



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
July 10, 2018

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:36 p.m. by Mayor Croft in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

INVOCATION was offered by Reverend Olu Harding, Lakewood First United Methodist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Boy Scout Troop 65

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Croft expressed gratitude to those involved in organizing the recent Civic Center Block Party event, which had been well attended. He also thanked the dozens of Sheriff's personnel and City staff who worked on the July 4th holiday for their efforts to keep Lakewood residents safe.

Council Member Wood congratulated the Lakewood Dirtbags, who competed in Seattle at the U.S.A. Special Olympic Games, and brought home the silver medal.

Mayor Croft introduced the Commander of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, Captain Rick Harpham. Captain Harpham introduced the new Lakewood Service Area Lieutenant Ciro Racowschi, a 24-year veteran of the Sheriff's Department. He thanked the City Council, City Manager Thaddeus McCormack and Director of Public Safety, Joshua Yordt, for their leadership, dedication and commitment to public safety efforts. The Captain provided a public safety update noting that overall Part 1 crimes, which included homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, grand theft auto and arson, were down by over twenty percent in the City for the first half of the year. He stated that suspects were in custody for two homicides and that there were seven more rapes reported this year compared to last year through the first six months noting that there was only one reported rape where the victim did not previously know the suspect and had met on social media. Captain Harpham added that for the first half of the year, there were considerable decreases in robbery, aggravated assault and burglary in Lakewood. He further reported that Lakewood Center continued its downward trend in Part 1 crime incidents citing that the ongoing partnership between Mall management, Mall security, the City and Lakewood station helped to ensure that the Mall remained a safe place to shop and take the family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: - Continued

In attending neighborhood watch meetings and talking with members of the community, the Captain explained that traffic safety was often highlighted. He stated that the city hired 96 hours of overtime for motorcycle officers for traffic safety noting that they targeted problematic areas and traffic concerns and that so far, 3,113 citations had been issued with a decrease in traffic collisions. He reported that the Sheriff's Department, in collaboration with the City, had prepared for the 4th of July with public safety announcements and the posting of the electronic message board at various locations throughout Lakewood. He added that numerous citations were issued and a significant amount of illegal fireworks were seized stating that such use appeared to be a systemic problem throughout the southland. He stated that the Lakewood station crime analysts were tracking thefts of packages from homes and that so far this year, there had been 27 thefts from front porches. He acknowledged the positive impacts of video surveillance and alert systems to help reduce some of the occurrences of package thefts. He reported on the recent arrest made by Lakewood Station personnel of an individual believed to be responsible for multiple package thefts noting that since that time, there had not been a single reported incident. He provided an example of the dedication and professionalism of the men and women of the Lakewood station by detailing an incident involving a residential structure fire where deputies entered a smoke-filled home in search of a missing six-year-old boy, who was later found safe with a neighbor. He stated that the deputies demonstrated courage and teamwork at great personal risk.

Council Member Wood commended the Sheriff's and Fire Department personnel for their efforts leading up to the July 4th holiday. He noted the rise in the use of illegal fireworks and suggested the possibility of the City Manager leading a regional collaboration and working with the State legislature and the State Fire Marshal to prevent such illegal fireworks from entering the City.

Mr. McCormack responded by stating that outreach efforts could be made to Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon and with the California Highway Patrol as well, to interdict the illegal fireworks coming from other places.

Vice Mayor Rogers commented that the days leading up to July 4th seemed a little quieter and attributed the holiday being in the middle of the week as a possible reason for the shorter duration. He expressed being heartened by the fact that the public education campaign of taking a more aggressive stance had been a successful effort and stated that that over \$54,000 in citations had been written. He indicated that in some of the neighboring cities, where all fireworks, not just the Safe and Sane variety, were illegal, their availability and use had not been hindered and underscored the overarching issue of civil disobedience.

Council Member Piazza remarked on the visibility of illegal fireworks from the airplane when he arrived at LAX and noted the participation of neighboring cities as well as the Sheriff's Department as essential to dealing with the issue.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 8.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meetings held May 22, and June 12, 2018

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands

RI-4 Report of City Council Committees' Activities

RI-5 Approval of Voting Delegate for League Annual Conference

RI-6 Approval of Permit for Street Closure for Block Party at 4300-4400 Camerino Street on July 21, 2018

RI-7 Approval of Purchase of Desktop Computers

RI-8 Approval of Amendment to Agreement with Tetra Tech for Additional Design Services for Mayfair Park Water Capture Project

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

1.1 • RESOLUTION NO. 2018-42; ADJUSTMENT TO WATER RELATED FEES AND DEPOSITS

Jason Wen, Director of Water Resources, made a presentation based on the report in the agenda and stated that staff had conducted a study with the purpose of updating the service fees to reflect the true cost of services. He concluded by stating that it was recommended that the City Council hold a public hearing and adopt the proposed resolution, which enacted adjustment to the water service related fees and deposits.

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-42; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD TO ESTABLISH WATER SERVICE RELATED FEES AND DEPOSIT SCHEDULE

Mayor Croft opened the public hearing at 7:58 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD MOVED AND VICE MAYOR ROGERS SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2018-42.

1.1 • RESOLUTION NO. 2018-42; ADJUSTMENT TO WATER RELATED FEES AND DEPOSITS - Continued

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

SUCCESSOR HOUSING ACTIONS

1. Approval of Registers of Demands

COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE REGISTERS OF DEMANDS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Art Blancaflora, Lakewood, addressed the City Council regarding graffiti and loitering issues in the neighborhood.

Ahmed Rafi, Lakewood, spoke regarding traffic issues at the Civic Center Block Party event.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Croft adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk