



SPECIAL MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL COYOTE CREEK FLOOD

SAN JOSÉ, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017

The Council of the City of San José convened in Special Session at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Present: Councilmembers - Arenas, Carrasco, Davis, Diep, Jimenez, Jones, Khamis, T. Nguyen, Peralez, Rocha; Liccardo.

Absent: Councilmembers - All Present.

Staff: City Attorney Richard Doyle, City Manager Norberto Dueñas; Deputy City Manager, David Sykes; Deputy City Manager, Civic Innovation & Digital Strategy, Kip Harkness; Director, Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Harry Freitas; Director of Public Works Barry Ng, Director of Communications, David Vossbrink, Director of Transportation Jim Ortbal, Assistant Fire Chief, Robert Sapien Jr., City Clerk Toni J. Taber, CMC; and Deputy City Clerk, Ruth Krantz.

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Sam Liccardo and City Manager Norberto Dueñas offered opening comments.

Documents Filed: (1) Joint memorandum from Mayor Sam Liccardo, Vice Mayor Magdalena Carrasco and Councilmember Raul Peralez, Councilmember Lan Diep, and Councilmember Tam Nguyen, dated March 9, 2017, regarding the San José Flood 2017. (2) Memorandum from Councilmember Donald Rocha, dated March 8, 2017, regarding the flood response. (3) Memorandum from City Manager Norberto Dueñas, dated March 7, 2017, regarding “Coyote Creek After Action Report: Recovery Update”. (4) Memorandum from City Manager Norberto Dueñas, dated March 8, 2017, regarding “Coyote Creek Flood Preliminary After Action Report *Public Notification, Storm Monitoring, and Flood Prevention and Protection: Initial Lessons Learned and Next Steps*”. (5) Memorandum from City Attorney Richard Doyle, dated March 9, 2017

Documents Filed (Continued): regarding Creek Maintenance Responsibility. (6) Letter from John L. Varela Chair/Board of Directors, Santa Clara Valley Water District, dated March 9, 2017, regarding Stream Channel Maintenance, Flood Control along Coyote Creek, and Anderson Dam Reservoir Questions and Informational Response. (7) Letter from Davide B. Vieira, dated March 3, 2017, relating personal experiences during the flood.

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Deputy City Manager, David Sykes offering insight into the cause of flooding and tools for decision making, and Director of Public Works Barry Ng followed up outlining damage to each area affected.

Deputy City Manager, David Sykes followed up with six key points: (1) The City of San José accepts responsibility for not giving adequate and timely notice to San José residents and businesses about the potential for flooding on the Coyote Creek and the need to evacuate. (2) The City relied on data from the Water District, and although well-intended, the information was fundamentally flawed; (3) the City and the Water District need to improve early warning notification so that residents can better prepare for potential flooding, and evacuation; (4) The City did not have an effective means to communicate in a timely manner with our most vulnerable residents; (5) The City immediately planned and executed an effective multifaceted recovery process following flood; (6) To make sure this doesn't happen again, the Water District must accept responsibility to protect the communities of Santa Clara County from floodwater and storm water in the district.

Director of Communications, David Vossbrink continued with how we can better notify the public, and Director of Public Works Barry Ng covered storm monitoring, preliminary insights, and creation of a flood threat matrix. Deputy City Manager, Civic Innovation and Digital Strategy, Kip Harkness concluded with a recovery update.

City Attorney Richard Doyle provided an initial assessment of the responsibilities for maintenance of the creeks.

Mayor Sam Liccardo opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment: Seventy-one members of the public spoke, expressing the devastating impact the flooding had on their homes and lives, expressing outrage for the minimal warnings provided and the need for improved communication. Concerns, observations and recommendations were expressed.

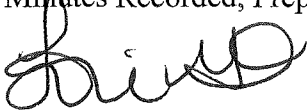
Extensive Council discussion followed. Deputy City Manager, Civic Innovation & Digital Strategy, Kip Harkness responded to questions regarding public health issues. Rick Callender, Government Relations Manager, Santa Clara Valley Water District, responded to questions from Council.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Johnny Khamis, seconded by Councilmember Sergio Jimenez and carried unanimously, the Coyote Creek Flood After Action Report was accepted, with staff directed to implement the identified plans to improve short-term emergency response and public communications in the event of additional major weather or flooding events this season; and staff was directed to identify long-term needs related to flooding, notification of residents, and emergency management and return to Council through the budget process. (8-0-3. Absent: Jones, Nguyen, Rocha.)

ADJOURNMENT

The Council of the City of San José adjourned the Special Session at 9:21 p.m.

Minutes Recorded, Prepared and Respectfully Submitted by,



Toni J. Taber, CMC
City Clerk

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