



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
July 28, 2020

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:39 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Weingart Ballroom at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

INVOCATION was offered by Council Member Steve Croft

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Vice Mayor Jeff Wood

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 Marlene Parkening Clark, mother of Nanette Davis, Public Information Specialist; as well as in memory of the mother of Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, Gabriella O'Donnell, who passed away from COVID-19.

PUBLIC SAFETY QUARTERLY REPORT

Captain David Sprengel, Commander of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, presented quarterly crime statistics. He began by offering sincere thanks on behalf of the Lakewood Station to all of the residents who had shown support, through signs, cards, phone calls, and snacks for the Station personnel. He stated that the goal of the Lakewood Station was the preservation of life, protection of property and addressing quality of life issues to the best of their ability. He advised that Part I crimes overall had dropped in comparison to the year's first quarter and in comparison to the same period in 2019. He reported that the only significant increase was a 46% increase in grand theft auto incidents. He noted that the Station had responded to civil unrest, including rioting and looting in the City and the area between May 30 and June 8th. He stated that over 50 arrests had been made. He responded to concerns he had received from community members over the impacts on service from funding cuts in law enforcement by stating that immediate delivery of service would be unaffected, but specialized investigative units, including gang, fraud, narcotics and special victims, could be impacted. He concluded by stating the focus would remain on community driven policing, and that although not perfect, their continuing goal was excellence in law enforcement. He thanked the City Council for their ongoing support.

Responding to a question from Council Member Croft regarding the large uptick in auto theft, the Captain stated that they believed it was a combination of causes. More people being home due to the pandemic created increased opportunity and the court's new no-bail system meant even repeat offenders were back on the streets almost immediately.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

PUBLIC SAFETY QUARTERLY REPORT - Continued

Vice Mayor Wood thanked the Captain for regularly sharing the latest crime trends with City staff so that the City could be proactive and alert residents on how to protect themselves.

Mayor Rogers stated that he had been out in the community with Deputies on May 31st and although it had been a very difficult night, he had witnessed excellent, professional police work being done. He expressed his pride in the Captain's leadership and the station personnel's work. Additionally, he remarked that with many law enforcement agencies already running at a deficit, unable to fill all needed staff positions, discussion of taking away additional funding was a dangerous matter that the City Council would be raising with Supervisor Hahn and the entire Board of Supervisors.

Mayor Rogers stated that normally, there was a city event where Lakewood residents who had reached important milestones or achievements could be recognized called Lakewood Celebrates. Since those types of events were not possible to hold during the pandemic, each City Council Member would introduce a Scout who had attained the highest rank in scouting, Eagle Scout, and provide a brief description of the project undertaken by the new Lakewood Eagle Scout. The scouts and their families had been advised that they could watch the proceedings in a safe way on CityTV.

Council Member DuBois introduced Logan Delp, who, for his project, refurbished a space at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Long Beach with a new sprinkler system and plants and added a rock ground cover; and Sebastian Ehuan-Avila, who made two storage benches for the CASA Youth Shelter, to provide outside storage space for sports items.

Council Member Croft introduced Liam James Kennelly, whose project was to provide a public information kiosk at Lakewood's Home Run Dog Park as a way for pet owners to communicate with the rest of the dog park community and share important information; and Kameron Melvin, whose project benefitted students in special education classrooms and those helped by occupational therapists and speech pathologists in the Long Beach Unified School District by designing, creating and supervising the assembly of thirty sensory toy bars.

Council Member Pe introduced Koby Melvin, who designed and produced specialized adjustable and compact art easels that Long Beach Unified School District high school students in wheelchairs could easily access; and Joseph Reames, who built four planter boxes for Somerset Gardens, located at Somerset High School.

Vice Mayor Jeff Wood introduced Daniel Sepulveda, who constructed and installed backpack hooks that now benefit 280 students at his alma mater, Stephen Foster Elementary School; and James Daniel Soto, whose project provided two upgrades at Lakewood's Weingart Senior Center. He designed and constructed cubby cabinets to provide a storage place for handbags and other items and cleaned out the atrium at the center, refreshing it with new soil, stones and a fresh coat of paint.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: - Continued

Mayor Rogers introduced Nathaniel Antich, who made four bee boxes and stands for Farm Lot 59, a nonprofit, biodynamic farm in Long Beach. The finished boxes now housed bees and were also used as a teaching aid for students and individuals in the community.

Mayor Rogers congratulated the scouts on achieving the most prestigious rank attainable in the Boy Scouts, and also being of service to Lakewood and neighboring cities.

He advised that staff had reached out to the Girl Scouts and Camp Fire so that their top recipients could be recognized as well at a future date.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

Mayor Rogers stated that Routine Item 6 would be considered separately at his request.

COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 5 AND 7 THROUGH 16.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meetings held October 8, October 22, and November 26, 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 - June 2020

RI-7 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-37; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD EXTENDING A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS

RI-8 Authorize Purchasing Agreement for Water Disinfectant with Waterline Technologies

RI-9 Acceptance of Notice of Completion for Public Works Contract 2020-1, Drilling Well 28 Project

RI-10 Approval of Fund Exchange Agreement with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

RI-11 Approval of Waterline Relocation at Lakewood/Del Amo Boulevards Project

ROUTINE ITEMS: - Continued

RI-12 Authorize Additional Expenditure for Hay Barn Project with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach

RI-13 Authorize Work for Parking, Sidewalk and Ramp Repairs at Del Valle Park and Bolivar Park for ADA Compliance

RI-14 Approval of Transfer Agreement with Los Angeles County Flood Control District - Safe Clean Water Program for Municipal Program Funds

RI-15 Approval of Amendments to Memoranda of Understanding with Gateway Region Integrated Water Management Joint Powers Authority to Prepare and Implement Watershed Management Programs and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Programs for the Lower Los Angeles River, the Los Cerritos Channel and the Lower San Gabriel River Watersheds

RI-16 Approval of FY 2020 Justice Assistance Grant Program Funding for Portable Radios

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

RI-6 Designation of Voting Delegate for League Annual Conference

Mayor Rogers stated that he would like to recommend Council Member Pe as the Voting Delegate for the League Annual Conference and, as had been the case for the last few years, designate City Manager Thaddeus McCormick as the alternate in the event Council Member Pe was unable to attend.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEM 6. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

1.1 • CONFIRMING REPORT OF DELINQUENT FEES AND CHARGES FOR GARBAGE, WASTE AND REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Jose Gomez, Director of Finance and Administrative Services made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda and stated that the City Council was presented annually with a list of delinquent accounts for residential refuse collection, which were transmitted to the County of Los Angeles to be included on the tax assessment rolls.

1.1 • CONFIRMING REPORT OF DELINQUENT FEES AND CHARGES FOR GARBAGE, WASTE AND REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL - Continued

He stated that notices had been mailed to 410 account holders, with 253 accounts, totaling \$58,679.73, remaining unpaid as of close of business. He noted that payments would continue to be accepted through the end of the current week. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council conduct a public hearing and adopt the proposed resolution confirming the report of delinquent fees for refuse collection and disposal.

Responding to a question from Vice Mayor Wood, Mr. Gomez stated that this process included those accounts for refuse collection only and not any accounts where refuse collection and water service were combined.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 8:11 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-38; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD CONFIRMING THE REPORT OF DELINQUENT FEES AND CHARGES FOR GARBAGE, WASTE AND REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL WITHIN THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, MAY 31, 2020

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PE SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2020-38. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

1.2 • PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR ON-CALL SERVICES FOR WELL AND BOOSTER PUMP MAINTENANCE

Dr. Jason Wen, Director of Water Resources, made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda and stated that five vendors had been invited to submit bids for on-call services for a typical water well rehab job. He stated that two bids had been received with the lowest bidder being Bakersfield Well & Pump Company, who had recently completed a project for Lakewood's Well 15 and Well 27, both on time and under budget. He concluded by stating that it was the recommendation of staff that the City Council award a contract to Bakersfield Well & Pump Co. of Bakersfield, CA, for On-Call Services for Well and Booster Pump Maintenance and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract in a form approved by the City Attorney.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 8:16 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

1.2 • PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR ON-CALL SERVICES FOR WELL AND BOOSTER PUMP MAINTENANCE - Continued

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND VICE MAYOR WOOD 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

3.1 • PERFORMANCE REPORT REGARDING TEMPORARY OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES ALLOWED IN DESIGNATED EVENT AREAS BY LAKEWOOD CENTER SPECIFIC PLAN 2011-2, AMENDMENT NUMBER 2

The Director of Community Development, Abel Avalos, presented a report based on the memo contained in the agenda stating that periodic performance reviews of the temporary outdoor activities authorized in designated event areas at Lakewood Center were required and that his report summarized the performance of the special events conducted since the last report in September, 2018. He noted that the most visible event was the Farmer's Market held weekly in a portion of the parking lot adjacent to Lakewood Boulevard, but events included a Friday Night Feast event with food trucks, the Circus Vargas, and other smaller events. He also noted that the events had been suspended in April of this year due to public health restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He reported that recently, Lakewood Center had proposed hosting a weekly "Drive-In Movie" experience in the same parking lot possibly as soon as the month of August. He advised that staff had continually monitored the temporary outdoor activities and there had been no reports of disturbances or other problems. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council receive and file the report.

Council Member Croft expressed appreciation for the creative ways that the Lakewood Center offered opportunities for community participation.

Responding to questions from Vice Mayor Wood, Mr. Avalos stated that although there were certain WalMart locations nationally that were using their parking lots for drive-in movies, the Lakewood WalMart had not contacted the City with any intent for their location; and that according to initial proposals, the Mall plan would provide a viewing screen, parking area, and possibly car hop service so that attendees would remain in their vehicles.

The City Manager also responded to a question from Vice Mayor Wood by stating that the proposal by the Mall would include a plan for event security, as well as adhering to public health guidelines.

Mayor Rogers also commended the Lakewood Center Mall for their innovation in activities such as the very successful Friday Night Feast food trucks. He noted that if the Mall's plan did not come to fruition, the City would explore the option to offer an outdoor movie experience through the City's recreation program.

3.1 • PERFORMANCE REPORT REGARDING TEMPORARY OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES ALLOWED IN DESIGNATED EVENT AREAS BY LAKEWOOD CENTER SPECIFIC PLAN 2011-2, AMENDMENT NUMBER 2 - Continued

The Mayor expressed the need for events where the community could still gather and celebrate, while safeguarding everyone's health.

There being no objections, the report was ordered received and filed.

3.2 • SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM

The Director of Community Development presented a report based on the memo in the agenda and stated that with \$81,000 in funding provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), eligible businesses applying could be awarded a \$1,000 grant, for use as general working capital to be applied to payroll, rent, utilities, or be used to implement COVID-19 social distancing. Mr. Avalos reported that the City Manager, at the direction of the Economic Development Committee had begun preparation for implementation of the program as soon as possible, with informational flyers mailed to all non-home based businesses explaining the two-week application window which would close on July 29. He outlined the requirement criteria and noted that, to date, 70 applications had been received for staff review as to eligibility. He noted that the program would not be on a first-come, first-served basis, but rather each applicant would be scored and ranked based on the criteria. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council ratify the Small Business Emergency Relief Grant Program that was established and implemented by the City Manager on July 13, 2020, as directed by the Economic Development Committee.

Council Member Croft stated that the Economic Development Committee had looked at how the funding available could best be used to assist the local business community as quickly as possible. He noted that although the amount was limited by the funding currently available, it was the Committee's intent to provide at least some assistance to as many local businesses as possible. He stated that there was hope that further funding assistance might soon become available to expand the grant program.

In response to a question from Council Member Pe, Mr. Avalos and the City Manager stated if any of these designated funds were not allocated during this round of grants, the surplus would be rolled over and used to augment the next assistance program for the business community as soon as additional funding was made available to the City.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND VICE MAYOR WOOD SECONDED TO RATIFY THE SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Pe and Rogers
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.3 • RESOLUTION NO. 2020-39; TEMPORARY OUTDOOR PERMIT PROGRAM AND TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DINING POLICY

The Community Development Director presented a report based on the memo in the agenda and stated that since the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic restrictions had prevented local businesses from having indoor sales or sit-down dining, City staff had recently developed a Temporary Outdoor Permit program to provide for outdoor facilities in conformance with the public health directives established by the State and the County of Los Angeles. Mr. Avalos reported that the City Manager, at the direction of the Economic Development Committee on June 30, had caused the development and implementation of an emergency temporary outdoor dining policy and outreach promotion called “Dining Outside Lakewood.” The temporary policy allowed restaurants to establish outdoor seating through the use of underutilized parking spaces, hardscape, and landscaped turf areas in the common areas adjacent to the restaurant, and to cut through red tape, at least at the local level. He noted that as the program was being finalized, the Governor began to expand the types of businesses that could operate outdoors, including most personal service businesses, such as barbers, massage, and hair/nail salons. He stated that a resolution had been prepared for the City Council to ratify the Temporary Outdoor Permit program, the Temporary Outdoor Dining Policy along with the related “Dining Outside Lakewood” promotional program, waive all associated City permit fees and expand the program to all qualifying businesses. He advised that up to 10’ by 12’ tents could be approved by City staff, but larger temporary structures required both a building inspection and a Fire Department inspection. He noted that City staff was eager to work with local businesses to identify adjacent areas appropriate for outdoor use that could also provide safe separation from vehicle parking and vehicle paths of travel.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-39; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD RATIFYING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEMPORARY OUTDOOR PERMIT, THE TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DINING POLICY WITH THE RELATED BUSINESS PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM ENTITLED “DINING OUTSIDE LAKEWOOD,” AND WAIVING ANY RELATED CITY FEES FOR PLAN CHECK, PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS OF THESE OUTDOOR FACILITIES FOR SHOPPING, PERSONAL SERVICES AND SIT-DOWN DINING

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Wood, Mr. Avalos stated that staff was working with local businesses to identify when heavy duty intrusion barriers would be required to protect patrons. He also advised that although City fees would be waived, County and Fire Department fees would still apply if the outdoor structure required those clearances.

Council Member DuBois thanked the staff for their hard work to develop plans that would be amenable to the local business community and encouraged their efforts to provide assistance to businesses struggling to stay open.

Responding to a question from Mayor Rogers, Mr. Avalos stated that letters had gone out to local restaurants regarding this outdoor option and that staff was preparing letters to go out to the other types of businesses that could now take advantage of the option.

3.3 • RESOLUTION NO. 2020-39; TEMPORARY OUTDOOR PERMIT PROGRAM AND TEMPORARY OUTDOOR DINING POLICY - Continued

VICE MAYOR WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2020-39. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.4 • QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS - JUNE 30, 2020

The Director of Finance and Administrative Services displayed slides and made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda. He stated that the City Council monitored, on a quarterly basis, the investment portfolio to ensure that it remained in conformance with the City's investment policy, approved each January. Mr. Gomez noted that approximately two-thirds of the portfolio was managed with the assistance of PFM Asset Management, LLC, with the remaining third invested in the statewide Local Agency Investment Funds (LAIF) and the California Asset Management Program (CAMP) statewide pools. He added that the City had established its first investment policy in 1980, well before there were any State requirements and that the City's policy remained more stringent than the State's allowance. He stated that the portfolio was not only very safe, but very highly rated and was closely monitored to ensure the ratings. He also stated that a laddering approach was used for the maturity of investments to provide necessary liquidity, with the final consideration being yield on investment, currently at approximately two percent. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council receive and file the report. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

3.5 • REPORT ON COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

The City Manager provided an update on recent efforts to engage Lakewood's residents in a community dialogue on racial equity and strengthening community law enforcement relations. Mr. McCormack noted that a number of residents had previously addressed the City Council at their June meetings regarding recent protests and racial equity issues, both nationwide and locally. He stated the City Council had provided a framework through the creation of an Interfaith Council of local religious leaders to facilitate an open dialogue, while noting that not only was any person of any religious affiliation welcome to participate, but other forums and opportunities would also be made available. He reported that nineteen local religious leaders had indicated a willingness to participate and had held an initial meeting on July 2, with a second meeting tentatively scheduled for August 5. He noted that one of the members of the Interfaith Council would be making a presentation to the whole group on the seven systemic patterns of racism. He also reported on the progress made on the Mayor's Pledge, related to the Task Force on 21st Century Policing. He advised that the Public Safety Committee had met to review the Use of Force Policy of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and had identified the necessity of also reviewing the Department's policies on de-escalation practices and training, and the use of less than lethal equipment.

3.5 • REPORT ON COMMUNITY DIALOGUE - Continued

Also, a request was made of the Department to provide a statistical report that would show data for only the City of Lakewood, as opposed to the current statistics that only provided a breakdown of data by the five-city Station level. He reported that once the data was acquired, the Public Safety Committee would review and engage residents in discussion. He stated that the overarching goal was a broader Community Dialogue and efforts were currently being undertaken to establish a variety of methods to engage in public discussions in a COVID-sensitive way. He also noted that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Community Dialogue was considering an online survey of residents on relevant issues. He reported that internally, the City was providing training for its employees called “Workplace Culture: A Bridge Building Workshop.” He concluded by stating that the City would continue to provide progress updates to the community at City Council meetings, through magazine articles, the Mayor’s column in the *Lakewood Community News*, and weekly Mayor’s videos.

Council Member Croft, speaking as part of the Ad Hoc Committee, stated that they were looking at various ways for people to participate and communicate in a safe, comfortable manner.

Council Member Pe, as the other member of the Ad Hoc Committee, expressed the desire of the Committee to find best practices for outreach and to be committed to listening, learning and developing a platform for communication.

Mayor Rogers stated he was encouraged by the positive meeting of the Interfaith Council, who mirrored the diversity of the community and were just one part of the program. He stressed the importance to each Member of the City Council of keeping this commitment to the community.

It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council receive and file the report. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

SUCCESSOR HOUSING ACTIONS

1. Approval of Registers of Demands

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

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Phillip Norris, Lakewood, addressed the City Council regarding care for the homeless, playground safety, and the level of detail in the City’s investment policy report.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Marlene Parkening Clark and Gabriella O'Donnell.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC (by DRH)
City Clerk