

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BUENA PARK CITY COUNCIL
HELD MARCH 2, 2021

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CALL TO ORDER

The City Council met in a special meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Brown, Sonne, Swift, Park, Traut
ABSENT: None

Also present were: Aaron France, City Manager; Eddie Fenton, Assistant City Manager; Mark Fulmer, MRW & Associates; Brian Probolsky, Orange County Power Authority CEO; Gary Saledba, EES Consulting; and, Ryan Baron, BBK.

1. VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING - COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION

Mark Fulmer, MRW & Associates, provided information on Community Choice Energy (CCE), established CCEs in California, reasons to create a CCE in Buena Park: greener power, lower rates, resident and business programs, local economic development and local control. Mr. Fulmer reviewed information related to the CCE board, state requirements, Southern California Edison's role in a CCE, and options for joining and leaving the Orange County Power Authority's CCE. Mr. Fulmer also reviewed the Orange County Power Authority's structure and the Joint Powers Authority Agreement currently between the four orange county cities. Benefits of a CCE include potentially lower rates, greener power portfolio, targeted programs for residents and businesses, local economic development, increased options for customers, and local control. The benefits for Buena Park to join the OCPA now include no financial obligations to the City, and it is administratively the simplest meaning there is no need to commit existing staff or add additional staff and there is no need for City Council to take on a Board of Director role. Risk of joining a CCE include not able to provide power at a competitive price and a financial risk to Buena Park if it sets up its own enterprise. Risk of joining OCPA specifically include that OCPA may not reflect Buena Park's priorities, CCE margins are very tight at this time, and OCPA is a new entity and there is no history or track record to provide potential customers.

Mr. Fulmer also addressed the issues recently experienced in Texas and stated what happened in Texas was a combination of factors: lack of preparation for prolonged sub-freezing temperatures, isolated grid that could not import power from other states, and (very) light regulation of the utility. How this differs from California is in California there is a focus on reliability regulations, the state is not subject to cold snaps, and California is connected to the western grid to import power.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Eddie Fenton, Assistant City Manager, requested the City's consultants answer questions submitted by residents via the Q&A Zoom function, regarding green sustainable energy sources, CCE rates and rate changes, comparison of SCE rates and OCPA rates, timeline for implementation of OCPA, blackouts or brownouts with OCPA, SCE rate increases due to use of transmission lines, how will the CCE affect a household with solar panel and SCE's time-of-use structure, benefit for residents who are already utilizing solar energy, elected official stipends for serving on the OCPA board and related benefits, options and timeframes for customers to opt out of the CCE program, the effect on taxes with the new CCE program, and the City of Irvine's financing of start-up costs for OCPA.

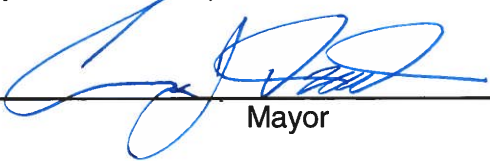
Mr. Fenton advised responses to all questions are available on the City's website under FAQs for CCE, and encouraged participants to participate in an online survey.

CITY MANAGER CLOSING COMMENTS

City Manager France thanked the public for their participation and the panelists for their assistance. City Council will be discussing the City's membership in OCPA at the March 9, 2021, Council Meeting and public participation is encouraged. This webinar is available for viewing on the City's website, the City's Facebook page, and on the City's YouTube page.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk