The Irwindale CITY COUNCIL met in regular session, beginning at the above time and place.

ROLL CALL: Present: Councilmembers Mark A. Breceda, Manuel R. Garcia; Mayor Pro Tem Albert F. Ambriz; Mayor Larry G. Burrola

Absent: Councilmember H. Manuel Ortiz

Present: William Tam, City Manager; Theresa Olivares, Assistant City Manager; Adrian Guerra, City Attorney; Ty Henshaw, Chief of Police; Arsanious Hanna, Director of Engineering / Building Official; Jeanette Duran, Interim Finance Director / City Treasurer; Marilyn Simpson, Community Development Director; Mary Hull, Human Resources Manager, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Public Services Director; Jeff Wagner, Information Technology Manager; Iris Espino, Assistant to the City Manager; and Laura Nieto, Chief Deputy City Clerk

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA None.

COUNCILMEMBER TRAVEL REPORTS None.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

MAYOR BURROLA Mayor Burrola requested to adjourn the meeting in memory of Ben Aguayo, and expressed concerns over an incident that occurred during a house party on Fraijo Street on December 25. He asked whether the City has a curfew policy in place, and asked about protocols in informing the Council of these types of incidents.

Responding to questions by Mayor Burrola, City Manager Tam advised that the City does not have a curfew policy in place, and that staff follows an unwritten, informal policy to notify the Council of notable incidents that occur in the city.

Mayor Burrola requested a written policy be prepared directing that the members of the Council be notified of certain incidents.

COUNCILMEMBER GARcia Councilmember Garcia noted that there were comments made at the December 8 meeting regarding compensation for city employees, and noted that government employees' compensation information is available online.

MAYOR PRO TEM AMBRIZ Mayor Pro Tem Ambriz stated that the State of California and Los Angeles County have previously enacted curfews due to the ongoing pandemic and has prohibited large gatherings. He stated his dismay that a Councilmember would disregard said mandates and indicated
that the events that occurred during the incident are under investigation.

COUNCILMEMBER BRECEDA

Councilmember Breceda expressed his disappointment in the occurrence, and stated that the alleged events would have had to occur on the street, not at his gathering. He added that he was unsure what exactly occurred.

MAYOR BURROLA

Mayor Burrola requested to pull Item No. 1C for separate consideration.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES / PROMOTIONS

None.

PROCLAMATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / COMMENDATIONS

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION TO OUTGOING COMMISSIONERS ART TAPIA AND NATALIE OROSCO

The presentations were made; recipients were not in attendance.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE TO APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS Enoch Burrola, Paula Faijo, David Fuentes, Patricia Gonzales, Iris Rodriguez and Belen Zepeda

The Oaths of Office were administered to Paula Faijo, David Fuentes, and Patricia Gonzales.

SPONTANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

CARMEN ROMAN

Carmen Roman asked whether the audience can speak on items that have been pulled from the agenda for separate consideration, requested an update from members of the Council when they attend events in representation of the City, and complained about rude staffers at pop-up COVID testing sites.

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA

City Attorney Guerra stated that members of the public may speak when pulled agenda items are being considered.
DENAZEPEDA

Dena Zepeda read from a prepared letter wherein she makes varying allegations of corruption, stated that city positions should require an application process, expressed concern about giving management positions to unqualified individuals, complained about gossiping seniors, and stated that she was a victim of “unfairness”, and spoke against implementing a curfew.

LINDA MAREZ

Linda Marez expressed her disappointment in the allegations made and denied that Councilmember Breceda had anything to do with the events that occurred at the incident on Fraijo Street on December 25. She also spoke against the possible implementation of a curfew and Mayor Burrola’s request to be informed of incidents within the city.

LINDA BLAHN

Linda Blahn reported on an incident that occurred at Las Casitas Senior Apartments with her mother and resident Maggie Guzman. She spoke on the stress that the incident has caused her mother and requested reimbursement for the expenses her mother incurred in painting her apartment.

DENAZEPEDA

Dena Zepeda spoke on her perspective of the incident that occurred at the senior apartments.

