

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

September 25, 2025

Present: Mayor Jan Harnik, Councilmember Gina Nestande, Mayor Pro Tem Evan Trubee, Councilmember Karina Quintanilla\*, Councilmember Joe Pradetto  
*\*Councilmember Quintanilla participated remotely in accordance with AB 2449.*

**1. ROLL CALL - REGULAR MEETING**

Call to order at 4:16 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Harnik led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. INSPIRATION**

Mayor Pro Tem Trubee provided words of inspiration.

**4. AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, AND APPOINTMENTS**

**4.a PROCLAMATION: GEORGE ARGYROS**

Mayor Harnik presented a Proclamation to George Argyros in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of John's Restaurant.

**4.b PRESENTATION: PALM DESERT ENTREPRENEURIAL RESOURCE CENTER (ERC)**

Dr. Ezekiel Bonillas provided a verbal update on the Palm Desert Entrepreneurial Resource Center and responded to City Council inquiries.

**4.c PRESENTATION: EISENHOWER HEALTH FOUNDATION**

Michael Landes and Monica Vazquez, of Eisenhower Health Foundation, narrated a PowerPoint presentation.

Individual Councilmembers expressed gratitude for Eisenhower services.

**5. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

**5.a SHERIFF DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Lieutenant Porras of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department presented an update on recent law enforcement activity.

Deputy Abbrego presented a video on e-bike safety and invited the community to register for and attend the E-Bike Safety Course at Civic Center Park on October 18, 2025.

**5.b INTRODUCTION OF FIRE CAPTAIN SPECIALIST**

Division Chief Beverlin, of Riverside County Fire, invited the Community to attend the National Night Out event on Saturday, October 4, 2025, in Rancho Mirage and introduced Fire Captain Specialists John May and Sean Curtis.

**5.c PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS UPDATE**

Randy Chavez, Director of Public Works, narrated a PowerPoint presentation regarding the status of Public Works projects and responded to City Council inquiries.

**6. MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS FOR ACTION**

Councilmembers provided updates on their attendance at various meetings and events.

Mayor Harnik requested an update on the house on Mountain View and the duplex on Portola that was donated to the City.

**7. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Suzyn Ware, Palm Desert resident, provided feedback on the Cahuilla Hill Park project, urging the City to relocate the pavilion.

Mike Morsch, Palm Desert resident, spoke on the results of a survey he conducted regarding community needs.

**8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Councilmember Pradetto announced his recusal from Item 8j, citing a potential conflict of interest due to the proximity of the subject property to his property.

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto

**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

To approve the consent calendar as presented, except for Item 8n, which was pulled for separate discussion.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.a APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL, SUCCESSOR AGENCY, AND HOUSING AUTHORITY MINUTES**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto

**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

Approve the Minutes of September 11, 2025.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.b APPROVAL OF WARRANT REGISTERS**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto  
**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

Approve the warrant registers issued for the period 9/3/2025 to 9/11/2025.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.c AUGUST 2025 PROCUREMENT REPORT**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto  
**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

Receive and file the monthly Procurement Report for August 2025.

**Motion Carried**

**8.d RECEIVE AND FILE APPLICATIONS FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto  
**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

Receive and file applications for Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for:

- La Tablita Mexican Restaurant, 72261 Highway 111, Palm Desert, CA 92260-2740.
- Red Barn, 73290 Highway 111, Palm Desert, CA 92260-3903.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.e RATIFICATION OF LETTER CALLING FOR AN EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF PROPOSITION 4 SALTON SEA FUNDING**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto  
**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

Ratify the issuance of a letter calling for an equitable allocation of Proposition 4 funds between the Salton Sea Authority and the Salton Sea Conservancy.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.f ACCEPTANCE OF A RESIGNATION FROM THE EL PASEO PARKING AND BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto  
**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

With regret, accept the resignation of Alexander Longmuir from the El Paseo Parking and Business Improvement District Board effective September 4, 2025.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.g AMENDMENT NO. 6 TO CONTRACT NO. C28880 WITH BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP FOR CITY ATTORNEY SERVICES**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto

**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

1. Approve Amendment No. 6 to Contract No. C28880 with Best Best & Krieger LLP for City Attorney Services, extending the agreement and adjusting compensation.
2. Authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.h CONSIDER RELOCATION OF LILY PAD BENCH BY MICHAEL TODD**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto

**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

Approve the relocation of Lily Pad Bench by Michael Todd from its current location, at the corner of El Paseo and Sage Lane, to the Civic Center Park.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.i APPROVE DEACCESSION OF EL PASEO ENTRY SIGNS BY WATER STUDIO**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto

**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

Approve the deaccession of two El Paseo entry signs by Water Studio.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.k RECEIVE AND FILE THE PARKVIEW OFFICE COMPLEX TENANT UPDATE, ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONCLUSION OF TENANT LEASES**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto

**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

Receive and file the Parkview Office Complex Report 2025, providing the City Council with the latest information on tenant occupancy and lease activity.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.l RESOLUTION DECLARING CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 72880 HIGHWAY 111 FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE SEARS BUILDING AT WESTFIELD MALL, APN 640-140-020, AS SURPLUS LAND UNDER THE**

**GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54221 AND FINDING THE ACTION  
CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT FROM CEQA**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto  
**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

Adopt Resolution 2025-065 entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54221 THAT REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF PALM DESERT LOCATED AT 72880 HIGHWAY 111 (APN 640-140-020), FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE SEARS BUILDING IS SURPLUS LAND AND NOT NECESSARY FOR THE CITY'S USE, AND FINDING THAT SUCH DECLARATION IS EXEMPT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA), PURSUANT TO CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15312 (CLASS 12 – SURPLUS GOVERNMENT PROPERTY SALES), AND TAKING RELATED ACTIONS." This action declares approximately 7.46 acres of city-owned property located on 72880 Highway 111 (APN 640-140-020), as surplus land in accordance with the California Surplus Land Act (SLA).

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.m AWARD A TASK ORDER TO TKE ENGINEERING FOR GRANT  
ADMINISTRATION AND DRAINAGE DESIGN SERVICES OF THE COOK  
STREET & GERALD FORD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (GDR0001)**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto  
**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

1. Award a task order to Contract No. C47461 TKE Engineering, Inc., for grant administration and the design of drainage improvements to the intersection of Cook Street and Gerald Ford Drive in the amount of \$743,000.
2. Ratify the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Southern California Association of Governments and the City of Palm Desert, outlining the responsibilities of the parties regarding the grant funds.
3. Adopt Resolution 2025-066 entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE REGIONAL EARLY ACTION PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM OF 2021."
4. Authorize the City Attorney to make non-monetary changes to the task order and Resolution as necessary.
5. Authorize the City Manager to execute the task order and an addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding, refining the details of the MOU to match the proposed project.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.o AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPS) AND NOTICES OF COMPLETION (NOCS) FOR CONTRACTS UNDER \$250,000 IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE CITY'S PURCHASING ORDINANCE**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto  
**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

Adopt Resolution 2025-067 entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTPs) AND NOTICES OF COMPLETION (NOCs) FOR CONTRACTS UNDER \$250,000 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY'S PURCHASING ORDINANCE."

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.p APPROVE AMENDMENTS FOR LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES AGREEMENTS ON LMA 6, 9, AND 17 (PROJECTS NO. MLS00012, MLS00015, AND MLS00017)**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto  
**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

1. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. C45050 with Horizon Professional Landscape, Inc., of Coachella, CA, in the amount of \$4,704, increasing the annual contract amount to \$168,000.
2. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. C45060 with Mariposa Landscapes, Inc., of Irwindale, CA, in the amount of \$8,935.92, increasing the annual contract amount to \$366,370.32.
3. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. C43140 with Vintage Associates, Inc., of Bermuda Dunes, CA, in the amount of \$10,200, increasing the annual contract amount to \$351,000.
4. Authorize the City Attorney to make necessary non-monetary changes to the amendments.
5. Authorize the City Manager to execute amendments, change orders, and execute any other documents necessary to effectuate the actions taken herewith.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.q APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO AMEND CONTRACT NO. C43100 WITH MULTI W SYSTEMS, INC., FOR PUMP PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES AT THE PALM DESERT AQUATIC CENTER (PROJECT NO. MLS00020)**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto  
**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

1. Approve Change Order No. 1 to amend Contract No. C43100 with Multi W Systems, Inc., to add preventative maintenance services to the Palm Desert Aquatic Center pumps and increase the annual amount to \$63,000.
2. Increase allowable extra work in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 per fiscal year.
3. Authorize the City Attorney to make necessary non-monetary changes to the agreement.
4. Authorize the City Manager to execute the change order, the optional three extensions, and any documents necessary to effectuate the actions taken herewith.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.r AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT NO. C50020 TO CONDOR, INC., FOR THE PALM DESERT AQUATIC CENTER PUMP ROOM RENOVATION PROJECT (PROJECT NO. CFA00009)**

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto  
**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

1. Award Construction Contract No. C50020 to Condor, Inc., of El Monte, California, in the amount of \$647,000, with a 20% contingency of \$129,400, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$776,400 to cover unforeseen expenses.
2. Authorize the Director of Finance to appropriate funds from General Fund Facility Reserve to the Interfund Transfer Account (Account Number 1104199-4501000) in the amount of \$776,400, and transfer to the Palm Desert Aquatic Center Transfer Account (Account No. 2420000-3910000).
3. Authorize the appropriation of \$776,400 to the Palm Desert Aquatic Center Capital Improvement Account (Account No. 2424549-4400100).
4. Authorize the City Attorney to make necessary non-monetary changes to the agreement.
5. Authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, change orders up to the contingency amount, and any documents necessary to effectuate the actions taken herewith.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.j CONSIDERATION TO PURCHASE RISING INVERSION SCULPTURE BY CRISTOPHER CICHOCKI**

**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

1. Approve Agreement No. C50010 with artist Cristopher Cichocki in the amount of \$150,000 for the purchase of *Rising Inversion* to be installed at Ironwood Park.
2. Authorize the City Attorney to make necessary non-monetary changes to the agreement.
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute the contract and all documents necessary to execute the project.

RECUSED (1): Councilmember Pradetto

**Motion Carried (4 to 0)**

**8.n AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO CONTRACT NO. C39690 – LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE DESERT RECREATION DISTRICT TO FINALIZE NECESSARY BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS AT PALM DESERT COMMUNITY CENTER AND ADOPT AMORTIZATION SCHEDULE**

In response to City Council inquiries, Shawn Muir, Community Services Manager, clarified the purpose of the additional expenses included in the amendment.

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto

**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

1. Approve Amendment No. 3 to Contract No. C39690 amending the lease agreement with the Desert Recreation District for the Palm Desert Community Center.
2. Authorize the City Attorney to make non-monetary changes to the amendment.
3. Authorize City Manager to execute said amendment upon approval by the City Attorney.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**9. ACTION CALENDAR**

**9.a PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS: TERMINATE AGREEMENTS AND ESTABLISH A SITE LICENSE PROGRAM**

Chris Gerry, Senior Project Manager, narrated a PowerPoint presentation and responded to City Council inquiries.

**Motion by:** Councilmember Pradetto

**Seconded by:** Councilmember Nestande

1. Terminate agreements and responsibilities for all 18 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, including five on non-City property and 13 on City-owned or managed property.

2. Establish a site license program to attract private EV charging operators to install, operate, and maintain EV charging stations on City-owned and/or managed property.

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**10. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**11. INFORMATION ITEMS**

None.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The City Council adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michelle Nance

Acting Assistant City Clerk/Assistant Secretary

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Anthony J. Mejia, MMC

City Clerk/Secretary