MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the City Council
MARCH 8, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:
This Regular Meeting of the Westlake Village City Council was called to order by Mayor Pearl on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 6:34 p.m., at 31200 Oak Crest Drive, Westlake Village.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
Mayor Pearl led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:
PRESENT: Councilmembers Halpern, Honig, Mayor Pro Tem Davis, and Mayor Pearl
ABSENT: Councilmember McSweeney
Also Present: City Manager de Geus, City Attorney Boga, Administrative Services Director Wilson, Planning Director Forbes, Deputy City Manager Eskandar, City Clerk Mann, City Engineer Hughes, Administrative Analyst Mott, and Community Services Coordinator Roush.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Councilmember Halpern moved to approve the Agenda, moving the Consent Calendar following New Business. Mayor Pro Tem Davis seconded the motion.

YES: Councilmembers Halpern, Honig, Mayor Pro Tem Davis, and Mayor Pearl
NO: None
ABSENT: Councilmember McSweeney
ABSTAIN: None

Mayor Pearl declared the motion passed 4-Yes, 0-No, 1-Absent
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/CEREMONIAL MATTERS:

1. Volunteer Appreciation – Recognition of 2021 and 2022 City Volunteers

Mayor Pearl provided background on the Volunteer groups that assisted the City of Westlake Village in 2021 and 2022. City Councilmembers presented a gift to each of the City Volunteers (Community Service Funds Advisory Committee, Cultural Recreation Advisory Board, City Special Event Volunteers, Disaster Response Team, Westlake Village Library Book Nook, Public Safety Advisory Board, Westlake Village Community Foundation, Volunteers on Patrol) in appreciation and recognition of their many volunteer hours to the City.

COUNCIL RESPONSE: None

STAFF COMMENTS:

City Manager de Geus reported that nominations for Citizen and Youth of the Year Awards are now closed. The Westlake Village Community Foundation’s 2023 High School Senior Scholarship application is posted at www.wlv.org/scholarship. Applications will be accepted through March 31, 2023, and applicants must be City of Westlake Village residents to be eligible.

Mr. de Geus highlighted upcoming City Council Committee meetings and upcoming City Council meeting topics.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Honig announced International Women’s Day is March 8, that March is Women’s History Month, and shared three facts related to Women in Los Angeles History.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT: CIVIC CENTER COURTYARDS AND LINDERO SIDEWALK DESIGN UPDATES

City Manager de Geus provided an overview of the Civic Center Courtyard improvements with the inclusion of a memorial to honor Veterans. City Engineer Hughes provided a summary of prior fountain renovation ideas to City Council and recommended that these be included as an exhibit in the bid package.

City Council discussed merging the Civic Center Fountain Project and Veterans Memorial Project to become one cohesive project. Consideration was given to
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued):

adding recognition for Veteran service animals, and a living component (trees, bushes, etc.) to assist with the serenity desired. City Council input will be included in the developing of the draft bid package.

City Engineer Hughes provided an update on the Lindero Sidewalk Design plans. Ms. Hughes explained that the sidewalk design could include a meandering sidewalk design option by narrowing the street. Ms. Hughes also reminded the Council that the design phase of this sidewalk segment will be paid for with Measure R funds.

Council discussion included interest in lowering the speed limit on Lindero if possible, not connecting the sidewalk into First Neighborhood, and direction to include a design option for a meandering sidewalk that would narrow the street.

2. CULTURAL RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT: ISKANDER TREEHOUSE

City Manager de Geus provided an overview of the City Council Goal for the Iskander Memorial. Mr. de Geus reported that staff has worked with the Iskander Family on concepts and ultimately identified a possible Treehouse playground feature to enhance the Three Spring Playground.

Lacey Withers, Principal, Landscape Architect with Withers & Sandgren provided an informational update on the proposed Iskander Treehouse play structure in Three Springs Park, along with estimated costs.

Mr. de Geus stated that the Capital Budget has an approved budget of $50,000 in this Fiscal Year’s budget for the Playground Treehouse. Staff is considering additional funding options. The Playground Treehouse feature would be a new Park Improvement for the entire community, while also serving as a meaningful way to honor and remember Mark and Jacob Iskander.

City Council discussed the cost, funding partnership with the community, fundraising and funding options. Council requested that the project return to Committee to explore project funding options and determine if project alternatives should be considered.
*OLD BUSINESS:

1. **CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE BIDS FOR PICKLEBALL COURTS**

   City Engineer Hughes provided an update on the final plans and specifications for the Community Park Pickleball Courts and allowing the project to be put out to bid with the full and base court options. Ms. Hughes discussed possible funding options to cover the estimated construction cost of the Pickleball Courts.

   Council discussed consideration of a sound study, possibly adding a third gate, replacing the decomposed granite in the seating area for another material, and whether the project should be put out to bid prior to evaluating a more complete review of all funding options for this project.

   City Council took no action and recommended that item come back when all City Councilmembers are in attendance. Staff will reschedule the item for an upcoming Council meeting.

2. **ZERO-EMISSION LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT ORDINANCES**

   Planning Director Forbes provided an overview of the zero-emission leaf blower ordinance that became effective January 1, 2023, stating staff continues to focus on education and community outreach about the ordinance, with no additional enforcement measures at this time. Staff have begun receiving calls from residents requesting that the City start with formal enforcement for non-compliance.

   Council previously requested a second ordinance to prohibit all gasoline powered landscape maintenance equipment to be effective July 1, 2023. Staff recommended that the next ordinance prohibit all 2-stroke gasoline powered equipment and continue to allow 4-stroke equipment to be consistent with the City’s landscape contracts, and to meet American Green Zone Alliance (AGZA) Green Zone Certification.

   On February 21, 2023, the Environmental Committee (Halpern/McSweeney) discussed enforcement of the leaf blower ordinance and next steps regarding the proposed second ordinance to address other equipment. The Committee recommended that staff continue to educate users, with no formal enforcement at this time, and additionally, to postpone the second ordinance, given the lack of compliance with gas-powered leaf blowers.

   Council requested that staff continue with the educational process, delay the next ordinance, and evaluate enforcement options to be discussed at a later time. Staff will provide updates to the Committee for the evaluation of enforcement options before coming back to City Council.
PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Halpern moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Mayor Pro Tem Davis seconded the motion.

YES: Councilmembers Halpern, Honig, Mayor Pro Tem Davis, and Mayor Pearl
NO: None
ABSENT: Councilmember McSweeney
ABSTAIN: None

Mayor Pearl declared the motion passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS: Warrants effective March 1, 2023 in the amount of $540,329.71

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. ACCEPTANCE OF LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION FLOW SENSORS INSTALLED BY AMERICAN HERITAGE – City Council accepted the completed construction of the landscape irrigation flow sensors by American Heritage and authorized the City Clerk to execute and record a “Notice of Completion” on behalf of the City.

2. CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR SHADE STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT AT BERNIECE BENNETT PARK AND APPROVAL OF CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION DETERMINATION – City Council approved staff’s finding of a CEQA categorical exemption for the Berniece Bennett Shade Structure Replacement Project; awarded a construction contract for the project for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 to Pacific in the amount of $48,700.00; and authorized the Mayor to sign and execute the construction contract on behalf of the City.

3. APPLICATION FOR STATE OF CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENT WILDFIRE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM – City Council adopted Resolution 2285-23

RESOLUTION NO. 2285-23: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTLAKE VILLAGE AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE 2023 STATE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE) WILDFIRE PREVENTION GRANT

NEW BUSINESS: None
ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pearl announced the next City Council meeting will be held on March 22, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Ray Pearl, Mayor

Attest:

Antoinette Mann, City Clerk

*Agenda Items Order Adjusted with Approval of Agenda