PAT GONZALES

Pat Gonzales stated that the members of the Council were elected to make decisions on behalf of the residents and not to judge each other. She stated that the incident on Fraijo Street would be described in the police report, and that all other allegations are mere gossip.

CARMEN ROMAN

Carmen Roman referred to seniors as “valuable commodities”, and suggested that Maggie Guzman be reimbursed for her expenses. She also complained that the senior apartments were not decorated for Christmas.

MEGAN ZEPEDA

Megan Zepeda’s email was read into the record, where she congratulated the incoming commissioners and commended staff from the Police Department and Library.

RALPH GALVAN

Ralph Galvan, member of the Valley County Water District, wished all a happy new year and encouraged continued water conservation.

H. MANUEL ORTIZ

H. Manuel Ortiz stated that he was unable to join the meeting as a member of the Council.

SUZANNE GOMEZ

Suzanne Gomez spoke on the need of civility in politics, spoke in support of Maggie Guzman, stated that the city needs a noise ordinance, and suggested that the best-qualified candidates receive employment, and that individuals not be appointed simply due to politics.
COUNCILMEMBER BRECEDA  Councilmember Breceda agreed about the need to treat seniors fairly, and stated that something must be done regarding the incident with Ms. Guzman.

COUNCILMEMBER AMBRIZ  Councilmember Ambriz stated that the city is doing everything it can to purchase the Las Casitas facility so that it can be managed by the city.

MAYOR BURROLA  Mayor Burrola stated that staff is looking into the incident at Las Casitas.

CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA  City Attorney Guerra responded to H. Manuel Ortiz's comment by speaking about AB361 requirements for virtual meetings and participation and noted that, due to a technological issue and through no fault of his, Councilmember Ortiz would be unable to participate online during tonight's meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION  A motion was made by Councilmember Breceda, seconded by Councilmember Garcia, to approve the Consent Calendar, with the exception of Item No. 1C, which was removed for separate consideration. The motion was unanimously approved; Councilmember Ortiz absent.

ITEM NO. 1A  MINUTES

The following minutes were approved:

1) Special meeting held October 13, 2021
2) Regular meeting held October 13, 2021
3) Special meeting held November 10, 2021
4) Regular meeting held November 10, 2021

ITEM NO. 1B  WARRANTS / DEMANDS / PAYROLL

The warrants / demands / payroll were approved.

ITEM NO. 1D  CLAIM REJECTION – ANDRE CAMARENA

1) The claim of Andre Camarena vs. City of Irwindale was rejected and 2) staff was directed to send a letter of rejection.

ITEM NO. 1E  CLAIM REJECTION – ANGELICA LOPEZ ROBLEDO

1) The claim of Angelica Lopez Robledo vs. City of Irwindale was rejected and 2) staff was directed to send a letter of rejection.
SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 759 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRWINDALE ADDING CHAPTER 8.22 TO TITLE 8 (“HEALTH AND SAFETY”) OF THE IRWINDALE MUNICIPAL CODE, ENTITLED “SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR ORGANICS WASTE DISPOSAL REDUCTION, RECYCLING, AND SOLID WASTE COLLECTION,” TO ENACT REGULATIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH SENATE BILL (SB) 1383 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD AND ORGANICS RECYCLING AND RELATED SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING PROCESSING AND REPORTING AND ADOPTION OF AN EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

ORDINANCE NO. 759 ADOPTED ON SECOND READING

Ordinance No. 759, entitled:

"AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRWINDALE ADDING CHAPTER 8.22 TO TITLE 8 ("HEALTH AND SAFETY") OF THE IRWINDALE MUNICIPAL CODE, ENTITLED "SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR ORGANICS WASTE DISPOSAL, REDUCTION, RECYCLING, AND SOLID WASTE COLLECTION," TO ENACT REGULATIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH SENATE BILL (SB) 1383 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD AND ORGANICS RECYCLING AND RELATED SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING PROCESSING AND REPORTING AND ADOPTION OF AN EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT," was passed, approved, and adopted, reading by title only and waiving further reading thereof.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

ITEM NO. 1C
CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AMENDING THE CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLANS (CONTINUED FROM DECEMBER 8, 2021)

Manager Hull presented the report.

Mayor Burrola discussed staff's staffing requests and outlined in the staff report, such as the reclassification of the HR Analyst to Benefits Administrator and the creation of a Communications Specialist position.

Mayor Burrola then questioned the need for a Police Captain position, to which Chief Henshaw replied by noting that the Police Department has made several requests in the past and has emphasized the need to reclassify the Police Lieutenant to Police Captain position in order to meet the department's needs and establish a proper chain of
command. He further noted that Police Sergeants are currently tied up in the office performing administrative work when they could be working on the streets since the department currently lacks the administrative staff necessary to do the work. Additionally, if the Police Lieutenant is reclassified to Captain, this action would trigger a promotional process to backfill the Lieutenant position, which in turn would also ultimately result in the hiring of another police officer.

Mayor Burrola spoke in support of creating a second Lieutenant position, to which Chief Henshaw noted that he had requested this as part of his plan four years ago; however, he advised against it at this time since it would not meet the succession plan of the department, which is necessary for proper oversight.

DENA ZEPEDA  
Dena Zepeda made allegations and complaints against the current Police Lieutenant, and suggested undergoing a recruitment process for the Captain position.

CARMEN ROMAN  
Carmen Roman stated her belief that a Captain position is not needed, complained about transferring Resident ID duties to another staff member, complained about the process needed for children to obtain bus passes, and stated incorrectly that the City never held a Police Captain position.

CHIEF HENSHAW  
Chief Henshaw corrected Mrs. Roman and noted that he has previously served as Inwindale Police Captain himself. He also disputed allegations of favoritism within the department and advised that the city engages in open and transparent processes, and stated that he would be opening the position to all internal and external candidates so that the best could be chosen.

DENA ZEPEDA  
Dena Zepeda read from a prepared statement and stated her belief that the current Police Lieutenant is not qualified to serve as Captain.

MAYOR BURROLA  
As requested by Mayor Burrola, Manager Hull elaborated on the related costs for the staffing adjustments outlined in the staff report.

MAYOR PRO TEM AMBRIZ  
Mayor Pro Tem Ambriz declined support for the part-time Communications Specialist position and stated that the staffer currently performing these duties is doing an outstanding job. He also spoke against filling the Captain position and supported filling a second Lieutenant position. He did, however, voice his support for the Benefits Administrator position and the Senior Center Leader positions.

COUNCILMEMBER BRECEDA  
Councilmember Breceda spoke about the need to support Chief Henshaw and the Police Department by approving the reclassification of Lieutenant to Captain, and supported the rest of the staffing adjustments recommended by staff.
MOTION

A motion was made by Councilmember Garcia, seconded by Councilmember Breceda, to adopt:

Resolution No. 2021-123-3245, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRWINDALE APPROVING NEW JOB CLASSIFICATIONS AND CERTAIN JOB CLASSIFICATIONS, APPROVING UPDATES TO AN EXISTING JOB SPECIFICATION, AND APPROVING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES," and

Resolution No. 2021-117-3239, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRWINDALE ESTABLISHING THE BENEFITS FOR UNREPRESENTED UNCLASSIFIED NON-PERMANENT AND PERMANENT PART-TIME AT-WILL CITY EMPLOYEES," and

Resolution No. 2021-126-3248, entitled:


MAYOR BURROLA

Mayor Burrola noted that the city is currently negotiating with city employee organizations and that a new City Manager will soon be hired. He requested holding off on taking action on this matter until the mid-year budget review is underway and until a new City Manager is hired.

H. MANUEL ORTIZ

H. Manuel Ortiz suggested tabling this matter until a new City Manager is hired.

SUZANNE GOMEZ

Suzanne Gomez suggested tabling this matter.

ROLL CALL

With regard to the above-mentioned motion, Councilmembers Breceda and Garcia voted in favor; Mayor Pro Tem Ambriz and Mayor Burrola voted against.

MOTION

Mayor Burrola made a motion to table this matter until the mid-year budget review.
CITY ATTORNEY GUERRA

City Attorney Guerra noted that state law has increased the minimum wage beginning January. He spoke on the need to adopt the second and third resolutions that were requested by staff in order to address this state requirement.

MANAGER HULL

Manager Hull elaborated on the resolutions that City Attorney Guerra referred to, as well as the actions that would be taken should the resolutions be adopted.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ambriiz, seconded by Mayor Burrola, to adopt:

Resolution No. 2021-117-3239, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRWINDALE ESTABLISHING THE BENEFITS FOR UNREPRESENTED UNCLASSIFIED NON-PERMANENT AND PERMANENT PART-TIME AT-WILL CITY EMPLOYEES," and

Resolution No. 2021-126-3248, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRWINDALE ESTABLISHING THE NUMBER OF POSITIONS, SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, AND COMPENSATION FOR CITY EMPLOYEES, AND APPROVING AN APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 FOR UNREPRESENTED UNCLASSIFIED NON-PERMANENT AND PERMANENT PART-TIME AT-WILL POSITIONS.". The motion was unanimously approved; Councilmember Ortiz absent.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 2A

RESOLUTION TO RE-RATIFY THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND AUTHORIZE REMOTE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE CITY OF IRWINDALE FOR THE 30-DAY PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 13, 2022, THROUGH FEBRUARY 12, 2022 (joint item for all agencies)

CHIEF DEPUTY CITY CLERK NIETO

Chief Deputy City Clerk Nieto presented the staff report.
CARMEN ROMAN

Carmen Roman spoke in favor of maintaining hybrid legislative meetings.

DENA ZEPEDA

Dena Zepeda questioned why Councilmember Ortiz was unable to participate virtually in tonight’s meeting, to which City Attorney Guerra advised that the meeting agendas must identify that the proceedings are being held in accordance with AB361 to allow for the remote participation of a Councilmember. When the agenda for tonight’s meeting was prepared, it was assumed that all Councilmembers would attend the meeting in person; as such, the agenda did not contain this language. However, staff learned on Monday that Councilmember Ortiz would potentially not meet in person, and so staff amended the special meeting agenda to invoke AB361 in order to permit his off-site virtual attendance. However, due to technical errors, the agenda was not uploaded to the city’s website. This is the reason Councilmember Ortiz was unable to participate in tonight’s meeting.

MAYOR PRO TEM AMBRIZ

Replying to Mayor Pro Tem Ambriz’s question, City Attorney Guerra explained that the Council previously authorized hybrid meetings per AB361 through January 8. Unfortunately, Councilmember Ortiz was unable to join tonight’s meeting since the meeting was not noticed as an AB361 meeting. In order to avoid this happening again in the future, the Council will continue holding meetings every two weeks in order to meet the 30-day AB361 deadlines.

COUNCILMEMBER BRECEDA

Councilmember Breceda noted that a majority of cities are beginning to shut down again due to the pandemic, and expressed his preference that meetings be held via teleconference for the safety and protection of staff and residents.

CARMEN ROMAN

Carmen Roman again spoke on her preference of hybrid meetings.

DENA ZEPEDA

Dena Zepeda spoke highly of Chief Deputy City Clerk Nieto, and stated that the people deserve to have their elected Councilmembers attend the meetings in person.

MAYOR BURROLA

Mayor Burrola expressed concern for the safety of employees and residents.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ambriz, seconded by Mayor Burrola, to adopt:

Resolution No. 2022-02-3251, entitled:

ITEM NO. 2B
UPDATE ON COYOTES IN THE CITY OF IRWINDALE
(verbally, requested by Councilmember Breceda)

DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ

Director Rodriguez presented the update, wherein she advised that the city has collaborated with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments to provide a coyote program consisting of the dissemination of safety information and measures to be taken when encountering coyotes. She added that an online regional incident reporting system and a hotline have been activated. Staff has also distributed children activity books and has held Twitter chats to discuss how to keep pets safe. Information has also been posted on the city website and social media pages, and mailed to city residents. She also reported a sighting of an aggressive pack near the Nora/Fraijo area.

COUNCILMEMBER BRECEDA

Councilmember Breceda requested that staff stay alert regarding the pack near the Nora/Fraijo area.

DENA ZEPEDA

Dena Zepeda spoke on her encounter with coyote packs and how she howls at them.

DIRECTOR RODRIGUEZ

Director Rodriguez advised that staff receives monthly coyote reports, and that staff goes out in search of coyotes, but has not seen them in a while.

