

**CITY OF MONTEBELLO  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**May 19, 2020**

Planning Commission meets at 6:30 p.m., on the day scheduled in City Hall Council Chambers
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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

6:30 P.M. by Chair Mooradian

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Chair Mooradian, Vice Chair Aliksanian, Commissioner Briseno, Commissioner Lomeli and Commissioner Ramirez

Absent: None

Also present:

Director of Planning and Community Development – Joseph Palombi

Planning Commission Legal Counsel – Gloria Ramirez

Staff - Maria Roman and Josephine Pham

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Briseno

4. PLANNING COMMISSION SECRETARY –CORRECTION TO AGENDA

NONE

5. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Speakers wishing to address the Planning Commission were encouraged to call in and/or email per the Governor's Executive Order No. N- 29-20, those interested in making public comments, were allowed to call on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 between 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at (323) 887-1200, ext. 493. Staff completed public comment cards in the order received. The public will be called during the Planning Commission meeting that begins at 6:30 p.m. the exact call back time is not predictable due to the nature of the Planning Commission agenda. As a result, you must be available until the end of the meeting to receive a live call from staff during the meeting. In addition, the City has created an email address [pcpubliccomment@cityofmontebello.com](mailto:pcpubliccomment@cityofmontebello.com) where the public can submit public comments from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. These questions will be read out loud and submitted for the record. The email address for Planning Commission meetings can be

located on the City's webpage under  
<https://www.cityofmontebello.com/planning-commission-meeting.html>.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. April 21, 2020 – Approved

7. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS ON ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

None

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Conditional Use Permit (CUP 01-20/ENV 04-20-CE)

A Conditional Use Permit to allow construction and operations of a new automated carwash located at 8016 Slauson Avenue.

Director Palombi – We are going to open and continue this item to June 2, 2020. Staff would like to allow the applicant to provide supplemental information regarding a traffic analysis for the proposed project.

MOTION: Commissioner Mooradian motions to continue Conditional Use Permit (CUP 01-20/ENV 04-20-CE) to June 2, 2020.

SECOND: Commissioner Lomeli

ACTION: 5-0-0-0

9. CONSENT ITEM (S)

None

10. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Director Palombi – I wanted to discuss the potential for reorganization. It was on the agenda in March and wanted to leave the protocols up to the Commission. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we are sort of in a different arena these days. I wanted to see if Chair could take the lead in giving staff some direction through the Commission as to the next steps.

Chair Mooradian – I know that the Covid-19 is an unprecedented ground but normally what historically has happened as far as reorganization of the Commission is generally whoever the Mayor is, is the Chair. I've also seen whoever is the Vice Chair we rotate and they become Chair but what has been historically for Montebello and how does the Commissioners feel about that because somebody has to nominate the Chair.

Commissioner Briseno – I am all for it. She is right, it usually follows whoever the Mayor is, that is Chair of the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Ramirez – I'm ok with whoever the Mayor is because it seems like it rotates.

Chair Mooradian - Yes, that is why I am asking. I do want to do reorganization; I have asked about it a couple of times myself. So if it is not on the agenda, if we can put it on the next agenda. Someone will nominate, someone will second and same thing goes with the Vice Chair, just go through the normal process.

Commissioner Ramirez – So right now Commissioner Aliksanian is the Vice Chair. So whoever appointed him is not the Mayor?

Chair Mooradian – No, she is not the Mayor.

Commissioner Ramirez – Wouldn't he be next in line since he is the Vice Chair?

Chair Mooradian - It's up to us, that is why it is a matter of who we nominate. It can just be an agenda item, and we still have to go through the process of voting the person in, right? If we decide as a group that whoever is Vice Chair should rotate or whoever follows the Mayor because I have seen it both ways.

Legal Counsel Ramirez - Just to speak a little bit on the rules. There is nothing that we've seen that's in writing. So the Commission is free to decide on what they want to do. I would advise that something be done in writing and maybe adopted. If that is something that the Commission feels is something we should have in place so that it is consistent every year. Otherwise, we don't have anything in writing and it would be a matter of deciding what protocols we want to do and then adopt them from there on.

Chair Mooradian - Is there a preference that our council has because we are all appointed by a council person. Normally the VP becomes the President but I've seen it also where the Mayor's person becomes. I don't have a preference unless if someone else does. I'm curious if council has a direction on this or if they just leave it up to us. The reason I bring it up is because council may want their person to be Chair.

Commissioner Briseno – I think for simplicity I would like to keep its position and whoever's the Mayor's appointee to be the Chair and the Mayor Pro Tem, have that person be the Vice Chair, that is what I would prefer.

Chair Mooradian – Is everyone ok with that?

Commissioner Ramirez - I'm ok with that, it will get rotated and it's very simple. I don't see any issues with it either.

Chair Mooradian – Technically right now this affects, Commissioner Aliksanian and Commissioner Lomeli. If there are any objections to that please let us know. If not, at least we will have a format. Does that seem like the fairest, the Mayors person is the Chair?

Commissioner Aliksanian – That is fine by me.

Chair Mooradian - So what do you need us to do to have it be that way, the Mayors person be the Chair?

Legal Counsel Ramirez - I would recommend that you direct Staff to write some rules that we can draft and at the next meeting those can be adopted by the Commission and have those in effect from now on until changes are made. Would you like us to do that, draft some rules for you?

Chair Mooradian - Yes, that way future commission won't have to be faced with what to do.

Director Palombi – Just for my education, historically from what I understand, it has been the Mayors appointee becomes the Chair and the Mayor Pro Tems appointee becomes Vice Chair, correct?

Chair Mooradian – I've seen it both ways. I've been on the Commission longer than everyone and what would happen is that it would rotate and it depended on who you voted for. Usually the Vice Chair would become the Chair and that's the normal way commissioners would vote the Chair in. Then you would nominate a Vice Chair and it would rotate so if everyone was still there during the time they would have the opportunity to be Vice Chair or Chair.

Chair Mooradian – I would like to motion to request draft in writing to write the process of which the Chair and the Vice Chair is selected when there is a reorganization and have that as an agenda item so we can actually conduct that and conclude it with the appointment of a new Chair and Vice Chair.

Legal Counsel Ramirez – To be clear the process would be to follow the line of Mayor and appointee?

Chair Mooradian- That is what everyone seems to want. City attorney, how have you seen it in other cities?

Legal Counsel Ramirez – They have done it both ways but the majority that I have seen are Mayor and his/her appointee, it follows that line. The municipal code for Montebello allows the commissioners to set their own rules. It's not dictated by the Council it's dictated by the Commission.

Director Palombi – I did serve on a commission for 10 years and typically it is the Mayors appointee becomes Chair and Mayor Pro Tem appointee becomes Vice Chair. The only way it changes in a dynamic like that the appointee does not want the position then it goes to the majority.

Chair Mooradian – Lets do that. For clarification, Mayors appointee becomes Chair, Mayor Pro Tem appointee becomes Vice Chair and if they don't want it we just vote on it and nominate.

Director Palombi- Do we need to vote on this?

Legal Counsel Ramirez – No, this is just a direction given. We'll come back with the rules in writing and they can be presented and adopted at the next meeting

Director Palombi – Just for clarification we are going to include the reorganization as well in addition to the rules in the next agenda.

Legal Counsel Ramirez – Yes, I would suggest on adopting the rules and based on those rules we'll do the reorganization right after.

#### 11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS –CONTINUED

None

#### 12. PLANNING COMMISSION ORALS

Chair Mooradian  
Vice Chair Aliksanian  
Commissioner Briseno  
Commissioner Lomeli

Commissioner Ramirez

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:48p.m.



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Joseph Palombi, Planning Commission Secretary