



CITY OF LEMON GROVE

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item No. 1.C
Meeting Date: April 1, 2025
Submitted to: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Department: City Manager's Office
Staff Contact: Joel G. Pablo, City Clerk; jpablo@lemongrove.ca.gov
Item Title: **Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes**

Recommended Action: To approve the minutes of the Lemon Grove City Council meetings held on February 25, 2025, March 4, 2025 and March 18, 2025.

Environmental Review:

- Not subject to review Negative Declaration
 Categorical Exemption, Section _____ Mitigated Negative Declaration

Fiscal Impact: None.

Public Notification: None.

Attachment

Attachment A: February 25, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes

Attachment B: March 4, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes

Attachment C: March 18, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

Lemon Grove Community Center
3146 School Lane, Lemon Grove, CA 91945
Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Mayor Alysson Snow convened the Special Meeting of the City Council at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Mayor Alysson Snow, Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Mendoza, Councilmember Yadira Altamirano, Councilmember Jessyka Heredia, Councilmember Steve Faiai

Absent: None

Staff Present

City Manager Lydia Romero, Finance Director Stacey Tang, Deputy City Attorney Tim Campen, City Clerk Joel G. Pablo, Sergeant Ken Seel and Sergeant William Price from the San Diego County Sheriff's Office, and Fire Chief Bent Koch from Heartland Fire and Rescue.

Changes to the Agenda

City Clerk Pablo informed Mayor Snow and Councilmembers of the following updates to the agenda:

- An application from Jasmin Mendoza was submitted prior to the deadline; however, it was sent to the incorrect email address and will be included in the list of candidates to be considered for appointment.
- Staff received notice from applicant Larry Crano indicating he is unable to attend his scheduled interview, however would still like to be considered.
- Applicants Kathy Lang and Helen Brody withdrew their application for appointment to the Measure T Oversight Committee.

No further changes to the agenda were reported by staff.

Reports to Council

1. Measure T Oversight Committee Members Interviews and Appointments

Mayor Snow introduced the item by reading its title.

City Manager Lydia Romero offered opening remarks, followed by a presentation of the report from Senior Management Analyst Portland Bates and City Manager Romero. Interviews were conducted in alphabetical order, though some names listed below may appear out of sequence due to applicants withdrawing, which led to adjustments in the

interview scheduled to accommodate candidates' arrival times and ensure each had an opportunity to be interviewed.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Aaron Pratts | 8. Gregory Woods |
| 2. Chelsea Gastelum | 9. Ian Johnston |
| 3. David Simmons | 10. Jason Sundberg |
| 4. Dona Clabby | 11. Jay Bass |
| 5. Erik Hauenstein | 12. Jeremy Ogul |
| 6. Dorinda Miller | 13. Karina Kravalis |
| 7. Gabriel Almedia | 14. Jasmin Mendoza |

Mayor Snow recessed the meeting at 8:27 p.m. and reconvened at 8:37 p.m. with all councilmembers present.

Interviews resumed:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 15. Minola Clark Manson | 17. Stephen Browne |
| 16. Ralph Soto | 18. Steve Flynn |

Following the completion of interviews, Mayor Snow opened the public comment period.

In Person: None

Written: Richard Hammett

Mayor Snow closed the public comment period.

Councilmembers proceeded to deliberate on the matter.

Action: Motion by Councilmember Faiai, second by Councilmember Altamirano to expand the Measure T Oversight Committee from five to seven members and include one (1) alternate committee member.

The motion passed by the following vote:

- AYES:** Altamirano, Faiai, Heredia, Mendoza, Snow
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

City staff reviewed and tallied the worksheets, with the following individuals receiving the highest number of votes (4 each): Jason Sundberg, Jay Bass, Karina Kravalis, Stephen Browne, Steve Flynn, Aaron Pratts and Chelsea Gastelum.

Additional vote totals were as follows: Dona Clabby, Erik Hauenstein, Ian Johnston, and Gabriel Almedia each received 3 votes.

Jasmin Mendoza received 2 votes and 1 vote as an alternate.

Councilmembers continued their deliberations on the matter.

Action: Motion by Councilmember Heredia, second by Councilmember Faiai to appoint Jason Sundberg, Jay Bass, Karina Kravalis, Stephen Browne, Steve Flynn, Aaron Pratts, and Chelsea Gastelum as members of the Measure T Oversight Committee.

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Altamirano, Faiai, Heredia, Mendoza, Snow

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Councilmembers continued their deliberations regarding the selection of the Committee Member – *Alternate*.