Responding to a question by Dena Zepeda, Director Rodriguez advised that sick or injured coyotes tend to move slower and are unusually aggressive.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ITEM NO. 3A
PROPOSED USE OF CDBG ALLOCATION FOR FY 2022-2023

INTERIM DIRECTOR DURAN

Interim Director Duran presented the staff report.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

At 9:04 p.m., Mayor Burrola opened the public hearing.
CARMEN ROMAN
Carmen Roman asked whether there was an allocation set aside for Senior Center meals.

DENA ZEPEDA
Dena Zepeda asked whether the allocation would impact housing.

SUZANNE GOMEZ
Suzanne Gomez suggested that, if the allocation would cover senior meals, that a portion be used to reimburse Mrs. Guzman’s expenses in painting her apartment.

INTERIM DIRECTOR DURAN
Interim Director Duran clarified that the Community Development Block Grant is an annual funding provided by the federal government to the city, to be used in specific ways. In this instance, the full $9,470 that will be received can be used to fund the seniors’ meals to help them meet their daily nutritional needs. She noted that the funding allocation would fund six months of the program, with the remaining six months to be funded by the General Fund.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING
There being no additional speakers, Mayor Burrola closed the public hearing at 9:08 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-01-3250 ADOPTED

Resolution No. 2022-01-3250, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRWINDALE APPROVING THE PROPOSED USE OF THE CITY’S FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 LOS ANGELES URBAN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATION,” was passed, approved, and adopted, on the motion of Mayor Pro Tem Ambriz, seconded by Mayor Burrola, and unanimously approved; Councilmember Breceda abstaining and Councilmember Ortiz absent.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

DIRECTOR
Director Rodriguez provided an update on Recreation Department and Senior Center activities and events.

ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER ESPINO
Assistant to the City Manager Espino provided an update on COVID-19.

DENA ZEPEDA
Dena Zepeda asked about vaccination numbers and testing sites.

CARMEN ROMAN
Carmen Roman reported incidents where she noticed staff was not wearing masks, and thanked Assistant to the City Manager Espino for following up on her phone call.
ASSISTANT TO THE
CITY MANAGER
ESPINO

Assistant to the City Manager Espino advised that the County does not provide vaccination data to the City.

MAYOR BURROLA

Responding to a question by Mayor Burrola, Manager Hull advised that the County of Los Angeles requires employers to provide certain types of facemasks to employees, and noted that Public Services staff is working on securing said masks.

AGENDA ITEMS
REQUESTED BY
COUNCILMEMBERS

ITEM NO. 5A
DISCUSS CITY OF
IRWINDALE EXPENSE
REIMBURSEMENT
POLICY

ASSISTANT CITY
MANAGER OLIVARES

Assistant City Manager Olivares presented the staff report.

CARMEN ROMAN

Responding to a question by Carmen Roman, Assistant City Manager Olivares advised that the agendas for Council meetings contain a section where Councilmembers could report on events they have attended in their capacity as elected officials.

CITY ATTORNEY
GUERRA

City Attorney Guerra advised that all Councilmembers and Commissioners are required to report and summarize on their attendance at events.

CARMEN ROMAN

Responding to an additional question by Carmen Roman, Assistant City Manager Olivares indicated that no Councilmember or Commissioner attended a conference in December.

MAYOR PRO TEM
AMBRIZ

Replying to a question by Mayor Pro Tem Ambriz, City Attorney Guerra indicated that it would be redundant for the City's Reimbursement Policy to include a requirement that Councilmembers and Commissioners report on their event attendance, as doing so is already required by state law.

ASSISTANT CITY
MANAGER OLIVARES

Assistant City Manager Olivares advised that the City’s policy requires elected officials and commissioners to provide a brief report on meeting attendance at the next meeting of the Council or related legislative body after returning from a reimbursable event.

MOTION

A motion was made by Councilmember Garcia, seconded by Councilmember Breceda, to receive and file the report. The motion was unanimously approved; Councilmember Ortiz absent.
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m., in memory of Ben Aguayo.

Laura M. Nieto, MMC
Chief Deputy City Clerk

Approved as submitted at the meeting held February 9, 2022.