



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
February 10, 2004

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:42 p.m. by Mayor Esquivel in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

INVOCATION was offered by Reverend Charles Atherton, Life Center Assembly of God Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Girl Scout Troop 154, who presented the City Council with cookies in promotion of their annual cookie sale event.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Cindy Skovgard, Executive Director of Pathways Volunteer Hospice, made a brief presentation about the history and objectives of the organization. She stated that in addition to providing support to the terminally ill and those with life-threatening conditions, the Hospice also provided grief education for adults and children, and volunteer caregivers to the frail elderly and chronically ill. She noted that Pathways provided services to over 800 clients each year.

Mayor Esquivel announced that a reception had been held prior to the meeting where the new L.A. County Fire Department Battalion Chief, Bruce Dean, had been introduced, and L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe was recognized for his support of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station expansion project.

Vice Mayor Rogers announced that he had spoken with Long Beach City Council Member Lerch regarding the Long Beach proposal for 55th Way park. He noted that while Lakewood's input had resulted in some positive changes in the proposed project, he had expressed to Council Member Lerch Lakewood's desire to have on-site supervision at the site.

Mayor Esquivel stated he had also had a conversation with Long Beach representatives who had indicated that some Lakewood concerns had been addressed, such as relocating the play courts to the center of the site and closing the facility at sundown.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

COUNCIL MEMBER PIERCY MOVED AND VICE MAYOR ROGERS SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 4.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meetings held January 13, and January 27, 2004

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands dated January 22, and January 29, 2004

RI-4 Approval of Taper Foundation Grant Request for Legends of Lakewood Structure

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.1 • AMENDING JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT FOR JOB TRAINING COORDINATION TO INCLUDE THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT

Council Member Wagner stated that the Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board had been formed for the purpose of providing job training on a regional basis, using available Federal funding. He advised that the proposed amendment to the existing joint powers agreement was to allow the City of Paramount to become an additional member city. He concluded by recommending the City Council adopt the proposed resolution to approve the amended agreement including the City of Paramount.

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-5; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD APPROVING THE THIRD AMENDED AND RESTATED JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT WITH THE INCLUSION OF PARAMOUNT AS A MEMBER CITY OF THE SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

COUNCIL MEMBER WAGNER MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2004-5. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY POLICING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Captain Dave Fender, Commander of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, stated he was very much in favor of the proposal by the Bellflower Unified School District to apply for grant funding for a deputy to be assigned to the Mayfair High School campus. He stated that such a program had been very effectively implemented on the Bellflower High School campus with a corresponding drop in calls for service at the school. He noted that since many calls to the school campus are lengthy, having an on-campus deputy frees other area patrol units, resulting in more units on the streets. He concluded by stating that he felt the \$5,000 per grant year was a good investment that would pay big dividends to the community.

Mayor Esquivel stated that he had been informed by the District the matching funds for the grant would come from the District and also from the City of Bellflower.

Council Member Piercy stated that it was his understanding that in addition to incident response, the on-campus deputy would be involved in campus activities and would also provide student counseling and other preventive measures. Captain Fender confirmed that mentoring would also be a key part of the deputy's duties.

Council Member Van Nostran stated that although the relationship with BUSD had not been without its problems, especially in relation to the efforts to form a Lakewood school district, concern for the children and their quality of life experiences in the schools was the priority. He concluded by stating that \$5,000 a year was not a lot to pay to improve school safety.

Council Member Wagner inquired about the terms of the grant and the levels of matching funds. Vice Mayor Rogers stated he was familiar with the terms of this type of State grant which required a 25 percent match.

Council Member Wagner stated that while he agreed that the School Community Policing Partnership Program would indeed provide definite benefits to the school and its students, he did not want to lose sight of the fact that providing security at school sites was the responsibility of the school district and not the responsibility of the City. He further stated that BUSD was only one of the four districts serving Lakewood students and that about half of the students attending Mayfair were actually Bellflower residents. He expressed concern for program funding sources once the three-year grant had ended and for requests from the other districts or for other school sites.

Responding to questions from Vice Mayor Rogers, Captain Fender stated that if the City did not agree to be a partner in the grant application, he did not think the application would go forward. He advised that truancy response would play a significant part in the deputy's duties and would result in fewer community crimes in the areas adjacent to the school. The Captain also confirmed that any cost escalation would be built into the agreement and would not be passed on to the City.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: Continued

Vice Mayor Rogers stated that although he agreed with Council Member Wagner that security at the schools was the responsibility of the school districts, the focus should be on the kids, not on the district. He noted that it would be a shame to lose the chance for improved educational opportunities at Mayfair when they were available for \$5,000. He also noted that this would provide the chance for the City to work cooperatively with BUSD as well as the opportunity for the BUSD administration and board to respond with reciprocity.

COUNCIL MEMBER PIERCY MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN SECONDED TO ASSIST THE GRANT APPLICATION BY PROVIDING \$5,000 IN MATCHING FUNDS FOR EACH OF THE THREE YEARS OF THE GRANT. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Wagner

At 8:24 p.m., the Regular Meeting of the City Council was recessed for the Meeting of the Lakewood Redevelopment Agency. At 8:25 p.m., the City Council Meeting was reconvened.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Joel Barton offered his thanks to the staff at the Lakewood Sheriff's Station and complimented their good work.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Esquivel adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m. to Tuesday, February 24, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk