

**MINUTES
WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL
ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 13230 PENN STREET
APRIL 25, 2011**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Whittier City Council met in an adjourned regular session on April 25, 2011. Mayor Nordbak called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. in the Council Chamber of Whittier City Hall, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California.

2. ROLL CALL:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Vinatieri, Council Member
Owen Newcomer, Council Member
Bob Henderson, Council Member
Cathy Warner, Mayor Pro Tem
J. Greg Nordbak, Mayor

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Stephen W. Helvey, City Manager
Richard D. Jones, City Attorney
Toni Maiques, Assistant City Clerk-Treasurer

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Nordbak led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

Representatives for Supervisor Don Knabe and Senator Ron Calderon presented Certificates to Mayor Nordbak in recognition and appreciation of his service this past year as Mayor.

5. ELECTION OF MAYOR:

It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Newcomer, and carried unanimously, to elect Cathy Warner Mayor.

Mayor Warner presented outgoing Mayor Nordbak with a clock in recognition of his year as Mayor.

Outgoing Mayor Nordbak said it had been an honor to serve as mayor for the past year because of how special the community is; thanked his wife Donna for her support during his 18 years of public service; thanked City staff and his colleagues for their support during the year; spoke regarding the budget challenges and controversial issues undertaken during his year as mayor; acknowledged the Chamber of Commerce and the Whittier Uptown Association; congratulated Mayor Warner; and presented flowers to his wife in appreciation of her support.

Council Members each thanked outgoing Mayor Nordbak for his dedicated service throughout the year.

6. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM:

It was moved by Council Member Vinatieri, seconded by Council Member Nordbak, and carried unanimously, to elect Owen Newcomer Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Warner introduced her mother Louise Dunn, husband David Warner, daughter Ashley Warner, and La Palma Police Chief Eric Nuñez, a colleague in her executive management program at the University of Southern California. She thanked outgoing Mayor Nordbak for his dedication and leadership during the last year; said she was beginning her 22nd year of public service and thanked her husband for his support the last 21 years; said she was honored to work with her colleagues on the City Council and City staff; acknowledged the Chamber of Commerce, Whittier Uptown Association and the community for their support; and stressed the importance of the legal processes and parameters by which the Council is governed.

Mayor Pro Tem Newcomer thanked his wife Kristina for her support; spoke about his first City Council election; and said he is looking forward to serving as Mayor Pro Tem with Mayor Warner for the next year.

Sue Dean, Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce Vice President, congratulated outgoing Mayor Nordbak on his successful term as Mayor; and announced the following Chamber events: Tasty Tuesday on April 26 at Chili's, Mixer and Silent Auction on May 4, and the Salute to Service Wake-Up-Whittier networking breakfast at Whittier Hospital on May 11. She said that beginning in June, the Chamber networking breakfast is moving to the 3rd Wednesday of the month, and the June breakfast will be at Don Steve's Chevrolet on June 15.

7. PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING MAYOR:

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

The speakers listed below expressed opposition or concern relating to the proposed Whittier Main Mineral Extraction Project and addressed the following issues: the size of the compound for the oil drilling project is 14 acres; whether Matrix Oil or Clayton-Williams had input regarding the agreement; whether it was the City's or Matrix Oil's idea to drill for oil; the intent of Proposition A was to preserve land; whether Matrix Oil was allowed to review documents prior to the bid process; the amount of money invested in preserving the open space; it is an unsafe and unhealthy project; banners made by local students and hung in the City regarding saving the environment; protecting families and the environment; accuracy of the information provided to the public; parking and staging area during construction located near a school for special needs students; and why there is a need for slant drilling.

Roy McKee, Whittier Hills Oil Watch Vice President; he also congratulated Mayor Warner

Audrey Purcell, California High School student; she also said the proposed oil drilling project was her senior project

Marta Borbon, 5228 Glennon Drive, Whittier

Anthony Martinez, Whittier

John Myers, Maple Street, Whittier; he also suggested having a split TV screen during oral communications

George Poochigian, Whittier; said he did not like the way he was treated by the City Manager; his time is better spent with disabled veterans; the trees at the Senior Center drip sap, are dying, and they should be removed; and commented on Council Member Nordbak's comments about spending Redevelopment Agency funds.

Council Member Henderson responded to comments regarding the proposed mineral extraction project and said the project will be contained within a fenced 7-acre parcel as required by the lease; Matrix Oil did not review the lease agreement prior to the bid process; information regarding the possibility of mineral deposits is public information not released by the City; the location of the Whittier fault line determined the need for slant drilling; the Savage Canyon Landfill property is impractical for access to the site; City staff and City attorneys prepared the lease and the terms of the lease as governed by California law; and the bid was on royalties only.

9.A LOS ANGELES COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE

It was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Council Member Vinatieri, and carried unanimously, to appoint Council Member Nordbak as the alternate representative to the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts Board of Directors.

9.B MEETING AGENDA FORMAT

Following brief discussion, it was moved by Council Member Henderson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Newcomer, and carried, unanimously, to revise the agenda format to conduct Closed Session meetings at 6:30 p.m. and Regular meetings at 7:30 p.m.; for a 90-day trial period, commencing May 24, 2011.

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS AND CONFERENCE REPORTS:

Council Member Nordbak requested adjourning a future meeting in memory of Frank Scott; and he received Council concurrence to agendize discussion of redistricting.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Maiques
Assistant City Clerk-Treasurer