

City Council

Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2024

**CITY OF MURRIETA
Council Chambers
1 Town Square
Murrieta 92562**



**Tuesday, December 3, 2024
4:00 PM CLOSED SESSION
6:00 PM REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

The City of Murrieta intends to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Persons with special needs should call the City Clerk Department at (951) 461-6031 or email at CityClerk@murrietaca.gov at least 72 hours in advance. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City Council regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the public counter at City Hall located at 1 Town Square, Murrieta, CA during normal business hours.

Any presentation requiring the use of the City of Murrieta's equipment must be submitted to the City Clerk's department 72 hours prior to the scheduled City Council meeting at City Hall located at 1 Town Square, Murrieta, CA; via email at CityClerk@MurrietaCA.gov or call (951) 461-6031. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City Council regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the public counter at City Hall located at 1 Town Square, Murrieta, CA during normal business hours.

**Lori Stone
Mayor**

**Cindy Warren
Mayor Pro Tem**

**Lisa DeForest
Council Member**

**Jon Levell
Council Member**

**Ron Holliday
Council Member**

**Justin Clifton, Acting City Manager
Tiffany Israel, City Attorney
Cristal McDonald, City Clerk**

**MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL (CC)
MURRIETA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT (CSD)
MURRIETA FIRE DISTRICT (FD)
MURRIETA LIBRARY BOARD (LB)
MURRIETA REDEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR AGENCY (RSA)
MURRIETA HOUSING AUTHORITY (HA)
MURRIETA FINANCING AUTHORITY (FA)**

**YOU MAY VIEW THE MEETING LIVESTREAMED VIA THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT
<https://murrieta.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>**

4:00 PM CLOSED SESSION

CALL TO ORDER 4:01 p.m.

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ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Lisa DeForest
Council Member Ron Holliday
Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Warren
Mayor Lori Stone

Absent: Council Member Jon Levell (*present for all of closed session*)

PUBLIC COMMENTS - CLOSED SESSION ITEMS ONLY None.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

City Clerk Cristal McDonald announced the following Closed Session items:

CLOSED SESSION

CS1. Conference with Real Property Negotiators

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.8, to enable the City Council to consider negotiations and to give direction to its negotiators regarding that certain real property located at the Northwest Corner of Linnel Lane and Whitewood Road, Murrieta, Riverside County, CA, APN: 392-290-048 with KNE Real Estate. The City's real property negotiators, the City Manager, the Assistant City Manager, Economic Development Director and the City Attorney will seek direction from the City Council regarding the price and terms of this property.

CS2 Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4), because the City is considering whether to initiate litigation in 1 case.

CS3. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2), because there is a significant exposure to litigation in 3 cases.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION 4:02 p.m.

6:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER 6:02 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTION

City Attorney Tiffany Israel reported the following Closed Session Action:

CS1: The decision from March 2024 to surplus property was ratified.

CS2: No reportable action.

CS3: No reportable action.

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ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Lisa DeForest
Council Member Jon Levell
Council Member Ron Holliday
Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Warren
Mayor Lori Stone

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Anthony Conrad, Police Chief

INVOCATION Chaplain Steve Wimberly

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation: Police Chief Anthony Conrad Retirement

RECESS 7:04 p.m.

RECONVENE 7:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Lisa DeForest
Council Member Jon Levell
Council Member Ron Holliday
Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Warren
Mayor Lori Stone

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Action: It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Warren, seconded by Council Member Levell to approve the Agenda for December 3, 2024.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: DeForest, Levell, Holliday, Warren, Stone
Noes: None

CITY MANAGER - ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

City Manager Administrative Updates is the opportunity for the City Manager to provide community updates, as well as Department or Commission announcements on current or upcoming projects.

Sidewalk Widening Update: Bob Moehling, Public Works Director

Santa Stops: Brian Ambrose, Community Services Director

Commission, Committees, and Boards Vacancies: Justin Clifton, Acting City Manager

GOVERNING BODY COMMISSION/COMMITTEE/BOARD (CCB) REPORTS

Council Member Holliday: Provided attendance/reported the following:

- Murrieta Santa Stops
- Regional Conservation Authority (RCA)
- Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG)

Mayor Pro Tem Warren: Provided attendance/reported the following:

- Southwest Elected Leaders Collaborative
- Riverside Transit Agency (RTA)

Mayor Stone: Provided verbal attendance/reported the following:

- Southwest Elected Leaders Collaborative

PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA)

Chelsea Ricci: On behalf of Murrieta Valley Cemetery District, invited the City Council and residents to participate in the annual Wreaths Across America event at Laurel Cemetery event on December 14th in honor of fallen veterans.

Ashley Hutchinson: Thanked the Fire Department for the quick response time on a recent 911 call.

Alejandro Gutierrez-Hidalgo: Spoke on lighting and ADA compliance concerns on Murrieta Hot Springs Road and Willow Avenue.

CONSENT CALENDAR - APPROVAL OF ITEMS 1 – 11

Action: It was moved by Council Member DeForest, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Warren to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos.1-11.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: DeForest, Levell, Holliday, Warren, Stone
Noes: None

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1. Waive Reading of All Ordinance Adoptions on the Agenda and Read by Title Only

Recommended Action:

Waive reading, by title only, of all Ordinances and Resolutions. Said Ordinances and Resolutions which appear on the public agenda shall be determined to have been read by title and further reading waived.

2. Minutes

Recommended Action:

Approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting.

3. Check Register October 2024

Recommended Action:

Adopt Resolution No. 24-4796 entitled: *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Murrieta, California, Ratifying the Check Register for the Month of October 2024* in the amount of \$4,183,253.20 (Check Numbers 161746-162197).

4. Agreement with VertiGIS for GIS Software Services

Recommended Action:

Approve an Agreement with VertiGIS for Geographic Information System (GIS) Software Services;

Authorize the Exemption from Bidding requirements; and

Authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement with VertiGIS and all future agreements and amendments related to this contract, not to exceed the City Manager's Signing Authority.

5. Approval of Second Amendment with The Alchemy Group, Inc. for Federal Legislative Advocacy and Fourth Amendment with Townsend Public Affairs, Inc. for Grant Writing and Legislative Advocacy

Recommended Action:

Approve the Second Amendment to the Agreement with The Alchemy Group, Inc. for an amount not-to-exceed \$60,000 for federal legislative advocacy services for an additional year;

Approve the Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with Townsend Public Affairs, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$126,000 for grant writing and legislative advocacy services;

Authorize the City Manager to execute the amendments in a form approved by the City Attorney; and

Amend the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Operating Budget to establish an appropriation of \$65,500 in 1101600-60480 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance.

6. Approve the Murrieta Public Library Strategic Plan 2024

Recommended Action:

Approve the Murrieta Public Library Strategic Plan 2024.

7. Murrieta Housing Authority SB 341 Annual Report for FY 2023/24 and Finding of Exemption from CEQA

Recommended Action:

Receive and file the Murrieta Housing Authority SB 341 Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023/24;

Direct staff to file the document with the State Department of Housing and Community Development and place it on the City's website; and

Find that the action is not a "project" as defined in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378.

8. Annual Adoption of the Investment Policy for Fiscal Year 2024/25

Recommended Action:

Adopt Resolution No. 24-4797 entitled: *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Murrieta, California, Adopting the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Investment Policy.*

9. Approve the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule and Administrative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025/26

Recommended Action:

Adopt Resolution No. RSA 24-33 entitled: *A Resolution of the Successor Agency to the Murrieta Redevelopment Agency Approving a Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule for the Period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, Approving the Successor Agency's Proposed Administrative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025/26, and Authorizing Posting and Transmittal Thereof.*

10. Fiscal Year 2024 Wildfire Prevention Grant Award

Recommended Action:

Adopt Resolution No. 24-4798 entitled: *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Murrieta, California, Authorizing Acceptance of Grant Funds in the Amount Of \$2,653,344.00 From the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and Authorizing the City Manager and Their Designee to Execute the Agreement on Behalf of the City;*

Approve the Agreement with the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for participation in the Wildfire Protection Grant Program; and

Authorize the City Manager to amend the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Operating Budget to allocate and appropriate the grant funds for \$2,653,344.

11. Award a Painting Contract for the City of Murrieta CIP No. 21016 to Mariscal Painting

Recommended Action:

Award a painting contract to Mariscal Painting in the amount of \$78,500, for the exterior painting of the City of Murrieta Police Station, Capital Improvement Project (CIP) No. 21016;

Authorize a 15% contingency of \$11,775; and

Authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and change orders not to exceed 15% of the total contract amount.

PULLED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS None

DISCUSSION

- 12. Fiscal Year 2023/24 Year End Report and Approve Appropriations for Carryover of Unspent Amounts from FY 2023/24 to FY 2024/25

Staff report and PowerPoint presentation provided by Finance Director Javier Carcamo, Finance Manager Jennifer Terry, and Financial Analyst Tanner Benson.

Action: It was moved by Council Member DeForest and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Warren to accept the report; and

Amend the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Operating Budget to include the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Carryover Budget; and

Amend the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Operating Budget to include an Appropriation of \$230,305.37, as described in the fiscal impact statement.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: DeForest, Levell, Holliday, Warren, Stone
Noes: None

- 13. Citywide Traffic Congestion

Staff report provided by Mayor Lori Stone. A PowerPoint presentation was provided by Public Works Director Bob Moehling, City Engineer Jeff Hitch, and City Traffic Engineer Brian Stephenson.

Action: After discussion, the City Council directed the City Manager Justin Clifton, to collaborate with staff to explore affordable solutions for traffic mitigation. A report detailing proposed strategies is expected to be presented in January or February 2025.

Consensus was received.

- 14. Proposed Resolution and Discussion of other Actions Opposing the State of California Interfering with the City's Land Use Authority

Staff report provided by Mayor Lori Stone.

Public Comments:

Bob Kowell: Spoke in favor of the resolution to address the high-density housing issues.

Sara Halvorson Saha: Provided a handout with signatures highlighting the widespread concern regarding high-density housing. Spoke on concerns and

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(with donated time from Ankur Bhargava) impact of the City’s rapid imbalanced growth.

Ashley Hutchinson: Spoke in favor of the resolution and her concerns on the lack of healthcare facilities to address the high demand of medical need in the area.

Action: After discussion, the City Council directed staff to prepare a revised resolution for the upcoming December 17, 2024 City Council meeting. The new resolution will serve as a template that can be utilized by other agencies, ensuring consistency when addressing the State’s interference with the City Land Use Authority.

Consensus was received.

NOTIFICATIONS

Notice of Pending Approval of Final Tract Map - TR 34439

RECONSIDERATION None

GOVERNING BODY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member DeForest, Council Member Holliday, and Mayor Pro Tem Warren, provided their Governing Body Announcements to be made part of the City’s record.

COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS TO ADD ITEMS TO FUTURE AGENDAS None

ADJOURNMENT 9:35 p.m.



Cristal McDonald, City Clerk