

**ONTARIO CITY COUNCIL/
ONTARIO HOUSING AUTHORITY
MINUTES
February 22, 2020**

JOINT MEETINGS

Special meetings of the Ontario City Council/Ontario Housing Authority were held on Saturday, February 22, 2020, at Ontario City Hall - Community Conference Rooms, 303 East B Street, Ontario, California.

CALL TO ORDER – OPEN SESSION

Mayor Leon called the Special City Council and Housing Authority meetings to order at 10:01 a.m.

PRESENT:	Mayor/Chairman:	Paul S. Leon
	Mayor pro Tem/Vice Chairman:	Debra Dorst-Porada
	Council/Authority Members:	Alan D. Wapner, Jim W. Bowman, and Ruben Valencia
ABSENT:	Council/Authority Members:	None

Also present were City Manager/Executive Director Scott Ochoa, City Attorney/Legal Counsel Scott E. Huber, and Assistant City Clerk/Secretary Vicki Kasad.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Valencia.

CLOSED SESSION PUBLIC COMMENTS

William Rojas noted that he speaks for his family which owns seven properties in the City. He commented that many cities have shifted to district voting and he believes it helps to avoid millions of dollars in campaign spending. He also noted the increased success of Latino candidates under the district system. He, on behalf of his family, expressed support for changing to district voting.

Irene Cervantes Chisholm commented that she had researched by-district elections and found there were both pros and cons. She noted that the current City Council makeup is representative of the City's population in terms of religion and ethnicity. She discussed the differences between elections "from districts" and "by districts", and suggested that "from districts" would be a better approach as voting would be open to all residents and not restricted to within each district. She questioned the rights of other residents taking away her right to vote for her elected officials. She concluded with her position that the City should not move to district voting, as the residents are already well represented.

Mary Ruiz, an Ontario resident since 1949, noted that similar considerations were made in the 1980s. She commented that one negative factor to the suggested change is that much of the Latino community is not registered to vote. She indicated that she has been voting since she was 21, but much of the Latino community has not been educated or registered into the voters' system. She suggested it would be a lot of hard work to make them active participants as citizens. She indicated that districting in Ontario long overdue.

Richard Galvez, a 40-year Ontario resident, indicated that he sees Ontario as a family and although he does not want to be forced to go into districts, practically every other City in the Inland Empire has gone to districts. He commented about the amount of money required to run a campaign for an at-large seat on the City Council, so this change to by-district elections would open the field for more people to participate. He suggested that Ontario had to join the majority of Southern California and go to districts.

Rudy Favila indicated that this is an old issue and is nothing more than discrimination and a disservice to the City. He suggested that there should be seven City Council members to address areas not presently served and stated that he was glad there was the threat of legal action to move this issue, as he wanted to see Ontario become the seat of growth and development.

CLOSED SESSION

- GC 54956.9 (d)(2) and (e)(2), CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, ANTICIPATED LITIGATION: *One case* (a letter demanding the City transition to by-district elections was received on January 13, 2020, a copy of which is on file with the City Clerk's office).

Mayor Leon announced the Closed Session topic as listed above. '

The Meeting was recessed to Closed Session at 10:19 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:24 a.m.

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Huber advised that there was no reportable action.

STAFF MATTERS

City Manager Ochoa had no comments.


COUNCIL MATTERS

There were no City Council comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Leon adjourned the meetings of the Joint Agencies at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



VICKI KASAD, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK/SECRETARY

APPROVED:



PAUL S. LEON, MAYOR/CHAIRMAN