: HARRINGTON

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

3. ADJOURNMENT

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Sharon F. Clark
SHARON F. CLARK, Chief City Clerk

Approved this 21st day of July, 2020:

Denise Menchaca
DENISE MENCHACA, Mayor