



# Minutes

## Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held  
June 23, 2020

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**MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER** at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Weingart Ballroom, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

**INVOCATION** was offered by Council Member Ariel Pe

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Council Member Steve Croft

**ROLL CALL: PRESENT:** Mayor Todd Rogers  
Vice Mayor Jeff Wood  
Council Member Steve Croft  
Council Member Diane DuBois (via teleconference)  
Council Member Ariel Pe

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Rogers announced that the meeting would be adjourned in memory of David G. Mills, a 31-year employee of Lakewood who served the City from 1957 to 1988, and became the Director of the Recreation and Community Services Department in 1972.

Council Member DuBois reported that the City's recreation staff had come up with an alternative for the traditional summer Concerts in the Park series, as large, in-person gatherings were still not safe. She stated that every Thursday evening, a new virtual concert, with video performances by one of Lakewood's favorite summer concert bands, would be released through the City's website. She encouraged residents to set up a laptop computer on their patio or dining table for a summer evening of food, fun and music. She concluded by stating that it was hoped that by next summer, the Concerts in the Park would return, in person, at Del Valle Park.

Vice Mayor Wood reported that with the passage of Measure L, the City was in a better position financially and had hoped to reestablish the Civic Center Block Party. However, coronavirus precautions against large public gatherings prevented the event from happening this year. He stated that in lieu of the Block Party, the City would be providing three aerial fireworks shows to be displayed in different parts of the City simultaneously at 8:30 p.m. on July 3rd, so that as many residents as possible could view the fireworks show from their own front yards. He noted that for residents unable to view the fireworks, Lakewood CityTV would broadcast live coverage of the shows as seen from the roof of The Centre.

Mayor Rogers discussed the problems and dangers associated with unsafe fireworks which were illegal throughout the State of California. He noted the many injuries and the property damage incurred each year from such fireworks. He advised that the City of Lakewood had not only stepped up its public education and enforcement campaign, but had increased the overall fine for illegal fireworks use.

**ROUTINE ITEMS:**

VICE MAYOR WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 11.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held June 9, 2020

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 - May 2020

RI-6 Approval of Agreement for Memorandum of Understanding with Nestle Waters

RI-7 Approval of License Agreement with Southern California Edison for Use of Candleverde Park

RI-8 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-33; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR, AND RECEIPT OF, LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS

RI-9 Authorization to Purchase Electronic Vehicle Station Replacement

RI-10 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-34; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD ADOPTING A LIST OF PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 FUNDED BY SB 1: THE ROAD REPAIR AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2017

RI-11 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-35; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD EXTENDING A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

**1.1 • RESOLUTION NO. 2020-36; ESTABLISH RESIDENTIAL REFUSE RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21**

Director of Finance and Administrative Services, Jose Gomez, gave a report based on the memo in the agenda and stated that in accordance with State law, the City had notified every resident, in writing, regarding proposed adjustments in refuse collection and disposal fees, including the City Council public hearing date.

**1.1 • RESOLUTION NO. 2020-36; ESTABLISH RESIDENTIAL REFUSE RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 - Continued**

He reported that the Environmental Management Committee had met to review the proposed rate change based on current consumer price index trends, cost history and new program implementation costs, as well as a comparison of the amount collected to actual costs, and recommended a proposed 5.3% rate increase. The increase would be \$1.14 per month, raising the monthly rate from \$21.56 to \$22.70 per month. He stated that staff had received two written protests regarding the proposed rate increase. It was the recommendation of staff and the Committee that the City Council hold a public hearing and adopt the proposed resolution to enact the adjustment to refuse rates.

Responding to a question from Mayor Rogers, Mr. Gomez stated that if the City were to absorb the increase and not pass the amount on to the residents, the cost to the City would be between \$300,000 and \$350,000 annually.

Vice Mayor Wood inquired of staff whether information was routinely provided to residents about the special programs and discounts available to them, especially senior residents. Mr. Gomez responded by stating that outreach notices were provided and that staff had specifically reached out to the author of the protest to offer assistance through the City, other utilities and local non-profit organizations.

Steve Skolnik, for the City Attorney, advised that as the legal threshold for protests was fifty percent of parcel holders within the service area, the City Council could consider the item at this time.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 7:50 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter.

Arthur Pinette, Lakewood, addressed the City Council regarding the trash generated by the homeless persons camping along the San Gabriel River bed and suggested the City consider placing a trash receptacle nearby for their use in order to keep the trash from being swept into the river.

Lisa Rapp, Director of Public Works, confirmed that the proposed increase was to cover an increase in the cost of the refuse collection contract.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-36; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD TO ESTABLISH RESIDENTIAL REFUSE RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND MAYOR ROGERS SECONDED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2020-36. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

**1.2 • AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACT NO. 2020-2; ROLLER SHADE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING CENTRE AT SYCAMORE PLAZA**

Public Works Director Lisa Rapp made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda and stated that although a bid opening for roller shade improvements at the Centre had been held on June 16th, no bids had been received. She reported that pursuant to the California Public Contract Code, staff was requesting authorization to negotiate a contract for the project. She noted that upon contacting two manufacturer-recommended installers, both had indicated interest in the project but had been unable to meet the bid process requirements due to pandemic-related issues. She stated that quotations would be requested from both installers, and that upon evaluation, the best-priced contractor who could meet the project deadlines would be selected to provide the work within the standard public works contract, with the plans and specifications created for the original bid process used for the work. She advised that there were adequate funds in the Centre Improvements Budget to cover the cost of the project. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council authorize staff to negotiate Public Works Contract 2020-2 for the Roller Shade Improvements to the Existing Centre at Sycamore Plaza with a project budget of \$65,000; authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with the successful contractor; and authorize staff to approve a cumulative total of change orders, as necessary, not to exceed \$10,000.

Responding to a question from Vice Mayor Wood, Ms. Rapp stated that the roller shades would be located in the Weingart Ballroom upstairs, and the Oak, Sycamore and Maple rooms downstairs.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 7:59 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

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

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

**3.1 • APPOINTMENTS OF MEASURE L CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Deputy City Manager Paolo Beltran presented a report based on the memo in the agenda and stated that on May 26, 2020, the City Council had approved a framework for the establishment and composition of the Measure L Citizens Oversight Committee. The seven member committee would include a representative from the Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, a non-profit group representative, a community youth group member, a senior group member, a Neighborhood Watch member, a local business owner or operator and an at-large representative, with a term to commence on July 1, 2020 and end on June 30, 2022. He reported that the Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce appointee would be their chairperson, Mr. Brad Crihfield; and the non-profit group representative would be Ms. Cassandra Chase, a Lakewood resident and member of the Lakewood Jaycees. The other appointees were:

**3.1 • APPOINTMENTS OF MEASURE L CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS - Continued**

Mayor Rogers appointed Mrs. Crystal Jones-Duncan, representing seniors.

Vice Mayor Wood appointed Mr. Ronald J. Piazza, representing the business community.

Council Member Croft appointed Ms. Mina Carrasco, representing Neighborhood Watch.

Council Member DuBois appointed Mrs. Cindy Jarvis, representing youth.

Council Member Pe appointed Ms. Jeannie Clark, CPA, as the at-large member.

It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council confirm the member appointments for the Measure L Citizens Oversight Committee.

Council Member Croft pointed out that Measure L, which had been approved by the voters in March, was a  $\frac{3}{4}$  cent sales tax specifically designated for Lakewood, and the only type of tax that was untouchable by Sacramento. He also noted that due to the pandemic, the tax would allow the City to maintain service levels rather than be faced with severe budget cuts. He extended thanks to all of those who had been willing to serve as part of the Committee.

Mayor Rogers stated that the City Council had made commitments to the community over Measure L and that the Oversight Committee was just one of them. He recognized that with the measure passing by two-thirds, it meant that one-third of Lakewood voters had not supported the tax measure and the skepticism of those voters would cause the Council and staff to work even harder to keep their commitments. One part of the commitment was the appointment of the Oversight Committee to be the community's extra layer of transparency in terms of where the funds were coming from and where they were being spent. He noted that an additional benefit to the tax measure was that the City would now be entitled to a share of internet sales tax that it was not able to collect previously.

Deidre Norville, Lakewood, stated that the explanation of the committee selection had answered part of her question, but she inquired if reports and minutes of the Oversight Committee would be made available to the public online. She commended the City Council for the diversity of the Committee.

City Manager Thaddeus McCormack responded to her question by stating that recommendations and feedback from the Committee would be compiled in minutes and presented to the City Council as part of the Council agenda, always available online.

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

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

**NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None**

### **3.2 • TAKING THE “OBAMA MAYOR’S PLEDGE” TO REVIEW POLICE USE OF FORCE POLICIES IN LAKEWOOD, AND APPOINTING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE WORK OF THE INTERFAITH COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUE**

The City Manager gave a presentation based on the memo in the agenda and stated the work of President Obama’s U.S. Department of Justice-led 21st Century Policing Task Force in 2014-15 was the basis for the pledge. He advised that the pledge included four steps; 1) review of police use of force policies; 2) engage the community by including a diverse range of input, experiences and stories; 3) report the findings of the review to the community and seek feedback; and 4) reform the community’s police use of force policies. At the request of Mayor Rogers, the City Council was requested to concur with and approve the signing of the pledge on behalf of the City of Lakewood. He noted that the City Council had initiated an Interfaith Council of local religious leaders to facilitate outreach and discussion on racial equity and community law enforcement relations to provide a forum for broader community engagement. This would be part of a greater community engagement strategy to encourage the review and comment process on law enforcement use of force, as well as broader experiences with law enforcement. He stated that along with review of use of force policies through the City Council and Public Safety Committee, the policies of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department would be made available through the City’s website in order to seek public comments as a generator for positive change. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council concur and approve Mayor Rogers’ signing the Mayor’s Pledge and approve the appointment by the Mayor of an Ad Hoc Committee on Community Dialogue.

Mayor Rogers stated that the City was embarking on a comprehensive strategy to deal with questions of race within the City of Lakewood, including use of force, police-community relations and general race equity issues. He also stated that existing policies, including force policies for the Sheriff’s Department would be gathered and presented through the City’s website with a goal to solicit input from the community on the policies and potential changes. The input received would be presented as feedback to the community and made available by report to the Sheriff’s Department. He advised that the plan was to seek professional help for gathering the input, providing feedback to the community, and using that input to work toward identifying constructive solutions in a collaborative process, and that the Interfaith Council was a critical step to help mobilize members of the community.

Responding to the request of Mayor Rogers, Council Member DuBois stated she would agree to act as the City liaison to the Interfaith Council.

Mayor Rogers also appointed Council Members Croft and Pe to serve as the Ad Hoc Committee.

Vice Mayor Wood stated that the abilities to listen, to review and to seek public input and guidance was key and he endorsed the plan.

Responding to a question from Vice Mayor Wood, Mayor Rogers stated that thirty local interfaith leaders had been invited to participate and that nine had already agreed.

Council Member Croft stated that the Ad Hoc Committee would make every effort for residents to be able to participate in many formats, such as in person, over the internet and on the telephone.

**3.2 • TAKING THE “OBAMA MAYOR’S PLEDGE” TO REVIEW POLICE USE OF FORCE POLICIES IN LAKEWOOD, AND APPOINTING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE WORK OF THE INTERFAITH COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUE - Continued**

Deidre Norville, Lakewood, addressed the City Council with suggestions to maximize the process. She stressed the need for diversity, especially among the Interfaith Council, and expressed support for an independent commission or governing body to review use of force complaints.

Mayor Rogers closed by stating that the City Council would exhaust every means at its disposal to have as many people as possible participate in this process. He stated he was proud to note that the proactive steps being taken were among the most aggressive that he had seen.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT 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, Pe and Rogers

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Arthur Pinette, Lakewood, addressed the City Council regarding the homeless population currently located in the area of Rynerson Park.

Mitchell Ramirez, Lakewood, inquired about the price tag of the fireworks displays. Mr. McCormack responded that the total cost was \$65,000.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC (by DRH)  
City Clerk