



# Minutes

## Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held  
January 22, 2019

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**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 High Councilor Lary Carlton, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Cub Scouts Pack 75

**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 Freda Mandel, who was a 105-year-old original Lakewood resident and a regular visitor to the Weingart Senior Center. He stated that the meeting would also be adjourned in memory of Corey Haggerty, a longtime Lakewood resident and close friend to the family of Vice Mayor Rogers. The Mayor further announced that the meeting would be adjourned in memory of Emilio Alvarez Sosa, father of Emilio Sosa, Senior Executive Director of the Lakewood Family YMCA and an active member of the Rotary Club and many other Lakewood organizations.

Mayor Croft extended an invitation to the State of the City luncheon to be held on Wednesday, February 6th at The Centre. He also invited residents to participate in the CERT emergency training course with class starting on Friday, January 25th.

The Mayor acknowledged several members of Lakewood's Teen Action Committee, who were in attendance as part of their civic education curriculum. Mayor Croft also welcomed Abel Avalos, who was in attendance and would begin as the City's Director of Community Development on Monday, January 28th.

Mayor Croft introduced Lakewood resident, Maria Jimenez, of Donate Life-One Legacy, who expressed gratitude for the opportunity to bring education and awareness about the organ donation and procurement program. She shared her experiences with the generous donations of those like her son, Adrian, and highlighted the success of the recent Donate Life float, which had won the Judge's trophy at this year's Rose Parade.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:** - Continued

Mayor Croft introduced Service Area Lieutenant Ciro Racowschi, who provided a Quarterly Public Safety Report from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Lieutenant Racowschi reported that overall, Part 1 crimes, which included homicides, rapes, and robberies, were down over 20% in the City from 2017. He stated that there had been two homicides in 2018 compared to three in the previous year, and that a slight uptick had been experienced in a couple of areas with arsons going from four in 2017 to six in 2018, and ten more rapes having been reported in 2018 compared to 2017. There were two rapes where the victim did not previously know the suspect and had met on social media. Seventeen of the twenty three incidents involved a named suspect. He continued by stating that in 2018, Lakewood Center Mall continued its downward trend in Part 1 incidents and experienced a substantial reduction in crime citing the ongoing partnership between mall management, mall security, the City and Lakewood Station helping insure that the mall remained a safe place to shop. He explained that the City had authorized additional overtime hours for motor officers, who targeted problem areas and traffic concerns throughout the City. Over 5,400 citations had been issued by the end of 2018 with a slight decrease from the previous year but with 64 fewer traffic collisions. He reported that for the year 2018, there were 37 package thefts from homes with ten occurring in the last quarter and none since the end of Christmas to the present. He stated that many residents had invested in video surveillance and alert systems which helped with the decrease in number. In three of the last eight incidents, a possible suspect vehicle had been picked up on three different cameras and an investigation had been ongoing. Lieutenant Racowschi explained that moving forward into 2019, the Lakewood service area team would partner with L.A. County Probation and conduct probation compliance searches. A recent search done just before Christmas had resulted in the arrest of two individuals who were out of compliance on probation. He noted that such operations would continue in 2019 with the hope for a positive impact on the quality of life in the City.

Vice Mayor Rogers, noting his service on the Public Safety Committee with Council Member Piazza, stated that the Committee would meet with the Sheriff's Department and public safety staff to discuss issues and potential strategies for dealing with public safety challenges. He emphasized the importance of Lieutenant Racowschi's statements pertaining to acquaintance rapes, where the suspect and the victim know one another, which also meant a serial rapist was not necessarily walking the streets of Lakewood attacking victims. Vice Mayor Rogers dispelled the notion that traffic enforcements were performed to generate revenue for the City citing the minimal revenue generated from traffic tickets written. He explained that the reason for the additional traffic enforcement was for traffic safety and that there was a direct correlation between the number of citations written and the number of traffic accidents stating the more citations that were written, the less accidents there were, resulting in fewer injuries and deaths that were traffic related. He further explained that the porch pirate situation was monitored each month and commended residents for taking steps to protect themselves. Vice Mayor Rogers requested an update on the ASAP/ALPR cameras positioned around the mall, particularly during the holiday season. Lieutenant Racowschi indicated that the cameras had a positive impact, citing the number of hits of vehicles with warrants or those that had been stolen. He cited the successes of other agencies using similar technology and stated they were worth their weight in gold.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:** - Continued

Lieutenant Racowski responded to Mayor Croft's and Council Member Wood's comments regarding the implementation of the safe drop off and exchange of items purchased online resulting in the reluctance to commit crimes in the lobby of the Sheriff's station by stating that social media applications, such as Facebook, were becoming the method to get messaging out to reach more residents on the availability of such options. He further stated, in response to Council Member Wood's concerns on IRS scams, that messages alerting residents would be distributed through social media sites as well as the City's website and eMag mailings.

**ROUTINE ITEMS:**

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

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meetings held October 23, November 27, December 11, 2018, and January 8, 2019

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

RI-6 Acceptance of Completion of Capital Improvement Project of SCADA System Upgrades

RI-7 Acceptance of Notice of Completion for Public Works Project No. 2016-5, Stormwater and Runoff Capture at Bolivar Park, Reyes Construction, Inc.

RI-8 Authorization of Architectural Services - Dahlin Group - Civic Center Doors

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

### **3.1 • CITY INVESTMENT POLICY AND QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS - AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018**

Jose Gomez, Director of Finance and Administrative Services gave a presentation based on the memo in the agenda. He reported that the City's Investment Policy was submitted for review and approval by the City Council annually, and that the Policy, last revised in January, 2015, reflected the addition of venue investment vehicles that were made available through the State approved list. He stated that a revised policy, which had been placed on the dais, indicated the suggested change of adding the position of the City Manager in his role in the oversight of the City's investments, specifically, with regards to making any changes in the delegation or in the responsibilities that the Administrative Services Department would handle, that a report to the City Council would be brought no later than the subsequent meeting. He advised that the contract investment manager, Public Financial Management (PFM), assisted the City in maintaining the safety and liquidity of the portfolio which were the two most important investment objectives but that they also exceeded the established investment yield benchmarks. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council approve the Investment Policy, continue the investment management services of PFM, and receive and file the Quarterly Schedule of Investments for December 31, 2018.

Mr. Gomez introduced Richard Babbe, Senior Managing Consultant, and Sarah Meacham, Managing Director, of Public Financial Management (PFM), the City's investment advisor, who displayed slides and provided a market update and an overview of the economic conditions, U.S. Treasury yields and the specifics of the City's investment portfolio.

In response to Mayor Croft's inquiry pertaining to the impacts of the recent Federal government shutdown on investments, Ms. Meacham stated that while no effects had yet been felt, each week that the stoppage continued could slow down growth in the economy and could lead to interest rates being affected.

Mr. Babbe added that given the increase in uncertainty going into 2019, they were being more defensive on how the portfolio had been managed and noted their conservative approach while maintaining a "wait and see" attitude.

Council Member Piazza commented that the City's \$36 million in reserves represented fifty percent of the budget, and that while those were healthy figures, that striving for higher numbers would provide for adequate rainy day funds. He commended staff for their efforts to keep the City in a solid financial situation.

**COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD 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**

**SUCCESSOR HOUSING ACTIONS**

**1. Approval of Register of Demands**

VICE MAYOR ROGERS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE REGISTER OF DEMANDS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

Responding to questions from Council Member Piazza about the impacts of the recent storms, Water Resources Director Jason Wen reported that in the last week, the rainfall amount had been approximately 5.2 inches and that from October to December, there had been a total of 4.1 inches, which brought the totals to approximately two thirds of the City's annual precipitation average.

Thaddeus McCormack, City Manager, explained that only a handful of trees had been impacted by the storms and that the saturation of the soil tested the bounds of the stability of many trees. There were three water leaks which occurred due to root damage from the loose soil.

Lisa Rapp, Director of Public Works, reported that with concerns regarding the saturation of the soil, there might have been issues with trees but there had actually only been two tree limb calls, one of which resulted in removal. She stated that Grant Pickering, the City's arborist, believed that having instituted heavier trimming this year helped reduce the number of broken limbs and downed trees.

Council Member Wood inquired whether storm drains were inspected and catch basin screens were cleared ahead of the rains. Ms. Rapp explained that the City had a routine catch basin cleaning program as well as a program to install full capture devices and excluders to keep trash out of the catch basins, which was an ongoing ten-year program.

Mr. McCormack stated that ahead of the storm, staff proactively checked and cleared storm drains. Ms. Rapp added that City staff also cleaned and checked all City buildings' roofs to clear clogging from the scuppers and downspouts.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Jeff Masters, Lakewood, addressed the City Council regarding Sanitation District labor negotiations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Croft adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Freda Mandel, Corey Haggerty and Emilio Alvarez Sosa.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC  
City Clerk