

CITY OF ARTESIA
ARTESIA CITY HALL, ARTESIA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
18747 CLARKDALE AVENUE, ARTESIA, CA 90701
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ARTESIA CITY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020
11:00 A.M.

The Special Meeting of the Artesia City Council was called to order at 11:00 a.m., on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at Various Teleconference Locations by Mayor Ali Taj.

PRESENT: Ali Taj, Mayor
Rene Trevino, Mayor Pro Tem (Arrived at 11:06 a.m.)
Melissa Ramoso, Councilmember
Miguel Canales, Councilmember
Tony Lima, Councilmember (Arrived at 11:03 a.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: William Rawlings, City Manager
Christi Hogin, Interim City Attorney
Ernesto Sanchez, City Clerk
Jamie Murguia, Assistant City Clerk

MEETING PROCEDURES

THE CITY CLERK READ THE MEETING PROCEDURES AS FOLLOWS:

As a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, states of emergency have been declared in the County of Los Angeles and the state of California. The President of the United States has declared a federal emergency. At the direction of the Governor, starting March 19, 2020, the entire state is subject to stay-at-home orders. These measures are imposed to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. To comply with these emergency measures, the City Council meeting will be open and public but conducted via teleconference only. This way the public, the staff, and the Council will not be physically in the same place. The City is endeavoring to employ technology that will allow the public to view the meeting live and participate. Public comment must be submitted by email to publiccomments@cityofartesia.us. Submissions should be limited to 300 words or less, and must be received prior to the posted start time of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CANALES TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RAMOSO

Said motion carried (4-0-0-1) in the following roll call vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	Canales, Ramoso, Trevino, Taj
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None
ABSTAIN:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	Lima

CITY COUNCIL ACTION: The Agenda was approved without objection 4-0-0-1.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SPEAKER CARDS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

City Clerk presented the announcement, and announced there were no speaker cards.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 20-2796, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARTESIA, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING AND PROCLAIMING EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

Councilmember Ramoso provided comments

Councilmember Canales provided comments

Councilmember Lima provided comments

Mayor Pro Tem Trevino provided comments, and asked a clarifying question to Interim City Attorney Hogin

Interim City Attorney Hogin provided comments

Councilmember Canales requested a report from the City Manager on the fiscal impact of the item on the City

City Manager Rawlings reported that the item will increase the City’s ability to recover costs, which Staff is tracking at \$100,000 by the ended of April. City Manager Rawlings reported that it is imperative that the City be in the position to recover those funds, and the adoption of this item will help the City make a stronger case for reimbursement of the costs the City is incurring.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CANALES TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 20-2796, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARTESIA, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING AND PROCLAIMING EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

MOTION SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER LIMA

Said motion carried (5-0-0-0) in the following roll call vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	Lima, Canales, Ramoso, Trevino, Taj
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None
ABSTAIN:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None

CITY COUNCIL ACTION: Consent Calendar was approved without objection 5-0-0-0.

- 2. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 20-894U, AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARTESIA, CALIFORNIA, ENACTING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON FORECLOSURES AND EVICTIONS DUE TO NONPAYMENT OF RENT BY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL TENANTS IMPACTED BY THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19), AND SETTING FORTH THE FACTS CONSTITUTING SUCH URGENCY

Mayor Taj requested a Staff Report from City Manager Rawlings

City Manager Rawlings provided a Staff Report

Interim City Attorney Hogin provided comments

Councilmember Ramoso provided comments, and asked for City Council to consider amending the ordinance to also prohibit rental increases

Councilmember Lima asked clarifying questions to Interim City Attorney Hogin

Interim City Attorney Hogin provided comments

Councilmember Canales provided comments and stated that he supports the comments by Councilmember Ramoso that the City Council consider amending the ordinance to also prohibit rental increases

City Manager Rawlings asked Councilmembers Ramoso and Canales to clarify if prohibiting rental increases would be for both residential and commercial properties

Councilmember Canales and Councilmember Ramoso replied, yes

Interim City Attorney Hogin provided comments, and recommended that the City Council adopt the ordinance as-is and that Staff prepare a separate ordinance to extend the anti-price gauging rules to rents and bring that back for City Council consideration.

Councilmember Ramoso provided comments

Mayor Pro Tem Trevino provided comments

- 3. MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CANALES TO ADOPT AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARTESIA, CALIFORNIA, ENACTING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON FORECLOSURES AND EVICTIONS DUE TO NONPAYMENT OF RENT BY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL TENANTS IMPACTED BY THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19), AND SETTING FORTH THE FACTS CONSTITUTING SUCH URGENCY, AND FOR STAFF TO BRING BACK TO A FUTURE MEETING AN ORDINANCE THAT WILL ADDRESS RENT INCREASES UNDER THE CITY COUNCIL’S ANTI-PRICE GAUGING AUTHORITY AND ALSO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF NOT HAVING TO REPAY BACK RENT ALL AT ONCE

MOTION SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM TREVINO

Said motion carried (5-0-0-0) in the following roll call vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	Lima, Canales, Ramoso, Trevino, Taj
NOES:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None
ABSTAIN:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBERS:	None

CITY COUNCIL ACTION: Consent Calendar was approved without objection 5-0-0-0.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Lima provided comments

Councilmember Ramoso provided comments

Councilmember Canales provided comments

Mayor Pro Tem Trevino provided comments

Mayor Taj provided comments

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Taj adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.