

Due to Executive Order N-25-20 Members of the Council may Teleconference into the meeting.



**CITY OF BELL GARDENS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020
12:30 P.M.
Minutes**

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19. On March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 (superseding the Brown Act-related provisions of Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 12, 2020), which allows a local legislative body to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electrically to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the local legislative body. Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, please be advised that member of the Bell Gardens City Council will participate in meeting telephonically. The public may view the meeting online. The Council Chamber is closed to the public at this time.

ACCESSIBILITY: If requested, the agenda and backup materials will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Any person who requires a disability-related modification or accommodation, in order to observe and/or offer public comment may request such reasonable modification, accommodation, aid, or service by contacting Jane Halstead, City Clerk by telephone at 562-806-7705 or via email to CityClerkDesk@bellgardens.org no later than (1) hour before the scheduled meeting.

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Cortez called the Special Meeting to order at 12:38 p.m.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief of Police, Scott Fairfield.

ROLL CALL OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present: Council Members Aceituno, Barcena; Mayor Pro Tem Flores; Mayor Cortez. All members participated via teleconference. Mayor Cortez was present in the Council Chambers.

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mayor Cortez read letters from nine individuals by electronic submission and called one individual for public comments. The individuals who commented are as follows:

Laura Cortez made comments on the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as rent and mortgage forgiveness.

Juan Marin commented on the pandemic effecting his business in Bell Gardens and his support for the Urgency Ordinance Eviction Moratorium.

Dilia Ortega commented on supporting the Urgency Ordinance Eviction Moratorium.

Michelle Ceballos commented on her support for the Urgency Ordinance.

Mr. Ayan commented on rent and mortgage forgiveness.

Jessica Prieto made comments on the statistics of the City of Bell Gardens and the Urgency Ordinance Eviction Moratorium.

Jasmine Gonzalez commented on rent and mortgage forgiveness.

Xugo Lujan Jr. made comments on the Southeast communities as well as rent and mortgage forgiveness.

Jashin Liberto commented on Eviction Moratorium not being enough and having access to quality resources.

Sandra Garcia, who provided comments telephonically, commented on the Covid-19 pandemic and it effecting the residents of this community.

All comments not pertaining to Agenda items were scheduled to be read at following City Council Regular Meeting on April 13, 2020.

DISCUSSION

1. URGENCY ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN EVICTION MORATORIUM FOR COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES

A discussion to consider and approve an urgency moratorium ordinance on evictions for the non-payment of rent due to the COVID-19 crisis, which provides coverage to affected commercial tenancies and establishes a back-rent repayment period.

Recommendation:

It is staff's recommendation that the City Council approve the Urgency Moratorium Ordinance by a 4/5 votes.

City Manager, Michael B O'Kelly introduced the item. He stated that questions relating to late fees or penalties had surfaced and furthermore recommended City Council approve the urgency ordinance with the addition to include explicit language for the prohibition of late fees and penalties for rent that is due during the moratorium period.

A motion was made by Mayor Cortez, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Flores, to

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approve the Urgency Moratorium Ordinance with changes to include language prohibiting late fees and penalties for rent that is due during the moratorium period.

The motion carried 4-0 with the following vote.

AYES: Council Members Aceituno, Barcena; Mayor Pro Tem Flores, Mayor
Cortez
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Aceituno – Commented on wishing everyone safety during this pandemic.

Council Member Barcena – Commented on wishing everyone safety during this pandemic and thanked everyone on front lines.

Mayor Pro Tem Flores – Commented on how the City of Bell Gardens is doing its best and following all safety measures.

Mayor Cortez – Commented on staff working long hours and thanked all departments for their dedication and hard work during this difficult time.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.


Jane Halstead
City Clerk

