Minutes
Lakewood City Council
Regular Meeting held
June 24, 2014

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

INVOCATION was offered by Monsignor Joseph Greeley, St. Pancratius Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Boy Scout Troop Number 67

ROLL CALL: PRESENT:  Mayor Todd Rogers
Vice Mayor Jeff Wood
Council Member Steve Croft
Council Member Diane DuBois
Council Member Ron Piazza

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:
Mayor Rogers announced that the meeting would be adjourned in memory of Tom Oury, a community volunteer and an active supporter of Project Shepherd.

Mayor Rogers presented a proclamation to Jose Delgado, recognizing his 10 years of service as District Director for Congresswoman Linda Sanchez. As the newly appointed District Director Yvette Shahinian, introduced Irma Gorrocino, who would be taking her place as the District Representative covering Lakewood.

Mayor Rogers announced that this would be the last City Council Meeting for City Clerk Denise Hayward, who would be retiring in July. The City Council Members thanked the City Clerk for her 32 years of service to the City.

ROUTINE ITEMS:
COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS MOVED AND VICE MAYOR WOOD SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 6.

RI-1    Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held June 10, 2014
RI-2    Approval of Personnel Transactions
RI-3    Approval of Registers of Demands
RI-4    RESOLUTION NO. 2014-20; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD APPOINTING THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE POSITIONS TO THE CENTRAL BASIN WATER RIGHTS PANEL
ROUTE ITEMS: Continued
RI-5 Approval of Report of Monthly Investment Transactions

RI-6 RESOLUTION NO. 2014-21; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD RESCINDING RESOLUTIONS ESTABLISHING DISABLED PERSON DESIGNATED PARKING WITHIN THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Piazza and Rogers
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

1.1 • THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014-15 AND 2015-16
City Manager Howard Chambers displayed slides and reported that the preparation of the City’s budget was a 6-month process that began in January and culminated with this meeting. He reviewed the current Economic Climate, including the rise in residential property values and lower unemployment numbers. He noted the impacts of legislative actions in Sacramento, including the dissolution of redevelopment costing Lakewood $5.4 million, and the redevelopment “claw back” which could cost the City an additional $9.3 million and was currently in litigation. He reviewed revenues and appropriations, noting that the second year of the proposed 2-year budget was lower due to fewer proposed capital improvement projects. He also reviewed the 10 Budget Focus Areas: Budget for sustainability; Keep Lakewood safe; Preserve neighborhood quality of life; Foster a sense of community; Promote economic vitality; Support a caring community; Enhance parks and open space; Highlight governmental transparency; Defend traditional right to contract; and Protect the environment. He also discussed the $12.6 million budgeted for projects under Capital Improvements.

Captain Keith Swensson, the new Commander of the Lakewood Sheriff’s Station, introduced himself as a second generation law enforcement officer at the Lakewood Station. He noted that his father had been a deputy assigned to the station when it first opened. He stated that while he considered Lakewood to be the premiere station in the Department, with very low crime statistics, he believed that there was no such thing as good enough and he was committed to improving services and making the station even better.

Steve Skolnik, City Attorney, stated that 1.1.b was his annual memo to the City Council which explained the actions necessary to implement the budget. He advised that all of the budget documents could be considered at the same public hearing and adopted by a single roll call vote, however, items 1.1.e.46 & 47 required a separate public hearing, and item 1.1.e.49 would be voted upon following the closed session at the end of the meeting.

Mayor Rogers explained the process for anyone in the audience wishing to submit a written protest to either the refuse or water rate proposed increases.
1.1 • THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014-15 AND 2015-16 - Continued

1.1.e.46 – Adjusting Residential Refuse Rates

Administrative Services Director Diane Perkin gave a brief presentation based on the memo in the agenda and stated that the proposed increase to residential refuse rates was due to a contractual obligation with the City’s refuse hauler, EDCO Waste Services, and directly related to increases in tipping fees and fuel costs. She noted that due to the time required for noticing the increase, the initial fee increase of 4.15 percent had been an estimate, and the actual would be less, at 3 percent.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 8:25 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

VICE MAYOR WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA SECONDED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Piazza and Rogers
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

The City Attorney determined from the City Clerk that there had been a total of nine written protests received regarding the rate increase for refuse collection. Mr. Skolnik reported that with over 22,000 residential refuse accounts, the protests did not meet the threshold and the proposed rate adjustment could go forward.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2014-35.


Council Member Piazza stated that understanding that many people were concerned about rates, this action was not taken without a great deal of study and thought. He noted that when asked about the quality of the service received from EDCO, most residents were pleased with the service they received.

Mayor Rogers pointed out that raising rates was not something anyone wanted to do, but could not always be avoided, since there were increases in the contractor’s cost of doing business. He stated that this was not a decision that was made lightly, and was necessary to keep the City fiscally sound.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Piazza and Rogers
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None
1.1 • THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014-15 AND 2015-16 - Continued
1.1.3.47 – Pertaining to Water Rates and Charges

The Director of Administrative Services gave a presentation based on the memo in the agenda and stated that in looking at rates for water service, the Water Resources Committee had reviewed increases in operating costs, such as the cost of electrical energy and water replenishment costs; as well as the need for $23 million in capital improvements to the water system infrastructure over the next six years, including the reconstruction of a reservoir and drilling of two new water wells. She stated that although the option of issuing bonds to fund these projects had been explored, it had been the recommendation of the Committee that the City not go into debt, but rather to stagger the projects and save money to pay-as-you-go. She concluded by stating that the base rate for water service would not be changing, meaning that those using the least amount of water would be less affected by the proposed increase.

Water Resources Director Jim Glancy stated that the residents of Lakewood had voted in 1957 to buy the water system from the private company that was operating it at that time. He reported that many capital improvements had already been accomplished, such as the replacement of the original 1930’s era water storage tanks; the replacement of eight end-of-life water wells with three new, larger capacity wells; and a water main replacement program that was 50 percent complete. He noted, however, that there was still much to be done.

Council Member Croft noted that while improvements that were made at City parks were visible to everyone, most improvements to the water system were unseen. He stated that the City staff had done an excellent job of getting the longest useful life out of the system components, many of which were 50 years old or older. However, he pointed out that a good water supply was vital and that waiting until system components failed was not an option. He stated that part of the logic for a pay-as-you-go program of improvements was not only to avoid debt and interest costs, but to reserve the options of bonds to be used in the event of a major disaster.

Council Member DuBois pointed out that one of the major reasons that the City had been able to maintain its good financial position, even in difficult times, was that we didn’t buy things if we didn’t have the money to pay for them.

Council Member Piazza stated he was proud to be part of the Water Resources Committee and proud of the Water Resources Department as well, for accepting the challenge to make decisions for both the short and long term needs for the Lakewood water system. He noted that the Water Resources Department staff would be happy to show any interested residents some ways to conserve water and lower their bills.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 8:40 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA SECONDED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Piazza and Rogers
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None
1.1 • THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014-15 AND 2015-16 - Continued
The City Attorney determined from the City Clerk that there had been a total of seven written protests received regarding the rate increase for water. Mr. Skolnik reported that with over 19,000 water service accounts, the protests were well below the threshold and the proposed rate adjustment could go forward.

COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2014-36.


Vice Mayor Wood stated that although he did not want to raise fees, it was important to replace aging infrastructure to ensure the system reliability.

Mayor Rogers stated that the first time he heard that it could cost $1 million to replace a mile of water main, he wondered how it could be accomplished, but has seen much work get done a little at a time, as funds were available. He acknowledged that it was expensive to maintain the system, but necessary to be able to supply quality water to residents.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Piazza and Rogers
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

The City Attorney stated an additional public hearing needed to be held on the remainder of the budget items: 1.1.c, 1.1.d, 1.1.e.1 through 45 and 1.1.3.48.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 8:45 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter.