Action: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza, second by Mayor Snow to appoint Jeremy Ogul as the Alternate Committee Member to the Measure T Oversight Committee:

The motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Altamirano, Faiai, Heredia, Mendoza, Snow

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

The City Manager reminded the Council that they must determine the length of terms for the individuals appointed to the Measure T Oversight Committee.

Mayor Snow provided a summary of the appointees' preferences for either a two-year or four-year term. Councilmembers then proceeded to deliberate on the matter.

Action: Motion by Mayor Snow, second by Councilmember Faiai to clarify the term lengths for the individuals appointed to the Measure T Oversight Committee as follows:

- Jason Sundberg: 4-Year Term
- Jay Bass: 2-Year Term
- Karina Kravalis: 4-Year Term
- Stephen Browne: 4-Year Term
- Steve Flynn: 4-Year Term
- Aaron Pratts: 2-Year Term
- Chelsea Gastelum: 2-Year Term
- Jeremy Ogul (Alternate): 4-Year Term

Adjournment

Mayor Snow adjourned the meeting at 10:34 p.m. announcing that the regularly scheduled City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, has been canceled. In its place, a Special Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the same date at the Alvarez Auditorium, located at 3121 School Lane, Lemon Grove, CA 91945.

Joel G. Pablo
City Clerk

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE
Lemon Grove Community Center
3146 School Lane, Lemon Grove, CA 91945
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

Call to Order

Mayor Alysson Snow convened the Special City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Mayor Alysson Snow, Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Mendoza, Councilmember Yadira Altamirano, Councilmember Jessyka Heredia, Councilmember Steve Faiai

Absent: None

Staff Present

City Manager Lydia Romero, City Attorney Kristen Steinke, City Clerk Joel G. Pablo, Public Works Director Izzy Murguia, Community Development Manager Michael Fellows, Management Analyst Christian Olivas, Community Services Specialist Monica Gonzalez, Community Services Specialist Isabel Armenta, Public Works Operations and Administrative Manager Tom Martin, Sr. Management Analyst Portland Bates, Executive Assistant Shaun Dershem, Associate Accountant Bella Cesares, Heartland Fire and Rescue's Chief Bent Koch, San Diego Sheriff's Office Sergeants Ken Seel and William Price.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Faiai led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation

County of San Diego Temporary Housing Project at Troy and Sweetwater

Mayor Snow introduced City Manager Lydia Romero to provide introductory remarks.

City Manager Romero introduced meeting facilitators Claire Strong and Aaron Byzak of Galvanized Strategies, who provided an overview of meeting guidelines and expected decorum.

Romero also introduced County of San Diego staff including:

- Brian Albright, Deputy County Administrative Officer
- Marko Medved, Director, Department of General Services
- Scott Christman, Deputy Director, Department of General Services
- Dijana Beck, Director, Office of Homeless Solutions

Medved, Christman, Beck and Albright presented the report and responded to questions from the Council.

Public Comment

Mayor Snow opened the public comment period.

In-Person:	Patricia Dillard, Vice Mayor with the City of La Mesa	
	Steve Goble, Councilmember with the City of El Cajon	
	Griselda Ugarte	Jack Shu
	Brenda Hammond	Michelle Krug

Aaron Byzak from Galvanized Strategies read a comment card that was submitted for county staff to answer.

Amy Reichert	Liana LeBaron
Stephanie Brislin	Mat Kostrinsky, American Federation of
Ricky Nunez	State, County and Municipal Employees

Aaron Byzak from Galvanized Strategies read a comment card that was submitted for county staff to answer.

Rachael Kelly	Rachel Hayes
Felina Tha	Larry Bonamo
Jasmin Mendoza	

Aaron Byzak from Galvanized Strategies read a comment card that was submitted for county staff to answer.

Tania Iriarte	Goldy Gutierrez
Christopher Bain	Paul Rutheng
Alejandra Camargo	Julie Porter
Danny Brunner	Ron Woods
Consulo Consuela	David Eckler
Paul Ornales	Victor Vega
Joy Banks	Angelica Carmargo
Beatrice Lopez	John Michno
Darrel Exline	JoAnn Gibilisco
Aubree Russell	Joy Banks

Written:	Aubree Lynn	Erica Dietrich
	Ken King	Craig Levinger

Mayor Snow closed the public comment period.

The Council deliberated further. Councilmember Heredia, Councilmember Faiai and Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza provided staff with general direction to discuss the matter further at a future closed session meeting.

Adjournment

Mayor Snow adjourned the meeting at 9:36 p.m. and announced that the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Joel G. Pablo, City Clerk

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE
Lemon Grove Community Center
3146 School Lane, Lemon Grove, CA 91945
Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

Call to Order

Mayor Alysson Snow convened the regular City Council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Mayor Alysson Snow, Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Mendoza, Councilmember Yadira Altamirano, Councilmember Steve Faiai, Councilmember Jessyka Heredia

Absent: None

Staff Members Present

City Manager Lydia Romero, City Attorney Kristen Steinke, City Clerk Joel G. Pablo, Finance Director Stacey Tang, Community Development Director Michael Fellows, Development Services Technician II Justin Nakhonthap, Public Works Director Izzy Murguia, Special Projects Manager Bill Chopyk, Heartland Fire and Rescue's Fire Chief Bent Koch, San Diego County Sheriff's Office Lt. Joseph Barry.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Altamirano led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes to the Agenda

City Clerk Pablo reported receiving Councilmember Altamirano's request to pull Item No. 1.B – City of Lemon Grove Payment Demands from the Consent Calendar.

No other changes to the agenda were made.

Mayor Snow stated that Item 1.B would be discussed following Reports to Council.

Presentations

Lemon Grove Incident Day

Mayor Snow introduced Pastor Stapleton who presented on Lemon Grove Incident Day.

Dr. Roberto Alvarez Jr. and mural artist Mario Chacón were present to accept the proclamation read by Mayor Snow.

Public Comment

Mayor Snow opened the public comment period.

In Person: John L. Wood
 Brenda Hammond

Truth
Larry Bonamo

Written: Barbara Gordon

Mayor Snow closed the public comment period.

Consent Calendar

Action: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza, second by Councilmember Heredia to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 1.A through 1.E excluding Item 1.B.

The motion passed on a vote of:

AYES: Altamirano, Faiai, Heredia, Mendoza, Snow

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

- 1.A Waive the Full Text Reading of All Ordinances on the Agenda
Action: Waived the full text reading of all ordinances included in this agenda. Ordinances shall be introduced and adopted by title only.
- 1.B City of Lemon Grove Payment Demands
Action: Item pulled via Changes to the Agenda.
- 1.C Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes
Action: Approved the minutes of the Lemon Grove City Council meeting held on February 18, 2025.
- 1.D Note and File Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Action: Noted and filed approved Planning Commission minutes for July 22, 2024.
- 1.E Award of Contract (No. 2025-23) for the Golden Avenue Storm Drain Improvement Project

Action: Adopted **Resolution No. 2025 – 4089** to: (1) Authorize an appropriation of \$381,000 from the TransNet Local Street Improvement (LSI) carry-over balance to the TransNet Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget line item “CIP-LG 16 (CR) Storm Drain”; and (2) Award a contract (No. 2025-23) to Jimenez Inc., DBA MJC Construction for \$240,481 for storm drain improvements near 8243 Golden Avenue and authorize the City Manager to execute any necessary documents.

Reports to Council

2. 2024 General Plan Annual Progress Report

Mayor Snow introduced Community Development Manager Michael Fellows to deliver introductory remarks and then introduced Development Services Technician II Justin Nakhonthap to present the staff report.

Mayor Snow opened the public comment period.

In-Person: Truth

Mayor Snow closed the public comment period.

Round 1: Councilmembers directed comments/questions to staff.

Round 2: Councilmembers directed comments/questions to staff.

Action: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza, second by Councilmember Altamirano to: Adopt **Resolution No. 2025 – 4090** accepting the 2024 General Plan Annual Progress Report and direct staff to submit the Report to the California Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI), formerly known as the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR), and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

The motion passed on a vote of:

AYES: Heredia, Faiai, Altamirano, Mendoza, Snow

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

3. Amendment to Lemon Grove Municipal Code Title 12, Chapter 12.10 – Increasing the Valuation Threshold for Public Street Dedications and Public Street Improvements

Mayor Snow introduced Special Projects Manager Bill Chopyk to present the staff report.

Mayor Snow opened the public comment period. *No comments were directed to the Council.*

Round 1: Councilmembers directed comments/questions to staff.

Round 2: Councilmembers directed comments/questions to staff.

Action: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza, second by Mayor Snow to introduce an ordinance amending Lemon Grove Municipal Code (LGMC) Sections 12.10.050 and 12.10.060 increasing the valuation threshold amount and establishing additional exemptions for public street dedications and public street improvements including the addition of “solar” to the list of exceptions.

The motion passed on a vote of:

AYES: Heredia, Faiai, Altamirano, Mendoza, Snow

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Snow called for a recess of the City Council at 7:43 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:52 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

4. Fiscal Year 2024-25 Mid-Year Budget Adjustments

Mayor Snow introduced Finance Director Stacey Tang to present the staff report.

Mayor Snow opened the public comment period.

In-Person: Truth
Brenda Hammond

Mayor Snow closed the public comment period.

Round 1: Councilmembers directed comments/questions to staff.

Round 2: Councilmembers directed comments/questions to staff.

Action: Motion by Mayor Snow, second by Councilmember Faiai to adopt **Resolution No. 2025 - 4091** to: (1) Approve the Fiscal Year 2024-25 City of Lemon Grove Budget adjustments, and (2) Authorize the City Manager, or her designee, to execute any necessary documents to upgrade and migrate Springbrook Software to Springbrook’s Cirrus.

The motion passed on a vote of:

AYES: Heredia, Faiai, Altamirano, Mendoza, Snow

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Item Pulled from Consent Calendar

1.B City of Lemon Grove Payment Demands

Action: Ratified demands covering February 11, 2025 through March 10, 2025.

Mayor Snow opened the public comment period.

In Person: Truth

Following the comment, Mayor Snow closed the public comment period and invited Councilmember Altamirano to share her questions and comments with staff.

Action: Motion by Councilmember Heredia, second Councilmember Altamirano to ratify demands covering February 11, 2025 through March 10, 2025.

The motion passed on a vote of:

AYES: Heredia, Faiai, Altamirano, Mendoza, Snow

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

City Council Reports on Meetings Attended at the Expense of the City

Councilmember Altamirano

- March 5, 2025: Attended the Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce meeting
- March 15, 2025: Attended the Lemon Grove Multicultural Fair
- Attended the Lion's Club Speech and Debate Contest
- March 18, 2025: East County Chamber of Commerce Meeting

Councilmember Faiai

- March 15, 2025: Lemon Grove Food Distribution
- Attended the Lion's Club Speech and Debate Contest
- March 15, 2025: Attended the Lemon Grove Multicultural Fair

Councilmember Heredia

- March 5, 2025: Attended the La Mesa Business Expo
- March 6, 2025: Attended the Joint Powers Authority Metro Wastewater Board
- March 18, 2025: Attended luncheon with Summer Stephans

Mayor Pro-Tem Mendoza

- February 21, 2025: San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Joint Session Transportation Committee with Borders and Regional Planning
- March 10, 2025: League of California luncheon
- March 13, 2025: Metropolitan Transit System meeting
- March 14, 2025: San Miguel Elementary School Leadership Day
- March 17, 2025: Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Railroad Corridor Board Meeting

Mayor Snow

- February 20, 2025: Attended the Lemon Grove Farmer's Market
- February 21, 2025: Attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Early Childhood Education Center in Lemon Grove
- February 22, 2025: Attended Lemon Grove Black History Month Celebration
- February 27, 2025: Attended the San Diego Chamber of Commerce 154th Anniversary Celebration
- February 28, 2025: Attended SANDAG meeting
- March 1, 2025: Provided food to the Interfaith Shelter Network

- March 5, 2025: Took a Trip with Meals on Wheels
- March 3, 2025: Attended the City's press conference with the Regional Taskforce on Homelessness
- March 6, 2025: Attended the Lemon Grove Historical Societies honoring the History of the Lemon Grove Little League
- March 6, 2025: Attended the NBC7: Meet the Mayor with Politically Speaking
- March 7, 2025: Attended MOGO Governance Gala
- March 8, 2025: Attended the Lemon Grove Little League Opening Day
- March 10, 2025: Attended the City Selection Committee meeting
- March 10, 2025: Attended the League of California Cities
- March 11, 2025: Attended and accepted an invite from the House of Metamorphosis
- March 14, 2025: Attended San Miguel Elementary Leadership Day
- March 14, 2025: Attended a SANDAG meeting
- March 15, 2025: Attended the Lemon Grove Food Distribution
- March 15, 2025: Attended the Lemon Grove Lions Club Speech Contest
- March 15, 2025: Attended the Lemon Grove Multicultural Festival

City Manager's Report

City Manager Romero welcomed Lt. Barry back from FBI Training Academy. Romero provided an update on the repaving project. She advised residents to use the Olive St. entrance to City Hall due to parking restrictions on Main Street and encouraged residents to check the city's website for project updates. Romero announced the Measure T Oversight Committee's inaugural meeting on March 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Closed Session

City Attorney Kristen Steinke read the Council into closed session. The Council then recessed into Closed Session at 9:12 p.m.

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Govt Code §54956.9(d)(4))
One potential case

The Council reconvened from closed session at 10:35 p.m., with all Councilmembers present.

City Manager Romero delivered the closed session report noting that the Council provided staff with general direction. She also mentioned that **Special Counsel** Mona Ebrahimi attended the meeting in place of City Attorney Steinke who had to recuse herself from closed session.

Adjournment

Mayor Snow adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m. and announced that the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.