



# Minutes

## Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held  
March 10, 2020

---

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Fastest Cheetahs Camp Fire Club

**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:**

The Fastest Cheetahs Camp Fire Club presented the City Council with a cake in celebration of Camp Fire's 110th birthday.

Mayor Rogers announced that a major new focus around the world was coronavirus, or COVID-19, and there were currently 20 confirmed cases in Los Angeles County, including three cases in nearby Long Beach. He noted that City staff was closely monitoring information and recommendations from the Department of Public Health and the state and federal governments for actions and precautions to be taken in Lakewood. As of today, there were no recommendations to cancel public events in the City; however, the Department of Public Health cautioned that such a recommendation could occur if coronavirus were to spread further. He added that precautionary steps such as available hand sanitizer, flu season hygiene information sheets for the public and a Lakewood specific coronavirus eMag were put in place and would be ongoing to help protect residents. Mayor Rogers stated that taking the right actions when needed would help the City make it through this viral epidemic and that City staff along with the City Council would do everything possible to protect the community.

The Mayor acknowledged that the City's General Municipal Election occurred on March 3 and that votes were still being tallied by the County. He noted that residents were asked to select two City Council Members and he commended every candidate for running respectable campaigns and making the very personal decision to become a candidate for City Council. Lakewood residents were also asked to vote on Measure L and current numbers indicated 64% of counted votes were in favor and 36% were opposed. Mayor Rogers shared his optimism that the majority of Lakewood voters decided to make a historic investment in the future of the City and he was also relieved that the Council would no longer have to make significant budget

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS - Continued**

cuts. He assured residents who voted in opposition of the measure that their opinions were respected and noted that the Council would not have chosen to put a tax increase on the ballot unless it was absolutely necessary. He thanked residents for taking the time to vote and making their voices heard and asserted that the City would work to fulfill commitments that were made to residents based on their surveyed priorities whether or not Measure L passed.

Mayor Rogers announced that the meeting would be adjourned in memory of Leon Broussard IV, a young adult neighbor of his, who tragically passed away.

Vice Mayor Jeff Wood thanked Mayor Rogers, the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, and City staff for all of their efforts and time taken to reach out to the community and share information about Measure L and the City as a whole. He commended the Mayor for presenting a great opportunity to connect with residents at various public events such as Coffee with the Mayor and he was hopeful that future Mayors would continue the tradition.

**ROUTINE ITEMS:**

VICE MAYOR WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS 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 Proposition A Transit Fund Exchange and Assignment Agreement with the City of West Hollywood

RI-4 Approval of Participant Agreement for the Los Angeles Region Imagery Acquisition Consortium 6 (LARIAC6)

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

**1.1 • AWARD OF BID FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT NO. 2015-4, DEL AMO & LAKEWOOD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**

Assistant Public Works Director Max Withrow gave a brief oral presentation based on the memorandum in the agenda packet and stated five bids had been received for Del Amo & Lakewood intersection improvements. The project consisted of constructing additional left-turn lanes in each direction, widening of the Lakewood Boulevard bridge, modifying traffic signals, landscaping, paving and other related work. The lowest responsible bid was received

**1.1 • AWARD OF BID FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT NO. 2015-4, DEL AMO & LAKEWOOD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS - Continued**

from Los Angeles Engineering for \$4,422,604.40 and a previously approved funding agreement with Metro provided \$5,504,300 in regional Measure R funds for this project. Willdan Engineering submitted a proposal to provide construction management services for \$429,941 which only left \$67,370 for construction contingencies, equating to 1.5% of the construction contract amount. For a project of this size and complexity, a contingency of 10% to 15% was normally allocated and it was recommended that a contingency of \$500,000, or 11.3%, be made available through local Measure R funds. City Staff will then submit a request to Metro to obtain additional regional Measure R funds for the contingency costs. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council award the contract to Los Angeles Engineering, in the amount of \$4,422,604.40; authorize staff to approve a cumulative total of contract change orders, as needed, not to exceed \$500,000; authorize temporary use of Local Measure R funds for construction contingency in an amount not to exceed \$500,000; authorize staff to execute Willdan's proposal to provide construction management services for an amount of \$429,941; and adopt the plans, specifications, and working details for the project.

Responding to inquiries from Council Member Croft, Mr. Withrow stated the contractor would begin the project by widening a portion of the road to use for space to set up equipment and noted that there would always be a traffic lane open in every direction. He assured that all lanes would be kept open during the busy holiday shopping season and the Public Information Office would be given information regarding time frames for lane closures so that residents could be made aware and adjust their driving routes accordingly.

Council Member DuBois shared her recollection of the early discussions of this project when she was on the Metro Board and was in favor of moving the project forward.

Mr. Withrow confirmed for Vice Mayor Wood that lane closures at this intersection would likely cause more traffic on streets such as Candlewood, Carson and South since motorists were likely to alternate routes. He clarified for Vice Mayor Wood that the project would continue during the holiday season and that all lanes would be open during that time. He also clarified that regional funds and not local funds would be used for this project since the intersection was identified as a "Hot Spot" by Metro and improving it would benefit the region.

Responding an inquiry from Mayor Rogers, Mr. Withrow stated that the impact from this project on the busy intersection during the holiday season would be kept a handle on just like projects in the past and City Manager Thaddeus McCormack assured that all lanes of travel would be open during the peak shopping season.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 7:57 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter.

Mitchell Ramirez, Lakewood, requested information about the low bidder and their previous work. Mr. Withrow responded by stating that Los Angeles Engineering had not done work for

**1.1 • AWARD OF BID FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT NO. 2015-4, DEL AMO & LAKEWOOD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS - Continued**

the City before, however, their reference checks were satisfactory.

Mayor Rogers closed the public hearing at 7:59 p.m.

Council Member Piazza stated that he would abstain from voting on this item as he was an owner of a business located at this intersection.

COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS MOVED AND VICE MAYOR WOOD SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Piazza

**1.2 • AWARD OF BID FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT NO. 2019-7, ADA DOOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING CENTRE AND CITY HALL**

The Assistant Director of Public Works gave a brief oral presentation based on the memorandum in the agenda packet and reported that one bid from Song N Sons General Construction Inc. for \$151,000 was submitted for the ADA door improvements to the existing Centre and City Hall. The bid amount was below the engineer's estimate for the project, however, the contractor had completed similar installations for various public facilities and their reference checks were all favorable. Staff believed a slightly larger contingency than normal of 20% would be appropriate for this project since there could be unforeseen conditions once demolition began. The specifications of the project required the contractor to complete 50% of the work with their own forces and staff requested that this requirement be waived since Song N Sons proposed 85% of the work be done by a door subcontractor and 15% by an electrical subcontractor. Song N Sons would be responsible for all supervision and compliance on the project. An appropriation of \$510,000 from the Capital Reserve for ADA Improvements was needed to complete the project and provide funding for ADA parking improvements at the Civic Center and park sites. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council adopt the plans, specifications, and working details for the project; waive the requirement in the standard specifications that at least 50% of the work be done by the contractor's own employees; award the contract to Song N Sons General Construction Inc., in the amount of \$151,000; authorize staff to approve a cumulative total of change orders, as necessary, not to exceed \$30,200; and appropriate \$510,000 from the General Fund assigned fund balance – Capital Replacement and Repair.

Responding to inquiries from Vice Mayor Wood, Mr. Withrow confirmed that references for the contractor were satisfactory and the bid amount being below the engineer's estimate was not necessarily concerning since the City did not have much experience with this type of project and the contractor had completed this type of work before.

**1.2 • AWARD OF BID FOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT NO. 2019-7, ADA DOOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING CENTRE AND CITY HALL - Continued**

Council Member DuBois questioned why there was only one bid for this project and whether the low price may have been a factor. Mr. Withrow was unsure why only one bid was submitted and stated that he was unaware of how many contractors were in this type of business. Mr. McCormack speculated that the smaller scale of the project may have not piqued the interest of larger contractors. Mayor Rogers shared that it was unfortunate to see more city projects receive single bids and that regulations for bidding on public projects might be a factor.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 8:03 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

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

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

. . .

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Robert Bilevich, Lakewood, addressed the City Council regarding speeding on Claretta Avenue.

Nick Evans, Lakewood, addressed the City Council regarding break-ins in the Country Club area and the possibility of no parking signs

. . .

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m. to Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Leon Broussard IV.

Respectfully submitted,

Isabelle Diaz  
Management Aide