



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

February 9, 2021
City Council Chamber
One Civic Center Plaza
Irvine, CA 92606

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Irvine City Council was called to order at 3:03 p.m. on February 9, 2021 in the City Council Chamber, Irvine Civic Center, One Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, California; Mayor Khan presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present:	5	Councilmember:	Larry Agran*
		Councilmember:	Mike Carroll
		Councilmember:	Anthony Kuo
		Vice Mayor:	Tammy Kim
		Mayor:	Farrah N. Khan

*Via teleconference

Mayor Khan announced that the meeting was broadcast live on Cox Communications Local Access Channel 30 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99, and livestreamed online at cityofirvine.org; and that in an effort to protect public health and prevent the spread of COVID-19, members of the public had the ability to provide live comments on agenda items using Zoom. She also noted that the e-comment feature had been extended for all agenda items, which allowed members of the public the ability to submit e-comments on all agenda items, which would be included as part of the official record and uploaded to the City's website. She also assured the community that the City of Irvine was adhering to the Governor's Executive Order in the Council Chamber and throughout City Hall by sanitizing surfaces and equipment, as well as wearing face masks.

1. SCOPING SESSION

1.1 GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT SCOPING SESSION FOR THE 6TH CYCLE HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

Marika Poynter, Principal Planner, and Charles Kovac, Housing Administrator, presented the staff report and responded to questions.

City Council discussion included: noting concerns raised by other cities in Orange County regarding their respective allocation of Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) units; provided a summary of the number of units allocated to the City of Irvine and the methodology used by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG); discussed the process for appealing the current RHNA allocation and other available options; inquired about the number of units allocated in previous RHNA cycles and number of units built since that time; questioned the allocation of low and very low units, and whether Irvine was able to meet those numbers; questioned whether units built through the Irvine Community Land Trust, student and workforce housing at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), and senior housing counted toward Irvine's unit allocation; questioned SCAG's allocation based on the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system on the 55 and 5 Freeways, and whether the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) was aware; inquired about whether the City or State had the ability to overturn the voter approved initiative designating permanent open space for development of affordable housing; suggested the development of a master plan for affordable housing; questioned whether any new State legislation had been enacted to incentivize developers to build more affordable housing; reiterated the need to find appropriate locations for additional units and not disenfranchising neighborhoods; questioned if the RHNA allocation distinguished between rental and ownership opportunities; inquired about converting Class A or Class B office buildings into housing; and expressed concern about potential traffic impacts resulting from additional development of housing units..

Jeff Melching, City Attorney, confirmed that the City Council did not have the authority to overturn the voter initiative designating permanent open space to allow for the development of affordable housing units.

Caller 949-***-347, spoke in opposition to prior actions taken by Councilmember Kuo with respect to residential development, and suggested collaboration between Councilmembers to find a solution to meet the City's current RHNA allocation.

By consensus, received and filed. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilmember Carroll, seconded by Councilmember Kuo, and unanimously carried to adjourn the special City Council meeting at 4:19 p.m.



MAYOR OF THE CITY OF IRVINE



INTERIM CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF IRVINE

March 9, 2021