

# **Study Session of the Palm Desert City Council, Successor Agency to the Palm Desert Redevelopment Agency, Housing Authority, and Board of Library Trustees**

## **Minutes**

March 27, 2025, 2:45 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jan Harnik, Councilmember Gina Nestande, Mayor Pro Tem Evan Trubee, Councilmember Karina Quintanilla, Councilmember Joe Pradetto

### **1. CALL TO ORDER - STUDY SESSION**

A Study Session of the Palm Desert City Council was called to order by Mayor Harnik on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 2:47 p.m., in the Council Chamber, City Hall, located at 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, California.

### **2. STUDY SESSION TOPICS**

#### **2.a UPDATE ON THE HILLSIDE OBJECTIVE DESIGN STANDARDS PROJECT CASE NO. ZOA25-0001**

Principal Planner Melloni introduced John Kaliski, of John Kaliski Architects, who narrated a PowerPoint presentation and responded to City Council inquiries.

During the deliberations, individual Councilmember(s) offered commentary as follows. The points below do not necessarily reflect the City Council consensus.

- Adopt objective standards for ridgeline protection.
- Clearly define "excessive" cut/fill with objective standards.
- Oppose new cluster development in the west hills.
- Establish standards for viewshed protection.
- Conduct a hillside tour for council members.
- Clarify Fire Department requirements for property access.
- Explore eliminating the existing precise plan and exceptions in the Hillside Planned Residential zone if no major environmental review is needed.
- Provide background on State laws, including Senate Bill 9, and its applicability to charter cities.
- Limit structure size in Hillside Planned Residential areas.
- Encourage homeowners to focus on mountain views rather than valley views.
- Assess the number of privately owned lots and their developability.
- Determine if private property owners can build additional roads.
- Evaluate the feasibility of prohibiting all hillside development.
- Clarify if the ODS project applies to existing developments like Bighorn.
- Recognize all mountains and open space as important within the City's influence.
- Prohibit short-term rental structures in hillside areas.
- Ensure architecture and landscaping complement the natural beauty of the desert.

**2.b UPDATE ON THE CITY SEAL REDESIGN PROCESS**

Management Analyst Powell presented a staff report and responded to City Council inquiries.

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

The City Council adjourned the Study Session at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michelle Nance

Acting Assistant City Clerk, CMC/Assistant Secretary

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Anthony J. Mejia, MMC

City Clerk/Secretary