



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Special Meeting held
June 9, 2009

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:03 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

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

BUDGET STUDY SESSION

Administrative Services Director Diane Perkin displayed slides and made a presentation on changes in fiscal conditions since the previous budget session. She reported that there had been signs that the recession had slowed a bit, but not stopped. She noted that although the problems with the State budget were a major concern, Lakewood had a long history of revenue exceeding expenditures which put the City in a fairly good position to weather the economic times. She previewed proposed appropriations, contract services and the Federal stimulus funds for which application were being made. She reviewed maneuvers utilized by the State in the past to borrow or take money away from cities and stated that at present, there were no proposed cuts in City services and continued investment in infrastructure. She stated that included in the budget proposal was an increase in building permit fees, as the current fees were not adequate to cover the cost of inspection by the contracted, County inspectors.

Responding to questions from Mayor Rogers and Council Member DuBois, Community Development Director Jack Gonsalves stated that for a typical, small residential remodel, the proposed increase would raise fees by about \$50.

Council Member Croft inquired how the increased fees compared to other area cities. Mr. Gonsalves stated that Lakewood would still be approximately 25 percent below the rates charged by Los Angeles County and that most area cities either matched or exceeded the County rates. He noted that the slow-down in commercial development had impacted the program, as large commercial projects usually helped to balance out residential inspection services, which tended to absorb more resources.

In response to a question from Council Member DuBois, Ms. Perkin stated that the fall back position for the City in the event of a major take-away by the State would be to re-examine capital projects that were not tied to grant funding.

Ms. Perkin reviewed how Redevelopment Agency revenues impacted the City's budget process now and in future years.

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BUDGET STUDY SESSION - Continued

Redevelopment Agency Attorney Tom Parrington stated that Lakewood's Redevelopment Project Areas would be approaching the end of their active lives and ability to incur debt for future projects.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk