



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
August 14, 2001

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Wagner in the Executive Board Room at the Centre at Sycamore Plaza, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Robert Wagner
Vice Mayor Larry Van Nostran
Council Member Joseph Esquivel
Council Member Wayne Piercy
Council Member Todd Rogers

UPDATE ON BOEING'S PACIFICENTER@LONG BEACH DEVELOPMENT

In joint session with the Planning and Environment Commission, the City Council heard from members of the Boeing PacificCenter development team. Commissioners in attendance were: Steven Croft, Diane DuBois, Joy Janes and Chairman Kerry Frank.

Mike Russell, Boeing Corporation, displayed slides showing the site location of the development and proposed improvements which would extend south to the 405 Freeway. He stated that when complete, the development should provide about 20,000 new quality jobs and was expected to bring \$2 billion annually to the region in economic benefits.

George Medak, Boeing Corporation, advised that as part of the project, telecommunications conduit would be run under the street to serve the project.

Responding to a question from Council Member Esquivel, Mr. Russell stated that the development would have three entrances on the Lakewood Boulevard side of the property and that his team was working with American Golf to ensure that there would be no problem with the areas of the development adjacent to the Lakewood Country Club Golf Course.

Vice Mayor Van Nostran determined from the development team that the average size of the rental units would be between 950 and 1000 square feet.

PEC Chairman Frank inquired if there were any environmental impacts or clean up efforts necessary related to the chemical processing areas utilized by the Boeing plant. George Medak responded by stating that over 1,800 borings had been done and there were three areas that would need to be addressed. He stated that a specialized team had begun working on the extensive program last week.

Mr. Medak responded to an additional question from Chairman Frank by stating that although the new buildings along Carson Street would be taller, since they were set back further from the street, they would not block the view from the Lakewood Country Club neighborhood and would in fact appear lower on the horizon.

BOEING'S PACIFICENTER@LONG BEACH DEVELOPMENT - Continued

In response to concerns raised by Council Member Piercy, Jon Conk of Boeing stated that there were FAA restrictions on the airport side of the development where buildings would be single- or two-story. The technical and housing sections of the development would be three-to-five stories high with the largest buildings being the proposed hotels on Lakewood Boulevard at about nine stories. He noted that the buildings along Carson Street would not be higher than five floors and that all utility lines would be underground.

Council Member Rogers inquired about the condominiums/townhouses planned for the development. Mr. Russell stated that the development 'campus' would be open to the public and that the units were anticipated to sell for about \$300,000. Council Member Rogers expressed concern about the impacts on local schools. Mr. Medak responded by stating that the development team had met with Dr. Carl Cohn of the Long Beach Unified School District and that a report was pending. He noted that the development, as planned, anticipated that the majority of housing units on site would be occupied by singles.

Commissioner Diane DuBois asked Mr. Russell to clarify his remark about lowering traffic by 15 percent. Mr. Russell stated that by using innovative techniques, his staff had been able to lower the amount of additional traffic that would have been generated by a new development. Commissioner DuBois also determined from Mr. Russell that the buildings on the Carson Street side of the development would have a 75-foot set back, and the Lakewood Boulevard side a 35-foot set back.

Responding to a question from the City Manager, Mr. Medak stated that Long Beach did not have a problem with traffic access from Cover Street out onto Cherry Avenue, although the issue of moving sidewalks in order to widen the street still needed to be addressed.

Mayor Wagner asked about tenant projections, noting that the current environment for high-tech industry was not very good. Mr. Russell responded by stating that they had no doubts about being able to attract tenants since there would not be another comparable site in California.

Responding to a question from Council Member Piercy, Mr. Medak stated that the timeline for the development would depend on market forces, and that his expectation was that the site would be fully developed in ten to twelve years.

Carole Spignese with Boeing briefly reviewed community meetings to be held which would include homeowners in the Lakewood Country Club and Lakewood Village areas. She advised that there was a newsletter that residents could subscribe to and a PacificCenter hotline. She also noted that they were willing to organize presentations for any interested groups.

At 7:08 p.m., Mayor Wagner called for a brief recess. At 7:13 p.m., the City Council reconvened with all members present.

REVIEW OF REGULATIONS FOR THE SALE OF SAFE AND SANE FIREWORKS

Mayor Wagner stated that the purpose of this item was not to provide in depth study, but to hear what areas of study the staff was looking at and to make sure that everything that should be looked at had been identified. He noted that although the initial scope of the study was just to look at the proliferation of fireworks stands and bring the increasing numbers under control, the tremendous proliferation of illegal fireworks throughout the City on the 4th of July indicated that investigation into other areas was necessary.

Finance Director Larry Schroeder gave a brief slide presentation identifying the issues, concerns and options.

Noting the statement that there were no fires or fireworks-related injuries in Lakewood, Council Member Piercy inquired if these statistics quoted included data from the Fire Department and Sheriff's Department. The City Manager responded by stating that data from both sources had been included and that staff was in the process of collecting data from the hospital as well.

Mayor Wagner inquired if the Public Safety Committee was going to discuss how to best deal with the proliferation of illegal fireworks. Council Member Rogers responded by stating that the Committee was expecting staff to provide additional information by late August or early September.

Mayor Wagner stated that while the illegal fireworks issue was definitely appropriate for the Public Safety Committee to deal with, he felt there was a lot more involved. He expressed concern that some facets of the matter involved should also be considered by the Planning and Environment or Recreation and Community Services Commissions and that affected community organizations should have an opportunity for input. He also expressed concern about deals being made for rental of sites for stands and how that affected the ability of local community groups to use the sale of sane and safe fireworks as an effective fundraiser.

Council Member Esquivel stated that the real problem was, and major focus should be on, the proliferation of illegal fireworks, not the regulation of safe and sane fireworks.

Council Member Rogers stated that the Public Safety Committee was trying to get a handle on what the issues were and since they dovetailed into the matter already under study by the Committee, had asked staff to do additional research to expedite the process before bringing the matter to the City Council.

Vice Mayor Van Nostran stated that City Council Standing Committees had been structured specifically for this type of study and that the focus of the Public Safety Committee was on identifying all of the problems and bringing them back to the City Council with recommendations for action.

Mayor Wagner stated that considering the initial, limited scope of the study, he wanted to be sure to address all related issues, such as the proliferation of stands and the impacts of administrative changes on the community organizations.

REVIEW OF REGULATIONS FOR THE SALE OF SAFE AND SANE FIREWORKS

Council Member Rogers stated that opportunities could be provided for Council Members outside the Committee to impact the study and suggested a staff generated memo to all Council Members on the direction of the study.

COUNCIL MEMBER PIERCY MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER ESQUIVEL SECONDED TO REFER THE MATTER BACK TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

John Kelly, TNT Fireworks, stated that the problems facing Lakewood were not unique and were being reviewed by many cities. He characterized illegal fireworks as the “evil twin” of State-approved safe and sane fireworks and advised that many within the industry were working hard to have bad products banned and to provide safety education.

Jackie Rynerson stated that the most difficult part of the July 4th fireworks celebration was that it was not just on July 4th, but started days in advance and went on until very late at night. She concluded by stating her areas of concern had been raised by the Council Members and that she would like to see regulations tightened.

Mayor Wagner also suggested looking at July 4th block parties to determine if they were generating any illegal fireworks problems.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROGERS MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE A REQUIREMENT THAT STAFF PROVIDE EACH MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL WITH A SYNOPSIS OF THE ISSUES BEING REVIEWED IN THE STAFF STUDY. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION TO AMEND WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Esquivel, Piercy, Van Nostran, Rogers and Wagner

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

Mayor Wagner stated that if there were no objections, the amendment would carry the motion as amended. It was so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Wagner adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Denise R. Hayward, CMC

City Clerk