

**Minutes  
Santee City Council  
Council Chamber – Building 2  
10601 Magnolia Avenue  
Santee, California  
June 5, 2020**

This Emergency Meeting of the Santee City Council was called to order by Mayor John W. Minto at 12:02 p.m.

**1. Call to Order**

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Mayor John W. Minto and Council Members Ronn Hall, Stephen Houlahan and Rob McNelis – 5. Absent: Vice Mayor Laura Koval – 1.

Officers present: City Manager Marlene Best, City Attorney Shawn Hagerty, and City Clerk Annette Ortiz.

**2. Local Emergency Declaration (Reso 040-2020)**

The City Manager introduced the Item and presented the staff report.

**Public Speakers:**

- Mary Hyder
- James Sommerville
- Rudy Reyes
- Lori Scribner
- Marc Perry

**[Comment submitted by Vice Mayor Koval]**

Vice Mayor Koval submitted a letter which was read aloud and has been filed for the record regarding racism, discrimination and violence and the current events in the City of Santee.

Council Member Houlahan concurs with Vice Mayor Koval; he denounces racism as a City; he urged the community to provide all footage of acts of hate in Santee to law enforcement; he stated that although he supports the curfew orders, the manner in which it is communicated to the community must improve and be held at an equal standard; he expressed support for law enforcement enforcing the law against any acts of crime in Santee.

Council Member Hall stated that acts of violence are unacceptable; he supports the rights for peaceful protests; he urged City staff to communicate curfew orders to all of the businesses and citizens of Santee and in a timely manner.

Council Member McNelis expressed concern for the people and businesses that feel unsafe; he also addressed issues with social media with how it is used during difficult times; he shares the frustration with many on how the curfew was handled; he also expressed a desire to have more communication to the City Council on actions being taken by the Sheriff and City staff; he stated there is no room for hate or violence in the community; he mentioned a lot more education needs to occur and the City needs to provide more opportunities for inclusion; he also stressed the importance of not letting a few hateful acts create the narrative for our community as a whole.

Mayor Minto commented on emails and messages he had received and expressed clarification that he does not support vigilantism; he stated he spoke to individuals before the curfew and reminded them there was a curfew, reminded them they could not be vigilantes and to be the best eyes and ears they could be for law enforcement officers; he noted that the City may have been unprepared for the type of people that would come out and take advantage of the situation; he also clarified that he nor the Sheriff's Department gave anyone permission to be out after curfew and that everyone should be treated equally; he acknowledged that the City could do better implementing the curfew and passing along the information; he also discussed his conversation with the Black Lives Matter protestors.

**Public Speakers:**

- Shannon Quinonez
- Janet McLees
- Collen Grimson

The City Manager clarified the need to implement a curfew due to social distancing issues and the threat of civil unrest; she stated the City does not want to implement a curfew unless it is absolutely necessary; she also commented on the use of social media and the effort to verify credible information that is received so that the citizens and businesses could operate as normal as possible.

**ACTION:** Council Member Houlahan moved to approve staff recommendation to declare a local emergency in the City of Santee and to extend City Manager's authority to call a curfew if necessary.

Council Member McNelis seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Mayor Minto: Aye, and Council Members Hall: Aye; Houlahan: Aye, and McNelis: Aye. Absent: Vice Mayor Koval. Ayes: 4. Noes: 0. Absent: 1.

**3. Closed Session:**

Council Members recessed at 12:55 p.m. and convened in Closed Session at 1:00 p.m.

**THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES**

Government Code section 54957(a)

Consultation with: San Diego County Sheriff's Department Captain

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2)

Significant Exposure to Litigation: One case based on the June 1, 2020 letter from the ACLU Foundation

Council Members reconvened in Open Session at 1:54 p.m. with all members present, except Vice Mayor Koval who was absent. Mayor Minto reported that discussion occurred and there was no reportable action to be taken.

Mayor Minto, Council Member McNelis and Council Member Houlahan all addressed a comment made by Council Member Hall as the Council recessed into Closed Session.

Council Member Hall apologized for his comment and stated how stressful and overwhelming the current situation is.

**4. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Prepared By:



James Jeffries, Assistant City Clerk

Date Approved: July 22, 2020



Annette Ortiz, CMC, City Clerk