Linda Navakowski, Lakewood, addressed the City Council expressing her support for a Lakewood dog park.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA SECONDED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Piazza and Rogers
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None
1.1 • THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014-15 AND 2015-16 - Continued


1) RESOLUTION NO. 2014-25; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO CERTIFY TO CITY LIGHT AND POWER LAKEWOOD, INC., THAT BASIC FEE PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-26; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO CERTIFY TO CITY LIGHT AND POWER LAKEWOOD, INC., THAT BASIC FEE PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET

2) Adoption of Financial, Operating Budget, and Capital Improvement and Replacement of Assets Policies

3) Adoption of Amendment to Purchasing Policy


5) RESOLUTION NO. 2014-28; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 2013-30 PERTAINING TO HOURLY-RATED PART-TIME EMPLOYEES AND ENACTING A PERSONNEL RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION, RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO HOURLY-RATED PART-TIME EMPLOYEES
1.1 • THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014-15 AND 2015-16 - Continued

6) RESOLUTION NO. 2014-29; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD AMENDING THE PERSONNEL RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES PERTAINING TO RESTRICTIONS ON NEPOTISM

7) RESOLUTION NO. 2014-30; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD AMENDING AND RENEWING A COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH THE ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT


12) Renewal of Agreement with the County of Los Angeles for Grounds Maintenance Services

13) Agreement with Lakewood Meals On Wheels for Use of Burns Community Center

14) Renewal of Rental Agreement with Mothers At Work (M.A.W.) for Child Care Facility at Burns Community Center

15) Amendment to the Agreement with Sandie Mercer Ranch for the Lakewood Equestrian Center

16) Agreement with Trend Offset Printing for Catalog Publications
1.1 • THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014-15 AND 2015-16 - Continued

17) Agreements with TruGreen LandCare for Median Landscape Maintenance and Mowing Services

18) Professional Services Agreement with Dive/Corr, Inc. for Water Storage Facility Inspection

19) Agreement with HTS Environmental Services for Hazardous Material Disposal

20) Agreement with Macro Automatics for SCADA Telemetry System Maintenance

21) Agreement with Water Well Supply for Maintenance of Water Production Facilities

22) Agreement with Abilita LA for Telecommunications Services

23) Extension of Agreement for Engineering Services with Associated Soils Engineering

24) Extension of Agreement for Hardscape Maintenance with CJ Construction

25) Extension of Agreement for Electrical Contracting Services with Fineline Electric

26) Extension of Agreement for Elevator Maintenance and Repair Services with Liftech Elevator Services


28) Amendment to Agreement for On Call Architectural Services with Meyer & Associates

29) Extension of Agreement for Engineering and Traffic Survey Services with Newport Traffic Studies

30) Amendment to Agreement for Engineering Services with Reedcorp Engineering

31) Extension of Agreement for Environmental Services with S.C.S. Consultants

32) Amendment to Agreement for Animal Control Services with SEAACA

33) Extension of Agreement for Street Banner Marketing Program with Sierra Installations, Inc.

34) Amendment to Agreement with Stanley Convergent Security Specialists

35) Extension of Agreement for HVAC Preventative Maintenance Services with Velocity Air Engineering

36) Amendment to Agreement for Tree Maintenance with West Coast Arborists
1.1 • THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014-15 AND 2015-16 - Continued

37) Amendment to Agreement for Engineering Services with Willdan

38) Agreement with County of Los Angeles for Helicopter Patrol Law Enforcement Services

39) Agreement for Helicopter Maintenance with STEAM Aircraft

40) Renewal of Agreement for Safety Consulting Services - Pacific EH&S Services, Inc.

41) Agreement with Western Printing and Graphics for Preparation of City Informational Periodicals

42) Extension of Reimbursement Agreement for Long Beach Transit Fixed Route and Dial-A-Lift Services

43) Renewal of Agreement with Fair Housing Consulting Services

44) Agreement for the Fix Up/Paint Up Program

45) Agreement for Data Communications Services with Time Warner Cable

48) Amendment to Agreement for Refuse Collection with EDCO Waste Services


Council Member DuBois thanked the City Manager for the budget presentation, which was a reminder of why she was very proud to be part of such an exceptional community.

Council Member Croft stated that returning to a two-year budget cycle after having gone to single-year budgets during the recession and State take-aways, was a landmark. He stated that it may be frustrating for residents when it appeared that nothing was happening, like the development of the dog park, but much was happening behind the scenes. He noted that the time invested resulted in quality programs that would enhance the quality of life.

Council Member Piazza stated that although the budget was made up of many items, residents needed to know that Lakewood had a first-class, frugal staff, working hard to keep Lakewood as a well-managed city.

Vice Mayor Wood thanked the City Manager, Directors, and other staff members who had been working on the budget since January. He noted the work of the Park Development Committee on the upcoming projects, the dog park, the Veterans’ memorial, and the new playground at San Martin Park. He stated he was proud of the final budget product and all the staff work that had gone into it.
1.1 • THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014-15 AND 2015-16 - Continued

Mayor Rogers stated that he was excited about the new budget. Even though there were tough decisions that had to be made over the past several years, and the City was not completely “out of the woods” financially, it was time to move forward and make some major investments in the future of the community. He noted that while not perfect, he felt great civic pride to be part of the City of Lakewood.

Mayor Rogers stated that Items 1.1.e.12 and 1.1.e.38 were agreements between the City and the County of Los Angeles, and that he had no direct involvement with either agreement. But, as an employee of the County of Los Angeles, and out of an abundance of caution, his vote on the budget would include an abstention on both of those items.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Piazza and Rogers*
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

*ROGERS VOTE ABSTAINS ON ITEMS 1.1.e.12 AND ITEM 1.1.e.38.

3.1 • SUBMISSION OF DRAFT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANS

Director of Public Works Lisa Rapp displayed slides and gave a report based on the memo in the agenda. She stated that the City of Lakewood was geographically located to be part of three different watershed areas, each requiring its own Watershed Management Program (WMP). As part of the requirements of the Storm Water System Operating Permit, the City must develop a WMP for each watershed and submit the draft versions to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. She reported that the cities in each watershed had formed groups to develop the required plans, which included construction projects and non-structural programs designed to improve water quality as runoff is leaving the City, and storm water monitoring stations to test for pollutants. She noted that although it was projected that compliance with these programs would mean costs in the hundreds of millions, there was no funding source available to pay for the project, programs or monitoring. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council authorize the submittal of the draft Watershed Management Plans for the Los Cerritos Channel, Lower Los Angeles River, and the Lower San Gabriel River on to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board on behalf of the City of Lakewood.

Council Member Croft commented that this was a State mandate without a funding source, which presented an enormous challenge to every local agency in the region. He noted that some of the contaminants that the City would be responsible to treat were not even generated locally, but because they were transmitted to the storm drain system on our streets, we would have to find a way to pay for the treatment.

Council Member DuBois remarked that is was especially frustrating that the State officials that imposed these mandates did not seem to care at all that they were not funded.
3.1 • SUBMISSION OF DRAFT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANS - Continued
COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA MOVED AND VICE MAYOR WOOD SECONDED TO AUTHORIZE SUBMITTAL OF THE DRAFT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR LOS CERRITOS CHANNEL, LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER, AND THE LOWER SAN GABRIEL RIVER. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Piazza and Rogers
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

SUCCESSOR HOUSING ACTIONS
1. Approval of Registers of Demands
VICE MAYOR WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE REGISTERS OF DEMANDS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Piazza and Rogers
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:
Jason Gerros addressed the City Council regarding swim lessons at Mayfair Pool and closures for maintenance.

1.1.e.49) Amendment to the Agreement with the City Manager
At 9:20 p.m., the City Council recessed to a closed session.

CLOSED SESSION:
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, Pursuant to Government Code §54957
Mayor Rogers announced that the City Council would recess to a closed session pursuant to Government Code §54957 to evaluate the performance of the City Manager.

At 9:27 p.m., the City Council reconvened with all members present.

Mayor Rogers announced that the City Council had concluded its review and evaluation of the performance of City Manager Howard Chambers and had unanimously approved Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement with the City Manager.
ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Thomas Oury.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk