

**DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the City Council
City of Santa Ana,
California**



March 18, 2025

CLOSED SESSION MEETING – 4:00 P.M.

REGULAR OPEN MEETING – 5:30 P.M.

(Immediately following the Closed Session Meeting)

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

22 Civic Center Plaza Santa Ana, CA 92701

CLOSED SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES: Mayor Amezcua called the Closed Session meeting to order at 4:10 P.M.

ATTENDANCE	Council Members	Phil Bacerra
		Johnathan Ryan Hernandez
		Jessie Lopez
		David Penaloza
		Thai Viet Phan
	Mayor Pro Tem	Benjamin Vazquez
	Mayor	Valerie Amezcua
	City Manager	Alvaro Nuñez
	City Attorney	Sonia R. Carvalho
	City Clerk	Jennifer L. Hall

ROLL CALL

MINUTES: City Clerk Jennifer L. Hall conducted roll call.

Councilmembers Hernandez, Penaloza, and Phan, Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez, and Mayor Amezcua were present. Councilmembers Bacerra and Lopez arrived during Closed Session.

ADDITIONS\DELETIONS TO CLOSED SESSION

MINUTES: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Members of the public may address the City Council on Closed Session items.

MINUTES: City Clerk Jennifer L. Hall stated there were no comments.

RECESS – City Council will recess to Closed Session for the purpose of conducting regular City business.

MINUTES: Mayor Amezcua recessed to consider the Closed Session items at 4:11 P.M.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS – The Brown Act permits legislative bodies to discuss certain matters without members of the public present. The City Council finds, based on advice from the City Attorney, that discussion in open session of the following matters will prejudice the position of the City in existing and anticipated litigation:

1. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – POTENTIAL INITIATION OF LITIGATION** pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: (So Cal Edison)
2. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR** pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6(a):
Agency Negotiator: Lori Schnaider, Executive Director of Human Resources
Employee Organization: Santa Ana Middle Management / Administrative Management Association (SAMA)
3. **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE - PERFORMANCE EVALUATION** pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1):
TITLE: City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney
4. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR** pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6(a):
Agency Designated Representative: Lori Schnaider, Executive Director of Human Resources
Unrepresented Employees: City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney

CLOSED SESSION REPORT – The City Attorney will report on any action(s) from Closed Session.

RECONVENE – City Council will reconvene to continue regular City business.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES: Mayor Amezcua reconvened the City Council Meeting to order at 6:24 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Councilmembers

Phil Bacerra

Johnathan Ryan Hernandez

Jessie Lopez

David Penaloza

Thai Viet Phan

Benjamin Vazquez

Valerie Amezcua

Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor

City Manager

City Attorney

City Clerk

Alvaro Nuñez

Sonia R. Carvalho

Jennifer L. Hall

ROLL CALL

MINUTES: City Clerk Jennifer L. Hall conducted roll call.

Councilmembers Bacerra, Hernandez, Lopez, Penaloza, and Phan, Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez, and Mayor Amezcua were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Alicia Serrato

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

Police Chaplain Bob Barnett

ADDITIONS\DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MINUTES: None.

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. **Certificates of Recognition presented by Mayor Amezcua to Santa Ana High School Boys and Girls Wrestling Teams for Exceptional Sportsmanship**

MINUTES: Mayor Amezcua presented certificates of recognition to Santa Ana High School Boys and Girls Wrestling Teams for exceptional sportsmanship.

2. **Certificates of Recognition presented by Councilmember Bacerra to the Santiago High School Boys Basketball Team for Exceptional Sportsmanship and their CIF Championship**

MINUTES: Councilmember Bacerra presented certificates of recognition to the Santiago High School Boys Basketball Team for exceptional sportsmanship and their CIF Championship.

3. Certificate of Recognition presented by Councilmember Lopez to Stanford Sound and Stage for their Outstanding Contributions to the Community

MINUTES: *Councilmember Lopez presented a certificate of recognition to Stanford Sound and Stage for their outstanding contributions to the community.*

CLOSED SESSION REPORT – The City Attorney will report on any action(s) from Closed Session.

MINUTES: *City Attorney Sonia Carvalho announced there was no reportable action.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Public comments will be held during the beginning of the meeting for ALL comments on agenda and non-agenda items.

MINUTES: *City Clerk Jennifer L. Hall reported out the summary of email comments received: (26) Agenda Item No. 16 and (12) non-agenda comments.*

The following speakers addressed City Council in-person:

- 1. Erik Sanchez invited all to attend the grand opening of La Colmena Walnut Farm on April 5, 2025 located at 1901 West Walnut.*
- 2. Joel Parker spoke regarding Agenda Item No.12.*
- 3. Catalina Iniestra (translation: Spanish) spoke regarding the Adopt-a-Lot program.*
- 4. Veronica Garcia (translation: Spanish) spoke regarding the Adopt-a-Lot program.*
- 5. Monica Acevedo Guerrero spoke regarding the Adopt-a-Lot program.*
- 6. Dulce Maria Sanchez (translation: Spanish) spoke regarding the Adopt-a-Lot program.*
- 7. Rocio Guzman (translation: Spanish) spoke regarding the Adopt-a-Lot program.*
- 8. Jeffrey J. Jensen expressed concern regarding pricing adjustments for parking in Downtown.*
- 9. Delilah Snell expressed concern regarding pricing adjustments for parking in Downtown.*
- 10. Layne Sutton expressed concern regarding unsafe driving and speeding on Civic Center at the intersection of French Street.*

The following speakers addressed City Council via teleconference:

- 11. Mike Tardiff spoke regarding SD84 transit zoning and the March 3rd train station meeting.*

12. Tim Johnson spoke regarding Agenda Item No. 15 and the sunset date of Measure X.

<u>CONSENT CALENDAR</u>

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve staff recommendations on the following Consent Calendar Items: 4 through 14 and waive reading of all resolutions and ordinances.

MINUTES: At 7:37 P.M., the Consent Calendar was considered.

Councilmember Hernandez pulled Agenda Item No. 11 for separate discussion and consideration.

Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez requested to comment on Agenda Item No. 9.

Mayor Amezcua pulled Agenda Item No. 8 for separate discussion and consideration.

MOTION: Councilmember Penaloza moved to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 4 through 14 with the exception of Agenda Item Nos. 8, 9, and 11 pulled for separate discussion and consideration, seconded by Councilmember Bacerra.

The motion carried, 7-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBER BACERRA, COUNCILMEMBER HERNANDEZ, COUNCILMEMBER LOPEZ, COUNCILMEMBER PENALOZA, COUNCILMEMBER PHAN, MAYOR PRO TEM VAZQUEZ, MAYOR AMEZCUA
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
Status: 7 – 0 – Pass	

4. Excused Absences

Department(s): City Clerk's Office

Recommended Action: Excuse the absent members.

5. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 4, 2025

Department(s): City Clerk's Office

Recommended Action: Approve minutes.

6. **Minutes from the Regular Meetings of the Rental Housing Board on August 21, 2024, Workforce Development Board Youth Council Committee on December 12, 2024, and Arts and Culture Commission on January 16, 2025**

Department(s): City Clerk's Office

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

7. **Appoint Enrique Adame Nominated by Councilmember Bacerra as the Ward 4 Representative to the Community Development Commission for a Partial Term Expiring December 8, 2026**

Department(s): City Clerk's Office

Recommended Action: Appoint Enrique Adame to the Community Development Commission as the Ward 4 representative and administer the Oath of Office.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 WAS PULLED FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

8. **Appropriation Adjustment to Recognize Initial Disbursement of Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program Round 5 (Non-General Fund)**

Department(s): Community Development Agency

Recommended Action: Approve appropriation adjustment to recognize \$5,878,393 in funds from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in revenue account (no.12218002-52025 State Grant - Direct) and appropriate the same amount to expenditure account (no. 12218719-various) to address homelessness in the City of Santa Ana. *(Requires five affirmative votes)*

MINUTES: *Mayor Amezcua requested clarification regarding the intended use of the funding.*

Community Development Director Mike Garcia explained that there are two primary sources of state grant funding and outlined the application process. He confirmed that the city's application, submitted in January, was awarded in November and funds are now being recognized.

Mayor Amezcua inquired about the allocation of funds to the Carnegie Navigation Center and the funding designated for foster youth.

Director Garcia clarified that the funds will support shelter operations and city-led outreach initiatives. He specified that approximately \$3.8 million is allocated to the navigation center and 10% of the HHAPP funds, roughly \$550,000, for transitional youth who reside in the city shelter.

Councilmember Lopez expressed support for the item and inquired whether the scope of work would remain consistent for the next round of funding.

Director Garcia confirmed that the scope of work would largely remain the same for the next funding cycle.

Councilmember Lopez requested that the scope of work be expanded for the next round to include support for moving expenses and landlord initiatives.

MOTION: Mayor Amezcua moved to approve the recommended action for Item No. 8, seconded by Councilmember Lopez.

The motion carried, 7-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBER BACERRA, COUNCILMEMBER HERNANDEZ, COUNCILMEMBER LOPEZ, COUNCILMEMBER PENALOZA, COUNCILMEMBER PHAN, MAYOR PRO TEM VAZQUEZ, MAYOR AMEZCUA
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
Status:	7 – 0 – Pass

MINUTES: *Councilmember Penaloza left the meeting at 7:46 P.M.*

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 WAS PULLED FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

9. Approve Appropriation Adjustment and Award a Construction Contract to Legion Contractors, Inc. for the Bristol-Tolliver Street Urban Greening Project (Project No. 24-6600) (Non-General Fund)

Department(s): Public Works Agency

Recommended Action:

1. Approve an appropriation adjustment to recognize \$1,500,000 in prior year fund balance in the Federal Clean Water Protection Fund, Prior Year Carryforward revenue account (No. 05717002-50001) and appropriate the same amount into the Federal Clean Water Protection Enterprise, Improvements Other Than Building expenditure account (No. 05717640-66220). *(Requires five affirmative votes)*
2. Approve an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Capital Improvement Program to add \$1,500,000 of Federal Clean Water Protection Enterprise funding for the Bristol-Tolliver Street Urban Greening Project (No. 24-6600).

3. Approve the Project Cost Analysis for a total estimated construction delivery cost of \$4,581,808, which includes \$3,808,800 for the construction contract, \$392,128 for contract administration, inspection, and testing, and \$380,880 project contingency for unanticipated for unforeseen work.
4. Award a construction contract to Legion Contractors, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$3,808,800, for construction of the Bristol-Tolliver Street Urban Greening Project, for a term beginning March 18, 2025 and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.
5. Determine that, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, the recommended actions are exempt from further review. Categorical Exemption Environmental Review No. ER-2024-110 was filed with the Orange County Clerk-Recorder for the project.

MINUTES: *Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez spoke in support of the project.*

Councilmember Hernandez spoke in support of the project.

Councilmember Lopez thanked the Neighborhood Association for their advocacy and spoke in support of the project.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez moved to approve the recommended action for Item No. 9, seconded by Councilmember Hernandez.

The motion carried, 6-0-0-1, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBER BACERRA, COUNCILMEMBER
HERNANDEZ, COUNCILMEMBER LOPEZ,
COUNCILMEMBER PHAN, MAYOR PRO TEM VAZQUEZ,
MAYOR AMEZCUA

NOES: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER PENALOZA

Status: 6 – 0 – 0 – 1 – **Pass**

10. Approve Appropriation Adjustment and Award a Construction Contract to KYA Services, LLC for the Centennial Park Improvements Project (No. 22-2755) (General Fund)

Department(s): Public Works Agency

Recommended Action:

1. Approve an appropriation adjustment recognizing \$2,250,000 of accumulated General Fund account balance and appropriate the same amount into the PWA Services, Improvements Other Than Buildings (01117607-66220) expenditure account. *(Requires five affirmative votes)*

2. Approve an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program to include an additional \$6,241,000 in construction funds for the Centennial Park Improvements Project (No. 22-2755).
3. Approve the Project Cost Analysis for a total estimated construction delivery cost of \$6,241,000, which includes \$5,941,000 for the construction contract and \$300,000 for contract administration, inspection, and testing.
4. Award a construction contract to KYA Services, LLC, the lowest responsible bidder, in accordance with the base bid in the amount of \$5,941,000, subject to change orders, for construction of the Centennial Park Improvements Project (No. 22-2755), for a term beginning March 18, 2025 and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.
5. Determine that, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, the recommended actions are exempt from further review pursuant to Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines. Categorical Exemption Environmental Review No. ER-2025-15 was filed for the Centennial Park Improvements Project.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 WAS PULLED FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

11. Construction Contract with Hardy & Harper, Inc. for the Rehabilitation of Civic Center Drive from Shelton Street to Flower Street Project (Project No. 25-6711) (General Fund)

Department(s): Public Works Agency

Recommended Action:

1. Approve an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program to include \$500,000 in Civic Center Maintenance funds for the Civic Center Rehabilitation from Shelton Street to Flower Street Project, Project No. 25-6711.
2. Approve the Project Cost Analysis for a total estimated construction delivery cost of \$1,144,000, which includes \$915,000 for the construction contract, \$137,000 for contract administration, inspection, and testing, and a \$92,000 project contingency for unanticipated or unforeseen work due to the complexity and extensive scope of this project.
3. Award a construction contract to Hardy & Harper, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in accordance with the base bid in the amount of \$915,000, subject to change orders, for construction of the Civic Center Rehabilitation (Shelton Street to Flower St.) Project (No. 25-6711), for a term beginning March 18, 2025 and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.
4. Determine that, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, the recommended actions are exempt from further review. Categorical Exemption Environmental Review No. ER-2024-114 was filled for Project No. 25-6711.

MINUTES: Councilmember Hernandez expressed support for the project and excitement for the enhancements to the Civic Center corridor.

Mayor Amezcua asked for clarification regarding outreach.

Public Works Director Nabil Saba explained the plans for community outreach and notification.

MOTION: Councilmember Hernandez moved to approve the recommended action for Item No. 11, seconded by Mayor Amezcua.

The motion carried, 5-0-0-2, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBER BACERRA,	COUNCILMEMBER HERNANDEZ,	COUNCILMEMBER PHAN,	MAYOR PRO TEM VAZQUEZ,	MAYOR AMEZCUA
NOES:	NONE				
ABSTAIN:	NONE				
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBER LOPEZ,	COUNCILMEMBER PENALOZA			
Status:	5 – 0 – 0 – 2 – Pass				

12. Ground License Agreement for Wireless Telecommunications Facilities at Three Existing Cell Tower Sites at El Salvador Park, Jerome Park, and the Santa Ana Stadium

Department(s): Public Works Agency

Recommended Action:

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Ground License Agreement with CCTM1 LLC for wireless telecommunication facilities on City property at El Salvador Park located at 1825 ¾ Civic Center Drive West beginning April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2035, with provision for three, five-year extension options, for total revenue, including all extensions, in the amount of \$2,163,572 (**Agreement No. A-2025-025**).
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Ground License Agreement with CCTM1 LLC for wireless telecommunication facilities on City property at Jerome Park located at 2115 W. McFadden Avenue beginning April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2035, with provision for three, five-year extension options, for total revenue, including all extensions, in the amount of \$2,045,426 (**Agreement No. A-2025-026**).

3. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Ground License Agreement with NCWPCS MPL 30 – Year Sites Tower Holdings LLC, by and through CCATT LLC, for wireless telecommunication facilities on City property at the Santa Ana Stadium located at 951 West 6th Street beginning April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2035, with provision for three, five-year extension options, for total revenue, including all extensions, in the amount of \$1,202,913 (**Agreement No. A-2025-027**).

13. Agreements with JL Group, LLC; Kane, Ballmer & Berkman; Michael Raneses dba Michael Raneses Administrative Hearings; Nastich Law, APC; Palacios Law Office; Robert M. Snider, Attorney at Law; Serviam by Wright, LLP; and The ADR Coach, Inc. for Administrative Hearing Officer Services (Specification 24-127) (General & Non-General Fund)

Department(s): Finance and Management Services

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to execute agreements with each of the eight firms listed below for Administrative Hearing Officer services on an as-needed basis, in a total aggregate amount not to exceed \$2,770,000, for an initial three-year term beginning March 18, 2025 and expiring March 17, 2028, with provisions for one, two-year extension (**Core Agreement No. A-2025-028**).

Firms	Location
JL Group, LLC	Laguna Niguel, CA
Kane, Ballmer & Berkman	Los Angeles, CA
Michael Raneses Administrative Hearings	Tustin, CA
Nastich Law, APC	Berkeley, CA
Palacios Law Office	Riverside, CA
Robert M. Snider, Attorney at Law	Palm Desert, CA
Serviam By Wright, LLP	Irvine, CA
The ADR Coach, Inc.	Los Angeles, CA

14. Agreement with Charter Communications, LLC for Data and Video Communication Services (Specification 25-037) (General Fund and Non-General Fund)

Department(s): Information Technology

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with Charter Communications Operating, LLC (doing business as Spectrum) for data and video communications services, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 annually or \$2,100,000 over the life of the agreement, for a four-year period beginning March 18, 2025 through March 17, 2029, with provisions for three, optional one-year renewals (**Agreement No. A-2025-029**).

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR*

BUSINESS CALENDAR

MINUTES: At 7:54 P.M., the Business Calendar was considered.

15. Early Direction for the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget

Department(s): Finance and Management Services

Recommended Action: Provide direction for preparation of the proposed FY2025-26 budget.

MINUTES: Acting Finance and Management Services Director Alex Trinidad provided a presentation regarding the Mid-Year Budget Update.

Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez expressed support for improvements to the Senior Center, City jail, new bus shelters, code-blue upgrades, funding for future pension costs, city events, and arts initiative. He is in support of stadium upgrades and requested more information regarding the stadium improvement plan.

Councilmember Lopez inquired about the Civic Center Plaza demolition plan, emphasizing the need to salvage artwork on the exterior of the State building. She expressed support for dedicated pension funding and suggested exploring revenue-generating options like private land leases or an enterprise fund for the conference complex. She requested further discussion and a cost-offset analysis regarding the proposed jail upgrades. She also proposed engaging local venue promoters in stadium design discussions and supported using one-time funds for street, sidewalk, and alley repairs, as well as park restroom renovations and playground shade structures.

Councilmember Hernandez expressed his support for an equitable approach to budget adjustments across all departments. He supported setting aside \$5 million of Measure X funds for reserves and utilizing one-time spending for revenue-generating projects, specifically investing in the Bristol and Edinger parking lot. He also expressed support for expanding the Senior Center to create community meeting spaces, upgrading the stadium to increase capacity and amenities for high-profile events, transferring county ownership of the Plaza of the Fountains, and salvaging and maintaining the artwork on the exterior of the State building.

Councilmember Bacerra asked City staff to engage with state officials and request an extension for the state building demolition deadline. He requested more details regarding the proposed cost estimates for the Bristol and Edinger parking lot upgrades and recommended the allocation of at least \$1 million for future pension obligations. He expressed support for the modernization of the jail and requested to see the proposed projects at the Senior Center. He requested a cost analysis for natural and artificial turf options at the stadium and inquired about the scope of additional improvements.

Councilmember Phan expressed support for upgrades to the Bristol and Edinger parking lot, the Senior Center, and stadium expansion. She requested information regarding jail improvements and expected revenue, and expressed support for new bus shelters, code blue emergency system upgrades, and water upgrades. She also supported setting aside funds to cover future pension costs, expanding the annual Fiestas Patrias, and funding arts initiatives.

Mayor Amezcua requested additional information regarding the Measure X Committee's proposals and expressed support for the Bristol and Edinger parking lot renovations. She raised concerns regarding the potential impact of proposed Senior Center renovations on the senior citizens who utilize the facility, emphasizing the need to ensure no services are diminished. She also expressed support for stadium expansion, jail improvements, new bus shelters, and code blue emergency system upgrades.

Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez emphasized the need for the completion of the Cypress Fire Station and reconstruction of streets and sidewalks. He expressed support for investing in library services and programs, updating park concession stands, increasing economic development workforce, and establishing a mobile police station. He also advocated for an in-house construction crew for the city, traffic speed reduction efforts on Center and Elder streets, and the installation of a lighted crosswalk at the intersection of McFadden and Ross Streets.

Councilmember Lopez expressed support for street improvements on River Lane, sidewalk repairs off Valencia, and speed reduction efforts on Lincoln. She advocated for the use of Measure X funds to create a fund for grant-dependent employees and expressed support of art initiatives and new bus shelters. She opposed reducing the budget for Movies at the Park and requested clarification on the proposed reduction.

A discussion ensued regarding the Movies at the Park, Noche de Altares, and Juneteenth celebrations.

Councilmember Hernandez expressed support for citywide events such as Fiestas Patrias and the Chicano Heritage Festival, suggesting the latter travel to different communities within the City. He also supported non-profit organizations managing Noche de Altares and Juneteenth events. He voiced support for art funding, code blue emergency system upgrades, and the use of one-time funding to repair Fifth Street, renovate the concession stand at El Salvador Park, build a crosswalk at Angels Park, hotel conversions in the Santa Anita neighborhood, and install stop signs on Sullivan between McFadden and First Streets.

Councilmember Bacerra requested left turn signals at the intersections of Flower and MacArthur, as well as Greenville and MacArthur, and street lights on the west side of Bristol, between Gary and Alton, and on Harvey Avenue and Carol Avenue. He also requested a basketball court at Lillie King Park, expressed support for citywide speed reduction efforts, street repairs near the Hutton Center, and security

cameras along the Alton bike trail, between Bristol and Orange Avenue. He requested the development of a plan for upgrades at fire stations.

Councilmember Phan expressed support for maintaining the general fund reserve and advocated for repairs to Euclid Street, highlighting safety concerns.

Mayor Amezcua thanked staff for conducting research on the potential effects of the new tariffs on sales tax. She expressed her hope that the city would be spared from any federal funding reductions and highlighted that the city's budget cannot accommodate every single street repair requested by Council.

City Manager Alvaro Nuñez stated that the city does not have sufficient funds to address all requests and emphasized the importance of collaborating with state and federal partners.

Mayor Amezcua highlighted the shortage of police officers and expressed concern with a mobile department. She suggested installing traffic cameras at certain intersections as an alternative option. She expressed support for water improvements and reiterated that the city is operating within a very limited budget.

Councilmember Lopez request clarification regarding the increases to Parks and Recreation fees.

A conversation ensued regarding the Parks and Recreation fees.

Mayor Amezcua stated she does not support an increase to park usage fees. She expressed support for funding future pension costs, maintaining the general fund reserve, and assisting local businesses with public relations to promote growth and retention. She also requested a discussion on revitalization efforts for downtown and other business districts, and inquired about the update on the Spanish version of the mySantaAna App.

Deputy City Manager Sylvia Vazquez stated the app is pending a release date of May 30, 2025.

City Manager Nuñez stated the app will be released both in Spanish and Vietnamese.

Mayor Amezcua expressed opposition to moving the Chicano Heritage event to other communities in the city, highlighting safety concerns.

Councilmember Bacerra requested a follow-up regarding CalTrans and their plans to maintain their portions of the city.

Councilmember Phan expressed support for continuing to host the Chicano Heritage Festival at Centennial Park, citing logistical advantages. She expressed reservations regarding the proposed fund for grant-funded positions, noting that a safety net already exists at the state level through unemployment benefits.

Councilmember Hernandez stated that El Salvador Park has seen a decrease in violence and emphasized the value of rotating the Chicano Heritage Festival to various locations to unite families and celebrate cultural pride. He suggested partnering with local organizations to highlight community histories, promoting both public safety and positive representation.

Councilmember Lopez requested a more efficient and supportive environment for businesses in the city and a review of current processes to eliminate unnecessary obstacles.

Mayor Amezcua requested information about the new business center located on the first floor of City Hall.

City Manager Nuñez explained that the office's purpose is to offer direct assistance to business owners seeking help with navigating the city's processes, including obtaining new business licenses and opening new businesses, and help minimize delays.

Councilmember Phan requested information on park lighting and recommended additional lighting at Centennial Park to allow for extended hours for sports activities and improve its suitability for city events.

Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez supported the implementation of business liaisons at the new business center to provide support to new and existing business owners across the city.

Mayor Amezcua asked for information regarding the in-house construction crew and the status of the Cypress Fire Station.

City Manager Nuñez confirmed staff will be presenting on the proposed in-house construction crew and the Cypress Fire Station at a future City Council meeting.

Mayor Amezcua stated that creating a safety net for grant-funded positions would not be financially sustainable. She noted that in the event of federal funding cuts, staff would propose budget reductions. She emphasized the need for careful financial management and prioritization, focusing on essential services such as street maintenance, sidewalk repairs, tree care, and overall quality of life. She thanked staff for their budget proposal efforts and encouraged residents to complete the city survey, emphasizing the importance of individual input.

RECESS

MINUTES: Mayor Amezcua recessed the City Council meeting at 9:22 P.M.

RECONVENE

MINUTES: Mayor Amezcua reconvened the City Council meeting at 9:36 P.M.

16. Parking Enterprise Fund Updates for Meters and Structures

Department(s): Community Development Agency

Recommended Action:

1. Approve parking rates for City-owned parking structures to \$2.00 per hour with annual increases of \$0.50 per hour until a maximum of \$3.00 per hour is attained.
2. Direct staff to prepare a Resolution establishing parking rates for the City-owned parking structures and reaffirming the City Manager authority to modify future parking structure rates after the third annual increase as needed.
3. Approve the parking meter rates to \$2.50 per hour with annual increases of \$0.50 per hour until a maximum of \$3.50 per hour is attained.
4. Direct staff to amend the meter ordinance establishing parking meter rates and hours of operation, eliminating metered parking fronting residential in the Willard Neighborhood, and authorizing the City Manager to modify future meter rates after the third annual increase as needed, to mirror the authority of the City-owned parking structures.

MINUTES: *Community Development Director Mike Garcia provided a presentation regarding the Parking Enterprise Fund 27.*

Councilmember Bacerra emphasized the need to generate revenue to support the Clean and Safe program. He requested that staff develop different revenue models that incorporate rates based on peak time usage, rather than relying on flat rates. He expressed concern regarding discrepancies between the reported peak time data presented and information received previously.

A discussion ensued to clarify the precise timeframe defining "peak time" within city parking structures.

MOTION: Councilmember Bacerra moved to approve city-owned parking structure rates of \$1/hour during non-peak periods, with a \$0.50 annual increase until a maximum of \$2/hour is reached. During peak periods, defined as 5pm to 1am Thursday through Sunday, the rate would be \$2/hour; approve curbside parking rates of \$3/hour, with a \$0.50 annual increase until a maximum of \$4/hour is reached; direct staff to return within 90 days with plans and contracts for removing coin-operated meters and installing pay stations in downtown areas; direct staff to prepare resolutions establishing the new parking rates for city-owned structures, and reaffirming the City Manager's authority to modify parking structure rates after the third annual increase, with a requirement to report such actions to the Council; and direct staff to amend the meter ordinance, establishing curb side parking rates and hours of operations, eliminating meters in the Willard neighborhood, and

authorizing the City manager to modify future curbside rates after the third annual increase as needed to mirror the authority of the city owned parking structures and reporting such actions to the Council as receive and file. Motion failed for lack of a second.

MINUTES: Councilmember Bacerra emphasized the importance of capitalizing on peak period demand to maximize revenue. He advocated for lower off-peak rates to incentivize parking and support local businesses. He reminded the Council that revenue generation is required to fund the downtown Clean and Safe program.

Councilmember Hernandez expressed support for the removal of meters in the Willard neighborhood, specifically in front of residences, and parking permits granting exemptions to meter parking, as well as the removal of meters north of Tenth Street. He also supported a \$0.50 increase to parking rates at both city-owned structures and metered locations and proposed amending the hours of operation for metered parking to end at 6:00 P.M. to allow for a more business-friendly environment.

A discussion ensued regarding the proposed amendments and the original motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez voiced support for the removal of parking meters in the Willard neighborhood as well as an annual review of parking and meter rates, rather than implementing a continuous yearly increase.

Councilmember Lopez expressed support for the removal of meters in the Willard Neighborhood and requested clarification on whether adjustments to parking structure rates fall within the City Manager's purview.

City Manager Alvaro Nuñez confirmed that the adjustment of rates for parking structures falls within purview of the City Manager.

Councilmember Lopez requested that the City Manager maintain authority over parking structure rate adjustments.

MOTION: Councilmember Lopez moved to limit the current discussion to matters concerning parking meters only, seconded by Mayor Amezcua. Motion was subsequently rescinded.

MINUTES: Mayor Amezcua expressed concern regarding the current operating budget's deficit, emphasizing the potential loss of the Clean and Safe program and downtown holiday decorations if revenue generation is not maintained. She inquired about the personnel costs associated with parking structures and meters.

Director Garcia stated that the personnel costs amount to \$600,000.

A discussion ensued regarding the personnel costs and the City Manager's Office purview over parking structures.

Councilmember Lopez rescinded her previous motion and instead recommended continuing the item to a future meeting date.

Mayor Amezcua expressed concerns regarding issuing parking permits to residents in the affected area.

City Manager Nuñez clarified that the recommendation from staff would be to remove all meters from in front of residential properties.

MOTION: Councilmember Lopez moved to continue Item No. 16 to bring it back in 30-days with parking meter information only, seconded by Mayor Amezcua.

MINUTES: *Councilmember Phan questioned the separation of parking meter and parking structure discussions, suggesting they be addressed together. She advocated for the Council to participate in the decision-making process alongside the City Manager. She requested amending the current motion to include the parking structures and requested a more detailed, comprehensive presentation.*

Councilmember Lopez expressed opposition to the proposed amendments to the motion. She stated that parking structures fall within the City Manager's purview and suggested a staff report for future Council review of parking meter issues only. Additionally, she requested detailed information on community outreach regarding the transition to digital meters.

City Attorney Sonia Carvalho clarified that a 2013 resolution authorized the City Manager to establish and regulate city parking facilities and set rates. She advised that any new direction should include rescinding or amending this resolution.

Councilmember Phan proposed a sub-motion to direct staff to return with all requested information, including detailed visuals and a draft resolution.

Councilmember Bacerra seconded the sub-motion with a comment, directing staff to also prepare a resolution establishing parking rates for city-owned structures and reaffirming the City Manager's authority to modify rates after the third year.

A discussion ensued regarding the recommendations to staff concerning the resolution and the City Manager's authority over parking structures.

Councilmember Bacerra explained that the current situation requires Council involvement due to the inadequacy of existing rates. He supported Councilmember Phan's motion, agreeing that the discussions should occur concurrently and in public.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Councilmember Phan moved to direct staff to return with all requested information for both parking structures and parking meters, including detailed visuals and a draft resolution, seconded by Councilmember Bacerra.

The motion failed, 3-3, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBER BACERRA, COUNCILMEMBER PHAN,
MAYOR AMEZCUA
NOES: COUNCILMEMBER HERNANDEZ, COUNCILMEMBER
LOPEZ, MAYOR PRO TEM VAZQUEZ
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER PENALOZA
Status: 3 – 3 – 0 – 1 – **Fail**
Motion fails due to tie.

MOTION: Councilmember Lopez moved to continue Item No. 16 to bring it back in 30-days with parking meter information only, seconded by Mayor Amezcua.

The motion carried, 4-2, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBER HERNANDEZ, COUNCILMEMBER
LOPEZ, MAYOR PRO TEM VAZQUEZ, MAYOR AMEZCUA
NOES: COUNCILMEMBER BACERRA, COUNCILMEMBER PHAN
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER PENALOZA
Status: 4 – 2 – 0 – 1 – **Pass**

17. Boards and Commissions Members Appointments, Reappointments, Holdovers, and Removals

Department(s): City Clerk's Office, City Attorney's Office

Recommended Action:

1. Review Santa Ana Municipal Code Section 2-236 pertaining to Appointive Boards and Commissions, Appointments, Removals, Vacancies, and Term.
2. Provide direction to staff.

MINUTES: *City Clerk Jennifer L. Hall provided a presentation regarding the boards and commissions members appointments, reappointments, holdovers, and removals.*

Councilmember Bacerra stated the staff report did not include the wording "that except as otherwise provided in this section" regarding the terms of removal and reappointments, and asked for clarification regarding a time in 2019 where the

Ward 4 roster of commissioners was cleared versus this 2025 situation.

City Attorney Sonia Carvalho clarified the code section regarding appointment and removal, and explained the holdover provision is to avoid the loss of commissioners with each election.

Councilmember Bacerra recommended establishing a deadline for councilmembers to submit their nominations for commissioners within 90 days and that failure to nominate will result in a vacant seat.

Councilmember Hernandez spoke regarding the holdover provision and the action of the Council at the last City Council meeting, and encouraged residents to apply to serve as commissioners.

MOTION: Councilmember Hernandez moved to keep the holdover provisions, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez.

MINUTES: *Councilmember Phan spoke regarding the holdover language, middle ground, and suggested a deadline on the holdover language.*

Councilmember Bacerra questioned the reaffirming of the commissioner.

City Clerk Hall clarified the reappointment terms and processes.

City Attorney Carvalho elaborated on the difficulty of the holdover language and affirmed an ordinance can be made to modify the holdover language.

Commissioner Lopez expressed the difficulty of holdovers and recruiting commissioners.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Councilmember Lopez moved to receive and file Item No. 17, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez.

MINUTES: *Mayor Amezcua expressed concern with previous possible changes to the Personnel Board and stated that rules need to be applied equally.*

City Attorney Carvalho emphasized the importance of council members maintaining neutrality in the selection of commissioners.

Councilmember Phan supported establishing a 90-day deadline for reappointment nominations, with failure to nominate resulting in a vacant seat. She also noted that the removal of a commissioner can be added to future agendas if needed.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Councilmember Phan moved to bring the item back for consideration and include an amendment that continues the holdover but requires a new nomination within 90-days of the swearing in of the Councilmember; failure to nominate and receive an affirmative appointment within the 90-days will result in a vacancy of that seat, seconded by

Councilmember Bacerra.

The motion failed, 3-3, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBER BACERRA, COUNCILMEMBER PHAN ,
MAYOR AMEZCUA
NOES: COUNCILMEMBER HERNANDEZ, COUNCILMEMBER
LOPEZ, MAYOR PRO TEM VAZQUEZ
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER PENALOZA
Status: 3 – 3 – 0 – 1 – **Fail**
Motion fails due to tie.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Councilmember Lopez moved to receive and file Item No. 17, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez.

The motion carried, 4-2, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBER HERNANDEZ, COUNCILMEMBER
LOPEZ, COUNCILMEMBER PHAN, MAYOR PRO TEM
VAZQUEZ
NOES: COUNCILMEMBER BECERRA, MAYOR AMEZCUA
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER PENALOZA
Status: 4 – 2 – 0 – **Pass**

****END OF BUSINESS CALENDAR****

COUNCILMEMBER REQUESTED ITEMS

18. Discuss and consider directing the City Manager to prepare a resolution expressing City support for the Santa Ana Unified School District Graduate Profile by formally recognizing its importance and aligning city resources to reinforce its key attributes. – Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez

MINUTES: *Councilmember Vazquez presented the Graduate Profile Resolution model to establish a partnership with graduating high school students from Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD), aiming to secure employment opportunities by utilizing their internships and program experiences that prepare them for job roles within the community.*

Councilmember Hernandez spoke in support of the item.

Mayor Amezcua stated she would not be supporting the item due to the recent SAUSD layoffs.

Councilmember Bacerra stated he would not be supporting the item due to the recent SAUSD layoffs.

Councilmember Lopez expressed her support for the students and questioned what the City's resources are being used for and the outcome.

Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez expanded on the goal of the District Graduate Profile, emphasizing the creation of diverse job opportunities and internship placements for students. He advocated for connecting city and district resources to support and showcase youth programs, and partnering with businesses to provide employment and hands-on experience to student.

MOTION: At 11:08 P.M., Councilmember Phan moved to continue discussion and consideration of the remainder of the agenda, seconded by Mayor Amezcua.

The motion carried, 6-0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	COUNCILMEMBER BACERRA, COUNCILMEMBER HERNANDEZ, COUNCILMEMBER LOPEZ, COUNCILMEMBER PHAN, MAYOR PRO TEM VAZQUEZ, MAYOR AMEZCUA
NOES:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE
ABSENT:	COUNCILMEMBER PENALOZA
Status:	6 – 0 – 0 – 0 – Pass

MINUTES: *Councilmember Phan expressed support in the City and youth engagement within the workforce and suggested the resolution include all neighboring school districts.*

Mayor Amezcua spoke in support of Councilmember Phan's suggestions.

RECESS

MINUTES: *Mayor Amezcua recessed the City Council meeting and convened the Special Housing Authority meeting at 11:12 P.M.*

RECONVENE

MINUTES: *Mayor Amezcua adjourned the Special Housing Authority meeting and reconvened the City Council meeting to order at 11:14 P.M.*

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

MINUTES: *City Manager Alvaro Nuñez shared details regarding the City's budget and encouraged the community to participate in the budget survey to provide input. He shared planning efforts for the Civic Center and the City's sponsorship of a real estate competition between Chapman University and UC Irvine students and highlighted upcoming events: the Grow Conference with the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce on*

March 27th, the Sahuayo Business Expo on March 28th, and the Santa Ana Fun Run 5K on May 17th.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

AB1234 DISCLOSURE – If the City paid for travel or other expenses this is the time for members of the Council to provide a brief oral report on attendance of any regional board or commission meeting or any conference, meeting or event attended.

1. March 9-13, 2025 Mayor Valerie Amezcua – NLC Congressional City Conference, Washington D.C.

MINUTES: *Councilmember Lopez thanked the residents who attended office hours at Fischer Park and announced the next session is on April 12. She expressed interest in the Adopt-a-Lot program.*

Councilmember Hernandez left the meeting at 11:18 P.M.

Councilmember Phan invited everyone to attend the Same Day Solution Fair, hosted by Supervisor Sarmiento on March 27th at 4300 Westminster Ave., 92703. She expressed her excitement for the 5k Fun Run on May 17th.

Mayor Pro Tem Vazquez shared that parking rates are \$20–\$25 at the Third & Broadway structure, which is not city owned. He met with the Work Site Center to discuss job programs and the need for more industry partners, met with a rent control group, and expressed interest in meeting with the Economic Development team.

Mayor Amezcua, pursuant to AB1234, announced her travel to Washington D.C. She thanked the Cal Optima Board for awarding the City of Santa Ana the Street Medicine Program. She announced Coffee with the Mayor on March 22nd at the Boys and Girls Club and a Neighborhood Association meeting March 25th at the SAPD Community Room. She inquired about ICE activity in the City.

Police Chief Robert Rodriguez stated there were no known ICE raids in the City.

ADJOURNMENT – Adjourn the City Council meeting.

MINUTES: *Mayor Amezcua adjourned the meeting in memory of Deputy Sheriff Hector Cuevas, Jr. at 11:24 P.M.*

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer L. Hall, CMC
City Clerk