



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
September 12, 2017

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:32 p.m. by Mayor DuBois in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

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

ABSENT: Council Member Ron Piazza (excused)

CONSIDERATION OF ELECTION DATES (SB 415) STUDY SESSION

Steve Skolnik, for the City Attorney, reported that SB 415 had been adopted by the State Legislature in 2015 in an attempt to increase voter participation. The legislation required cities with insufficient voter turnout to change their election dates to either June or November of even years, and taking action prior to January 1, 2018, to adopt a plan to consolidate its election with the statewide election no later than November 2022. He noted that pursuant to the Elections Code, no term of office could be increased or decreased by more than twelve months limiting the City's options for compliance. Since Lakewood's municipal elections were held in March of odd numbered years, changing the election date forward to June or November of the following even year would extend City Council terms by more than twelve months. The City's two main options for compliance would require moving elections back and reducing term lengths by either four months to November or by nine months to June of the preceding even-numbered year. Mr. Skolnik added that there was pending legislation, SB 568 (Lara), which would change the June primary to March of even years, thereby enabling cities, like Lakewood, with March of odd-numbered year elections, to move forward and increase terms by twelve months. He explained that another consideration pertained to the availability of the elections consultant, Martin and Chapman, to provide services and supplies if their operations ceased to exist after the 2019 elections, resulting in a lack of resources should the City opt to delay implementation until 2022. He stated it was recommended that the City Council provide direction as to the timing of the transitioning with the appropriate action to effectuate the synchronization of the City's general municipal election with a future statewide election by the statutory deadline.

In response to Council Member Wood's inquiry regarding the existence of other elections service providers, the City Clerk stated that having researched the options, there were no comparable elections consultants or vendors available in southern California.

Vice Mayor Croft and Council Member Wood requested data on the number of offices and measures included in the June and November ballots as well as voter turnout statistics from the last four statewide elections.

CONSIDERATION OF ELECTION DATES (SB 415) STUDY SESSION - Continued
City Manager Thaddeus McCormack stated that SB568, if approved, would move through the legislature by the end of the week and would then be presented to the Governor for approval.

Responding to Council Members' comments on their preferences, Mr. Skolnik stated that even with the passage of the Lara bill, implementation of the election date change could be delayed to include one more election cycle in March of 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor DuBois adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk