

Regular Council Meeting of the City of Melvindale was held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nicole M. Shkira and roll call was taken:

PRESENT COUNCIL MEMBERS: Jackson, Abuali, Filipowski, Rauser, Frederick, Cartrette

ALSO PRESENT: Diana Zarazua, City Clerk; Khaled Ahmed, Treasurer; Richard S. Ortiz, City Administrator/Finance Director; Lawrence J. Coogan and Roger Kaly, Corporation Counsel; Dan Jones, Chief of Police; Lt. Robert Kennaley; Police Department; Joseph Murray, Fire Chief; Brad Burns; Chief Building Official, Larrie Ordus, DPW Director; Sandy Law, Senior Center

Mayor Nicole Shkira requested the record to reflect that there was an illegal Special Meeting held on December 10, 2023 to retain the Miller Law Firm specifically Melvin “Butch” Hollowell to file an injunction to prevent the current Mayor from continuing to violate the charter. There was a motion by Joe Jackson to rescind his motion but no second. All council members were present at the December 10, 2023 Special Meeting including the Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Nicole Shkira requested the record to reflect that there was a Special Meeting held on Wednesday, December 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kessey Fieldhouse Banquet Hall, present were Diana Zarazua, City Clerk, Councilman Saleim Abuali, Khaled Ahmed, Treasurer, Cecilia Dally, Executive Secretary/Deputy Clerk, and Roger Kaly, Corporation Counsel.

24-01-001 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Rauser, to approve the meeting minutes dated December 20, 2023.

Yeas: Jackson, Abuali, Filipowski, Rauser, Cartrette

Nays: none

Abstain: Frederick

Motion Passes

24-01-002 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Rauser, to remove from table the retention bonus for DPW & Clerical – AFSCME.

Passed Unanimously

24-01-003 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Rauser, to approve the retention bonus in the total amount of \$2000.00 (two thousand dollars) for DPW & Clerical – AFSCME to be paid in quarterly installments of \$500.00 (five hundred dollars).

Passed Unanimously

24-01-004 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Rauser, to remove from table the appointment of Colovos Law Firm – Bill Colovos, to serve as Corporation Council at a proposed salary of \$130,000.00, to serve at the will and pleasure of the Mayor and Council.

Passed Unanimously

24-01-005 Moved by Cartrette and supported by Jackson, to confirm the appointment of Colovos Law Firm – Bill Colovos, to serve as Corporation Council at a proposed salary of \$130,000.00, to serve at the will and pleasure of the Mayor and Council.

Yeas: None

Nays: Jackson, Abuali, Filipowski, Rauser, Frederick, Cartrette

Motion Fails

24-01-006 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Rauser, to remove from table the appointment of Hassane Jamal to serve as City Administrator at a proposed salary of \$100,000.00, to serve at the will and pleasure of the Mayor and Council.

Passed Unanimously

24-01-007 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Rauser, to confirm the appointment of Hassane Jamal to serve as City Administrator at a proposed salary of \$100,000.00, to serve at the will and pleasure of the Mayor and Council.

Yeas: None

Nays: Jackson, Abuali, Filipowski, Rauser, Frederick, Cartrette

Motion Failed

Audience Participation

24-01-008 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Rauser, to recess for 5 (five) minutes at 8:43 p.m.

Passed Unanimously

24-01-009 Moved by Jackson and supported by Filipowski, to reconvene the Regular Council meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Passed Unanimously

24-01-010 Moved by Jackson and supported by Cartrette, to override the Mayoral Veto 23-12-310 regarding the retention of Miller Law specifically Melvin “Butch” Hollowell to prevent Mayor Nicole Shkira from violating the Charter.

Yeas: Jackson, Filipowski, Rauser, Cartrette
Nays: Abuali, Frederick

Motion Passes

24-01-011 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Rauser, to table the appointment of Cecilia Dally as the full time Executive Secretary to Mayor and Council, to serve at the will and pleasure of the Mayor and Council.

Passed Unanimously

Second Audience Participation

24-01-012 Moved by Abuali and supported by Jackson, to receive and place on file the invoice and cover sheet and to authorize the payment of approved invoices totaling \$427,812.71 and zero electronic transfers.

Passed Unanimously

24-01-013 Moved by Filipowski and supported by Abuali, to adjourn at 9:58 p.m., no objections, so ordered.

Passed Unanimously

Mayor Nicole Shkira

Diana Zarazua, City Clerk