



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
February 12, 2019

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 Monsignor Joseph Greeley, Saint Pancratius Catholic Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Boy Scout Troop 134

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 Joseph Sorci, father-in-law of Council Member Jeff Wood. He expressed condolences to Mr. Sorci's wife, Ann, Council Member Wood, his wife Mary Jane and their children.

Mayor Croft, welcomed Don Walsh, Second Vice Commander and Chaplain of local American Legion Post 496, who announced the 100th anniversary of the American Legion and extended an invitation for the celebration to be held on Saturday, March 23rd at The Centre. The Mayor expressed appreciation for the Legion's longstanding presence and positive role in the community and presented a proclamation honoring the Legion and Post 496.

Mayor Croft introduced regional community relations representative for Southern California Gas Company, Julia Emerson, who displayed slides and provided an overview of a proposed pipeline project for Del Amo Boulevard near the I-605 Freeway. She noted that while there would be temporary traffic and lane closures, no streets would be closed during the project. She stated that notices regarding the project would be sent out to area residents and businesses and that permits were being acquired from the affected jurisdictions. She estimated that the different phases would take approximately three months and that the project would enable the ability to bring renewable natural gas to the Lakewood area.

Ms. Emerson introduced project managers, Christine Medina and Mike Fernandez, who responded to questions from Mayor Croft by stating that traffic impacts would be limited to eastbound traffic on Del Amo Boulevard and that westbound lanes would remain open. Ms. Medina explained that a specific detour route had been outlined along with a traffic control plan that would include signage around the different residential outlets.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: - Continued

In response to Council Member Wood's inquiry regarding anticipated traffic delays, Ms. Medina stated it would be difficult to predict but that because motorists would find alternate routes, it was expected that the optimized traffic controls would alleviate some of the backup.

Responding to Council Member Wood's query regarding a potential decrease in the gas bill, Ms. Emerson stated that renewable energy sources tended to be a bit more costly but would be less expensive than some of the renewables for electricity.

Ms. Emerson confirmed for Vice Mayor Rogers that once permits were in place, there would be coordination between the City's public information staff and the Gas Company to disperse traffic alerts. The Vice Mayor inquired about the encroachments that necessitated such a disruption. Ms. Emerson stated that while she could not discuss individual customers, there were at least seven encroachments of varying distances, which were all too close to the pipe. She explained that the concern was that if the pipe remained where it had been located in the middle of a residential neighborhood, that would not be optimal for the area. She stated that by locating it out onto the boulevard, where large transmission pipes were normally found, it would be taken out of the neighborhood and would also provide accessibility for ongoing inspections by the Gas Company.

Council Member DuBois inquired whether any outreach efforts had occurred for those in the area. Ms. Emerson reported that once the permits were in hand, a door-to-door notification would commence. Council Member DuBois commended such a personal touch noting the importance of acknowledging the disruption caused by the project. Ms. Emerson added that having found in the past that neighborhood group meetings had not been useful, there were none planned but would be an available option should the need arise.

Ms. Emerson confirmed for Council Member Piazza that there would be no anticipated interruption of services of either electricity or natural gas during the project to either homes or businesses.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

Mayor Croft stated that Routine Item 5 had been pulled by staff.

COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 4.

RI-1 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-2 Approval of Registers of Demands

RI-3 Approval of Agreement to Conduct a Cost Allocation and User Fee Study

RI-4 Acceptance of Notice of Completion for Public Works Project No. 2018-2; Mayfair and McCormick Pool Equipment Replacement, California Commercial Pools Inc.

ROUTINE ITEMS: - Continued

RI-5 Update on Public Works Project No. 2018-5; Improvements to the Existing Rynerson Park

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

1.1 • INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2019-1; AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO PERMITS FOR THE SALE OF FIREWORKS AND ADMINISTRATIVE FINES FOR THE POSSESSION OR DISCHARGE OF ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Jose Gomez, Director of Finance and Administrative Services, made a presentation based on the report in the agenda and stated that the purpose of the proposed ordinance was to update the Lakewood Municipal Code to resolve the status of grandfathered fireworks stands created by Ordinance No. 2002-2, which limited the number to 25. At the time of adoption of the ordinance, the 36 stands were given grandfathered status and allowed to continue operating. After a gradual decline in the number of stands over the years, in 2018, the number of organizations wishing to have a stand dropped to 24 providing an opportunity for one new organization to be added. As a result, staff contacted local organizations who had expressed interest in having a stand and conducted a drawing. He stated that the proposed ordinance would extend the grandfathered status to any new permitted organizations selected as it had for the organizations that had been grandfathered since 2002. He concluded by stating that staff recommended that the City Council conduct a public hearing and introduce Ordinance No. 2019-1.

Mr. Gomez and City Manager Thaddeus McCormack confirmed for Council Member Piazza and Council Member Wood that if an organization were to take a hiatus, they would relinquish their grandfathered status but could enter into the lottery drawing the following year should there be a vacancy.

Mayor Croft opened the public hearing at 8:07 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-1; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE LAKEWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO PERMITS FOR THE SALE OF FIREWORKS AND ADMINISTRATIVE FINES FOR THE POSSESSION OR DISCHARGE OF ILLEGAL FIREWORKS was read by title by the City Clerk.

VICE MAYOR ROGERS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA SECONDED TO WAIVE FURTHER READING AND INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. 2019-1. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

1.2 • INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2019-2; AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING PENALTY PROVISIONS AND ALLOWING DESIGNATION OF VIOLATIONS TO BE INFRACTIONS

Joshua Yordt, Director of Public Safety, made a presentation based on the report in the agenda and reported that the proposed ordinance would amend the municipal code to allow all provisions of the municipal code to be enforceable as infractions. He explained that language of section 1205 would be amended to read that the City Manager in concurrence with the City Attorney may designate which provisions would be citable as an infraction in lieu of a misdemeanor. The purpose of such a change was to allow more effective and efficient enforcements of certain municipal codes affecting quality of life, nuisance in the neighborhoods, parks, shopping centers, to hit those types of violations in a better manner and gain compliance more readily. If the issue had been a chronic, ongoing issue, with the same person or same area, law enforcement could still use misdemeanor citations in filing for those types of wrongdoings, particularly if someone had been cited multiple times for infractions. He stated that the proposed ordinance would also require that fines collected as a result of infraction violations be remitted to the City and not go to the court system. He stated that staff recommended that the City Council hold a public hearing and introduce the proposed ordinance.

Mr. McCormack responded to Vice Mayor Rogers' questions by stating that it would be the intent to enforce the ordinance equally across the board and that the default position would be to treat all violations as infractions. He further explained that the initial focus would be on certain types of quality of life crimes and that over time, and upon consultation with the Public Safety Committee, some areas could be pulled back.

Vice Mayor Rogers, noting that the potential for unequal enforcement may not be intentional, expressed concerns for chronic issues and enforcement rationale. Mr. McCormack responded that being cognizant of that fact, a status update of enforcements could be provided to the City Council or through the Public Safety Committee.

Steve Skolnik, for the City Attorney, clarified for Vice Mayor Rogers that guidelines could be presented to the Public Safety Committee to determine what would prompt enforcements of misdemeanor versus infraction. He added that having some firsthand experience would support recommending such policy guidelines. Mr. Skolnik further noted that the process of treating most offenses as a misdemeanor would be time consuming and cumbersome but would enable citing for violations that were currently impractical to enforce.

Responding to Vice Mayor Rogers' query, Mr. Skolnik stated that the use of the administrative citation process for infractions could be determined to be the more reasonable approach in some situations and that such an option could be included in the policy guidelines.

In response to questions from Council Member Piazza, Mr. Skolnik and Mr. Yordt explained that while the Sheriff's Department could cite for both types of offenses, a misdemeanor would require a deputy to complete a criminal report, which would then be assigned to the Detective Bureau to process as a case filing for coordination with the District Attorney's office; however, an infraction citation would have no report to be filed and would be submitted to the courts for processing similar to those for traffic violations.

1.2 • INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2019-2; AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING PENALTY PROVISIONS AND ALLOWING DESIGNATION OF VIOLATIONS TO BE INFRACTIONS - Continued

Mayor Croft opened the public hearing at 8:15 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-2; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE LAKEWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING PENALTY PROVISIONS AND ALLOWING DESIGNATION OF VIOLATIONS TO BE INFRACTIONS was read by title by the City Clerk.

COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD MOVED AND VICE MAYOR ROGERS SECONDED TO WAIVE FURTHER READING AND INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. 2019-2. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.1 • LAKEWOOD YOUTH HALL OF FAME

Valarie Frost, Director of Recreation and Community Services, displayed slides and made a presentation based on the report in the agenda stating that the 38th Annual Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Banquet would be held on February 25th, at 6:30 p.m. at The Centre. She reported that the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame Board of Electors had met in January and selected the 2018 honorees. The two co-athletes of the year, Christopher Adimora of Mayfair High School and Heder "Junior" Gladden of Artesia High School, were both standout athletes in football and basketball at their respective schools. She stated that this year, 23 performers of the year, nine special achievement honorees and twelve distinguished nominees would be recognized. Community sponsors included Piazza Family McDonald's Restaurants, Soroptimist International of Lakewood/Long Beach and the Lakewood Rotary Club. Unique to this year's program, the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame would recognize Sydney Soto, a freshman softball player from Mayfair High School, as the recipient of the inaugural Larry Van Nostran Future Star Award, named after Lakewood's longest serving council member who founded the Hall of Fame with local business owner and current Council Member Ron Piazza. She concluded by stating that staff recommended the City Council receive and file the report.

SUCCESSOR HOUSING ACTIONS

1. Approval of Registers of Demands

VICE MAYOR ROGERS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA SECONDED TO APPROVE THE REGISTERS OF DEMANDS.

SUCCESSOR HOUSING ACTIONS - Continued

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Clara Calderon Muñiz, a member of the Mayfair Vocal Boosters, the Lakewood Lions, and a resident of the City since 1994, addressed the City Council regarding the changes to the Pan Am Fiesta community event.

Mayor Croft thanked Ms. Calderon Muñiz for bringing her concerns to the City Council's attention and explained that the changes to this year's event were primarily due to the massive water project that was under construction at Mayfair Park which required some reconfigurations.

Vice Mayor Rogers acknowledged the issues with communication and stated that staff would be again reaching out to the groups involved to provide a more detailed explanation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Croft adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Joseph Sorci.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk