



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
February 10, 2009

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:31 p.m. by Mayor Croft in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

INVOCATION was offered by Dr. John Bonner, Chaplain Emeritus to the City Council

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Council Member Larry Van Nostran

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Croft congratulated the organizers and volunteers who had coordinated last Saturday's Lakewood Mug Run 10k/5k event, an annual event co-produced by the Soroptimist Club of Lakewood/Long Beach and the Lakewood Sheriff's Station.

Council Member DuBois, a Soroptimist Club member, reported that over 600 runners had participated in the event, with proceeds being used to benefit the community through various service organizations. She expressed appreciation to the City, the Lakewood Center Mall, the Sheriff's Station staff and all of the volunteers for the success of the event.

Mayor Croft announced that Lakewood's award-winning CityTV production unit was celebrating its 25th anniversary.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

COUNCIL MEMBER ESQUIVEL MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 5.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held January 27, 2009

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands

RI-4 Approval of Meeting Reports and Authorizations Pursuant to AB1234

ROUTINE ITEMS: Continued

RI-5 Approval of Amendment to Engineering Agreement for Wading Pool Drain Covers

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.1 • PROJECT SHEPHERD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REVIEW

Recreation and Community Services Director Lisa Litzinger displayed slides and made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda. She reported that Project Shepherd had been assisting Lakewood's families in need since 1973 and that due to the economic times, requests for assistance had gone up 19 percent for the 2008 program year. She noted that 23 area schools had participated through the collection of cans and food items. The Program's Teddy Bear Trees allowed residents to select a particular child and purchase the gift specifically requested by the child. She also noted that emergency assistance was also made available throughout the year through Palms Park and the Burns Community Center. She concluded by stating that the program was made possible through a cooperative effort by the City, the Lakewood Rotary Club, and Lakewood churches, businesses, schools and many private citizens who had contributed an estimated 1,500 hours in support of the program.

Responding to a question from Mayor Croft, Ms. Litzinger stated that residents in need of assistance throughout the year could apply for help through either Palms Park or the Burns Community Center, and that there were organizations in the community that would respond with food donations should City supplies begin to run low.

Council Member DuBois remarked on how fortunate Lakewood was as a community to have the kind of residents with the heart to volunteer to help others.

3.2 • JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT FOR REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Assistant City Manager Sandi Ruyle gave a presentation based on the memo in the agenda and stated a steering committee had been formed with the goal of developing a modern integrated communication system to link all first responders in the Los Angeles County Region. The Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Committee had proposed a joint powers agreement which would form an authority and establish a board of directors to oversee the LA-RICS operation, and cities wishing to join were required to adopt a resolution approving the agreement. She noted that the City would also retain the option to withdraw its membership at any time prior to the final funding plan, should there be a determination that it was not in the City's interests to continue to participate. She stated that the establishment of such a communications system would not only greatly enhance public safety in the entire region, but would allow for better responses

3.2 • JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT FOR REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM - Continued

in the event of a major disaster. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council adopt the proposed resolution approving the LA-RICS Joint Powers Agreement authorizing membership in the LA-RICS authority, authorizing execution of the agreement, and requesting that the City Manager report back to the City Council prior to the final adoption of the funding plan.

Responding to a question from Council Member Van Nostran, Ms. Ruyle stated that in addition to the seats on the Board of Directors that would go to the largest law enforcement and fire departments in the County, the California Contract Cities Association would have a Board seat and possibly an at large seat that would be filled by an elected official from a member city.

In response to a question from Council Member Esquivel, Ms. Ruyle stated that once the Authority's Board had established the cost for the system, the City Council would be presented with the opportunity to either continue or terminate its membership.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-2; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD APPROVING THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (LA-RICS) JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (JPA) THUS AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE LA-RICS AUTHORITY; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE JPA AGREEMENT

COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS MOVED AND VICE MAYOR ROGERS SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2009-2. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.3 • MID-YEAR BUDGET STATUS REPORT

Administrative Services Director Diane Perkin displayed slides and provided a review of the status of the City's budget at the half-way point in the fiscal year. She showed a comparison of statistics from previous recessionary periods, and stated that although the current financial statistics were bad, they were not actually the worst ever experienced. She reported that the current economic crunch had been characterized as a consumer recession, with many people just not out buying anything. She advised that in reaction to projected decreases in property and sales tax, all City departments had looked at their expenditures and tightened them to be in line with project revenues, but staff would continue to analyze and look for cost savings. She concluded by stating that at mid-year, the City of Lakewood was in good fiscal condition, but concern remained that even though the City had been able to maintain its own healthy financial status, it could still be negatively impacted by actions of State legislators.

3.3 • MID-YEAR BUDGET STATUS REPORT - Continued

Mayor Croft inquired about a figure in the table which showed a negative number for consumer spending. Ms. Perkin stated that since lending institutions were not making much available for borrowing, consumers had started saving their money.

Council Member Van Nostran noted that residents should be aware of a recent scam that involved the use of an official-looking document appearing to be a bill from the County Assessor's Office.

Vice Mayor Rogers congratulated staff for keeping the City in good financial shape. He referenced the State budget crisis and lack of decision-making by State representatives, calling it both ridiculous and tragic. He requested staff seek opportunities to encourage our State representatives to take action to resolve the budget issues.

3.4 • COSTCO PROJECT UPDATE

Community Development Director Jack Gonsalves displayed slides and provided an overview and history of the construction of the Costco store going in on the east side of the Lakewood Center Mall. He concluded by stating that the store was scheduled for grand opening on February 26th.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Croft advised that correspondence had been received from Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa regarding Measure R that had been passed by the voter on November 4, 2008. The Measure imposed a half cent sales tax in Los Angeles County for transit projects. Mayor Villaraigosa encouraged all LA County cities to work in cooperation for effective implementation of Measure R.

At 8:32 p.m., the Regular Meeting of the City Council was recessed for the Meeting of the Lakewood Redevelopment Agency. At 8:33 p.m., the City Council Meeting was reconvened.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Yahaira Ortiz, introduced herself as the new local representative for Assemblyman Tony Mendoza.

City Council Minutes

February 10, 2009

Page 5

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Croft adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC

City Clerk