



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
February 26, 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 Pastor Howard Post, Calvary Apostolic Tabernacle

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Camp Fire Team Wookiees

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:

Shelly Walther, representing the Camp Fire group in attendance, stated that its members enjoyed learning leadership skills, giving service to the community, working together to achieve goals and experiencing nature and the outdoors. She explained that Camp Fire had been serving young people and their families since 1910 and presented the City Council with a cake in celebration of its 109th birthday.

Mayor Croft announced that the annual Lakewood Run, which included a 5K, a 10K and a "Fun Run," would be held on Saturday, March 2nd. He stated that the event provided an opportunity to raise funds for the commendable projects of Soroptimist International of Lakewood/Long Beach and the Lakewood Sheriff's Station Charity Fund.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD MOVED AND VICE MAYOR ROGERS SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 6.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held January 22, 2019

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands

RI-4 Report of City Council Committees' Activities

ROUTINE ITEMS: - Continued

RI-5 Approval of Monthly Report of Investment Transactions – January 2019

RI-6 RESOLUTION NO. 2019-1; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT'S DESIRE TO JOIN THE SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

2.1 • SECOND READING AND ADOPTION 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

Steve Skolnik, for the City Attorney, advised that the proposed ordinance had been introduced at the last City Council meeting, following a public hearing. And, that the ordinance was presented for second reading and adoption at this time.

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

VICE MAYOR ROGERS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO ADOPT 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

2.2 • SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2019-2; AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE LAKEWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING PENALTY PROVISIONS AND ALLOWING DESIGNATION OF VIOLATIONS TO BE INFRACTIONS

Mr. Skolnik advised that at the last City Council meeting, a public hearing had been held and the proposed ordinance had been introduced. The ordinance was presented for second reading and adoption at this time.

2.2 • SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2019-2; AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE LAKEWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING PENALTY PROVISIONS AND ALLOWING DESIGNATION OF VIOLATIONS TO BE INFRACTIONS - Continued

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.

COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA MOVED AND VICE MAYOR ROGERS SECONDED TO ADOPT 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 • ADOPTION OF 2019 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Paolo Beltran, Assistant to the City Manager, made a presentation based on the report in the agenda and explained that the Intergovernmental Relations Committee had completed its discussions and recommended the Legislative Platform for 2019, which was the foundation of a focused advocacy strategy and serves as a reference guide for legislative positions and objectives that provided direction for the City Council and staff throughout the year. The primary objective of the Legislative Platform was to adopt official City positions on clearly stated legislative issues. The Legislative Platform had been developed and maintained using the goals and objectives of the City Council, a review of legislative priorities from the League of California Cities, League's Los Angeles Division, California Contract Cities Association and other partner agencies, input from City Council and staff, research of current law and pending legislation, as well as discussions with local legislative staff and the City's legislative advocates. Federal and State legislative proposals and policies consistent with the Legislative Platform may be supported by the City. Policies and proposals inconsistent with this Legislative Platform may be opposed by the City. Some of the main priorities included supporting municipal contracting, opposing State and Federal preemption and overreach, and supporting public safety. Funding for programs such as Community Development Block Grant, the Community Oriented Policing Services, and the Justice Assistance Grant would continue to be supported, as well as funding for water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure, flood prevention, and water resources planning and development; protecting the City's authority over control of the public right of way; and projects that improve the quality of life. Mr. Beltran explained that in a recent Lakewood Community News article, Mayor Croft addressed an effort underway in the State to force city governments, like Lakewood, to approve more condominiums and apartments instead of single family homes, especially in areas close to high volume bus and transit lines and "job rich" centers. Such proposals assumed that by forcing cities to increase housing density, more housing would be available and affordable. Such one-size fits all mandates go against the heart of local control.

3.1 • ADOPTION OF 2019 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM - Continued

He concluded by stating it was staff's recommendation that the City Council adopt the 2019 Legislative Platform.

Mayor Croft added that he and Vice Mayor Rogers, as members of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, were anticipating 2019 to be a busy year, noting that a record number of 5,600 bills had been introduced with the normal total being in the 3,000 range.

Vice Mayor Rogers inquired about how employment or job centers were defined. Mr. Beltran replied that such terms were currently undefined and that the City had been working with the League of California Cities to determine a clear definition. He further confirmed for the Vice Mayor that a law could be enacted before regulations were drafted despite legislative intent.

COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA SECONDED TO ADOPT THE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR 2019. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

In response to a suggestion from Council Member DuBois regarding efforts to protect the community, Mayor Croft stated that City Manager Thaddeus McCormack had been working to convince Senator Scott Wiener, the sponsor of the bill, to visit the Los Angeles area and tour some of the regions to witness the challenges that his bill would create.

