



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
June 10, 2003

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Esquivel in the Executive Board Room 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

BUS SHELTER WORKSHOP:

City Manager Howard Chambers reported that the current franchise holder for the City's bus stop shelters had indicated that they would be getting out of that business and wanted to either remove the existing shelters or have the City take over responsibility for them. Staff had requested an extension of time in order to review the issues before presenting options to the City Council.

Public Works Director Lisa Rapp displayed slides and gave a brief oral presentation stating that the present franchise holder was Clear Channel Communications, who had indicated that they planned to abandon the bus stop shelter portion of their business in all of Los Angeles County. She reported that revenue from the franchise had ended on March 30 of this year and that the City had assumed responsibility for shelter maintenance on April 1st. She stated that there were currently too many shelters for the level of bus ridership, since they had initially been placed with advertising in mind rather than the riders. She noted some of the conditions considered by staff such as poor condition of some shelters, inadequate trash receptacles at high-usage stops, lack of landscaping, handicapped accessibility, and unattractive and inappropriately placed benches. She briefly reviewed the number of bus stops by level of ridership and the number of existing shelters and benches. She stated that staff was proposing a multi-year, phased approach to enhancing transit stops, with decisions about placement of shelters and benches based upon the ridership and location. She also stated that a new style of pre-fabricated shelter, bench and trash receptacle should be selected and displayed slides of available shelters and reviewed costs. She advised that Clear Channel would begin removing the old shelters in July and that they were willing to grant ownership of some of the existing shelter to the City, so that some of the old shelters could remain in service during the evaluation and upgrade process. Staff was recommending that 31 of the 83 existing shelters be left in place. The old shelters would be refurbished by removing the advertising display case as well as cleaning and painting where necessary.

Responding to a question from Council Member Wagner, Ms. Rapp stated that although the coating could be carved or scratched, the proposed shelters and benches were easy to clean or repair.

BUS SHELTER WORKSHOP: Continued

She confirmed for Council Member Van Nostran that the benches could be pole-mounted and affixed to the sidewalk to deter theft.

Ms. Rapp displayed slides documenting the process whereby Public Works staff had dismantled one of the existing shelters to see if it was possible to relocate and how much time it would require.

Council Member Piercy inquired if the shelters could be installed using a City crew. Ms. Rapp responded by stating that although a City crew could be used to install a small number of shelters, it would be more cost effective to use a contract crew for a broader installation.

Responding to a question from Mayor Esquivel, Ms. Rapp stated that there was a need for additional trash receptacles at certain, high usage locations.

The Public Works Director reported that staff had considered both contract and in-house maintenance options and had found that contract maintenance for this type of use was cost prohibitive. Staff was advising that the maintenance could be accomplished more effectively and economically by an in-house crew, who could be utilized for other assignments when available, such as alley clean up. She also noted that a maintenance truck for this purpose could be purchased with litter grant funds, if purchased before the end of the fiscal year. The maintenance could be funded with Proposition A, transit funds. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council authorize staff to notify Clear Channel Communications to leave 31 designated bus shelters and all benches and trash cans in place, removing the other 52 shelters; and to authorize staff to continue development of an interim refurbishment program for the remaining 31 shelters, improvement concepts in a multi-year phased approach, cost estimates and deployment plans, and a work plan and budget for in-house maintenance.

Council Member Van Nostran stated there was a need to know how many new shelters and benches could be purchased with the available funds and that he was concerned about the impacts on riders of removing all the shelters.

Council Member Piercy noted that not all locations would need a two-man crew to provide an adequate level of service. Ms. Rapp responded by stating that one member of the crew could be a maintenance trainee who could be shifted to other assignments as time permitted.

Council Member Piercy stated that the truck should be purchased while the grant funding was available.

In response to a question from Council Member Van Nostran, Ms. Rapp stated that a City crew would be responsible for removing the advertising panels from the remaining 31 shelters.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIERCY SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

BUS SHELTER WORKSHOP: Continued

Vice Mayor Rogers inquired about shelter lighting. Ms. Rapp responded by stating that while the option of wiring for the prefabricated shelter was not an expensive addition, connecting that wiring to a meter box nearby could be very costly. She also noted that lighting shelters would likely draw complaints from neighboring residences.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Esquivel adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk