

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

SPECIAL MEETING Monday, December 16, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

The City Council met in Special Session at 5:30 p.m., Monday, December 16, 2024, in the Council Chamber located at 3191 Katella Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720, Mayor Nefulda presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members: Doby, Hibard, Murphy
Mayor Pro Tem Hasselbrink, Mayor Nefulda

Absent: Council Members: None

Present: Staff: Chet Simmons, City Manager
Barbara Biscocho, Finance Manager
Michael Claborn, Chief of Police
Michael S. Daudt, City Attorney
Eleanor Granflor, Deputy City Clerk
Craig Koehler, Finance Director
Matthew Lightener, Management Analyst
Emeline Noda, Recreation and Community Services Director
Ron Noda, Development Services Director
Windmera Quintanar, MMC, City Clerk/Dir. of Communications
Chelsi Wilson, Administrative Services Manager

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

At this time, any individual in the audience may come forward to speak on any item on the Agenda. Remarks are to be limited to agenda items and not more than five minutes per speaker.

Mayor Nefulda opened Oral Communications.

Carol Churchill, Shuana Trute, and Melinda spoke in opposition.

Mayor Nefulda closed Oral Communications.

4. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Consideration of a Formal Censure of Council Member Murphy (Administration)

The City Council met in closed session on December 12, 2024, to receive an investigation report concerning the claim that Council Member Murphy

abused her authority by attempting to obtain financial information from TNT Fireworks regarding a Los Alamitos Community Foundation Fundraiser.

City Attorney Daudt stated Council Member Murphy sent a letter at 4:28 p.m. with a Dropbox link containing additional documents. Said letter was received after 3 p.m. deadline and Staff was unable to print the additional documents. The documents will be made available to the public and made a part of the record.

Shellene Bennet, Managing Partner at Libert Cassidy and Whitmore, stated this item was not censuring for an individual raising questions or in retaliation. If the Council chose not to follow through with an investigation, the City would have been exposed to significant legal liability. The City had a legal obligation to follow through with an outside investigation. She summarized the findings of the investigative report, concluding the Los Alamitos City Council did not have a right to access the records of the Los Alamitos Community Foundation as they are two separate entities and the records are confidential, proprietary documents. Should the Council choose not to adopt these Resolutions, the City will be exposed to legal liability. By adopting the Resolutions, the City Council distances the City from the findings of inappropriate conduct by the outside investigator.

Motion/Second: Hasselbrink/Doby

Carried 3-2 (Hibard and Murphy voted no): The City Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-50, entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING CENSURE OF COUNCIL MEMBER TRISHA MURPHY".

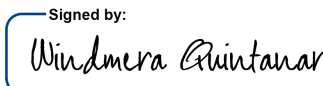
5. ADJOURNMENT

The City Council adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Signed by:

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Jordan B. Nefulda, Mayor

Attest:

Signed by:

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Windmera Quintanar, MMC, City Clerk