Mr. McCormack stated that he would keep the City Council apprised and inform them of any commitment from the Senator.

Council Member Wood commended the City Manager for being instrumental in such efforts, citing Mr. McCormack's having chaired a panel with the Senator and becoming a contract city expert on housing. Mr. McCormack emphasized the importance of Lakewood's involvement noting the extent of what the City stood to lose in terms of quality of life.

3.2 • GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Abel Avalos, Director of Community Development displayed slides and presented a report based on the memo in the agenda. He reported that the General Plan, a State-mandated document, provided the framework for the City's physical, social, and economic development for up to 20 years into the future. The Progress Report was required to discuss the progress made towards allowing for the development of housing as specified by the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) as well as the overall implementation of the General Plan.

3.2 • GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT - Continued

It was the recommendation of the Planning and Environment Commission that the City Council receive and file the 2018 General Plan Annual Progress Report and direct staff to submit it to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

Mr. Avalos confirmed for Mayor Croft that with the Governor's lawsuit against the City of Huntington Beach, their plan had been found to be deficient by the HCD. He further stated that Lakewood's General Plan Housing Element kept the City in compliance with State housing laws.

Mr. McCormack concurred with Mayor Croft's statements pertaining to the arbitrary nature of the methodology for assigning the RHNA numbers and that a more equitable assessment should be considered. Mr. McCormack added that the City's obligations were in the areas of planning and zoning, therefore, the City could only approve development proposals as they came through but that as Mr. Avalos indicated, none had been denied. He noted that if the State were to measure RHNA numbers by production, it would be challenging because with the elimination of redevelopment funding, the City lacked the resources to facilitate development beyond the ministerial ability to plan and zone for it.

In response to inquiries from Council Member Wood pertaining to increasing housing when the City was 94% residential, Mr. McCormack stated that in a city, like Lakewood, with mostly single family homes, it would be difficult to absorb higher density without impacting the quality of life for those neighborhoods. In addition to the aesthetics of going from single family homes to multi-story and multi-residential units, increased parking and traffic would have impacts. He explained that Lakewood could rezone underutilized commercial areas, split parcels and incorporate higher density on a smaller scale with duplexes or triplexes.

Council Member Piazza applauded the Mayor's efforts with the news article noting the importance of informing residents of building opportunities and being aware of the quality of life issues that were impacted by mandates from the State.

Vice Mayor Rogers concurred with previous comments regarding the lack of control over the State's decisions regarding increased density in single family residential areas and expressed support for advocacy efforts and uniting with other like-minded cities to prevent further erosion of quality of life matters. Responding to the Vice Mayor's question pertaining to the location of the incoming Subaru dealership, Mr. McCormack explained that Timmons would be moving into an area where one of the existing car dealers had used the property for storage of vehicles. He reported that no sales tax opportunities would be lost and that there would actually be a net gain since the current dealer would continue to sell vehicles. Mr. Avalos responded to further questions from Vice Mayor Rogers by indicating that the proposed site was located between the existing Chevrolet and Ford dealerships.

3.2 • GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT - Continued

Mr. McCormack confirmed for Council Member Wood that the Timmons Volkswagen dealership would continue their presence in Long Beach but that the proposed Subaru facility would be located in Lakewood.

COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD MOVED AND VICE MAYOR ROGERS SECONDED TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE 2018 GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT AND DIRECT STAFF TO SUBMIT THE SAME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.3 • PREVIEW OF 2019 EARTH WALK EVENT

Valarie Frost, Director of Recreation and Community Services, displayed slides and presented a report based on the memo in the agenda. She reported that Lakewood's free Earth Walk event, "A Passport to Planet Earth," would be held at Monte Verde Park on Saturday, March 9th. The event included a nature walk along the West San Gabriel River Parkway Nature Trail and vendors with conservation and sustainable environment displays. Participants could earn stamps on their passports, along their journey they could visit the water department booth where staff would promote water conservation and clean water initiatives. Team members from the Public Works department would be providing Lakewood residents with oil changing kits and one of the new recycling baskets. In addition to the learning stations, the event would feature take home crafts and a visit from Woody the Tree. She concluded by stating it was the recommendation of staff that the City Council receive and file the report on the Preview of 2019 Earth Walk Event.

Ms. Frost confirmed for Mayor Croft that the event would be held rain or shine and that provisions were made to move the displays to the patio area in the event of inclement weather.

Council Member Piazza expressed gratitude and commended City staff for the success of the 38th annual Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame banquet.

MAYOR CROFT STATED THAT THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, THE ITEM WAS ORDERED RECEIVED AND FILED.

SUCCESSOR HOUSING ACTIONS

1. Approval of Register of Demands

VICE MAYOR ROGERS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA 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

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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Croft adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m. to Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk