

**MINUTES  
WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL  
ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING  
PARNELL PARK, 15390 LAMBERT ROAD  
JANUARY 20, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Whittier City Council met in adjourned regular session on January 20, 2009. Mayor Vinatieri called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in the Oak Room of the Parnell Park Community and Senior Center, 15390 Lambert Road, Whittier.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Greg Nordbak, Council Member (6:37 p.m.)  
Cathy Warner, Council Member (6:40 p.m.)  
Owen Newcomer, Council Member  
Bob Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem  
Joe Vinatieri, Mayor

**OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Stephen W. Helvey, City Manager  
Richard D. Jones, City Attorney  
Kathryn A. Marshall, City Clerk-Treasurer

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Council Member Newcomer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Ken Metzger, Whittier, thanked the City for the improvements made in his neighborhood; said he is part of the Washington Avenue Executive Committee formed to improve his neighborhood; and said work needs to be done to his street.

Council Member Nordbak joined the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Michael Delgado, 9444 Armley Avenue, Whittier, said the City's plan to make budget cuts is the right thing to do, and asked that in making the cuts the City Council set priorities and not cut programs which affect public safety. He requested the City Council form an economic review board.

Council Member Warner joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Joe Marsico, Whittier, spoke regarding exposing errors in documentation on the City's transportation program; recommended the City establish a neighborhood trolley program; and inquired why the meeting was not being televised.

James Sass, 6252 Washington Avenue, Whittier, thanked the City Council for a year without scandal, for adopting the Uptown Specific Plan, and for the public process for development of the Plan; acknowledged the City's strong fiscal management; and asked that important meeting materials be available on the City's website to facilitate public involvement.

A motion was made by Council Member Newcomer, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, and received consensus to consider Agenda Item 7.A in Closed Session before conducting the Mid-Year Budget Review.

## **7. CLOSED SESSION**

City Manager Helvey recommended the City Council conduct a Closed Session relating to labor negotiation issues which are associated with the budget balancing effort.

**7.A** City Council - Government Code Section 54957.6 to discuss labor negotiations between negotiator Stephen Helvey, and the Whittier City Employees' Association, the Whittier Police Officers' Association and unrepresented employees.

Mayor Vinatieri adjourned the meeting to Closed Session at 6:50 p.m.

Council Member Nordbak was absent from the Closed Session from 7:48 p.m. to 7:56 p.m. due to a conflict of interest with a portion of the matter under consideration.

(Closed Session continued on page 5.)

Mayor Vinatieri declared a recess at 8:10 p.m. At 8:18 p.m., he reconvened the meeting in open session with all Council Members present.

## **5.A MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW:**

City Manager Helvey said during the Closed Session the City Council provided staff with direction on labor contracts. He outlined various staff proposals to aid in budget balancing for Fiscal Year 09-10 and the City Council reached consensus on the following.

- Reduce the City Council travel budget by 50% from \$15,000 to \$7,500

- Chamber of Commerce funding will not be reduced
- Reduce Museum funding by 5%, \$1,250 (Mayor Pro Tem Henderson declared a conflict and did not participate in the discussion)
- Eliminate the Board and Commission Reception, recognize boards at City Council meetings; bring back information on the cost of the hosted bar at the reception and the cost to present gifts at a Council meeting
- Eliminate the Employee BBQ, \$5,300
- Eliminate funding for the Pio Pico State Park Fall Event, \$1,235
- Reduce State Lobbyist account funding by \$18,000
- Pursue collection of business license tax on realtors, \$13,188; Mayor Vinatieri requested a legal opinion on taxing realtors
- Consolidate the Human Resources and City Controller Departments, \$94,926
- Freeze one vacant Building Inspector position, \$72,623
- Maintain the building permit requirement for fences and walls below six feet
- Eliminate vacant Library Manager position by shifting other staff assignments, \$75,030
- Keep the Branch Library open on Fridays
- Reduce service hours at the audio-visual desk at the Central Library, \$14,877
- Reduce staffing at the Reference Desk at the Central Library, \$28,304
- Reduce the Library's book acquisition budget by \$5,000
- Provide a report on the proposal to close restrooms at the smaller parks
- Change the tree-trimming grid for street trees from a five-year cycle to a six-year cycle, \$54,500
- Reduce Parks watering budget by \$4,204

- Turn off park security lighting at 10:00 p.m., \$10,000
- Continue operating spray pools
- Implement park maintenance modifications, \$20,756
- Reduce park hardscape and equipment repairs, \$21,339
- Leave gas stoves on at parks
- Remove the high dive at Palm Park pool to reduce the budget by \$6,000 for repairs and \$1,403 for annual maintenance and provide a report on its current use
- Reflect new revenue of \$27,000 from Rio Hondo College for pool rental
- Reduce Rio Hondo Symphony funding by 50%, from \$11,300 to \$5,650
- Reduce subsidy to youth affiliate groups from \$2,000 each to the cost of their insurance up to \$1,500 each, \$5,000 savings
- Close the Lydia Jackson and J. G. Whittier WYN Clubs, \$26,755
- Increase WYN Club fees from \$30 to \$40 for the school year and from \$20 to \$25 for the summer program, estimated revenue \$12,000
- Increase the cost of the participants fee for the swim program, in lieu of charging a fee to access the pool area, \$2,417
- Increase recreation class fees, \$12,478
- Increase Palm Park tennis court fee to \$6.00 per hour, \$7,550
- Establish a fee for therapeutic recreation programs, \$8,200
- Eliminate parade from Founders Day party
- Bring back a report on a scaled-down 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration
- Eliminate the Halloween event, \$10,173
- Maintain Social Services funding at the current level

- Eliminate the Social Services volunteer recognition program, \$800
- Charge the actual cost of hanging horizontal street banners; report back on the cost for hanging banners and proposed cost savings
- Bring back a plan to transition the free extra services for maintenance and special events in the Uptown Area
- Eliminate the Greenway Trail graffiti contractor, \$73,146
- Increase Whittier Utility Authority lease payments by \$139,373
- Continue County Probation Officer funding
- Eliminate the Police Explorer Camp, \$5,000
- Reduce funding for the Baker to Vegas Police event, \$5,300

Mayor Vinatieri left the meeting at 9:31 p.m., and returned at 9:36 p.m.

The City Council decided to continue consideration of consolidating advisory boards to its next meeting.

Mayor Vinatieri said he would like the City Council to revisit policies in the Tree Manual and received City Council consensus to discuss the City's tree maintenance policy.

**6. COUNCIL COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS:**

None.

**7. CLOSED SESSION:**

(See Page 2 for Item 7.A.)

City Manager Helvey recommended the City Council return to Closed Session to consider the second business item:

**7.B** City Council - Government Code Section 54956.9(a) to discuss two cases of litigation:

1. Case No. 8WW00930, People of the State of California vs. Hugo Gutierrez and Carmen Gutierrez; and
2. Case No. BS113401, Hugo Gutierrez vs. City of Whittier.

Mayor Vinatieri adjourned the meeting to Closed Session at 9:46 p.m.

**8. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:**

Mayor Vinatieri reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 9:55 p.m.

**9. CLOSED SESSION REPORT:**

None.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Vinatieri adjourned the City Council Meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathryn A. Marshall  
City Clerk-Treasurer