



**DEL MAR CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2021
Via Teleconference
1050 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, California**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gaasterland called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Terry Gaasterland; Deputy Mayor Dwight Worden; Councilmembers Dave Druker, Tracy Martinez and Dan Quirk

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1) Angelina Neglia – Expressed concern about view blockage related to trees and overly bureaucratic process to address.
- 2) Greg Rothnem – Expressed concern about affordable housing and the City's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements.
- 3) Tina Thomas – Asked Council to honor the original intent of the new Design Review Guidelines.

CITY COUNCIL OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 1: CITY COUNCIL VISION & VALUES (CLERK'S FILE NO. 307-2, 401-1)

The Mayor provided a series of prompts to facilitate discussion, which is summarized below:

- 1) What does each of us want to accomplish in the next 4 years?

Council discussion focused on dealing with the proposed North County Transit District fencing along the bluffs; affordable housing and development of actual units in Del Mar; citywide utility undergrounding; completion of the Lagoon trail; sea level rise; local business support; recovering from the fiscal crisis and rebuilding the City's reserves and General Fund Contingency; Shores Park project; compliance with State housing requirements; defending the Community Plan and preserving community character; preservation of open space; being consistent and impartial in enforcing City codes and ordinances; soliciting and listening to community input; view protections; looking for ways to say "yes" instead of "no", especially with regard to supporting local businesses; and a desire for the City to become more data driven.

- 2) What drives us as we make decisions? Guiding principles?

Data is important; look at the best interest of the City and opportunities to do things that benefit the community; manage change that is forced on the City by outside forces or driven from the ground up; enjoy helping citizens resolve issues; social equity; grassroots approach to government; and wanting to achieve action and reduce obstacles to getting things done.

- 3) How can we each facilitate a good working team while maintaining independent perspectives and ideas?

Thoroughly discuss issues at Council meetings; recognize that the Council will not always agree on every issue; interpretation of facts/information will not be same for everyone; different perspectives are valuable and needed; be honest with each other and treat each other with respect; and being open-minded to all options for addressing issues in the community.

- 4) What is our vision for Del Mar as we come out of the COVID crisis?

Look for opportunities to help the City and community overall recover from the COVID crisis.

ITEM 2: FACILITATING A SUCCESSFUL COUNCIL/MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN DEL MAR (CLERK'S FILE NO. 401-1)

The Mayor opened this item with a series of prompts including:

- 1) How does the Council work with the City Attorney?

The Council provided their perspective on the City Attorney's role which included: provides advise on legal issues and ensures the City Council is following proper protocols (i.e. Brown Act, etc.); provides legal analysis and helps Council to achieve their goals; provides guidance on boundaries or approach to an issue; strategic thinking and collaboration; reviews documents (i.e. contracts; agreements; legal docs; etc.); and evaluates options/risks on variety of topics to minimize risk of litigation.

City Attorney Leslie Devaney explained that her role is to help the City avoid litigation; provide a foundation of the legal issues related to substantive topics as the Council is considering them so that the Council is well-informed; strategize with Council once the Council has identified their goal(s)/objective(s); and minimize legal exposure.

- 2) How does the Council work with the City Manager?

The Mayor provided an overview of an International City/County Management Association (ICMA) handout provided in the packet that focused on the Council-Manager form of government and how it works. Council discussed their perspective on the role of the City Manager which included: implementing Council goals/objectives; building consensus; building relationships in the community; facilitating public communication and bringing important items to the City Council; running the City's operations; making independent recommendations and following Council direction; understanding the culture and issues in the Del Mar community; and they agreed that the Council-Manager interactions should be honest, respectful, and collaborative.

City Manager CJ Johnson provided her perspective on the role of a City Manager, and referenced the handouts that were included in the agenda packet. She explained that the Council is best equipped to set policy, and the City Manager and staff are best equipped to determine implementation.

- 3) How does the Council work with the Advisory Committees?

Council discussion focused on the value of advisory committees; significant number of highly intelligent and competent residents in the community who serve on committees; opportunities to restart more committees; importance of Council liaisons understanding their role as a liaison and not act as members of the committee; opportunity for residents to be heard and contribute; the real

purpose of the committees is to allow for issues and recommendations to “bubble up” to the City Council and support the City Council’s goals; need for majority of committees to stay on hiatus during COVID crisis and related fiscal crisis; need to look at opportunities to reevaluate the entire committee system coming out of COVID; potential for committees to meet in a workshop setting; holding off to engaging all committees until the City can feasibly restart and support meetings; and ask them to meet only if specific feedback is needed.

ITEM 3: REVIEW OF THE 2019 DEL MAR CORE VALUES & VALUE STATEMENTS (CLERK’S FILE NO. 401-1)

The Council discussed the list of Del Mar Core Values and Value Statements that were created in 2019, and included as Attachment F in the agenda packet, and provided the following feedback:

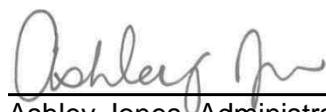
The consensus of the Council was to reaffirm the values and statements included in the document; however, they recognized the need to reword for consistency (passive/objective voice). The Council also discussed whether or not a COVID section should be added; and whether something should be added to the core values indicating that the Council will honor and adhere to the City’s Code of Civil Discourse.

ITEM 4: WORKSHOP REPORT OUT AT FUTURE MEETING (CLERK’S FILE NO. 401-1)

Council discussion focused on potential for the Mayor to draft a letter to the City advisory committees for the entire Council to sign; desire to discuss the City’s vision statement at February 27, 2021, workshop; and Mayor Gaasterland and Councilmember Druker were tasked with rewording the Del Mar Core Values and Value Statements for a consistent voice and bringing the document back to the City Council for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gaasterland adjourned the meeting at 1:09 P.M.



Ashley Jones, Administrative Services
Director/City Clerk