



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
September 4, 2018

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Croft in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2018-4; MOVING CITY'S GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION PRESENTLY SET FOR MARCH, 2019, TO MARCH, 2020

City Manager Thaddeus McCormack gave a presentation based on the memo in the agenda and stated that per SB 415, the City Council had previously taken action last October to move the election of 2021 to 2022 to coincide with statewide general elections and thereafter leaving in place the March 2019 municipal election. He explained that in the intervening months, the consultant with whom the City contracted for election services announced that they would be going out of business and would not be able to conduct the City's March 2019 election. He reported that the Los Angeles County Registrar's Office remained the only alternative to conduct the election at an estimated cost which was \$350,000 over the budgeted amount. Mr. McCormack outlined the available options which were to absorb those costs and continue with the March 2019 timeframe or to move the election to March of 2020. Reminding the City Council of the difficulty experienced with the structural deficit during the budget process, he stated that the cost to proceed with the 2019 election would have a significant impact.

Council Member Piazza, stated that as one of the two who would be affected by a change to the election date, he noted his initial preference to proceed with running for election in March of 2019, but expressed the belief that it would be unfair to taxpayers to spend three times the amount of what would have otherwise been spent. He stated support for the option to postpone the election for one year and save the taxpayers' money.

Council Member Wood stated that he, like Council Member Piazza, had been prepared to move forward with an election in 2019, but cited the savings for residents.

In response to an inquiry from Council Member Wood regarding the contract with Martin and Chapman, Steve Skolnik, for the City Attorney, explained that there was no long-term, multi-year contract but that they provided services from election to election.

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-4; MOVING CITY'S GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION PRESENTLY SET FOR MARCH, 2019, TO MARCH, 2020 - Continued

Responding to a suggestion from Council Member Wood to provide the intended actions of other cities facing a similar situation to move forward with holding a March 2019 election, Mr. McCormack explained that because the factor behind the County's calculations for each city had been based on the number of registered voters, the impacts for other cities, such as Signal Hill, and West Hollywood, resulted in estimates that were twice their projected costs, but that Lakewood's had increased by four times.

Mr. McCormack estimated that the cost for a 2020 County consolidated election would be slightly higher than had been currently budgeted and noted that one of the variables that would affect such costs included the County's new voting system, the expense of which would likely be shared among the consolidating cities.

Vice Mayor Rogers inquired whether the feasibility of running the election in house had been explored. Mr. McCormack stated that despite efforts to identify portions which could be assumed by staff, such an undertaking was beyond the City's capacity primarily due to the lack of hardware and election night/vote counting capability.

Council Member Wood concurred with Vice Mayor Rogers on the importance of the notification to the voters to indicate that the City Council's action to change the election date had been to save costs rather than to extend any terms.

Mr. McCormack responded by stating that the Public Information messaging would explain that the reasons behind such action had been an effort to comply with a State mandate and because of the steep cost for the 2019 election.

Mr. Skolnik stated it was worth noting that the City Council had an opportunity a year ago to extend terms but had opted to retain the March 2019 election which would indicate that the action was motivated entirely by the cost.

Council Member Piazza expressed the hope that the message would be circulated to as many residents as possible to make them aware that adoption of the proposed ordinance would be considered at the next City Council meeting.

Mr. McCormack stated that it was staff's intent to distribute an eMagazine article following the meeting to let residents know of the impending action on the proposed ordinance at the City Council meeting of September 11.

Council Member Wood inquired whether the notification postcards could be mailed to households rather than to individual voters to save costs. Mr. McCormack replied that notification to every registered voter was required by State law.

Vice Mayor Rogers considered that history might be a predictor of the future noting the fact that three of the Council Members' terms had been extended because of the State mandate without any opposition from the community.

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-4; MOVING CITY'S GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION PRESENTLY SET FOR MARCH, 2019, TO MARCH, 2020 - Continued

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-4; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD MOVING THE CITY'S GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION PRESENTLY SET FOR MARCH, 2019, TO MARCH, 2020 was read by title by the City Clerk.

COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS MOVED AND VICE MAYOR ROGERS SECONDED TO WAIVE FURTHER READING AND INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. 2018-4. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Croft adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk