



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Special Meeting held
June 14, 2016

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

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

BUDGET STUDY SESSION

City Manager Howard Chambers stated that the purpose of the session was to provide a budget review which included the elements of economic overview; water capital projects, rates and fees; General Plan and fee; and various capital projects.

Administrative Services Director Diane Perkin displayed slides and made a presentation by outlining the National economic forecast, the State budget and fiscal condition and activity in the Los Angeles region. She reported that there had been a rise in property values and a drop in unemployment rates. Ms. Perkin explained that residual property tax from the dissolution of the redevelopment and sales tax receipts were projected to increase modestly over the next two years. She reviewed the proposed budget including revenues and expenditures and noted that the City budgeted conservatively keeping costs in check.

Water Resources Director Jason Wen reported on the Water Resources Budgets and Projects noting that water production had increased and expenses had been reduced due to less pumping as a consequence of conservation and, in turn, resulted in reduced electricity use.

Ms. Perkin discussed the water rate adjustment, describing it as a consumption rate change, which would reduce the number of free units of water from five to four and would increase the meter rate. She confirmed for Vice Mayor DuBois that there would be a five dollar increase and stated that the City's water customers had received detailed notification of the proposed changes.

Mr. Wen detailed the proposed changes to the water fees which were specific to the customer and based on actual costs. Some of the fee types included installation, meter testing, customer service, miscellaneous account related services, new service and backflow.

Mayor Piazza stated that these fees were not a monthly fee but rather a fee for the actual cost of one-time services.

BUDGET STUDY SESSION - Continued

In response to Council Member Wood's concerns regarding a proposed increase to fees for new customers and reduced fees for delinquent accounts, Council Member Croft and Ms. Perkin responded by stating that some of the anticipated costs had taken into account the potential for instances of mistaken water service shutoffs and considered easing customers into the increases.

Mr. Wen continued by reporting on the essential nature of water to be safe, reliable and cost-effective. He identified some of the water resources capital projects such as a Water Master Plan and a Water Rate Study. He stated that the Water Committee had recommended the development of a "pay as you go" plan to finance capital projects.

Council Member Rogers concurred with Council Member Croft's comments regarding the importance of developing a water master plan to provide guidance with the City's water resources in terms of flow rate capacity, interagency connections and other such factors.

Community Development Director Sonia Southwell explained that with regards to the General Plan update, there was no mandatory requirement for all the elements to be updated on a schedule in a manner similar to the Housing Element. However, there were some changes in the law that would prompt an update to some of the elements. She stated that a revision to the fees would cover the cost of preparing a General Plan every sixteen years and a revision to the Development Review Board fees would cover the cost of providing DRB services.

Public Works Director Lisa Rapp stated that preparation of plans for the Burns Community Center renovation, with an estimated cost of \$2.1 million, were underway, and included interior and exterior renovation. She also provided highlights to proposed improvements at the Centre; Bolivar Park play areas; the water capture projects at Bolivar and Mayfair parks; and the Lakewood Equestrian Center.

At 7:28 p.m., the Special Meeting of the City Council was recessed for the Regular Meeting of the City Council. At 8:29 p.m., the Special Meeting was reconvened.

Lisa Litzinger, Director of Recreation and Community Services, discussed the options of the lease with the current tenant at the Lakewood Equestrian Center noting the importance of her cooperation and the need to invest in the property.

Ms. Rapp described some of the smaller facility projects which included the Meter/Print Shop Roof and HVAC; park monument signs; Civic Center parking lot resurfacing; and Mayfair Park pavilion carpet replacement. Some of the continuing design/development facility projects included Rynerson Park; Centre AV equipment and infrastructure; Monte Verde Park doors and floor replacement; Mayfair snack bar; Weingart Senior Center; Nixon Yard Master Plan, City Hall Interior. Projects which were budgeted annually included fire and security systems, park hardscape repairs, fence projects, park restroom refresh.

BUDGET STUDY SESSION - Continued

She identified some of the new annual projects including electrical arc flash evaluation and upgrades, ADA improvements, new bricks and repairs and continuing maintenance of F3D jet at the Veterans Memorial Plaza. She provided a brief listing of the public right of way projects at various locations.

Ms. Perkin concluded the presentation by reviewing the Budget Focus Areas which included budget for sustainability; keep Lakewood safe; enhance parks and open space; preserve the neighborhood quality of life; foster a sense of community; promote economic vitality; support a caring community; highlight government transparency; defend traditional right to contract; and protect the environment.

Responding to an inquiry from Vice Mayor DuBois, Ms. Perkin explained that the City did benefit from online purchases from retailers such as Amazon by receiving a percentage of the revenue from the shared sales tax pool collected by Los Angeles County.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Piazza adjourned the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk