



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

September 26, 2023
Council Chamber
1 Civic Center Plaza
Irvine, CA 92606

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Irvine City Council was called to order at 4:11 p.m. on September 26, 2023, in the City Council Chamber, Irvine Civic Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, California; Mayor Khan presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 Councilmember:	Larry Agran
Councilmember:	Mike Carroll
Councilmember:	Kathleen Treseder
Vice Mayor:	Tammy Kim
Mayor:	Farrah N. Khan

1. CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Melching announced the following Closed Session items:

- 1.1 **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS**
(Government Code § 54956.8; Property: 15211 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92618; Agency Negotiators: Oliver Chi, City Manager; Pete Carmichael, Assistant City Manager; Negotiating Parties: Mama Lee's Creamery Principal. Ryan Chen; Newmark Agent, Vanessa Brown-Pope; Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

1.2 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – Government Code Section 54957; Title: City Clerk

There were no requests to speak.

RECESS

Mayor Khan recessed the City Council meeting to Closed Session at 4:15 p.m.

RECONVENE TO THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Khan reconvened the City Council meeting at 5:06 p.m. City Attorney Melching, on behalf of the City Council, announced that no reportable action was taken in Closed Session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Agran led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Senior Pastor Jason Aguilar and son, Jediah, from Arise Church provided the invocation.

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Employee Recognition - 20, 25, 30 Years of Service

Mayor Khan introduced and recognized the following individuals, and presented Certificates of Recognition and a numeral milestone for 20, 25, and 30 years of public service to the City of Irvine:

20 Years of Service

- Jason Scheafer, Police Officer
- Frough Jahid, Police Lieutenant

25 Years of Service

- Amy Quiroz, Police Sergeant

30 Years of Service

- Diana “Susie” Munger, Community Services Senior Leader

2.2 Ratify and Proclaim September 22, 2023, as "California Native American Day"

Mayor Khan introduced Adelia Sandoval of the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, and presented a proclamation recognizing September 22, 2023, as "California Native American Day."

2.3 Tustin Unified School District

Mayor Khan introduced Dr. Maggie Villegas, Assistant Superintendent, who provided a brief overview of Tustin Unified School District's mission and programs through its partnership with the City of Irvine.

City Council discussion included: expressing appreciation for the report and acknowledging the importance of the program.

By consensus, received and filed.

2.4 Irvine Open Streets Event Update

Mike Davis, Transit & Transportation Administrator, and Kerwin Lau, Deputy Director of Transportation, provided an update on the Irvine Open Streets Event.

There was no City Council discussion.

By consensus, received and filed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Susan Sayre, Irvine resident, expressed concern about the City not being ready for the transition from gas-powered vehicles and appliances to those powered by 100% renewable energy, and highlighted the need to provide infrastructure that supports that transition.

Geneva and Audrey Bailey spoke in support of 1) educating children on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and the adherence by teachers; 2) the need to enforce anti-bullying measures; and 3) the lack of transparency in special education programs.

Michelle Rivas, Event Coordinator for Psych2Go, invited the City Council to the Coffee & Books for Mental Health event at Barnes & Noble, Irvine Spectrum, on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at 3 p.m., with proceeds to the Norooz Clinic Foundation.

Alan Meyerson, Irvine resident, requested that the City Council address inconsistencies in the City's noise ordinance, given that gas-powered lawn mowers can operate at 7 a.m., while leaf blowers are not permitted to operate until 8 a.m.

Jason Garshfield, Irvine resident, expressed appreciation to the City Council for its assistance with Irvine Company no longer using gas-powered leaf blowers at his apartment complex, but added that the company continues to use other gas-powered equipment including lawn mowers and hedge trimmers.

Michelle Johnson, Irvine resident, spoke in support of District Map 151.

Eric Neshanian, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to genocide deniers.

Harvey Liss, Irvine resident, spoke in support of District Maps 151 and 165.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Khan

- Mayor Khan provided a brief update regarding Orange County Transportation Authority, noting that the Interstate 405 Improvement Project, which includes the addition of one general purpose lane and one express lane in each direction from State Route 73 to Interstate 605, is scheduled to be completed later this year. All 18 bridge replacements and ramps have been completed and will be activated in late 2023.
- The City of Irvine continues to be recognized as the best place to live in Orange County. Last week, The Orange County Register released the Best of Orange County 2023, a guide to the top destinations, businesses, and attractions curated by Register readers. Irvine was voted “Best City to Live in” for the 8th consecutive year. In addition, the Great Park Farmers Market and FivePoint Amphitheater were among more than 45 Irvine businesses featured in the Register’s 30th annual Best of Orange County publication. Irvine’s schools, public safety, recreation programs, parks and trails, dining and shopping, and diversity all provide an unmatched quality of life. To learn more about the Best of Orange County ranking, visit cityofirvine.org.
- At the recent League of California Cities Annual Conference, the City was awarded the prestigious Beacon Leadership and Innovation Award recognizing Equity and Engagement in Sustainability and Climate for the Cool Irvine program. The City also received a Platinum Level “Spotlight” Award for its efforts to reduce natural gas use as an agency by 38% over the past year. Cool Irvine builds a planet-friendly community, block-by-block, supporting the City’s carbon neutrality goals and empowering residents to become community leaders in sustainability. In just over a year, 210 registered households in the Cool Irvine program completed 1,734 sustainability actions and pledged to achieve 2,457 more. In total, more than 727,000 pounds of CO2 were reduced because of these actions. Beyond that, the

Cool Irvine program has also encouraged stronger community relationships between neighbors. For more information on the Cool Irvine program, visit coolirvine.org.

- Members of the public are invited to Great Park on Friday, September 29, for the annual Mid-Autumn Festival held in partnership with South Coast Chinese Cultural Center. Enjoy live music and dance performances, cultural exhibits, and a festive atmosphere with family and friends from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Local community partners will also be in attendance to support the event and share organizational information and resources. The event is free and open to all ages. For more information, visit cityofirvine.org/MidAutumn.
- The 22nd annual Irvine Global Village Festival will take place on Saturday, October 14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Great Park. The City's signature event features international cuisine, live entertainment, a Kids Village with crafts, interactive activities, petting zoo, cultural and religious exhibits, and an international marketplace. Volunteers are still needed to assist with the event from Friday, October 13, through Sunday, October 15. Various shifts are available throughout the day and volunteers must be at least 14 years old. Community partners supporting this event include presenting sponsors UC Irvine and UCI Health. Stage sponsors include Chinese American Mutual Association, Concordia University, FivePoint/Great Park Neighborhoods, and Modern Brain. Festival admission and general parking are free. Premier parking closer to the festival site will be available for \$10 on site, with cash or credit card accepted. For more information about Irvine Global Village Festival, visit IrvineFestival.org.

Vice Mayor Kim

- As the City's representative on the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), Vice Mayor Kim announced that OCFA will be hosting a Fire Station Open House across all 23 cities on Saturday, October 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In Irvine, Stations 4, 26, 27, and 36, will participate. This is a great opportunity to get to know local firefighters and learn about the great work they are doing. A list of the stations and their locations will be posted on Vice Mayor Kim's social media accounts.
- As the City's representative on the Orange County Housing Authority Finance Trust, Vice Mayor Kim announced that the Orange County Housing Authority is accepting applications for the Housing Choice Voucher Program through September 29th. Application preferences for the Housing Choice Voucher Program will be given to veterans, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Applications are available in multiple languages at OCHousing.org.
- Vice Mayor Kim noted her recent attendance at the League of California Cities Annual Conference as Irvine's voting representative, where she was sworn in as one of three Large City Representatives on the board of directors for the League's Orange County Division.

Councilmember Treseder

- Councilmember Treseder introduced eighth grade student Claire Chong, who coined the term “plogging” by picking up plastic waste while on her daily jog. Councilmember Treseder also presented Ms. Chong with a Certificate of Recognition for her extraordinary efforts in sustainability.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Moved by Vice Mayor Kim, seconded by Councilmember Carroll, and unanimously carried to approve City Council Consent Calendar Item Nos. 3.1 through 3.5.

3.1 PROCLAMATIONS

ACTION:

- 1) Ratified and Proclaimed September 16, 2023, as "Mahsa Amini Day."
- 2) Ratified and Proclaimed September 22, 2023, as "California Native American Day."
- 3) Ratified and Proclaimed September 22, 2023, as "Bulgarian Heritage Day."
- 4) Proclaimed October 4, 2023, as "Energy Efficiency Day."
- 5) Proclaimed October 8-14, 2023, as "Fire Prevention Week."
- 6) Proclaimed October 9, 2023, as "Indigenous Peoples' Day."
- 7) Proclaimed October 9, 2023, as "Hangul Day."
- 8) Proclaimed October 2023, as "Down Syndrome Awareness Month."
- 9) Proclaimed October 2023, as "Filipino American History Month."
- 10) Proclaimed October 2023, as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month."

3.2 WARRANT AND WIRE TRANSFER RESOLUTION

ACTION:

Adopted RESOLUTION NO. 23-84 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, ALLOWING CERTAIN CLAIMS AND DEMANDS AND SPECIFYING THE FUNDS OUT OF WHICH THE SAME ARE TO BE PAID

3.3 APPROVE UPDATES TO THE POSITION CONTROL RESOLUTION TO FACILITATE ADDITION OF THREE POSITIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS FUNDED BY THE STATE HOMELESS HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT

ACTION:

Adopted RESOLUTION NO. 23-85 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, UPDATING FULL-TIME POSITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF COMPENSATION RESOLUTIONS AND SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION NO. 23-53, WHICH IS INCONSISTENT THEREWITH

3.4 ACCEPTANCE OF MARUCHAN, INC. DONATION

ACTION:

- 1) Accepted a \$100,000 donation from Maruchan, Inc.
- 2) Approved a budget adjustment appropriating \$100,000, reflecting an increase in revenues and appropriations.

3.5 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND GRANT NOMINATIONS

ACTION:

- 1) Approved Vice Mayor Kim's request for Community Partnership Fund Grant Nominations to the following organizations in support of program costs:
 - a. Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County Foundation (\$5,000) **(Contract No. 11720)**
 - b. Working Wardrobes (\$1,000) **(Contract No. 11721)**
- 2) Authorized the City Manager to prepare and sign funding agreements for the organizations listed above.

4. COUNCIL BUSINESS

4.1 URBAN FOREST UPDATE AND MASTER PLAN PROCESS

Joel Belding, Deputy Director of Great Park & Sustainability, presented the staff report and responded to questions. Aaron Reece, Public Works Supervisor, also responded to questions.

Ayn Craciun, on behalf of Climate Action Campaign, spoke in support of prioritizing trees in communities of concern that bear a disproportionate pollution burden, such as the Irvine Business Complex.

Eric Neshanian, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to jacaranda trees and provided historical information on the presence of eucalyptus trees.

City Council discussion included: noting the importance of considering the City as a whole; suggested the diversification of trees; expressed concern regarding eucalyptus trees; inquired about potential coordination of efforts with Great Park; questioned whether the City had an arborist on staff; inquired about the status of the shot hole borer infestation and potential impacts to the City's current tree inventory; discussed the timeline for returning to the City Council related to the issuance of a contract pursuant to a Request for Proposals (RFP); questioned what funding source would be used for this project and whether such funding source was allowable; inquired about trees that would replace the diseased eucalyptus trees on Trabuco; questioned how City could work with developers to encourage tree canopies similar to those over the Great Park Neighborhoods throughout other parts of the City; and encouraged the planting of native trees.

ACTION: Moved by Councilmember Agran, seconded by Councilmember Tresseder, and unanimously carried to:

Approve a budget adjustment in the not-to-exceed amount of \$400,000 Irvine Recovery Fund (Fund 014) to Project Delivery & Sustainability for the Urban Forest Master Plan study.

4.2 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY COUNCILMEMBERS AGRAN AND TRESSEDER TO DISCUSS RESIDENTIAL BEEKEEPING REGULATIONS

This item was agendaized at the request of Councilmembers Agran and Tresseder, who asked for City Council consideration to discuss residential beekeeping regulations.

Justin Equina, Senior Planner, provided a brief presentation and responded to questions. Marika Poynter, Manager of Planning, also responded to questions.

The following individuals spoke in support of reducing beekeeping regulations and associated fees and improvements to the application process:

- Avram Grossman, Orange County Beekeepers Association member
- Sean Crowley, commercial beekeeper
- Alberta Mirisciotti, member of the Bee Association of Southern California and Orange County Beekeepers Association
- Harvey Liss, Irvine resident

City Council discussion included: suggesting the exploration of a beekeeping area at Great Park; questioned whether an annual renewal fee was required; inquired about empty hive requirements during inspection; questioned implications, if any, for those who applied that already had bees; inquired about other cities that have had success with similar programs; and questioned whether fees could be immediately lowered.

ACTION: Moved by Councilmember Treseder, seconded by Councilmember Agran to:

Limit fees to a \$50 permit upon submittal of an application.

ACTION: A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Agran, seconded by Councilmember Treseder, and unanimously carried to*:

Establish a fee holiday for six months and refer the matter to staff for further consideration, and direct staff to return to the City Council with a report prior to the elapsing of the six-month period.

* The substitute motion carried and takes precedence over the main motion; therefore, a vote was not taken on the main motion.

4.3 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY VICE MAYOR KIM TO ALLOCATE UNUSED IRVINE RECOVERY PLAN FUNDS AND APPROVE A \$50,000 SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FOR THE 2023 WORLD KOREAN BUSINESS CONVENTION EVENT

This item was agendized at the request of Vice Mayor Kim, who asked for City Council consideration to allocate unused Irvine Recovery Plan funds and approve a \$50,000 sponsorship request for the 2023 World Korean Business Convention event.

Diane Kim, Irvine resident and member of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County, spoke in support of approving the sponsorship request.

The following individuals spoke in opposition:

- Alan Meyerson, Irvine resident
- Eric Neshanian, Irvine resident
- Harvey Liss, Irvine resident
- Jeremy Ficarola, Irvine resident
- Branda Lin, Irvine resident

City Council discussion included: questioning the public benefit if the sponsorship request was approved; discussed the appropriate funding source; and inquired about potential restrictions of using Irvine Recovery Funds.

ACTION: Moved by Vice Mayor Kim, seconded by Councilmember Treseder, to:

Approve a \$50,000 sponsorship request for the 2023 World Korean Business Convention event.

Prior to a vote, Vice Mayor Kim amended her motion.

ACTION: An amendment to the main motion was made by Vice Mayor Kim, and accepted by Councilmember Treseder as the seconder, to:

Approve a \$50,000 sponsorship request for the 2023 World Korean Business Convention event using funds from the General Fund.

The motion failed as follows:

AYES: 2 COUNCILMEMBERS: Kim and Treseder

NOES: 3 COUNCILMEMBERS: Agran, Carroll, and Khan

ABSENT: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS: None

No further action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilmember Carroll, seconded by Councilmember Treseder, and unanimously carried to adjourn the City Council meeting at 7:46 p.m.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF IRVINE


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF IRVINE

October 24, 2023