

CITY OF VENTURA
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Sofia Rubalcava
Mayor

Doug Halter
Councilmember District 2

Jim Friedman
Councilmember District 5

Mike Johnson
Councilmember District 3

Lorrie Brown
Councilmember District 6

Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios
Councilmember District 4

Joe Schroeder, Deputy Mayor
Councilmember District 7

Alex D. McIntyre, City Manager
Gregory G. Diaz, City Attorney
Antoinette M. Mann, City Clerk



REGULAR MEETING/WORKSHOP

JULY 19, 2021

City Council conducted this meeting in accordance with California Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 pertaining to the Brown Act and COVID-19 pandemic protocols.

CS1. CALL TO ORDER – CLOSED SESSION

The San Buenaventura (Ventura) City Council met in Closed Session in the City Hall Council Chambers, 501 Poli Street, Ventura at 5:04 p.m.

CS2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Sanchez-Palacios, Johnson, Halter, Friedman, Deputy Mayor Schroeder, and Mayor Rubalcava

ABSENT: Councilmember Brown

Mayor Rubalcava presiding.

CS3. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

Councilmember Brown present at 5:35 p.m.

CS4. CLOSED SESSION

City Council left the Council Chambers and convened in closed session in the City Manager/Council Conference Room for the following purpose:

1. THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES

Consultation with: Ventura Police Department, Chief Schindler, and Staff
Authority: Government Code Section 54957

2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Name of Case: *Coalition for Historical Integrity v City of San Buenaventura*, Ventura County Superior Court Case No. 56-2020-00543397- CU-PT – VTA
Authority: Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1).

3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

Initiation of Litigation (1 Case)
Authority: Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4).

CS5. ADJOURNMENT

Closed Session adjourned at 6:10 p.m. to Regular Session.

1. CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR SESSION

The San Buenaventura (Ventura) City Council met in Regular Session in the City Hall Council Chambers, 501 Poli Street, Ventura at 6:12 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmembers Sanchez-Palacios, Johnson, Halter, Friedman, Brown, Deputy Mayor Schroeder, and Mayor Rubalcava

ABSENT: None

Mayor Rubalcava presiding.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rubalcava led the pledge of allegiance.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update from Southern California Gas Company on the Compressor Site Project

Stephanie Green, Supervisor of Business and Community Outreach office with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), stated due to the timing of the City's request to join this update, none of the experts working on this project were able to attend this meeting. She and Allison Brown, CPUC Public Advisor, will be gathering information on the public's concerns and opinions on this project as both are helpful and important.

SPEAKERS

Presenters

Southern California Gas Co. Representatives:
Maria Ventura, Public Affairs Manager; Jessica Foley, Public Policy and Planning Manager; Beth Musich, Director - Major Projects and Construction; Darrell Johnson, Environmental Programs Manager; and Omar Rivera, Director-Gas Transmission Operations

City Clerk Antoinette M. Mann stated there were multiple public speakers and all email communications were posted online.

Public Speakers

In-Person: Helen Conly and Matthew Bello

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

Virtual: Lucia Marquez, CAUSE; Tomas Morales; Troy Corley; James Brehm; Robert Dodge; Liz Campos; Joshua Medrano; Louise Lampara; and John Brooks

DOCUMENTS

Comments via Email	Helen Conly, Jan Dietrick, John Brooks, Alana Sheeren, Abigail Thomas, Rose Ann Witt, Seana-Marie Sesma, Brenda Hutchinson, and Todd Collart
Supplemental Packet	All Public Communications are listed and posted online.

Following the presentation by Southern California Gas Company, Council discussion included the vagueness of the presentation. Conversation about the unplanned venting event that occurred in Ventura on July 2, 2021. Standard protocols for unplanned venting and notification processes, possibilities of enhancing courtesy communications. Age of current equipment being upgraded, life span of new equipment, specific planned venting history, annual testing which releases gas, and indoor personal protection equipment used during testing within confined spaces. Compressor stations located near elementary schools or residential areas, where the nearest underground storage facility is located for the Ventura compressor station. Is Southern California Gas exempt from Proposition 65?

New plant project included the volume of gas stored in the new plant versus the existing plant, future accountability during fossil fuel transitions, new plant staffing plans, increased sensor equipment for predictive diagnostics. Impacts of shutting down the San Buenaventura facility, if an Environmental Impact Report can be required. if there will be pipeline changes to the storage facilities, which entity will regulate the site in the future, and fixed monitoring equipment plans.

Mayor Rubalcava requested specific information be obtained about other compressor stations that are located near elementary schools and residential communities to include specific proximity information. In addition, Mayor Rubalcava and Councilmember Johnson requested the information pertaining to when the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) determined the Ventura facility a "methane super emitter", how much gas was released during the time of those findings, and what changes were made in response to NASA's report.

5. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

City Attorney Gregory G. Diaz stated City Council met in closed session tonight and there is no reportable action.

6. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Johnson stated the County of Ventura issued a press release on July 19, 2021, as related to COVID-19: All community members are to wear masks indoors to prevent further spread of COVID-19 as there has been a dramatic surge in the County. Councilmember Johnson encouraged his colleagues to limit public exposure as there have been 504 positive cases of the DELTA variant in the last week, which puts the City a couple of weeks behind Los Angeles.

7. CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Alex McIntyre suggested Agenda Item 14A (Workshop on State Conflicts of Interest Laws) be rescheduled to another meeting. Mayor Rubalcava and all councilmembers agreed.

RECESS

City Council went into Recess at 8:55 p.m.

City Council reconvened at 9:07 p.m., all Councilmembers in attendance.

14. WORKSHOP

14A. Workshop on State Conflicts of Interest Laws

Agenda Item 14A not heard; and will be rescheduled for a future City Council meeting.

14B. Receive Update on Matrix Report Implementation

SPEAKERS

Presenters

Akbar Alikhan, Assistant City Manager; Peter Gilli, Community Development Director; Estelle Bussa, Economic Development Manager; and Alex McIntyre, City Manager

Public Speakers

In-Person: George Amandola

14. WORKSHOP (continued)

Virtual: Stephanie Caldwell, President and CEO of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce; Trevor Gotsman; and Spencer Noren

Discussion included if the improvements made to the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) section of the website will also apply to the business license renewal section of the City's website, the timeframe expectation for the integration of the upgraded ERP interface in Energov, which phase the status portal is in and potentially when would it be launched, the permanent streamlining ordinance, the staffing flowchart, streamlining simple permit requests separate from the complex permit processing, setting communication standards of staff response time to constituents by email and telephone, when the use of tablets that are connected to Energov will be implemented, the expected timing for digital routing of permit applications, recommendation number 16 (staff reports should be more concise) to include prior Council actions, joint meeting with Design Review Committee/Historic Preservation Committee/Planning Commission/City Council to clarify the responsibilities of the quasi-judicial review and hearing bodies in Public Hearings as established by the City Ordinance.

8. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

SPEAKER *Virtual:* Burt Hardy

DOCUMENTS

Comments via Email Trevor Gotsman and Susan Brown

Supplemental Packet All Public Communications are listed and posted online.

City Manager Alex McIntyre and Assistant City Manager Akbar Alikhan responded to the public comment regarding the extension of the grace period for past due utility bills due to COVID-19 hardships.

16. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS – REGIONAL BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

Councilmember Brown stated there is a GPAC meeting on July 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. On August 2, 2021, the Housing Element portion will be brought before Council.

Councilmember Johnson reported receiving a report by California Lutheran University Professor Jamshid Damooei, Ph.D., outlining what an equitable

16. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS – REGIONAL BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES (continued)

recovery from COVID-19 might look like. It makes comparisons by zip code for the most equitable placement of resources to help recover from the economic impact of COVID-19.

Mayor Rubalcava thanked everyone involved with all presentations and for helping to make this meeting a success.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Next Regular session is scheduled for July 26, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.



Antoinette M. Mann, MPPA, MMC, CRM
City Clerk