



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
April 28, 2015

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Wood in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Jeff Wood
Vice Mayor Ron Piazza
Council Member Steve Croft
Council Member Diane DuBois
Council Member Todd Rogers

WATER CONSERVATION STUDY SESSION

James Glancy, Director of Water Resources, displayed slides and reviewed the actions taken by the Governor and the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the emergency drought declaration which included water use restrictions such as limiting outdoor watering; prohibiting water runoff from landscape areas; prohibiting the application of water to hardscape areas; prohibiting the use of potable water in a decorative fountain or water feature unless part of a re-circulating system and enforcing water use restrictions by issuing fines. Newly added provisions included prohibiting outdoor irrigation during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation; notifying customers of water leaks within their control; serving water to restaurant customers only upon request; and providing hotel and motel guests with the option of less frequent laundering of linens during their stay. He explained that the State Board's Executive Order applied to all Californians and would take effect immediately upon approval of the regulation by the Office of Administrative Law on May 15th and included restrictions on irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians and outside of newly constructed homes and buildings not delivered by drip or microspray.

City Attorney Steve Skolnik explained the decision by the California appeals court declaring San Juan Capistrano's tiered water rate system unconstitutional. Under the ruling, the rates must comply with Proposition 218, a law that required government fees be set in accordance with service costs.

Mr. Glancy detailed some of the exceptions to the State Board's requirements such as recycled water use and drip or in-ground irrigation systems. He stated that the recycled water system had been operational for over 25 years; had served 70% of the City's facilities, five schools and one commercial grower; and had sold 580 acre feet of recycled water in fiscal year 2013-14, saving enough drinking water to serve over 1,000 Lakewood families for one year. Expansion of the system had an estimated cost of \$7.25 million. A study conducted by Willdan analyzed the potential for expansion of the recycled system to reach remaining parks and parkway panels and two additional schools.

WATER CONSERVATION STUDY SESSION - Continued

Administrative Services Director Diane Perkin reported on the fiscal impact of water conservation in terms of revenue, metered rate, consumption and weather. She projected a rate increase of ten percent per year through fiscal year 2020 and identified some of the Capital Improvement Projects that would be deferred.

Park Superintendent Philip Lopez described the impacts of water conservation on the City's landscape and recreation programs. He illustrated some of the effects of reduced watering on the ball fields, medians and parks. He identified water conserving options such as drought tolerant planting, decomposed granite, weather station with irrigation control, and artificial turf on the medians; changing the irrigation method for trees; and the use of recycled water and a water wagon in high profile areas.

Lisa Rapp, Director of Public Works, reported that a Prop 84 Grant had been submitted through the Gateway Management Authority for a project to re-landscape the side panels on Paramount Boulevard and that Willdan had been requested to provide a proposal for a conceptual landscape design to be considered as a new potential standard for medians.

Lisa Litzinger, Director of Recreation and Community Services, discussed the water conservation efforts related to City programs and at the pools such as continuing to hold no water special events or activities at the parks, planning no changes to the aquatics programs, and keeping the urban stream at the Centre turned off. She stated that by using the neighborhood park concept and adjusting the wading pool schedules, a 33% reduction in water usage had been achieved from 2008 to 2013.

Tree and Hardscape Manager Grant Pickering explained the effects of the drought on City trees stating that if the trees did not receive adequate irrigation, their physical condition would decline affecting residents and users of streets and parks, Lakewood's status as a Tree City USA and the costs associated with removal and future trimmings. He added that the Master Tree List Plan would require updating to include more drought tolerant tree species.

Assistant Director of Community Development, Patrick McGuckian, identified water conservation practices such as encouraging the uses of drought tolerant landscaping and water conserving irrigation technology. Additional conservation efforts included the enforcement of the required retrofit of residential remodeling projects with low volume flush toilets and low volume shower heads.

Neighborhood Preservation Manager Sharon Guidry stated that there would be continued code enforcement of property nuisances thereby requiring that trees and shrubs be watered; that alternatives to existing landscaping be considered; and that dead lawns be replaced with shrubs and drought tolerant landscaping.

Mr. Glancy reported that the public education campaign targeted only outdoor water use, turf removal, subsurface irrigation and water-wise device rebates.

WATER CONSERVATION STUDY SESSION - Continued

Public Information Officer Bill Grady reviewed the City's efforts to communicate water use restrictions to residents and businesses by explaining that there had been an ongoing public information campaign along with the online eMagazine and Lakewood Community News articles regarding water rules, rebates and conservation tips and signage when recycled water had been used.

Ms. Perkin and Mr. Glancy added that some of the planned methods of communicating the restrictions included a modified water bill to compare current and past usage; the development of separate letters for the different types of water customers: residential, businesses and sit-down restaurants and lounges; offering the option to install advanced meter technology as a fee for service; and information in the recreation catalog.

Mr. Glancy concluded by stating that it was recommended that the City Council appropriate \$50,000 from the General Fund for advanced weather-based irrigation controllers.

In response to questions from Mayor Wood and Council Member Croft regarding tree trimming modifications, Mr. Pickering reported that options had been discussed with West Coast Arborists to reduce the volume of the City's trees to reduce water use noting that some species of trees required a certain amount of trimming for overall preservation.

Ms. Rapp added that the Street Tree Master Plan would be reviewed for recommended changes and updates to include more drought tolerant species.

Mr. Glancy and Mr. Lopez confirmed for Council Member DuBois that drip and microspray systems could easily be installed onto existing systems with quick conversion kits and that additional instructions on water-saving landscaping tips could be found on the City's website.

Responding to Council Member DuBois' inquiry, Ms. Guidry stated that continued enforcement of brown lawns would be based on complaints received.

Council Member Rogers requested additional information be provided at a future study session on the safety of the ballparks with reduced watering, the status on the bill regarding brown lawns, and the status of Lakewood's watering system upgrade options.

Vice Mayor Piazza requested a presentation on the usage and benefits of recycled water in the City.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROGERS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROPRIATE \$50,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR ADVANCED WEATHER-BASED IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: DuBois, Rogers, Piazza, Croft and Wood

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

City Council Minutes

April 28, 2015

Page 4

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Wood adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC

City Clerk