



# Minutes

## Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held  
October 23, 2018

---

**MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER** at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Croft in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

**INVOCATION** was offered by Deacon Gary Alley, Good Shepherd Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Girl Scout Troop 2993

**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 announced that the meeting would be adjourned in memory of Richard Stammerjohn, the father-in-law of Parks Superintendent, Philip Lopez, and in memory of Ted Von Minden, one of the chief architects of the Sky Knight program, who served as the Lakewood Sheriff's Station commander from 1960 to 1966.

The Mayor presented a proclamation declaring Red Ribbon Week in Lakewood to Owen Nealy of the Young Marines, for the organization's participation and support of programs and activities that help promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Mayor Croft introduced the commander of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, Captain Rick Harpham, who provided a quarterly public safety report. Captain Harpham explained that Part 1 crimes, which included murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, larceny, grand theft auto and arson, were down over 20% overall for the first three quarters of the year as compared to last year. He noted that robberies were down over 20% and burglaries were down over 35% so far for the year. He stated, however, that there were eight more reported rapes during the same timeframe as compared to last year and that of those, one incident involved a victim who did not previously know the suspect and another who met the person online. He added that rape allegations were taken very seriously and investigated with the utmost priority noting that Lakewood station personnel were working with the public safety staff to provide a message to the community about the dangers of online predators. He indicated that there were four arsons reported where there had been no crime pattern or trend. He reported that Lakewood Center had also continued its downward trend in Part 1 incidents and experienced substantial reduction in crime noting that the ongoing partnership between mall management, mall security, the City and the Lakewood station, had proven to be beneficial because Part 1 crimes were down over 35% so far. Captain Harpham added that in

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:** - Continued

comparing statistics with some of the other Southland malls, Lakewood Center had the lower crime rate and stated that it was a safe place to take the family and to shop. He provided some Halloween safety tips and encouraged attendance at organized events such as the City's carnivals at the parks. He also suggested the lobby or front area of the Sheriff's station to conduct internet purchases and exchanges as a safer environment. He commended Lakewood station personnel and cited examples of their dedication and professionalism.

Captain Harpham announced that the Lakewood Sheriff's Station Haunted Jail event would be held on Friday, October 26th and encouraged residents to attend.

Vice Mayor Rogers expressed gratitude to those who participated in the Lakewood Education Foundation golf tournament held on October 8th, for the success of the event and their support of Lakewood schools.

**ROUTINE ITEMS:**

COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 7.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held September 11, 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 Monthly Report of Investment Transactions - September 2018

RI-6 Approval of Quarterly Budget Report of Major Funds as of September 30, 2018

RI-7 Approval of Agreement for 2018 Halloween Carnival Attractions

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

### **1.1 • AWARD OF BID FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT NO. 2018-5, IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING RYNERSON PARK**

Lisa Rapp, Director of Public Works, made a presentation based on the revised report in the agenda and stated that the item reflected a change regarding the budget for the project and that the recommendation provided in the initial report remained the same. Staff had been working on several phases of improvements for Rynerson Park and, currently, there was a sewer line under construction to serve two existing bathroom buildings and one new bathroom building. The City Council had previously authorized the purchase of a prefabricated restroom from the Public Restroom Company. The restroom would be delivered and installed in early December, and site work was required to prepare the subgrade pad at the site of the restroom building and provide utility hookups. The site work included demolition of the old building and septic systems, preparation of the building pad, utility stub outs, and connecting walkways. The work also included some ADA improvements to parking, as well as pedestrian bridge improvements. On October 16th, the City Clerk received four bids for the basic scope of work for the project ranging in cost from \$664,000 to \$899,000. The contractors who bid also provided prices for two additive alternates for the installation of two picnic shelters. Staff did not recommend approval of the picnic shelter alternates since sufficient funds were not available in the project budget. Staff had verified with the State Contractor's License Board that the low bidder, Fleming Environmental, was properly licensed for the work and references contacted by staff provided favorable comments on the quality of their work with one exception. The revised report indicated that in order to fully fund the basic scope of work, along with contingency and project management costs, additional funds were needed to supplement the budget. Staff had identified funds remaining in several completed projects. These remaining funds, once transferred into the Rynerson Park project budget, were sufficient to complete the basic scope of work. Staff recommended that the City Council adopt the plans, specifications, and working details for the subject project; award a contract for the Improvements to the Existing Rynerson Park, Public Works Contract 2018-05, in the amount of \$664,168 to the low bidder Fleming Environmental and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract in a form approved by the City Attorney; authorize staff to approve a cumulative total of change orders, as necessary not to exceed \$66,000; authorize Willdan to perform project management and inspection services up to an allowance of \$66,000 under their existing Engineering Services Agreement.

Ms. Rapp confirmed for Mayor Croft that although the bids received included alternates, the matter of the shelter would be reviewed by committee and would be presented for consideration at a future date.

In response to questions from Vice Mayor Rogers pertaining to inspections, Ms. Rapp explained that inspections conducted by L.A. County's Building and Safety Department staff were strictly for code compliance and did not provide inspections for quality control. She stated that staff could perform some of the inspections and that the experienced inspectors from Willdan provided such project management services as labor compliance and certified payroll checking.

Vice Mayor Rogers, noting that \$66,000 was a significant amount, stated the need to ensure that in lean budgetary times, consultants were warranted and not being redundant.

**1.1 • AWARD OF BID FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT NO. 2018-5, IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING RYNERSON PARK - Continued**

Responding to inquiries from Council Member Piazza and Mayor Croft regarding the closure of the restrooms, Ms. Frost stated that during the summer months, the park closed at 8 p.m. and closed at 5 p.m. subsequent to the time change.

Mayor Croft opened the public hearing at 7:55 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 APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

**3.1 • LANDSCAPE AND TURF MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Valarie Frost, Recreation and Community Services Director, displayed slides and made a presentation based on the report in the agenda. She reported that the Environmental Resources Division (ERD) was responsible for the City's turf, landscape and unimproved areas of the city. Staff spanned the City to complete service requests, maintain parks, provide pest control, custodial maintenance, irrigation repairs, mowing and bus stop maintenance. A majority of the work was performed on a routine schedule. In addition to facility maintenance, the landscape crews cleared alleyways of illegally dumped items. Staff also responded to clean ups needed in unimproved areas with most of these types of clean ups being for overhanging and overgrown vegetation. The ERD was responsible for delivery of equipment to support City special events, including the upcoming Halloween carnivals. Tables, chairs, EZ Ups and decorative staffing panels and plants were provided through team effort. The landscape crews were very talented and dedicated employees, who care greatly for the aesthetics throughout the City. The landscape crew was currently working to renovate the turf at Bolivar Park and a winter grass seed would soon be applied to promote growth during the upcoming cold season. She stated that staff had been working on the landscape at the Burns Community Center and that as a cost saving measure, the ERD had taken the reigns of fulfilling the landscape design, inclusive of drought tolerant plants, a dry creek bed and flowering trees. Staff was working diligently to complete the scope of work by November 5th, just in time for the scheduled ribbon cutting event on Monday, November 12th. She stated it was recommended that the City Council receive and file the report.

In response to Council Member Wood's questions pertaining to the landscaping at Bolivar Park, Ms. Frost confirmed that the watering had allowed for the turf to come in nicely and as she previously mentioned, the winter grass seed would fill in the gaps and would be visible in late January.

### **3.2 • BUDGET ADVISORY GROUP**

Paolo Beltran, Assistant to the City Manager, made a presentation based on the report in the agenda and explained that formation of the Budget Advisory Group had been discussed at the time of the budget adoption in June. He stated that the underlying concept was to create a group of community stakeholders that would be given a more comprehensive look at the City's fiscal condition for the purpose of concurrence with the seriousness of the structural deficit. While the charge of the group would not necessarily be to provide formal recommendations, in terms of cuts and revenue generation, their role was envisioned to be more of a focus group who could be provided a more detailed presentation of the City's budget situation. The group would meet three or four times and their work was expected to be completed by March 2019. The meetings would be open to the public and subject to Brown Act requirements with summaries of the meetings reported and provided through the typical public information channels. He explained that the group would be comprised of special community stakeholders, residents, businesses and employees which would be represented by employee groups, the Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, Macerich and City Commissioners. In addition to the core group, other community leaders who were active in city affairs would be added, such as the YMCA and various service clubs. He stated it was staff's recommendation that the City Council approve the formation of a Budget Advisory Group.

City Manager Thaddeus McCormack added that the group would be considered more of a focus group as opposed to a Blue Ribbon panel convened to make recommendations.

Council Member Wood expressed concerns with the usage of the term "advisory" and suggested the use of "informational" to avoid confusion with regards to the purpose of the group. Mr. McCormack confirmed that information would be shared with the stakeholders rather than input being solicited and that expectations would be made clear to the members of this committee. In response to Council Member Wood's question regarding the timeline, Mr. McCormack stated that a report would be presented to the City Council by March 2019.

Responding to Council Member Piazza's concerns pertaining to potential outreach efforts by members of the group, Mr. McCormack stated that since the group's focus would be on the budget situation with regards to revenues and expenditures, it was hoped that the meetings would solicit questions and provide an understanding of the structural deficit. He noted the importance of the members' and staff's comprehending the City's fiscal condition and making adjustments over the next few years to prevent being in a difficult situation. He further stated that part of the reasoning for having a smaller group had been to better manage the discussion and to be more mindful of the members' reactions, which would be insightful for staff.

**COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:**

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

**NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None**

**3.3 • QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2018**

Jose Gomez, Director of Finance and Administrative Services, displayed slides and made a presentation based on the report in the agenda. He explained that the City invested funds in compliance with the California Government Code and the City's investment policy, which the City Council last reviewed and approved in January 2018, and formally outlined investment allowances and priorities that were to be maintained with the management of the portfolio throughout the year. He stated that the City's investment objectives, in order of priority, were safety, liquidity and yield and that to meet the objectives, the City utilized a variety of investment types including U.S. Treasury Notes, Federal and Supra-National Agency Bonds or Notes, Negotiable Certificates of Deposit, Municipal Bonds or Notes, Corporate Notes, Commercial Paper, and Pooled Funds. He concluded by stating it was recommended that the City Council receive and file the report.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** None

At 8:15 p.m., a moment of silence was observed in memory of Richard Stammerjohn and Ted Von Minden.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, Pursuant to Government Code §54957

Mayor Croft announced that the City Council would recess to a closed session pursuant to Government Code §54957 to evaluate the performance of the City Manager.

At 9:25 p.m., the City Council reconvened with all members present. No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Croft adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m. to Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC  
City Clerk