



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
May 13, 2003

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Esquivel in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

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

STRATEGIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN 2003 UPDATE

Assistant City Manager Michael Stover displayed slides and gave a brief oral presentation based on the memorandum in the agenda packet stating that the Strategic Information Technology Plan was intended to chart forward and prioritize technology needs. He noted that the process had been coordinated by Terry Hackleman of NexLevel Information Technology, Inc., who had met with staff to assess individual department and citywide needs. He reviewed the 2003 Strategic Initiatives and provided an overview of the proposed replacement process for the 22-year-old Financial Management Information System (FMIS). He noted that an alliance was proposed with other cities using similar systems.

Vice Mayor Rogers asked about the research and development of the replacement for the FMIS system. Jonathan Klenk, ACS, stated that the proposal was to move away from an ACS proprietary system and seek off-the-shelf software that would require only limited customization. Mr. Stover noted that because the current system had been so customized, it was totally dependent on ACS programmers familiar with the system in order to keep it running and even minor changes could trigger significant expense.

Mr. Terry Hackleman of NexLevel reported on how the plan was put together with the cooperation of the departments. He stated that the plan expressed needs that reflected the business of the organization, not just technology improvements.

Responding to a question from Council Member Piercy, Mr. Stover stated there was a need to establish what off-the-shelf systems were available and how they could serve our needs. A comparison of the 'must have' features with system capabilities was necessary, so that we did not have to pay for more than we actually needed.

Mr. Klenk stated that by leveraging, with several cities seeking a new FMIS system, his firm would attract more vendors and be able to command a better price for the software.

STRATEGIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN 2003 UPDATE - Continued

Council Member Wagner inquired what the role of ACS would be given the use of an off-the-shelf system. Mr. Stover responded by stating ACS had expressed a high degree of interest in providing maintenance and service for the system. Council Member Wagner also inquired why Lakewood would step back and let one of the other cities be the first to implement the new system. Mr. Stover responded by stating that one of the other cities sees their need to convert to a new system as an urgent move, while Lakewood can learn from their implementation and receive a phase-in price break from the selected vendor. Mr. Klenk added that the implementation team would be the same for the participating cities and would gain experience with each implementation, translating into smoother and faster transitions for subsequent implementations.

VICE MAYOR ROGERS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIERCY SECONDED TO ADOPT THE STRATEGIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN 2003. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

POLICY DIRECTION REGARDING THE STATE BUDGET/LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES LEGISLATIVE DAYS

City Manager Howard Chambers reported that Governor Davis would host a news conference on May 14th present his May-revised budget. He stated that the Legislature had already approved some budget cuts and that the currently favored budget balancing plan was one that was very harmful to cities. He noted that the League of California Cities would be holding Legislative Action Days in Sacramento later in the week.

Anthony Gonsalves, Joe A. Gonsalves & Son, participating via telephone conference connection, advised that the League was interested in negotiating with Assembly Member Steinberg regarding AB 1221, which would swap some sales tax for additional property taxes in a plan to reorganize local government revenue sources, in exchange for constitutional protection of some local revenue sources.

Council Member Wagner stated that he was troubled by the handling of the Steinberg bill which he felt should be killed since it had so little benefit to the budget problem.

Patricia Alvarez Sahagun, League of California Cities, also participating via telephone conference connection, stated that although the League has argued to kill the Steinberg bill, the subject keeps coming back and that as long as the League expresses a willingness to negotiate, there is the opportunity to work together for a solution. She stated that if the League were to take a position of opposition, there would be no opportunity for discussion.

POLICY DIRECTION REGARDING THE STATE BUDGET/LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES LEGISLATIVE DAYS - Continued

Lisa Novotny, Assistant to the City Manager, stated that the League had two conditions put on their ability to negotiate an agreement on AB 1221, but now seemed to be looking for more flexibility from its members. There was some concern that if given the additional flexibility to negotiate, it could conflict with the conditions to which they had previously agreed to adhere.

Anthony Gonsalves stated that the work the cities were doing had been making a huge difference in the way the Legislature was looking at budget allocations and that cities would have to wait and see what the next move would be.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Esquivel adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk