CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mayor Ybarra. Mayor Ybarra led the Flag Salute.

Members Present: Melissa Ybarra, Leticia Lopez, William Davis, Carol Menke
Members Absent: None

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Interim City Clerk Harrington announced that Closed Session Item No. 15 would be taken out of order to be considered first, followed by the remaining order of the agenda.

City Council entered Closed Session at 9:02 a.m.

15. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Potential Initiation of Litigation.

Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)

Number of potential cases: 1

City Council exited closed session at 9:28 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment provided.

PRESENTATION

1. Employee Service Pin Awards for August 2019
   Recommendation: No action required by City Council. This is a presentation only.

Director of Human Resources Earl announced the Service Pin Awards recipients, Public Utilities Compliance Administrator Lisa Umeda, and Public Utilities Resource Planning Ruben Rodriguez.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

No Public Comment provided.

It was moved by Council Member Davis and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Lopez to approve Consent Calendar Items No. 2 through 8. Motion carried, 4 - 0.

Yes: Melissa Ybarra, Leticia Lopez, William Davis, Carol Menke
No: None

2. Report on FY 2018/2019 Vernon CommUNITY Fund Grant Committee Activity
   **Recommendation:** A. Find that receiving this report on grants awarded by the Vernon CommUNITY Fund Grant Committee is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) review, because it is an administrative action that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15378; and
   
   B. Receive and file this report, as it is being provided for informational purposes only.

3. Claim for Damages from Joaquina Centeno Leon received on September 3, 2019.
   **Recommendation:** A. Receive and File

4. Approval of City Payroll Warrant Register No. 759 Covering the Period of August 01 through August 31, 2019
   **Recommendation:**
   A. Approve City Payroll Warrant Register No. 759 which totals $4,741,155.81 and consists of the following:

   1) Ratification of direct deposits, checks and taxes totaling $3,759,185.62.
   2) Checks and electronic fund transfers (EFT) paid through Operating bank account totaling $981,970.19.

5. Approval of Operating Account Warrant Register No. 30 Covering the Period of August 27 through September 09, 2019
   **Recommendation:** A. Approve Operating Account Warrant Register No. 30 which totals $5,985,772.27 and consists of the following:

   1) Ratification of electronic payments totaling $5,365,062.81.
   2) Ratification of the issuance of early checks totaling $603,333.49.
3) Authorization to issue pending checks totaling $17,375.97.

6. Supplemental No. 637 to Services Agreement with Verdugo Fire Communications Dispatch

**Recommendation:** A. Find that the approval proposed action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) review, because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15378; and

B. Ratify Supplemental No. 637 to the Services Agreement with Verdugo Fire Communications Dispatch, (Contract No. FD-0201), increasing the existing contract amount of $313,277.00 by an additional $60,026.50 to cover service costs in FY 2019/20, for a total contract value of $373,303.50 over the lifetime of the agreement; and

C. Authorize the Purchasing Department to issue payment(s) for Supplemental No. 637 to cover projected dispatch service costs during Fiscal Year 2019/20 until such time that the transition to LA County Fire Dispatch is complete and dispatch services with LA County are fully operational.

7. Vernon Police Department Activity Log and Statistical Summary for the period of August 1 through August 15, 2019

**Recommendation:** A. Receive and file.


**Recommendation:** A. Find that approval of the proposed action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15378; and

B. Accept the Work by General Pump Company, Inc. with regard to the Well No. 16 Pump and Motor project, Contract No. LP-0434; and

C. Authorize the Interim General Manager of Public Utilities to submit for recordation to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (“County Clerk”) the Notice of Completion for the Well No. 16 Pump and Motor Project.

**NEW BUSINESS**

9. Resolution Appointing Jim Enriquez to Serve as Interim Fire Chief and Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Related Temporary At-Will Employment Agreement
**Recommendation:** A. Find that approval of the proposed actions are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, because they are administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore do not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15378; and

B. Adopt the attached resolution appointing Jim Enriquez to serve as Interim Fire Chief of the City of Vernon effective September 17, 2019, and approving and authorizing the execution of a related temporary at-will employment agreement.

City Administrator Fandino reported on the Resolution Appointing Jim Enriquez to Serve as Interim Fire Chief and Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Related Temporary At Will Employment Agreement. City Administrator Fandino commented that in an effort to stay true to the City’s commitment to good governance and transparency, Fire Chief Enriquez and City Administration will provide the City Council status updates periodically as changes continue to occur with the Fire Department. City Administrator Fandino further addressed everyone’s concerns about making the transition to Los Angeles Fire Services by assuring that Fire Chief Enriquez is committed and able to serve in this capacity for up to three years. He further elaborated that Vernon Fire Services will be in good hands as we journey into the future and acknowledged the years of service retiring Fire Chief English has provided to the City of Vernon.

Director of Human Resources Earl provided a brief summary of Fire Chief Enriquez’s career and outstanding qualifications to serve as the Interim Fire Chief for the City of Vernon.

Public Comment:

Marisa Olguin, Vernon Chamber of Commerce commented that the Vernon Chamber of Commerce approves of the action and is pleased the City acted quickly to fill the position left by retiring Fire Chief English. She stated the Vernon Chamber of Commerce is very supportive of the City and the City Administrator to move forward with the recommendations in the independent matrix study.

It was moved by Council Member Menke and seconded by Council Member Davis to: A. Find that approval of the proposed actions are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, because they are administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore do not constitute a "project" as defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15378; and B. Adopt the resolution appointing Jim Enriquez to serve as Interim Fire Chief of the City of Vernon effective September 17, 2019, and approving and authorizing the execution of a related temporary at-will employment agreement. Motion carried, 4 - 0.

Yes: \(\text{Melissa Ybarra, Leticia Lopez, William Davis, Carol Menke}\)

No: \(\text{None}\)

10. Amendment No. 2 to the Services Agreement with Vasquez and Company LLP for Professional Auditing Services for Fiscal Years 2016-2018
Recommendation: ACTION: No Action was taken. An item will be placed on the next City Council Meeting for consideration. A. Find that approval of the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because it is a continuing administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15378. Even if such were a project, it would be exempt from CEQA review in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3), the general rule is that CEQA only applies to activities that may have a significant effect on the environment; and

B. Find that it is in the best interest of the City to approve a direct award of the contract and exempt this amendment from competitive selection based on this determination pursuant to City Code Article IV Section 2.17.12(B)(2); and

C. Approve Amendment No. 2 to the services agreement with Vasquez & Company LLP for professional auditing services for fiscal years 2016-2018, in substantially the same form as submitted herewith, renewing the agreement through August 6, 2020 for a total not to exceed amount of $110,000 for the renewal term; and

D. Authorize the City Administrator to execute Amendment No. 2 to provide Audit Services for one additional Fiscal Year (Year Ended June 30, 2019) to audit the Annual Financial Report of the City and Epic Land Solution’s Phase II Asset Valuation Report.

Assistant Finance Director Masami reported on Amendment No. 2 to the Services Agreement with Vasquez and Company LLP for Professional Auditing Services for Fiscal Years 2016-2018.

Council Member Menke inquired as to the time frame of the auditing services provided to the City by Vasquez & Company LLP and commented that it is a best practice to have an auditing firm for only four years, and expressed concerns about keeping the firm. Assistant Finance Director Masami responded accordingly.

A dialogue ensued between City Council and staff regarding good governance and reforms, Vasquez & Company LLP current accusations arising from legal and criminal charges, the risks and benefits of hiring a new auditing firm, data accessibility to the new auditors, and recording of fix assets values as to historical book values. It was noted a Request for Proposal for auditing services has been issued and proposals will be received in the near future.

No Public Comment provided.

It was moved by Mayor Ybarra and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Lopez to not take action on Amendment No. 2 to the Services Agreement with Vasquez and Company LLP for Professional Auditing Services for Fiscal Years 2016-2018 and place an item for consideration on the agenda for the next City Council Meeting scheduled on October 1, 2019. Motion carried, 4 - 0.
Yes: Melissa Ybarra, Leticia Lopez, William Davis, Carol Menke
No: None

11. Services Agreement with Epic Land Solutions, Inc for Infrastructure Valuation In Accordance with GASB 34 and 51

**Recommendation:** A. Find that approval of the proposed action, is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because it is a continuing administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15378. Even if such were considered a project, it would be exempt from CEQA review in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3), the general rule is that CEQA only applies to activities that may have a significant effect on the environment; and

B. Find that the best interests of the City are served by a direct award of the contract without a competitive selection process, pursuant to Section 2.17.12 (B) (2) of the Vernon Municipal Code; and

C. Approve the agreement with Epic Land Solutions, Inc. ("Epic"), in substantially the same form as submitted herewith, with a term of one year ending September 16, 2020 at a cost not to exceed $140,000; and

D. Authorize the City Administrator to execute the agreement with Epic to complete Phase 2 of the infrastructure valuation of Vernon Public Utilities assets in accordance with GASB 34 and 51.

Assistant Finance Director Masami reported on the Services Agreement with Epic Land Solutions, Inc. for Infrastructure Valuation in accordance with GASB 34 and 51.

No Public Comment provided.

It was moved by Council Member Menke and seconded by Council Member Davis to: A. Find that approval of the proposed action, is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because it is a continuing administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore does not constitute a “project” as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15378. Even if such were considered a project, it would be exempt from CEQA review in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3), the general rule is that CEQA only applies to activities that may have a significant effect on the environment; B. Find that the best interests of the City are served by a direct award of the contract without a competitive selection process, pursuant to Section 2.17.12 (B) (2) of the Vernon Municipal Code; C. Approve the agreement with Epic Land Solutions, Inc. ("Epic"), in substantially the same form as submitted herewith, with a term of one year ending September 16, 2020 at a cost not to exceed $140,000; and D. Authorize the City Administrator to execute the agreement with Epic to complete Phase 2 of the infrastructure valuation of Vernon Public Utilities assets in accordance with GASB 34 and 51. Motion carried, 4 - 0.
Yes: Melissa Ybarra, Leticia Lopez, William Davis, Carol Menke
No: None

12. Approval of Amendment No. 1 to a Contract with Interwest Consulting Group for On-Call Building Plan Check and Inspection Services

Recommendation: A. Find that approval of the proposed amendment to the Services Agreement with Interwest Consulting Group, is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore is not a “project” as defined by CEQA Guidelines, Section 15378; and

B. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. CS-0792 for On-Call Building Plan Check and Inspections Services with Interwest Consulting Group (“Interwest”), in substantially the same form as submitted herewith, extending the agreement for an additional three (3) months, with no increase to the not-to-exceed cost of $195,000; and

C. Authorize the City Administrator to execute Amendment No. 1 with Interwest to provide additional time to secure a new services agreement, in accordance with the City’s competitive bidding process.

Director of Public Works Wall reported on Amendment No. 1 to a Contract with Interwest Consulting Group for On-Call Building Plan Check and Inspection Services.

No Public Comment provided.

It was moved by Council Member Davis and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Lopez to:  A. Find that approval of the proposed amendment to the Services Agreement with Interwest Consulting Group, is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and therefore is not a “project” as defined by CEQA Guidelines, Section 15378; B. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. CS-0792 for On-Call Building Plan Check and Inspections Services with Interwest Consulting Group (“Interwest”), in substantially the same form as submitted herewith, extending the agreement for an additional three (3) months, with no increase to the not-to-exceed cost of $195,000; and C. Authorize the City Administrator to execute Amendment No. 1 with Interwest to provide additional time to secure a new services agreement, in accordance with the City’s competitive bidding process. Motion carried, 4 - 0.

Yes: Melissa Ybarra, Leticia Lopez, William Davis, Carol Menke
No: None

ORAL REPORTS

Police Chief Miranda reported on the following: on September 5th, Vernon PD arrested a suspect for vandalizing, felony evading, and outstanding warrants; on September 10th, Vernon PD hosted Coffee with a Cop; on September 11th, Vernon PD honor guard personnel led a brief ceremony as
they lowered the American Flag in front of City hall to half-staff, in honor of those who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 terror attacks; on September 12th, Vernon PD Officers responded to a burglary in progress, the suspect was apprehended and arrested, and on September 13th, Vernon PD Detectives conducted a commercial burglary, located, apprehended and arrested the suspect and recovered the stolen merchandise.

Interim City Clerk Harrington administered the Oath of Office to Interim Fire Chief Enriquez.

Director of Public Works reported that on this past Saturday, a group of volunteers participated in a tree workshop in preparation for the upcoming Arbor Day Event on September 21st. After a tree planting ceremony, volunteers will go on to plant 75 trees along area streets and West Coast Arborist will plant an additional 125 trees.

Interim General Manager of Public Utilities Alemu reported on several power outages throughout the City.

Assistant Finance Director Masami provided an additional brief summary relating to Vasquez and Company LLP for Professional Auditing Services.

Interim City Clerk Harrington reported on the Special Municipal Election to be held on October 15, 2019. Voters will have the option to deliver their completed ballots, dated, and signed, to the Office of the City Clerk, Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The first canvass will be on Election Night and the second canvass on Monday, October 21st at 4:00 p.m. Interim City Clerk Harrington encouraged people to vote early and turn in their ballots so they can be counted on Election Night.

Interim Fire Chief Enriquez expressed his appreciation to the City Council and staff for the opportunity to strengthen relationships between the Fire Department, staff and community. He looks forward to becoming involved in the community and improving the working relationships and trust in the department.

City Administrator Fandino reported that City Administration is actively recruiting to fill vacant seats in the Vernon Housing Commission and encouraged the community to get involved. The City’s Annual Halloween Spectacular is coming soon and a community event is scheduled for October 30th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with more details to be provided.

Mayor Ybarra encouraged everyone to participate and spread the word as to the upcoming tree planting event. Director of Public Works Wall reported that the Tree Planting Ceremony will be dedicated to Former Attorney General John Van De Kamp.

CLOSED SESSION

City Council entered Closed Session at 10:07 a.m.

13. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
Government Code Section 54957.6
Agency Designated Representative: Carlos Fandino, City Administrator

Employee Organizations:

Teamsters Local 911,
Vernon Professional Firefighters Association, and
Vernon Fire Management Association

14. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (2)  
Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)

Bicent (California) Malburg LLC et al. v. City of Vernon et al.,
Los Angeles Superior Court Case Nos. 19STCV08859 and 19STCP02411

City of Vernon v. Bicent (California) Malburg LLC et al.
JAMS Reference No. 1220062657

15. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

This item was considered at the beginning of the agenda.

Potential Initiation of Litigation.

Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)

Number of potential cases: 1

At 10:31 a.m. City Council exited Closed Session. City Attorney Patel reported the cases were discussed with the City Council with no reportable action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, at 10:32 a.m., Mayor Ybarra adjourned the meeting.

__________________________
Melissa Ybarra
Mayor

ATTEST:

__________________________
Deborah A. Harrington
Interim City Clerk