



MINUTES
Special Meeting of the Lompoc City Council
Tuesday, January 8, 2019
City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza, Council Chamber

CLOSED SESSION

OPEN SESSION – 5:30 P.M. – Council Chamber

Council Members Present: Victor Vega, James Mosby, Dirk Starbuck, and Mayor Jenelle Osborne.

Staff Present: City Manager Jim Throop, City Clerk Stacey Haddon, and Assistant City Attorney Brian Wright-Bushman.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

CLOSED SESSION – City Council Conference Room

BUSINESS ITEM:

1. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION:** Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: One case.
2. **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS:** City Designated Representatives: Colin Tanner, Brad Wilkie, Dean Albro and Gabriel Garcia Employee Organization: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1245 (IBEW).

OPEN SESSION - 6:30 P.M. – Council Chamber

Council Members Present: Victor Vega, James Mosby, Dirk Starbuck, and Mayor Jenelle Osborne.

Staff Present: City Manager Jim Throop, City Clerk Stacey Haddon, and Assistant City Attorney Brian Wright-Bushman.

Others Present: Lorraine Waldau, Tim Becker, Sandy Healy, Carol Redhead, Tom Davidson, Wally Waldau, Ken Ostini, Jeremy Ball, Jaime Tinoco, Atul Patel, Greg Ryan, Joshua Keller, Ann Ruhge, Bill Mullins, (First Name Unknown) Reynolds, Charlotte (Last Name Unknown), Robert Cuthbert, Stephen Bridge, Nikolai Nikolenko, Ed Braxton, Jeremy Ball, DeWayne Holmdahl, Sasha Keller, Darrell Tullis, Gilda Cordova, and Robert Dunlap.

REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION:

Assistant City Attorney Brian Wright-Bushman stated the Council discussed both Closed Session Business Items but no reportable action was taken.

Mayor Jenelle Osborne led the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (3 Minutes Maximum): None

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Council Discussion and Possible Appointment to Fill Mid-Term Council Vacancy.

Mayor Osborne introduced Assistant City Attorney Brian Wright-Bushman. Mr. Wright-Bushman briefly described the order of events for this item, which is outlined in the Staff recommendations, and summarized the Council approved voting method the Score and Then Automatic Runoff (STAR).

Council Member Mosby asked if Council would be able to use ranking numbers 1 – 5 only.

Mayor Osborne explained the agreed upon STAR Method could allow for the voting to use multiple ranking numbers.

Public Comment:

1. Lorraine Waldau suggested Council not use multiple same number rankings.

Council Member Starbuck motioned to continue to use the previously approved STAR voting method but allow the use of the same ranking numbers for multiple candidates. The motion was seconded by Council Member Vega and approved by a 3-1 Council Vote (Mayor Osborne voted No).

Mayor Osborne asked Staff to provide some ideas for possible methods of breaking a tie. Assistant City Attorney Brian Wright-Bushman stated a coin flip could be used or the highest ranking score in step one of the approved STAR Method could determine the appointee or the Council could decide a tie-breaking method after the vote and if there is a tie between candidates.

Public Comment:

1. Tim Becker expressed concern over the newest approved voting method to allow the use of multiple same number ranking, stating the method is very confusing.

Mayor Osborne suggested not approving a tie-breaking method yet.

Council Member Mosby motioned to return to the appointment process to the previously Council approved STAR Method with the requirement of each voting Member to use the numbers 1 – 10 only once for ranking each candidate and not including a tie-break method. The motion was seconded by Mayor Osborne and approved by a unanimous vote 4-0 of the entire Council.

Public Comment:

1. Sandy Healy suggested Council not appoint a white male to the Council.
2. Carol Redhead spoke in support of Robert Cuthbert being appointed to the Council.
3. Tom Davidson, Ken Ostini, Jeremy Ball, Jaime Tinoco, Atul Patel, and (Name not Given), all spoke in support of Gilda Cordova being appointed to the Council.
4. Wally Waldau encouraged Council to choose a person that will uplift Lompoc.
5. (Name not Given) stated he believes Lompoc need to focus on the cannabis industry and Council should appoint someone who will help move the industry forward and help more cannabis businesses open in the City.
6. Greg Ryan, (First name Unknown) Reynolds, Charlotte (Last name Unknown) and Bill Mullins, advocated for Darrell Tullis to be appointed to the Council.
7. (Name not Given) suggested the Council appoint Gilda Cordova or Darrell Tullis, stating the City needs someone with vision and energy.

APPOINTMENTS: (cont'd)

Item No. 1

Public Comment:

8. Joshua Keller urged Council to question the motivations of each candidate.
9. Ann Ruhge stated she is glad to see true transparency in this process, and suggested Council appoint someone with mental fortitude stating there are a lot of qualified candidates.

Mayor Osborne asked the City Manager and City Attorney to comment on any conflicts of interests any candidates may have if appointed to the Council. City Manager James Throop and Assistant City Attorney Brian Wright-Bushman stated they found nothing out of the ordinary regarding possible conflicts of interests with any of the candidates and explained there may be situations any given Council Member would be required to recuse themselves from a Council discussion or action.

Mayor Osborne called on each applicant to allow for their 3 minute presentation to Council, in the following order:

- Robert Cuthbert
- Stephen Bridge
- Thomas Fair (absent)
- Nikolai Nikolenko
- Edwin Braxton
- DeWayne Holmdahl
- Sasha Keller
- Darrell Tullis
- Gilda Cordova
- Robert Dunlap

At 8:00 P.M. and after all present applicants gave their personal presentations, Mayor Osborne informed the audience each Council Member will complete a ballot and Staff will tally the votes when all ballots are completed.

At 8:23 P.M. Mayor Osborne called the meeting back to order with all Council Members present.

Assistant City Attorney Brian Wright-Bushman explained there is a single person with the highest total, a score of 39, but there are two individuals with a tie for the second highest total, a score of 31, and asked Council how they would like to proceed.

Council Member Starbuck motioned the person with the single highest score (39) be appointed to fill the vacant seat on the Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Vega and approved by a unanimous vote of the entire Council of 4-0.

Assistant City Attorney Brian Wright-Bushman announced the single highest score of 39 was obtained by Gilda Cordova.

City Clerk Stacey Haddon administered the Oath of Office to Gilda Cordova officially installing Ms. Cordova to the City Council filling the vacant seat with a term ending December 2020.

Ms. Cordova took her seat at the dais and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the City of Lompoc.

COUNCIL REQUESTS, COMMENTS, AND MEETING REPORTS:

Mayor Osborne thanked the public for their participation in this process.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:30 P.M. Mayor Osborne adjourned the Lompoc City Council to a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:30 P.M., in City of Lompoc Council Chamber.

Approved by Council action on May 7, 2019:

Stacey Haddon
Stacey Haddon, City Clerk