



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
April 23, 2019

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

INVOCATION was offered by Pastor Tim Buzbee, Life Center Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Council Member DuBois

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Rogers introduced Cindy Conboy, Event Leader for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, who encouraged attendance at the event to be held from 9:00 a.m. on June 1st to 9:00 a.m. on June 2, 2019, at a neighboring high school in Long Beach. The event helped to raise funds as well as awareness for cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and support. She stated that the community could get involved by making a donation, sponsoring a participant, or forming a team.

Lieutenant David Sprengel, Acting Commander of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, made a presentation regarding the Quarterly Public Safety Report. He reported that Part 1 crimes decreased over twenty percent in 2018, and that during the first quarter of 2019, overall Part 1 crime was up over nine percent from the previous year. He explained that although the numbers showed an increase, in comparing current figures with the same quarter for the years 2016 and 2017, the numbers were still significantly lower. He further reported that for the first quarter of 2019, statistics had shown an increase of thirty-three percent in sexual assaults with two of the incidents involving known suspects to the victim, and the third having been an alcohol-related instance from a New Year celebration. Lt. Sprengel stated that aggravated assaults also saw an increase for the current year, from eighteen to twenty-six incidents, but after careful monitoring had decreased monthly, suggesting a positive downward trend. He noted that the Service Area Team had deployed and focused on saturation patrol and surveillance operations in response to the increases in both grand theft auto and larceny theft incidents. He identified the Lakewood Station Special Assignment Team, including Lieutenant Ciro Racowschi, along with Sergeants Sean O'Donoghue and Bryan Sirkel, and highlighted some successes which could be attributed to the team's efforts to identify crime trends and their directed responses having led to positive reductions in areas of concern.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: - Continued

Lt. Sprenkel stated that in the City's residential areas, active monitoring for spikes in crime continued. He explained that regarding the homeless community, Lakewood Station and the City continued to work in partnership, and indicated that the County Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) assisted with contacts and proactive outreach. He reported that average response times so far for the year had been at or below last year's averages with emergent call responses remaining the same at 3.7, with priority at 8.7 and routine at 37.9, below last year's 9.6 and 40 minutes, respectively. He explained that there had been an increase in thefts at the mall, which was consistent with what had been happening throughout the City. He stated that grand theft autos had increased from three to six, but that only one incident had occurred in March. He reported that of the five robberies reported, three were Estes robberies. He stated that monitoring would continue at the mall area utilizing a crime analyst, while partnering with mall safety and the City's public safety teams, to ensure all necessary resources were utilized for positive enforcement and crime reduction. He stated that the advanced surveillance license plate reader system around the mall area provided eighteen plate hits during the first quarter and that the system continued to have a positive and proactive impact on the community and law enforcement efforts. Lt. Sprenkel highlighted the recent recognition of Denny "Earl" Reed, a longtime resident of Lakewood, for his twenty-four years of service with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's volunteer program, serving Lakewood Station. He stated that Mr. Reed had been the only volunteer in the Department to reach over forty thousand hours and to commemorate the event, a bench and porch area near the patrol line was dedicated to him. He acknowledged the City Council and staff for their assistance not only during the event, but for their continued partnership and leadership, providing Sheriff's personnel with the necessary resources to best serve the community.

In response to Council Member Croft's question regarding the types of vehicles involved in grand theft autos, Lt. Sprenkel stated that some of those being targeted included Silverado pickup trucks because of their interchangeable parts and older models of Hondas and Toyotas for their ease of break in. He suggested the use of anti-theft systems such as a steering wheel lock or other deterrent.

Vice Mayor Wood expressed concerns with panhandling in areas of local shopping centers. Lt. Sprenkel replied that law enforcement responses for such activity were based on calls for service or observations of potential blocking of ingress or egress. He added that if there was no sign of trespassing, panhandlers would be provided with a warning. He stated that repeated solicitation could merit proactive police actions but that short of committing crimes, panhandlers would just be encouraged to relocate.

Lt. Sprenkel responded to Vice Mayor Wood's inquiry regarding call statistics by stating that types of calls and requests for service were difficult to track but could be analyzed.

Mayor Rogers commended the Sheriff's Department on their efforts to maintain the highest possible public safety in the City. He conveyed the City Council's gratitude for Station staff having honored Mr. Reed for his service and applauded the success of the volunteer program. Lt. Sprenkel thanked Deputy Julie Williams, the Station's volunteer coordinator, who worked to make the event a success. He expressed gratitude for the support and dedication of the community's volunteers.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

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

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held March 12, 2019

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands

RI-4 Report of City Council Committees' Activities

RI-5 Monthly Report of Investment Transactions - March 2019

RI-6 Quarterly Schedule of Investments

RI-7 Acceptance of Notice of Completion for Public Works Contract 2018-5, Improvements to the Existing Rynerson Park

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.1 • PAN AM FIESTA PREVIEW

Valarie Frost, Director of Recreation and Community Services displayed slides and presented a report based on the memo in the agenda. She stated that the annual Pan Am Fiesta would be held at Mayfair Park from May 9-12, 2019. She reported that with the ongoing stormwater capture project, the event would include modifications to the site plan. The entertainment and food court would be located in the east parking lot, the amusement rides would occupy Lisa Fernandez Field, the craft show would be located parallel to Fidler Avenue, inside the basketball courts, and the Children's Cultural Booth would be in the courtyard on the south side of the pool. Features of the celebration included amusement rides; food booths and food trucks; welcome and flag ceremony; live entertainment; a children's cultural booth; craft show and display booths; and historical display. She also advised that free shuttle service would be available from the Civic Center to the park on Friday and Saturday.

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

SUCCESSOR HOUSING ACTIONS

1. Approval of Register of Demands

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

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Jeff Masters, Lakewood, stated he was an employee of L.A. County Sanitation District, and addressed the City Council regarding a tentative agreement reached during negotiations between management and the union.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk