

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**of the**  
**CITY OF RIALTO**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**City of Rialto, acting as Successor Agency to the**  
**Redevelopment Agency**

**MINUTES**  
**February 23, 2021**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rialto was held in the City Council Chambers located at 150 South Palm Avenue, Rialto, California 92376, on Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

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This meeting was called by the presiding officer of the Rialto City Council in accordance with the provisions of **Government Code §54956** of the State of California.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Robertson called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

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The roll was called, and the following were present: Mayor Deborah Robertson, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Scott, Council Member Rafael Trujillo Council Member Andy Carrizales and Council Member Karla Perez.

Also present were Acting City Manager Sean Grayson, Interim City Attorney Eric Vail, City Treasurer Edward Carrillo and City Clerk Barbara McGee.

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**CLOSED SESSION**

1. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION & APPOINTMENT  
Pursuant to Government Code section 54957  
Title: Special Counsel, Workers Compensation
2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR  
Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.8  
Property: 241 S. Palm Ave; APN 0130-271-02, 03, 04, 25 & 26 and 0130-281-35 & 36.  
Agency Negotiator: Acting City Manager Sean Grayson  
Negotiating Parties: City of Rialto and Silva Family Trust  
Under Negotiation: Price & Terms of purchase
3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2) & (3)  
Significant exposure to litigation - one (1) matter  
Decision to initiate litigation - one (1) matter

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Council Member Carrizales, second by Council Member Trujillo and carried by 5-0 vote to go into Closed Session at 5:04 p.m.

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City Council returned from Closed Session at 6:40 p.m.

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Deborah Robertson called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

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The roll was called, and the following were present: Mayor Deborah Robertson, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Scott, Council Member Rafael Trujillo, Council Member Andy Carrizales and Council Member Karla Perez. Also present were Acting City Manager Sean Grayson, City Clerk Barbara McGee, Interim City Attorney Eric Vail and City Treasurer Edward Carrillo.

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## **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Council Member Trujillo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Mark Baur – 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church

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## **City Attorney's Report on Closed Session**

### **1. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION & APPOINTMENT**

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957

Title: Special Counsel, Workers Compensation

Interim City Attorney Eric Vail stated the City Council completed and there is no other reportable discussion or action.

### **2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR**

Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.8

Property: 241 S. Palm Ave; APN 0130-271-02, 03, 04, 25 & 26 and 0130-281-35 & 36.

Agency Negotiator: Acting City Manager Sean Grayson

Negotiating Parties: City of Rialto and Silva Family Trust

Under Negotiation: Price & Terms of purchase

Interim City Attorney Eric Vail stated that the City Council completed the Item and gave direction to the Acting City Manager Sean Grayson and the Interim City Attorney Eric Vail. There is no reportable action at this time.

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**City Attorney's Report on  
Closed Session**

3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL –  
ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2) & (3)  
Significant exposure to litigation - one (1) matter  
Decision to initiate litigation - one (1) matter

There were two matters with anticipated litigation. The City Council completed one of the two matters. There was no reportable action on that matter. The City Council did not have sufficient time to address the second item. That will be held over until the end of the regular session tonight and go back into closed session to discuss that item. That item will be reported at the end of the meeting.

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**PRESENTATIONS AND  
PROCLAMATIONS**

In Memoriam – Former Fire Marshal, Norma Barajas –  
Council Member Rafael Trujillo

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Mayor Robertson also recognized the passing of longtime Rialto Resident Norm Patterson. Services will be held at the Community Mortuary.

She also acknowledged the passing of Shirley Arrington. Her services will be at Sunrise Church.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott also asked to close in memory of longtime Rialto residents Gilbert and Donna Torres. Gilbert Torres is volunteer with the American Legion. Donna Torres is a former Omnibus bus driver.

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Council Member Carrizales acknowledged a Certificate of Recognition to Richard and Jo Anne Elliott on their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

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**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Andrew Karol commended the City Council for adopting a Resolution condemning the action of January 6, 2021 on our Nation's Capitol and leaders in Congress and recognizing that this type of behavior should never be tolerated. He expressed his disappointment with the City Council referencing an article in the Sun newspaper stating the line in the Resolution "The greatest nation in the world" should be removed.

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Lupe Camacho asked about the workshops brought up at the Budget Workshop two weeks prior and asked about the presentation to the revisions to the investment policy and plans to address the unfunded liability, so the community is made aware. She is also requesting the hiring of a full-time City Attorney and be added to the budget for the next fiscal year, so that said attorney can represent not only the City Council and staff, but also the community.

## **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

John Leneau stated that the City of Rialto should set a precedent requiring solar panel installation and recreational vehicle parking space be made available in new homes. He doesn't believe \$300-400,000 is considered affordable housing. New industrial properties should also be required to have solar panels. He also believes the Pacific Electric Trail should be extended.

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Robin Austin commented about the bond proposal. She asked about the amount of fund in the reserve account and lease streaks and its progress. She asked if an RFT was done and if something had occurred outside of public venue.

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Mayor Robertson directed Interim City Manager Grayson to respond to some of the residents' questions and concerns.

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## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **A. WAIVE FULL READING OF ORDINANCES**

1. Waive reading in full, all ordinances considered at this meeting.

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### **B. APPROVAL OF WARRANT RESOLUTIONS**

B.1 Warrant Resolution No. 31 (02/11/2021)

B.2 Warrant Resolution No. 32 (02/18/2021)

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### **C. CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY**

C.1 Tamesha Crawford Damages

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### **D. SET PUBLIC HEARING**

- D.1. Request City Council to Set a Public Hearing for March 9, 2021 to Consider Recalibrating or Reallocating Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) CARES Act Funding.

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### **E. MISCELLANEOUS**

- E.1 Request City Council to Adopt by Second Reading ORDINANCE NO.1656 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIALTO, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING ZONE CHANGE NO. 2019-0003 TO CHANGE THE ZONING DESIGNATION OF APPROXIMATELY 2.92 GROSS ACRES (2.77 NET ACRES) OF LAND (APNS: 0250-091-25 & -26) LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF CEDAR AVENUE APPROXIMATELY 630 FEET NORTH OF SAN BERNARDINO AVENUE FROM SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-1C) TO MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-3).

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- E.2 Request City Council/Rialto Utility Authority Board to Approve the Proposed Cost Share by the City Council/Rialto Utility Authority of the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Groundwater Basins in the Amount of \$23,654.
- E.3 Request City Council to Affirm Adoption of Resolution No.7705 Strongly Condemning Acts of Violence in the United States and Affirming Support for the Democratic Process and the United States Constitution.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott requested Item E.3 be pulled for separate comment.

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Council Member Trujillo requested to pull TAB 6 for further discussion with staff.

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Mayor Robertson agrees with Council Member Trujillo because she was going to have the item clarified. The item was pulled at the last general meeting. Additional content needed to come from the Interim City Attorney. We all need to have an opportunity to fully understand what the suggested amendments and the reasons for the recommendations are.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott expressed he also has legal questions for the Interim City Attorney.

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Council Member Carrizales is recusing himself from TAB 2 due to a conflict of interest with his business at the Renaissance Marketplace.

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Mayor Robertson will reserve from concurring on the warrants until she can raise her concerns on payment on records. She needs to see paperwork related to disclosure. She is requesting to hold off on the warrants. If not, she will have to abstain on the warrants. She needs further clarification.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott commented on Item E.3 as referenced in Resolution No. 7706 "the greatest nation in the world" was not removed from the resolution. It was clarified with the City Clerk's Office. He's an adamant supporter of First Amendment Rights and supports freedom of speech. I support Mr. Karol saying what he said, but I am in disagreement with him related to the fact that this City Council did not support the comments that -- at least I did not support the comments that were made by Mayor Robertson.

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## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott stated Mayor Robertson has a right to freedom of speech. She has a right to speak her mind and say what she believes. I support her for that, and I respect her for that. I have been all over this world in a lot of countries. In my humble opinion, the United States is the greatest nation on earth. As I also consider Rialto the greatest City not only in California but in this Nation. I fully believe in our City. I believe in our Nation, but I believe us as a People together. I found it very distasteful that the Sun newspaper would say that we changed a Resolution when that's not what we voted on and it was very clear in the video that that's not what we voted on. I asked the newspaper to do a retraction on that portion. Our Acting City Manager Grayson has also done the same. Nonetheless, I respect Mayor Robertson for her right to voice her personal opinion, as I respect anybody else's right to voice their personal opinion. I do believe we live in the greatest Nation on earth. God Bless America.

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Council Member Carrizales stated I, too, am in disagreement with not calling the United States the greatest Nation on earth. I was muted, but I physically made the motion that I did not agree with what Mayor Robertson had said. And I totally respect your freedom of speech, but I did not agree with that. I made myself clear with a motion of my hand that I wasn't in agreement with that. I, too, believe that we live in the greatest country on earth and the best City. I represent this City, along with my colleagues, and if I didn't think this was the greatest place to live, then I wouldn't be living here and I wouldn't be representing this City. I do believe this is the greatest Nation on earth and Rialto is the greatest City in California.

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Council Member Trujillo stated he was surprised that the Sun newspaper would put words in my mouth. Every 4<sup>th</sup> of July I recognize individuals who volunteer their time to teach legal, permanent residents English and go through the naturalization process. One of the most patriotic things you can do is become part of this country and civically engage. My parents are immigrants, a child of immigrants and I am now a City Council Member. I also went to the institutions of higher education, an Ivy League school. Those are all part of the American dream, and those are part of the opportunities that this country afforded to me. The comments made by the Sun newspaper portraying me were inaccurate. I support my colleagues' comments. They have a right to voice their opinion. In this case, I felt the newspaper had it wrong in the way the City Council was portrayed.

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## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mayor Robertson thanked her colleagues. For in this country, you may not agree with what I say; but I will defend the right for you to say what you want to say. And that's stated on one of the papers. As all have said, there is a tape and nothing's changed. There's some concerns I want to correct and we don't want to be inaccurate. Nobody seems to be questioning the fact that I went and know that history – that we've had a number of insurrections prior to that one. This mid-situation we saw on January 6 was really appalling and we are a great Nation. And those people who were storming our Capitol and going in were also citizens of the United States. And I don't think any of us condone their behavior. But I am not going to have to be worried about the point I made about how we see and say things. We are a great Nation. We are the greatest Nation. I have relatives who fought and they went to war as well and they came back and their perspective especially in World War II did not make them feel like it was their great Nation, but they went and they served and they fought for love of liberty as well. Everybody's entitled to their thoughts. I am a person who says, "Rialto is the jewel of the Inland Empire." I claim it for Rialto because I do feel like we are a unique, wonderful community. I chose Rialto. I didn't have to come to Rialto. I purposely chose Rialto for what Rialto was. It didn't change what was in the intent in the Resolution.

Acting City Manager Grayson capably shared with me where he extracted things that were already stated in prior documents so he didn't just make it up. I appreciate that we and he took the time and Council Member Trujillo made the initial request for the Resolution for us to go on record and if we can't all look at a document and give input and bring some additional information then they'll sit here in rubber stamp. I believe we've moved on reaffirming the Resolution and there's no changes to the Resolution.

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Motion by Council Member Trujillo second by Council Member Perez and carried by a 5-0 vote to approve the Consent Calendar.

Mayor Robertson abstained on B.1 Warrants No. 31 (02/11/2021) and B.2 Warrant No.32 (02/18/2021).

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## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **TAB 1**

### **Resolution No. 7708**

### **Filing of Liens for Delinquent Refuse Accounts**

Michael Tahan, Interim Director of Public Works, Request City Council to Conduct a Public Hearing for the Placement of Liens for Delinquent Refuse Collection Accounts for the Third Quarter of 2020; and Adopt Resolution No. 7708 Authorizing the Filing of Liens Against Certain Properties for Delinquent Refuse Accounts with the San Bernardino County Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk.

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Mayor Robertson declared the public hearing open.

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Motion by Council Member Trujillo, second by Mayor Pro Tem Scott and carried by a 5-0 vote to close the Public Hearing.

**TAB 1**  
**Resolution No. 7708**  
**Filing of Liens for Delinquent Refuse**  
**Accounts**

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scott, second by Council Member Carrizales and carried by a 5-0 vote to Adopt Resolution No. 7708 Authorizing the Filing of Liens Against Certain Properties for Delinquent Refuse Accounts with the San Bernardino County Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk.

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Council Member Carrizales recused himself from TAB 2 due to a conflict of interest with his business at the Renaissance Marketplace and stepped away from the dais at 7:06 p.m.

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**TAB 2**  
**Resolution 7709; Resolution 7710;**  
**Resolution 7711; Resolution 7712;**  
**Resolution 7713**

Daniel Casey, Request City Council to Conduct a Public Hearing to consider Adoption of (1) Resolution No. 7709 approving Specific Plan Amendment No. 2020-0003, which is a request to change the zoning designation of 7.00 gross acres (6.94 net acres) of land from Corporate Center (CC) within the Renaissance Specific Plan to Business Center (BC) within the Renaissance Specific Plan, (2) Resolution No. 7710 approving Tentative Parcel Map No. 2020-0006 (TPM 20241), which is a request to allow the consolidation of four (4) parcels of land into one (1) 6.94 net acre parcel of land, (3) Resolution No. 7711 approving Conditional Development Permit No. 2020-0011, which is a request to allow the development and operation of a 135,408 square foot industrial storage warehouse/distribution center building on 7.00 gross acres (6.94 net acres) of land, (4) Resolution No. 7712 approving Precise Plan of Design No. 2020-0015, which is a request to allow the development of a 135,408 square foot industrial storage warehouse/distribution center building on 7.00 gross acres (6.94 net acres) of land, and (5) Resolution No. 7713 approving an Addendum to the June 2016 Renaissance Specific Plan Amendment Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (Environmental Assessment Review No. 2020-0015) prepared for the project, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project site is located at the northeast corner of Renaissance Parkway and Laurel Avenue.

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Mayor Robertson declared the public hearing open.

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Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scott, second by Council Member Trujillo and carried by a 4-0 vote to close the Public Hearing.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott asked if the City Council has the PowerPoint presentation in their binder because he does not.

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**TAB 2**  
**Resolution 7709; Resolution 7710;**  
**Resolution 7711; Resolution 7712;**  
**Resolution 7713**

Mayor Robertson and the Council Members all indicated that they did have the presentation in their binders.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott stated that they need to make certain that each Council Member has the PowerPoint presentation in advance. He stated for the record that the next time he does not receive a PowerPoint, he will not vote for the Item. We cannot make objecting decisions on this City Council when we do not have all of the documents and all the information. The next time it happens, I will not vote for it.

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Council Member Trujillo asked about plans for the existing lot on Locust and Renaissance Parkway.

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Mr. Casey stated currently there are no proposals to develop the property to the east.

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Council Member Trujillo asked about the potential traffic congestion caused by semi-trucks and how is that being resolved.

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Mr. Casey stated the staff incorporated a condition of approval into the conditional development permit before the City Council tonight to correct the action.

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Council Member Trujillo asked should anything happen to the local transformer station, are there mechanisms in place that would prevent any impact on this development.

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Mr. Casey stated that he is unaware of any potential issues or plan discussed throughout the processing of this project.

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Mayor Robertson asked if the referenced land east of the project was City or privately owned.

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Mr. Casey stated the land is privately owned.

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Mayor Robertson asked if there could potentially be a proposal coming in from someone for whoever owns the land.

**TAB 2**

**Resolution 7709; Resolution 7710;  
Resolution 7711; Resolution 7712;  
Resolution 7713**

Mr. Casey stated yes, that is correct.

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Mayor Robertson expressed concerns with the level of truck and vehicular traffic and inquired about the traffic movement and activity especially during peak hours.

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Mr. Casey stated that the intersection of Laurel Avenue and Renaissance Parkway is signalized. The condition of approval within the Resolution that would address the truck movement. To exit the site, there is a condition of approval requiring trucks to use the easterly driveway and travel west on Renaissance Parkway toward Alder Avenue back to the freeway.

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Mayor Robertson asked what is going to prevent trucks from crossing over at Locust Avenue.

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Mr. Casey stated if a truck crossed over, they would be in violation of the condition of approval.

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Mayor Robertson stated she is trying to visualize all these movements.

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Council Member Perez also expressed her concerns with backed up traffic congestion and limited traffic lanes especially during peak hours.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott emphasized this is part of the Renaissance Marketplace Specific Plan and it was designed to handle the traffic. The reality is that warehouses bring trucks and that's what this specific plan calls for and that zoning area allows for it. It's important that signage is up and proper commercial enforcement and it should work. It's a 100,000 sq. ft building and relative to everything else, it's pretty small.

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Mayor Robertson noted that there was an addendum in 2016. She asked what will be added to the project to address the concerns.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott stated that the requirements will need to be enforced on the buildings that get built so that traffic moves in the right direction.

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**TAB 2**

**Resolution 7709; Resolution 7710;  
Resolution 7711; Resolution 7712;  
Resolution 7713**

Mayor Robertson stated that there has been a concern with what is obstructing their visual view from the north side of the 210 Freeway. Is the 14-ft wall on top of an embankment or aggregate?

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Council Member Trujillo asked what the reason was for adding that median that would restrict options to move around in a narrow area.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott stated that the State has required the City to add medians in certain places.

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Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scott second by Mayor Robertson and carried by a 4-0 vote to adopt (1) Resolution No. 7709 approving Specific Plan Amendment No. 2020-0003, which is a request to change the zoning designation of 7.00 gross acres (6.94 net acres) of land from Corporate Center (CC) within the Renaissance Specific Plan to Business Center (BC) within the Renaissance Specific Plan, (2) Resolution No. 7710 approving Tentative Parcel Map No. 2020-0006 (TPM 20241), which is a request to allow the consolidation of four (4) parcels of land into one (1) 6.94 net acre parcel of land, (3) Resolution No. 7711 approving Conditional Development Permit No. 2020-0011, which is a request to allow the development and operation of a 135,408 square foot industrial storage warehouse/distribution center building on 7.00 gross acres (6.94 net acres) of land, (4) Resolution No. 7712 approving Precise Plan of Design No. 2020-0015, which is a request to allow the development of a 135,408 square foot industrial storage warehouse/distribution center building on 7.00 gross acres (6.94 net acres) of land, and (5) Resolution No. 7713 approving an Addendum to the June 2016 Renaissance Specific Plan Amendment Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (Environmental Assessment Review No. 2020-0015) prepared for the project, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project site is located at the northeast corner of Renaissance Parkway and Laurel Avenue.

Council Member Carrizales abstained from TAB 2.

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Council Member Carrizales returned to the dais at 7:45 p.m.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**TAB 3**

**Continued Local Emergency COVID-19  
Outbreak**

Sean Grayson, Acting City Manager, Request City Council to Receive an Update on, Confirm the Continued Existence of, and Provide any Further Direction in Relation to the Local Emergency Throughout the City of Rialto in Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak.

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**TAB 3**

**Continued Local Emergency COVID-19  
Outbreak**

Mayor Robertson asked Acting City Manager Grayson to give a summation of the matters discussed at the previous meetings to step up the ability to assist the Rialto seniors and community. She cannot say that she is over enthusiastic with how the County has done --  
(Mayor Robertson's connection was lost)

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Mayor Robertson left the dais at 7:52 p.m.

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Acting City Manager Grayson covered agenda items from the COVID-19 Committee and discussion points. Vaccinations; Center in Rialto; transportation; senior shuttles; vaccine distribution; and Rialto Health Officer.

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**Public Comment**

Lupe Camacho commented on the possibility of retrofitting an emergency vehicle unit for a mobile vaccination unit.

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Mayor Robertson's connection was restored and she returned to the dais at 7:55 p.m.

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Mayor Robertson asked about what more can be done and suggested small business vendors who are transport.

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Acting City Manager Grayson reiterated on the items discussed at the COVID-19 Committee.

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Mayor Robertson commented about residents asking when the City will begin conducting in-person City Council meetings with social distance and safety guidelines in place. Churches are now able to meet indoor with 25 percent capacity. The City is exploring a larger venue or how long it would take to find a facility.

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Acting City Manager Grayson stated he will update the City Council with that information. Currently, the Johnson Center is being used as a testing site. Francis Brooks Center is used by staff until 8:00 p.m. The Rialto Library was the location to be used for public comment. He will provide all the options to the City Council. The technological side has already been solved by the City Clerk and her staff.

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**TAB 3****Continued Local Emergency COVID-19  
Outbreak**

Council Member Trujillo stated he likes the way the direction the City is going. The investments need to be on vaccinations. Residents need to be put first. That is the only way they will be able bounce back in terms of the local economy. Demographically we have to do that push. Statistically, our residents are least likely to get vaccinated.

Council Member Trujillo also stated the County now has a contact number to schedule vaccinations appointments. He hopes the Grace Vargas Senior Center will eventually become an outreach center. He inquired about the electronic mobile devices to assist with outreach.

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Acting City Manager Grayson stated that Interim Fire Chief Park is currently working on that right now. Every vehicle in the Fire Department has an iPad, and it is an opportunity to expand on it. He stated seven percent of the over 18-year-old population received first dose and four percent received 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.

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Mayor Robertson expressed her concerns with the senior population and the vaccination percentages. How do we make certain that 70-80 percent of the seniors are vaccinated before the other age groups.

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Acting City Manager Grayson stated 6.5 percent of the Rialto population is 65 or older and half of our senior population still need to get vaccinated.

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Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Scott second by Council Member Carrizales and carried by a 5-0 vote to approve Receive an Update on, Confirm the Continued Existence of, and Provide any Further Direction in Relation to the Local Emergency Throughout the City of Rialto in Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak.

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**TAB 4****S.A.F.E.R. Grant Program Staffing**

Brian Park, Interim Fire Chief, Request City Council to Authorize the Fire Department to Apply for the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year 2020 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (S.A.F.E.R.) Grant Program, in the Amount of \$2,900,000 with no Local Match.

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Council Member Trujillo asked about the projected plans so the fees coming from the new developments will cover the new position once the three years are completed.

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**TAB 4**  
**S.A.F.E.R. Grant Program Staffing**

Interim Fire Chief Park stated they will be following Police Chief Kling's blueprint. Then we'll determine how the CFDs will play out to support these positions in addition to alternative staffing solutions to work out the plan.

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Council Member Trujillo stated it would be a loss for the City to have to positions for only three years.

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Interim Fire Chief Park stated that in a previous program, the City has been able to absorb those positions through change of staffing and filling vacancies.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott stated he doesn't understand why this was not discussed at the mid-year budget and questions the significant difference in staff request. He stated that this program is clearly not modeled after the police department's program. Overtime is not covered by this program. The Fire Department has a history of extreme amounts of overtime. As a result its public safety, the City is in real serious trouble with its unfunded liability, and there is no conclusion to resolve it. We're in the middle of a pandemic crisis. We don't know where our budget is, yet we are being asked to add six new positions. He cannot support this Item. It needs a broader discussion of how we are going to pay for it at the end of three years.

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Council Member Trujillo asked if the CFDs will cover all or just a portion of the position.

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Interim Fire Chief Park stated he does not have that information just yet.

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Mayor Robertson referenced a previous S.A.F.E.R. Grant and electing not to accept it because it was the same as what happened before. Back then, there was a match. What makes this grant different to want to go forward and pursue it? She expressed concerns about the costs incurred with benefits and PERS and how that would be projected in the budget. She would like more information on it for the March 9, 2021 City Council Meeting along with the decisions to adopt the mid-year budget.

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Interim Fire Chief Park stated that back in 2013 most of the positions were kept without adding budget. They were kept through attrition. He explained the recruitment and ladder succession plan program in the system without attrition budget obligations.

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**TAB 4**  
**S.A.F.E.R. Grant Program Staffing**

Mayor Robertson asked why was the S.A.F.E.R Grant rejected this last time.

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Interim Fire Chief Park stated that in addition to the match specific to last year's program, it was subject to bad timing. The City Manager was relatively new. The request for the application process had not been made. When the grant was awarded, the Fire Department was unprepared to receive the grant.

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Mayor Robertson emphasized the start date was February 8, 2021. Why was it not presented earlier.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott asked about the cost after the grant ends.

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Interim Fire Chief Park stated whatever the City Council determines.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott stated he approximates over \$1 million dollars a year.

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Interim Fire Chief Park stated yes should the City Council decide to continue.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott emphasized it is not a matter of whether the City Council wants to continue. We're going to have to continue. And we don't know where we stand in next year's budget.

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Interim Fire Chief Park stated if it is the pleasure of the City Council to bring it back at the next City Council meeting on March 9, 2021 or pull the application process and not apply.

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Mayor Robertson suggested bringing the Item back at the next City Council meeting on March 9, 2021. The benefits and the details will need to be considered. The award decision will be made by May 24, 2021. This will be at the end of our fiscal year moving to adopt a new budget, and these numbers will have to be factored in.

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Motion by Mayor Robertson second by Mayor Pro Tem Scott and carried by a 5-0 vote to bring back to the March 9, 2021 City Council Meeting after more data is provided to the City Council.

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**TAB 5****Agreement to Ardurra Group for Design of The Randall Avenue Widening at the Flood Control Channel Project**

Michael Tahan, Interim Director of Public Works, Request City Council to Award a Professional Services Agreement to Ardurra Group, Inc. in the Amount of \$135,039 for Design of the Randall Avenue Widening at the Flood Control Channel Project, City Project No. 210811.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott stated he spoke with County Supervisor Baca Jr, and he clearly sees the need and asked Mr. Tahan if there have been any discussions with the County participating on this project.

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Mr. Tahan stated the plan is to cooperate with the County. We are trying to advance this project and this cost for design to capture the cost from the County since we are moving this part of the flood channel project ahead of schedule.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott asked once approved, he would expect County Supervisor Baca Jr. to be notified so the County help participate to begin the dialogue. He and Mayor Robertson met with Supervisor Baca Jr. and his staff and this was one of the items on the list. Oftentimes with County flood control, you move forward and you think they are going to help out, and you never see them again. He is reminded of the Cactus Avenue wall.

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Mayor Robertson stated this was one of the projects toured and viewed as an immediate project on flood control channel discussions. She asked that the Acting City Manager Grayson direct staff to compose a letter to the appropriate department indicating that the City Council would like to have this conversation to begin to see their level of participation and forward a copy to the Supervisor's Office as well as our Office. I am going to become more and more certain we follow procedural protocols.

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**Public Comment**

Lupe Camacho expressed concerns with the County's lack of participation in the project. If conversations have not begun, it is because the County is not interested. The County is interested in co-collaboration among cities. She also believes there is not a justifiable number of bids and recommends that there at least be three bids and have it re-bid.

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Mayor Robertson appreciated the comments. She commented on the bid deadline date proposals. The Randall Project is urgent from a safety perspective. That is why we are proceeding to address it. It is something we need to do for our community because we may be liable. Regardless of the County's participation, we still have a responsibility to address and proceed to getting this project resolved.



**TAB 5**

**Agreement to Ardurra Group for Design of The Randall Avenue Widening at the Flood Control Channel Project**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott agrees with Mayor Robertson. We've had meetings at the site with the County Flood Control, and it's fallen on deaf ears. However, there seems to be a spirit of new cooperation from the County on projects. I hope that's accurate and true. This is a safety risk for our community. And I think it's important we move forward to address it. His fear is that there will be fatalities. I do not want that on my conscience. We have to move forward with this project. Get it fixed so it is no longer a danger. Hopefully the County Flood Control District will do the right thing. I think they will. This flood control channel has no connection to any other city other than Rialto, so we can't involve another city.

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Council Member Carrizales agrees with Mayor Pro Tem Scott.

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Motion by Council Member Carrizales, second by Council Member Perez and carried by a 5-0 vote to approve Professional Services Agreement to Ardurra Group, Inc. in the Amount of \$135,039 for Design of the Randall Avenue Widening at the Flood Control Channel Project, City Project No. 210811.

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**TAB 6**

**Adopt Resolution of the City Council of the City of Rialto, Amending the City's Investment Policy**

TAB 6 was pulled from the City Council's agenda.

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**TAB 7**

**Final Construction Work Authorization for Microgrid Project – Phase 2**

Tom Crowley, City of Rialto Utilities Manager and Megan Matson and Peter Luchetti with Table Rock Partners Request City Council/Rialto Utility Authority Board to Approve the Final Construction Work Authorization in the Amount of \$994,897 to Rialto Water Services for the Rialto Microgrid Project - Phase 2.

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Mayor Pro Tem Scott commented that he and Mayor Robertson have worked on it for a long time. It is a great project to reduce costs at the wastewater plant and have an alternate source of energy at the plant in case we ever come across a Texas situation and have to become self-sufficient. Additionally, it gives us other opportunities to do other things such as water plants around the City. We need to look forward to the future to have other alternate sources of energy running the water pumps that serve water to our residents. Rialto is one of the new cities to move forward toward green energy in becoming self-sustainable. I'm a big supporter and I think it will be a very good thing for the City.

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**TAB 7**  
**Final Construction Work Authorization**  
**for Microgrid Project – Phase 2**

Council Member Carrizales stated he supports the projects. He looks forward to being a pioneer in our surrounding cities and looking towards greener energy as a plus.

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Council Member Trujillo stated it is a great way to use renewable energy and creating green jobs. He hopes this is a start to a larger strategy. Besides this component, the City should look into wind energy as well down the road.

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Mayor Robertson stated that the Agua Mansa area represents opportunity for many things.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott stated that wind energy has been explored. However, the wind in Rialto is sporadic and not year round. There may be opportunities in certain areas, but the experts have already stated the winds need to be constant.

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Mayor Robertson thanked all those involved in the project and expressed the discussion of sustainability and a resiliency plan.

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Council Member Perez stated she is excited that the City is moving in this direction.

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Motion by Council Member Carrizales, second by Council Member Trujillo and carried by a 5-0 vote to approve the Final Construction Work Authorization in the Amount of \$994,897 to Rialto Water Services for the Rialto Microgrid Project - Phase 2.

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**REPORTS**

City Council gave their reports.

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**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Council Member Carrizales, second by Council Member Trujillo and carried by a 5-0 vote to return to Closed Session at 9:58 p.m.

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**OPEN SESSION**

City Council returned from Closed Session at 10:43 p.m. with all members present.

**City Attorney's Report on  
Closed Session**

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL –  
ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Decision to initiate litigation - one (1) matter

Interim City Attorney Eric Vail stated that there was a briefing from Acting City Manager Sean Grayson, Staff and Interim City Attorney Vail. Direction was given to Interim City Attorney Vail. There is no reportable action with regard to that direction, and it concludes the agenda Item and Closed Sessions.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Council Member Trujillo second by Council Member Perez and carried by a 5-0 vote, to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 10:45 p.m.

The City Council adjourned in memory of:

**Norma Barajas  
Former Rialto Fire Marshal**

**Norm Patterson  
Longtime Rialto resident**

**Gilbert Torres  
Rialto resident**

**Donna Torres  
Rialto resident**

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MAYOR DEBORAH ROBERTSON

**ATTEST:**

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CITY CLERK BARBARA A. McGEE