MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Esquivel in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

INVOCATION was offered by Reverend Kit Wilke, Cross Roads Community Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Girls Scout Troops 154 and 112

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Joseph Esquivel 
Vice Mayor Larry Van Nostran
Council Member Steve Croft
Council Member Diane DuBois
Council Member Todd Rogers

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:
Mayor Esquivel announced that a reception had been held prior to the meeting to recognize Public Safety Month.

ROUTINE ITEMS:
VICE MAYOR VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 10.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meetings held February 14, 2006
RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions
RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands dated February 9, and February 16, 2006
RI-4 Approval of Meeting Attendance Reports Pursuant to AB1234
RI-6 Approval of Monthly Report of Investment Transactions
RI-7 Approval of Request for Substitution of Sub-Contractor, Public Works Contract 05-6
RI-8 Ratification of Change Order No. 2 for Public Works Contract No. 05-14, Sheriff Station Expansion Project, Phase 1
ROUTINE ITEMS: Continued
RI-9 RESOLUTION NO. 2006-3; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD ESTABLISHING A PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS DESIGNATED PARKING SPACE ON THE WEST SIDE OF NIPOMO AVENUE WITHIN THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-4; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD ESTABLISHING A PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS DESIGNATED PARKING SPACE ON THE EAST SIDE OF OSTROM AVENUE WITHIN THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD

RI-10 Approval of Amendment to Agreement for Professional Services with Charles Walton Associates for the Lakewood Sheriff Station Expansion Project

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran, Croft, DuBois, Rogers and Esquivel
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

Mayor Esquivel announced that Item 3.1 would be move forward to this point in the meeting. He advised those present in the audience that the purpose of the item was to consider the report on the mediation process, not on arguments for or against the gate, which had been heard by the City Council at the previous meeting regarding this issue. He noted that the goal of the Council was to resolve the issue and end the conflict in the community.

3.1 • STREET VACATION FOR MANOR AND PARKVIEW DRIVES, CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2006-6
Andy Lazzaretto, A. C. Lazzaretto & Associates, gave a brief oral presentation based on his correspondence and summary report contained in the agenda and stated he had been retained to be a mediator and facilitator for residents on both sides of the issue of the proposed gate. He noted that all of the participants had been willing to meet with him and had been generous with their time, but he had discovered that there was not sufficient openness or willingness to consider change or compromise. He concluded by stating that further meetings were not likely to meet with success and that ultimately, it would not be possible to overcome the differences between the two groups.

Stan Levin stated his group against the gate had met with Mr. Lazzaretto on two occasions and presented their alternatives. He also listed some of the grounds for opposing the gate.

Ken Pallas, Javier Munoz, Dennis Sanchez, Lance Sieger, Richard Dearth, Dr. Umberto Ravelo, Craig Chambers, Bob Clayton, Joe Willard, Nicholas Edwards, Millie Rubich, Thomas Haup and Audrey Huong also addressed the City Council regarding the gate issue.
3.1 • STREET VACATION FOR MANOR AND PARKVIEW DRIVES - Continued

Council Member DuBois stated that while she remained supportive of any group of citizens that was seeking to improve the perception of safety in its neighborhood, this issue involved much more. She noted that she had been hopeful that the mediation process would successfully resolve the issue to the satisfaction of most and had instead been disturbed by the degree of conflict between neighbors. She stated that her mission as a City Council Member was to build up the City of Lakewood in every way possible and that although she recognized that it was impossible to please everyone, the City Council must be attentive to issues that undermine the spirit of community. She noted that this appeared to be one of the most divisive issues in recent City history. She advised that the City Council would continue to work closely with the Sheriff’s Department and City staff on safety issues to improve public safety for all Lakewood residents. She concluded by stating that for the greater good of the community, she would have to support leaving the street open.

COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER ROGERS SECONDED TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION RESCINDING THE STREET VACATION ON PARKVIEW AND MANOR DRIVES.

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-6; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2005-67

Vice Mayor Van Nostran also endorsed the motion, stating that although the issue had seemed simple and straight-forward at first, legal issues had been brought forward which had changed his viewpoint. He noted that his service as the City’s representative to and current President of the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority Board had provided him with experience regarding litigation issues involving city governments. He stated that in these types of litigation matters, there were no winners; everyone involved was at a loss and that he would not support action that would expose the City to litigation.

Council Member Croft stated that one of the things that made Lakewood a great place to live and raise a family was the sense of community that could be found here. He noted that the underlying issue was the perception of public safety which was a city-wide issue and continually being addressed by the City and the Sheriff’s Department. He stated he would like to see this matter resolved and that if everyone who had gotten involved in this issue, by signing petitions and writing letters, would become active in their local neighborhood watch groups, they could have a tremendous, positive impact on safety in this community.

Council Member Rogers stated that although he had felt it inappropriate to take a position on this matter when it had come before the City Council last October, since he had felt that all the facts were not then available, he was prepared to do so at this time. He further stated that while he sympathized with anyone wishing to make their families and neighborhood safer, he felt there were three major issues which would prevent the gate matter from moving forward. The first issue was the now bitter division separating the “Island” residents from their surrounding neighbors and destroying the cohesiveness and shared values that had always been tenets of the Lakewood community. Also at issue was concern that an approval on this matter could be precedent-setting and lead to additional requests from other neighborhoods in the City. Finally, a concern that with some residents from within the “Island” now changing their positions and turning against the gate, that the entire endeavor could now be illegal.
3.1 • STREET VACATION FOR MANOR AND PARKVIEW DRIVES - Continued
He stated that the City of Lakewood was known for many positive things and that he did not want it to also be remembered in history as the city which defined case law on street vacations. He concluded by stating that he would be coordinating a community meeting to work on improvements to public safety with the Country Club area of the City and would like to extend an offer to any other neighborhood in the City that would also like to have such a meeting.

Mayor Esquivel echoed the comments of his colleagues, noting that he had never seen such dissent among residents. He stated the City of Lakewood had long taken pride in being one big, happy family and he would also support the motion.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran, Croft, DuBois, Rogers and Esquivel
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

At 8:21 p.m., Mayor Esquivel called for a brief recess. At 8:30 p.m., the meeting was reconvened with all members of the City Council present.

1.1 • SPECIFIC PLAN 2006-1 FOR 5800, 5802 & 5804 AUTRY AVENUE AND 5437 & 5439 SOUTH STREET, ORDINANCE NO. 2006-2
Community Development Director Chuck Ebner displayed slides and gave a brief presentation based on the report contained in the agenda. He stated an application had been made for a specific plan in order to retain the existing residential and commercial development on property located at the northeast corner of South Street and Autry Avenue. The site, which was developed in 1942 prior to the incorporation of the City, contained a 3-unit apartment complex and a professional building. Although the use had been approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1952, the enabling paperwork had never been properly filed with the County Recorder. The proposed specific plan would maintain the existing conditions and limit the types of uses allowed in the commercial building. He outlined the allowable uses for the commercial building and advised that the project was categorically exempt under CEQA guidelines. It was the recommendation of the Planning and Environment Commission that the City Council hold a public hearing and introduce Ordinance No. 2006-2 to implement Specific Plan 2006-1.

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-2; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD ADOPTING SPECIFIC PLAN 2006-1

Responding to a question from Vice Mayor Van Nostran, Mr. Ebner stated that adoption of the specific plan would prevent the residential units from being converted to a commercial use.
1.1 • SPECIFIC PLAN 2006-1 FOR 5800, 5802 & 5804 AUTRY AVENUE AND 5437 & 5439 SOUTH STREET, ORDINANCE NO. 2006-2 - Continued
Council Member Croft inquired if there had been any history of code enforcement cases related to this site. Mr. Ebner replied that there were not.

Mayor Esquivel opened the public hearing at 8:37 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

VICE MAYOR VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. 2006-2. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran, Croft, DuBois, Rogers and Esquivel NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

2.1 • ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2006-5; NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) COMPLIANCE
Recreation and Community Services Director Joan Biegel gave a brief presentation based on the report contained in the agenda and reported that local governments had been given a mandate to recognize the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and incorporate its principals and policies in emergency response plans. To accomplish this, Lakewood must adopt a resolution and complete mandatory training of personnel by September 30, 2006. She advised that the purpose of NIMS was to provide a consistent, nationwide approach for Federal, state, local and tribal governments to work together in times of disaster. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council adopt the proposed resolution recognizing NIMS and adopting its principles and policies, and authorize staff to initiate training of City personnel.

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-5: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD INITIALIZING AN AGREEMENT BY THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD TO MEET THE FEDERAL REQUIREMENT OF ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) IN PROVIDING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD

COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER ROGERS SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF’S RECOMMENDATIONS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran, Croft, DuBois, Rogers and Esquivel NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None
3.2 • AUTHORIZATION FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO APPROVE/DENY REQUESTS FOR USE OF THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS BY GREATER LAKEWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
The City Attorney advised that this item would be carried over as it required further work by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee prior to City Council action.

At 8:40 p.m., the Regular Meeting of the City Council was recessed for the Meeting of the Lakewood Redevelopment Agency. At 8:41 p.m., the City Council Meeting was reconvened.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:
Jerry Cleveland addressed the City Council regarding the vacant market building on the northwest corner of South Street and Bellflower Boulevard.

Joe Willard spoke regarding street sweeping and vehicle parking on his street.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Esquivel adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk