



# Minutes

## Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held  
June 6, 2006

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**MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER** at 5:02 p.m. by Mayor Van Nostran in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

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

### **PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR FY 2006-07**

City Manager Howard Chambers stated the staff would present the operating budget for the next fiscal year, the second year of a two-year budget, with adjustments for conditions that had altered since the budget was adopted last year.

Assistant Director of Finance Ronnie Campbell displayed slides and provided an overview of the proposed budget and significant amendments. He noted changes and anticipated changes in the State and County budgets which could impact the City's \$55.2 million budget. He reported that sales tax was predicted to increase above original projections and continuing improvement in the economy.

Public Works Director Lisa Rapp reviewed the capital improvement projects beginning with the City's ongoing project for Local Streets And Alleys Resurfacing.

Responding to a question from Mayor Van Nostran, Ms. Rapp stated that since the cost of asphalt was directly related to the price of oil, costs had risen sharply over the last couple of years. She noted that although the City could contract for additional streets at the current bid price, resurfacing of streets needed to be timed to follow hardscape repairs to curbs and gutters.

Council Member Croft inquired if fewer streets than planned would be resurfaced due to increased material costs. Ms. Rapp replied that the project had been bid as planned and that if the bids exceeded the amount budgeted for the project, the City Council would have the option of either reducing the scope of the project or allocating additional funds.

Ms. Rapp advised that the contract for the current year's Water Main Replacement project had just been awarded and the following year was now in the design process. Major Street Resurfacing projects included Del Amo Boulevard, pending completion of work in progress by Southern California Gas Company; Paramount Boulevard, currently under design by the County of Los Angeles; and Bloomfield Avenue, once utility undergrounding has been completed. She noted that Hardscape Repairs were proceeding well, with nearly 1,500

**OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR FY 2006-07 - Continued**

locations completed in preparation for street overlay. Hardscape repair had also been completed on two priority blocks and 234 isolated locations. She noted that with additional funding, several more priority blocks could be completed next year.

Responding to questions from the City Council, Ms. Rapp stated that isolated locations were defined as individual residential addresses in need of sidewalk and/or curb and gutter repair. She also noted that Castana Avenue had been one of the target blocks, and that with the use of creative solutions such as bridging or meandering the sidewalks, many of the existing mature oak trees had been saved.

She covered other projects, such as HVAC Improvements for the Centre; Median Renovations; Roof Improvements; Weingart Senior Center Renovations; McCormick Pool Improvements; Park Fence Replacement; Water Emergency Generator; Security Systems; Centre Refurbishment; Sports Lighting; ADA Right-of-way Improvements; and the Destruction of Water Well 11A.

Responding to a question from Mayor Van Nostran, Water Resources Director Jim Glancy stated that in addition to Well 11A which was being abandoned due to low production and water quality, the site had housed an additional well that had been previously abandoned and the site was not large enough to accommodate a new well.

Mr. Glancy confirmed for Vice Mayor DuBois that the City Council would have the option of offering the City-owned parcel for sale after the destruction process was completed.

Responding to questions from Council Member Rogers, Ms. Rapp stated that last year's budgeted amount for hardscape repairs had been increased by the City Council from \$200,000 to \$400,000, enabling staff to repair the target block locations. She also stated that with additional funding for the next fiscal year, more target blocks could be added to the program.

Council Member Rogers inquired about the Median Improvement Project. Ms. Rapp stated that in addition to the Del Amo Boulevard west median project planned for fiscal year 2006-07, the Centralia Street project would be carried over from the current fiscal year.

The City Manager clarified that any additional allocations made by the City Council for these projects would come from reserves for capital improvements, not from the General Fund reserves.

Council Member Croft pointed out that an additional allocation had also previously been made for the Tree Planting project and inquired if additional locations for tree planting had been identified. Ms. Rapp stated that the City's contract tree trimming service had completed a new tree inventory identifying locations still in need of a City tree.

At 5:30 p.m., the Adjourned Regular Meeting of the City Council was recessed for the Meeting of the Lakewood Redevelopment Agency. At 5:32 p.m., the City Council Meeting was reconvened.

**OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR FY 2006-07 - Continued**

Community Development Director Chuck Ebner stated that the planning process for the Civic Center Master Plan was proceeding. The general site layout had been developed and meetings were scheduled to look at more specific space planning, particularly the location of department in relation to each other.

The Director of Public Works stated that a design contract had been approved for the replacement of the Activity Building at Boyar Park. The basic floor plan would be presented to the Park Development Committee in preparation for future funding opportunities. She stated that it was currently the highest unfunded priority for facility improvements.

Ms. Rapp also stated that construction drawings were nearly complete for the Centre Waterproofing project. She noted that the leaks detected were not coming from the roofing, but from areas such as the canopy attachments and balcony decks. She advised that the work could not be scheduled before next July, as it required careful coordination due to weather conditions and Centre event scheduling.

The Public Works Director also provided a brief update on the Sheriff Station Renovation project, the rationale for completion of a comprehensive Traffic Signal Study, and the City Monument Sign project.

The Director of Water Resources provided a status report on the ASR Well Drilling project, noting that 24-hour drilling had begun the previous Monday.

In response to a question from Mayor Van Nostran, Ms. Rapp stated that to date, 1300 trees had been planted, with 200 left to be planted this fiscal year.

Mayor Van Nostran stated that if the City Council was interested in increasing the allocation for tree planting, it should be done at this time.

Vice Mayor DuBois stated she would like to see more done on hardscape as well.

Council Member Croft noted that in years past, there had been times when there was not enough funding available to fully fund the hardscape program and that he would support an additional allocation at this time to move the program forward.

Council Member Rogers agreed with additional funding for the hardscape program, both the target blocks and isolated location repairs, noting that this was a priority for many residents.

Finance Director Larry Schroeder advised that in the previous budget year, the City Council had allocated an additional \$160,000 for street tree planting and an additional \$200,000 for hardscape repairs.

The Public Works Director clarified that there were two separate allocations for hardscape repairs, one allocation of \$400,000 that was concentrated on repairs in the paving areas and another allocation of \$200,000 that was used for isolated location and target block repairs.

**OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR FY 2006-07 - Continued**

Council Member Rogers stated he would support additional allocations matching last year's level.

Vice Mayor DuBois asked about the possibility of moving the paving program ahead more quickly. Ms. Rapp stated that the program was carefully balanced so that freshly paved streets were not torn up later for water main replacement. She noted that if a street was not slated for water main replacement for a number of years, it was scheduled for paving now.

Council Member Croft stated he would like to see a more detailed report on the nexus between water main replacement and residential street resurfacing.

In response to a question from Mayor Van Nostran, Mr. Glancy stated that the water main replacement program was a very long term program that could take as much as 30 years to complete due to the expense to replace sections of water main. He noted that the City was currently replacing about two miles of water main each year. He also stated that although the water utility retained some bonding ability to raise needed funding, State and Federal regulations on water were somewhat unpredictable and funding ability should be kept in reserve in case additional water treatment equipment was required.

**COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND VICE MAYOR DUBOIS SECONDED TO INCREASE THE ALLOCATION FOR TREE PLANTING TO \$240,000 AND FOR ISOLATED LOCATION AND TARGET BLOCK HARDSCAPE TO \$400,000. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:**

**AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: DuBois, Rogers, Croft and Van Nostran**

**NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Esquivel**

At 6:06 p.m., Mayor Van Nostran called for a brief recess. At 6:12 p.m., the City Council Meeting was reconvened.

**UPDATE BRIEFING ON JULY 4TH DEPLOYMENT AND ENFORCEMENT**

Captain Dave Fender, Commander of the Lakewood Sheriff Station, gave a presentation of the law enforcement deployment plan for July 4th. He stated that the 4-phase plan had begun in April with investigators reviewing all previous tips and citations issued in 2005, looking for problem persons or areas. He stated that investigators would be using a sting-type operation to find persons selling or purchasing for resale, large quantities of illegal fireworks. He noted that it had been stressed to all station personnel that although in normal circumstances calls regarding fireworks would not be considered of the highest priority, during this July 4th period they would be considered serious. He reported that 48 additional deputies, with vehicles and communications equipment would be available to the Lakewood station on July 4th. Personnel and logistics would be broken down in quadrants, with deputies visible on every street.

**BRIEFING ON JULY 4TH DEPLOYMENT AND ENFORCEMENT - Continued**

City Attorney Steve Skolnik reported that in response to action taken by the City Council several weeks ago, a resolution had been drafted formalizing a reward program relating to illegal fireworks tips. The Public Safety Committee had reviewed the proposed program and recommended that it focus on cases involving the sales or possession of large quantities of illegal fireworks rather than small violations. Therefore, the program had been crafted to provide for a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest on felony charges and granted the City Manager the authority to establish the reward amount based on the circumstances of any given offense.

Council Member Rogers stated that as a member of the Public Safety Committee, he had not initially been focused on only felony cases, but agreed with the logic of cutting of the local supply of illegal fireworks and felt it was an appropriate adjustment to the proposed program.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2006-27; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD ESTABLISHING A REWARD PROGRAM FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST ON FELONY CHARGES RELATED TO UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION OR SALE OF ILLEGAL FIREWORKS**

**VICE MAYOR DUBOIS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2006-27. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:**

**AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Esquivel, DuBois, Rogers, Croft and Van Nostran**

**NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None**

Assistant City Manager Michael Stover presented the components of the public education campaign. He advised that there were five objectives of the campaign: 1) inform that violations of the law would be taken seriously; 2) soften resistance; 3) educate community about Lakewood-specific laws; 4) clearly differentiate between legal and illegal fireworks; and 5) encourage good citizenship regarding fireworks by not using illegals and not tolerating their use by others. He stated the campaign would include mailings, television spots, banners, and staff presence at City events.

Vice Mayor DuBois commended the staff for doing a tremendous job with the campaign of interpreting the City Council's intent.

**REVIEW OF NPDES PERMIT PROCESS**

The Director of Public Works displayed slides and provided a brief overview of the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit process. She advised that there were 84 cities that were co-permittees with the County on the NPDES permit that was due to expire in December. A requirement for renewal of the permit included the filing of a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD.) The City had the option of joining with the County of Los Angeles or filing its own ROWD. She noted that some cities were joining with the County and filing a letter of exception to select provisions of the County's ROWD, and that relatively

**REVIEW OF NPDES PERMIT PROCESS** - Continued

few cities were choosing to file an individual Report. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council authorize joining the County of Los Angeles ROWD.

The City Attorney advised that it was impractical for the City to prepare its own document, separate from the County and that the County's ROWD did not contain anything that the City had found to be altogether unacceptable.

VICE MAYOR DUBOIS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Esquivel, DuBois, Rogers, Croft and Van Nostran

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

**LAKWOOD CIVIC CENTER BLOCK PARTY UPDATE**

Recreation and Community Services Director Joan Biegel displayed slides and gave a brief presentation regarding the Civic Center Block Party scheduled for July 1st. She stated that the Family Fun Zone, which had been very popular last year, would be expanded; more seating would be available; there would be additional staffing providing information for the event; food sales would begin earlier; and pre-sale tickets would be available through City Hall. She concluded by stating that an estimated 15,000 people would be in attendance.

Council Member Esquivel requested the additional funding allocation vote be reconsidered.

MAYOR VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER ROGERS SECONDED TO RECONSIDER THE MOTION TO INCREASE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Esquivel, DuBois, Rogers, Croft and Van Nostran

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

MAYOR VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER ROGERS SECONDED TO INCREASE THE ALLOCATION FOR TREE PLANTING TO \$240,000 AND FOR HARDSCAPE TO \$400,000. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Esquivel, DuBois, Rogers, Croft and Van Nostran

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** None

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**CLOSED SESSION:**

At 7:05 p.m. the City Council recessed to a closed session, pursuant to Government Code §54957.6, for a conference with its labor negotiator, City Manager Howard Chambers, regarding negotiations with the Lakewood City Employees' Association. At 7:17 p.m. the meeting reconvened.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Van Nostran adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m. to Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC  
City Clerk