



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
October 13, 2020

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:36 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Weingart Ballroom at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

INVOCATION was offered by Council Member Vicki Stuckey

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Council Member Ariel Pe

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Todd Rogers
Vice Mayor Jeff Wood
Council Member Steve Croft
Council Member Ariel Pe
Council Member Vicki Stuckey

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Rogers announced that the meeting would be adjourned in memory of Joe Coulter, a longtime CityTV freelance crew member; and also in memory of Janice Hawkins, the wife of Phil Hawkins, Director of the Central Basin Water District.

Tania Whiteleather, representing the Rotary Club of Lakewood and the Project Shepherd Committee Chairperson made a presentation about the annual Project Shepherd program to provide food and toys for families in need over the holidays. She reported that over 300 families had been assisted through the program last year. She advised that registration for participants would be November 4-18, with distribution on December 9 through the 19th. She concluded by inviting Mayor Rogers to serve as honorary chairperson.

Council Member Pe reported that he and Vice Mayor Wood had attended a virtual presentation of the League of California Cities conference last week and had received some very good information. He also reported briefly on his participation in the Community Dialogue, noting the encouraging participation by so many in the community. He concluded by announcing that October was Filipino American History month, and that as the first Filipino American to serve on the Lakewood City Council, he was honored by the opportunity to serve.

Council Member Stuckey recognized and thanked those community members participating in the Weekend of Dialogue held at several local churches. She noted that she and Mayor Rogers had attended three separate church meetings and an additional Zoom service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: Continued

Mayor Rogers stated that although due to Brown Act restrictions only two City Council Members were able to participate directly in both the Community Dialogue meetings and the Weekend of Dialogue services, recordings of the events were made available to the entire Council. He expressed appreciation to the Interfaith Council and all of the participating pastors and congregations.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND VICE MAYOR WOOD SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 3 AND 5 THROUGH 9.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held May 12, 2020

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands

RI-5 Approval of Meeting Reports and Authorizations Pursuant to AB 1234

RI-6 Approval of Reimbursement Agreement for Long Beach Transit Fixed Route Subsidy Services

RI-7 Approval of Purchase of Various Operational Parts and Supplies

RI-8 Approval of Professional Services Agreement for Implementation and Maintenance of Utility Management System

RI-9 Approval of Engineering Design Services for RMRA and STPL Pavement Rehab

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

RI-4 Approval of Report of City Council Committees' Activities

Deidre Norville, Lakewood, addressed the City Council regarding the Committee report with questions about reporting processes for neighborhood parking problems and whether the City Council would be taking a position on Measure J.

Mayor Rogers reminded Lakewood residents of the various ways for residents to contact the City and the City Council with any concerns and encouraged residents to call City Hall, email or use the downloadable app Lakewood Connect to report problems or concerns.

ROUTINE ITEMS: Continued

VICE MAYOR WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER STUCKEY SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEM 4. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

1.1 • PURCHASE ORDER FOR WELL 13A TREATMENT SYSTEM

Jason Wen, Director of Water Resources, made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda and stated that a treatment system was required in order to bring Well 13A, located at CandleVerde Park, back into service after detection of a higher than acceptable arsenic level. He reported that a pilot study, conducted in July 2020, had determined that removal of the excessive arsenic was feasible. The Department had issued a Request for Proposal for a treatment system and received three bids, with the lowest being Yardney Water Management System. The plan would be to purchase the treatment system first, as it would take several months to build. He noted that Yardney had also provided alternative options that met the specification criteria, and which reduced their bid price by \$32,000 to \$154,873.68. He concluded by stating that a design consultant would be selected and the construction phase was expected to begin in early 2021 and completed by April 2021. The City Council Water Resources Committee had reviewed and approved the selection in their October 5, 2020 meeting. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council appropriate \$165,000, which included a 6.5% contingency, in Water Fund Reserves for Well 13A Treatment System and award a Purchase Order to Yardney Water Management Systems, Inc. for not-to-exceed costs of \$155,000.

Council Member Croft, as a member of the City Council Water Committee, reminded everyone that arsenic was a naturally occurring mineral in the ground and sometimes appeared in ground water necessitating treatment.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 7:56 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 STUCKEY SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

2.1 • APPOINTMENT TO COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMISSION

Mayor Rogers stated that the appointment of Vicki Stuckey to the City Council had left a vacancy on the Planning and Environment Commission, which had been ably filled by Bill Baca, formerly a member of the Community Safety Commission. He announced that with the depth of talent within the City, he had found a very qualified replacement for the vacancy on the Community Safety Commission. He introduced Sarah B. Mendoza, who had grown up in the City of Lakewood, was a graduate of Lakewood's St. Joseph High School, and held a Communications degrees from Hofstra University and Syracuse University.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-55; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD APPOINTING SARAH MENDOZA TO THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMISSION REPLACING BILL BACA

MAYOR ROGERS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2020-55 APPOINTING SARAH B. MENDOZA TO THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMISSION. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

Sarah Mendoza expressed her appreciation to the City Council for the opportunity to serve and represent the community.

3.1 • QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT OF MAJOR FUNDS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Jose Gomez, Director of Finance and Administrative Services, displayed slides and gave a brief presentation based on the memo in the agenda. He stated that his presentation would cover the first quarter of the new budget from July 1 through September 30, 2020 for the City's two major funds, the General Fund and the Water Utility Enterprise Fund. He noted that although it was their practice to track a year-to-year comparison and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy globally had made for an especially challenging year, he would describe the City's fiscal position as favorable. He reported that operational expenditures from the General Fund were trending as expected and aligned with the adopted budget. He noted that although there had been significant expenses related to the pandemic, State and Federal grant funding had been made available to cover most costs. He stated that the revenue side was also trending as expected. He pointed out that the City's traditionally conservative budget projections were especially helpful during the pandemic times. He reported that there were many agencies experiencing difficulties with revenue sources, but that many of those sources, such as hotel, convention, theme parks and casinos, did not apply to Lakewood's mostly retail-based revenues. He reported that the Water Fund, which was closely aligned with both weather and seasonal demand, was also trending close to the anticipated mark and that consumption was slightly higher than normal.

3.1 • QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT OF MAJOR FUNDS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 - Continued

He concluded by stating that the City's measured approach had placed it in a better position to deal with changing trends and that the approval by voters of Measure L had provided additional stability. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council receive and file the report.

Council Member Croft noted that in the retail aspect of the revenues, the City was fortunate to have a number of large retailers that were able to remain open through State and County mandates and that thanks to the passage of Measure L, the City was also able to now receive $\frac{3}{4}$ of a percent of sales tax from online sales.

Mayor Rogers thanked his colleagues for their discipline in budgeting, as fiscal prudence was both a tradition and a core value in Lakewood. He expressed appreciation to the residents of Lakewood for the passage of Measure L, which provided for a long-term measure of sustainability for the community, and especially so in unanticipated disasters such as the current pandemic.

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

3.2 • MEASURE L CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING #1 UPDATE

Deputy City Manager Paolo Beltran, gave a presentation based on the memo in the agenda and stated that Measure L had included a requirement that an advisory committee be created to review, on a semi-annual basis, the City's expenditure and revenues generated by the measure. He reported that the Citizens Oversight Committee, which was comprised of five residents appointed by the City Council to represent key stakeholder groups, and two members representing the Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and a service organization had held its first meeting on October 6, 2020. City staff provided Committee members a primer on the Ralph M. Brown Act, a presentation on municipal finances, a discussion of the City budget for fiscal years 2020-22, impacts of Measure L on the City's budget, capital improvement and infrastructure needs. The Committee was scheduled to meet some time in March and August to review the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the adopted budget. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council receive and file this report.

Council Member Croft stated that he had been impressed by the skill level demonstrated by the Committee members and their quick grasp of the budget. He stated that great questions were asked and good, engaged discussions held.

Council Member Stuckey noted the selection of Committee members well represented the community.

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

3.3 • HALLOWEEN-THEMED EVENTS

Valarie Frost, Director of Recreation and Community Services, displayed slides and made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda. She stated that the City had been hosting family events for Halloween since 1956, and that this year, in place of traditional Halloween carnivals, the City would offer several alternatives to help residents celebrate the spooky holiday. The first event, held online, would be a “Spooktacular” Halloween Photo Contest over the Halloween weekend, with residents being invited to submit photos for prizes in several categories. She reported that a series of three Halloween themed drive-in movies at Lakewood Center would be held on Fridays, October 23 and 30 and Saturday, October 31 and each vehicle would receive a free goody bag sponsored by community organizations including the Lakewood Lions Club and the Lakewood Family YMCA. On Saturday, October 24, the City would partner with Lakewood Center, Assembly Member Anthony Rendon, the Lakewood Family YMCA and Rotary Club of Lakewood to present a drive-thru pumpkin patch and Halloween treat bag distribution event at Lakewood Center Mall, where participants would drive through a maze of unique Halloween themed displays put together by City staff at recreation facilities and volunteers from the event partners. Each family would receive one pumpkin and one treat bag for each child in the car at the conclusion of the maze. She concluded by stating that Lakewood’s tradition of hosting Halloween themed events would continue through the offering of safe alternatives for celebrating the holiday. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council receive and file the report.

Responding to a question from Vice Mayor Wood, Ms. Frost stated that registration for each movie was required and would open the week of the showing, with Lakewood residents being offered priority registration.

Council Member Pe and Council Member Croft thanked Ms. Frost and her staff for creatively finding a way for Lakewood families to still come together as a community and celebrate the holiday.

In response to a question from Mayor Rogers, the City Manager stated that although the Los Angeles County Public Health Department had not expressly prohibited trick-or-treating, they were discouraging the practice and had not issued any safety guidelines.

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

3.4 • REPORT ON COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

City Manager Thaddeus McCormack provided an updated report on the status of the Community Dialogue and related racial equity issues. He reported that the two Community Dialogue Town Halls held on September 26th and September 30th had been well attended and received. Over 100 residents had participated, and offered over 300 written and oral comments, including lots of suggestions for actions to fulfill the Council’s goal of building on all the good in Lakewood and making the City an even safer and more welcoming community.

3.4 • REPORT ON COMMUNITY DIALOGUE - Continued

He stated that while Council Members Pe and Croft, as the Council's Ad Hoc Committee on the Community Dialogue, spoke at the beginning and end of each Town Hall and represented the full Council there, the recordings of each meeting were shared with the entire Council and were now available to the public through the City's website. He noted that about sixty residents who were not able to participate in the Zoom Town Hall meetings had submitted comments in writing. In addition, several Lakewood religious congregations had met on Sunday, September 27, a "Weekend of Dialogue," to discuss racial equity issues, with Mayor Rogers and Council Member Stuckey visiting in person or virtually with each of those congregations. Acknowledging that racial issues were not an easy topic to discuss, and that some residents might feel more comfortable having a discussion about it on a more personal or private basis, several members of Lakewood's Interfaith Council had offered to join Lakewood City Council Members in making a personal COVID-safe visit to homes to listen to residents on the important subject. He stated that staff and the City Council would review what residents had to say, see what looked like the most viable options for Lakewood, and then present those ideas back to the community for their feedback and thoughts.

He also provided an update on the Mayor's Pledge to conduct a community review of the Use of Force Policy utilized by the Sheriff's Department in Lakewood by stating the Public Safety Committee, Mayor Rogers and Vice Mayor Wood, had discussed the best way to undertake this process, and were very close to starting the community review, which would be announced through an eMagazine to residents next week and in the Lakewood Community News shortly after that. Residents' thoughts on improvements that the City could recommend to the Sheriff's Department would be submitted over the rest of October and into early November. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council receive and file the report.

James Norville, Lakewood, addressed the City Council stating that he had been a participant in the second Town Hall and expressed the desire to be able to see and contact the other participants.

Council Member Pe stated that he had been encouraged to see the energy of the participants in the Town Hall meetings, who had offered candid, constructive comments and had not been at all divisive. He also expressed appreciation for the moderator, Eric Bailey, who had done an excellent job of providing everyone an opportunity to speak and be heard.

Council Member Croft stated that the Town Hall meetings were the beginning of a process and that suggestions for improvements were very welcome. He noted that there had been suggestions about neighborhood meet and greets, where residents would have an opportunity to get acquainted with other people on their streets and neighborhoods which, unfortunately, would have to wait due to pandemic restrictions. He expressed appreciation for those participants who were willing to be forthright and honest in sharing their experiences, both positive and negative, and to the members of the Interfaith Council for their help.

3.4 • REPORT ON COMMUNITY DIALOGUE - Continued

Mayor Rogers noted that since there had been a number of people who had wished to remain anonymous and had submitted their comments directly to the moderator or the City Council Members, it was important to provide opportunities for confidentiality as well as for those wanting to interact, connect and share. The Mayor expressed his appreciation to his City Council colleagues, the City staff, the Interfaith Council and to all of the residents willing to step forward and work as a community to improve Lakewood and make it a community where everyone could feel safe and welcomed.

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m. to Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the Maple Room. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Joe Coulter and Janice Hawkins.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC (by DRH)
City Clerk