

LAGUNA NIGUEL CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on May 19, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Conducted by Teleconference and Broadcasted via YouTube Live

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Davies called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Laurie Davies – Present
Mayor Pro Tem Fred Minagar – Present
Council Member Elaine Gennawey – Present
Council Member John Mark Jennings – Present
Council Member Sandy Rains – Present

INVOCATION – Council Member Gennawey

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Council Member Rains

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Gomez read public comments from the following individuals:

Katia Baggata, owner of Bistro K, spoke in support of re-opening Bistro K Restaurant in Laguna Niguel.

Donna Shaver, resident spoke in support of re-opening Bistro K Restaurant in Laguna Niguel.

Gregory Brock, resident spoke in support of re-opening Bistro K Restaurant in Laguna Niguel.

Kelly Schultz, resident, spoke in support of re-opening Bistro K Restaurant in Laguna Niguel.

J. Sonny Cusumano, owner of New York's Upper Crust Pizza in Laguna Niguel, spoke in support of re-opening Bistro K Restaurant in Laguna Niguel.

Pete DeGregori, resident, spoke in support of a 4th of July celebration event in the City.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Gennawey abstained from voting on Check No. 6793 to Dell Marketing LP, as stated in Warrant Register, under Item No. 1.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Jennings, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Minagar, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Motion carried 5-0.

1. Warrants of May 19, 2020

Approved as written.

2. Payroll Summary Register

Approved as written.

3. Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting on May 5, 2020

Approved as written.

4. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on May 5, 2020

Approved as written.

5. Adoption of the Final Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the Fiscal Year 2020-2024, the Citizen Participation Plan, the 2020-2024 Orange County Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, and the Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Adopted the Five-Year Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2024, the Citizen Participation Plan, the 2020-2024 Orange County Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, and the Annual A Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

6. Adoption of Resolution No. 2020-1317, Designating the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, and Finance Director to be the Authorized Agents to Execute for and on Behalf of the City of Laguna Niguel for the Purpose of Obtaining Certain Federal and State Financial Assistance

Adopted Resolution No. 2020-1317, Designating the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, and Finance Director To Be The Authorized Agents To Execute For And On Behalf Of The City of Laguna Niguel For The Purpose Of Obtaining Certain Federal Financial Assistance Under Public Law 93-288 As Amended By The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief And Emergency Assistance Act Of 1988, and/or State Financial Assistance Under the California Disaster Assistance Act.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Pilot Program to Accommodate Outdoor Dining within Shopping Center Parking Areas

Planning Manager John Morgan provided information as stated in the staff report. He stated the proposed pilot program would allow parking areas within shopping centers to potentially be used by restaurants for outdoor dining opportunities

during the COVID-19 health crisis. He stated a “No Fee” Temporary Use Permit would be available once on sight dining is permissible again. He stated with the expanded re-opening of businesses moving forward, the State published COVID-19 industry-wide guidelines for restaurants to accommodate dine-in customers. He stated these guidelines notably include ensuring physical distancing of at least six feet between separate dining parties. He stated these criteria may create some business hardships if restaurants are required to significantly reduce the number of tables and chairs within their dining areas. He stated in an effort to strike a balance between social distancing protocols and offsetting the impacts of reduced seating staff recommends a pilot program allowing restaurants to expand dining opportunities by using parking lots and common areas within shopping centers. This approval process would consist of the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit and be subject to implementation of public health best practices and safety precautions. He stated this would also include approval from other applicable outside agencies such as Orange County Health Department, Orange County Fire Authority, and the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for those serving alcohol. He stated staff has begun outreach with shopping center owners, property managers and the Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce, all who have expressed their support of the City taking these proactive steps to establish this pilot program.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed pilot program.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

City Clerk Gomez read comments by Scott Alevy, President for the Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce, in support of approving the pilot program.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Jennings, seconded by Council Member Gennaway, to:

1. Approve a pilot program to allow activation of portions of parking areas within shopping centers to accommodate outdoor dining opportunities for restaurants during the COVID-19 health crisis with a Temporary Use Permit.
2. Waive the Temporary Use Permit filing fee.

Motion carried 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS/COUNCIL REPORTS

1. Council Reports

Council Member Rains thanked residents for the sacrifices they have made to stop the spread of the Coronavirus and reported that our City only has .00057% cases reported to date.

Council Member Gennaway thanked residents for handling the challenges they are currently facing and encouraged them to reach out to their neighbors to

check in on them. She stated she is looking forward to working with restaurants and stated her support of local control. She asked staff to reach out to local businesses to provide information on the pilot program and any other information that would be helpful to them. She expressed her appreciation to staff for their work during this time.

Council Member Jennings expressed his appreciation for local businesses including the owners of Bistro K Restaurant and those that provided comments on their behalf. He commented on the measures being taken by Governor Newsom and the Orange County Board of Supervisors and encouraged them to do the right thing. He asked that City Manager Letourneau report back to the City Council when reaching out to local businesses requesting assistance. He expressed his appreciation to staff for their work during this time.

Mayor Pro Tem Minagar provided information he received from the Transportation Corridor Agency (TCA) and reported that revenue for the Foothill/Eastern TCA was down by 63% and revenue for the San Joaquin Hills TCA was down by 74%. He expressed his concerns regarding these statistics and stated there needs to be more jobs and security for people in our country.

Mayor Davies expressed her concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and stated the City is doing everything we possibly can to assist residents and local businesses. She stated she is part of the California Mayor's Coalition where they work collectively to send letters to the federal government about local control and to request assistance. She encouraged residents to submit letters to Supervisor Bartlett and Governor Newsom in support of re-opening local businesses.

2. City Manager Report

City Manager Letourneau provided an update on the opening of City Hall on May 20th and stated the modified hours are from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., including closures on Fridays through June. She stated these modified hours are to allow for proper cleaning and disinfecting. She stated the lobby will be set up for social distancing with greeters available to make sure the new rules are being followed. She stated due to financial hardships caused by COVID-19 and for public health reasons, there will not be a live 4th of July fireworks show but there will still be fun community celebrations.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Davies adjourned the Regular City Council meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Eileen C. Gomez
City Clerk