



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
October 27, 2020

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:33 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Weingart Ballroom at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

INVOCATION was offered by Vice Mayor Jeff Wood

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 Ariel Pe
Council Member Vicki Stuckey

Mayor Rogers stated that in the interest of coronavirus prevention, the meeting was being held in the large Centre ballroom so people could amply spread out and that members of the public could watch the proceedings on television or could attend in a safe, physically-distanced way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Rogers announced that the meeting would be adjourned in memory of longtime resident and crossing guard Tom Miller. He explained that due to the coronavirus pandemic, many Lakewood events had to be reimagined to be safe and physically distanced including the annual Older Adult Benefits Information Fair noting that for this year, staff had put together a resource of information from benefit providers that could be accessed from the City website. Mayor Rogers expressed gratitude to Recreation and Community Services staff for putting together the “Drive-Thru Halloween Goody Grab-n-Go” event at the Weingart Senior Center and thanked Lakewood’s older adults for their participation. Mayor Rogers thanked residents, businesses and staff for their generous support of the Lakewood Education Foundation. He reported that with the current year’s complications, the fireworks fundraiser and annual Golf Tournament could not take place; however, Lakewood residents continued to respond to requests for donations. He added that there would be opportunities for the entire Lakewood community to participate and because of the continued generosity of the community, some badly needed support to Lakewood schools would be provided.

Council Member Croft encouraged senior residents to register for the Grab and Go meal program described by the Mayor. He and Council Member Pe expressed gratitude to staff and the service organizations who participated in the Halloween Drive Thru event over the past weekend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: - Continued

Vice Mayor Wood provided information on a dine out fundraiser at Chipotle for the following day to benefit the Pan American Association.

Mayor Rogers introduced Captain David Sprengel, Commander of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, who would provide the Quarterly Public Safety Report.

Captain Sprengel recognized retired Council Member Diane DuBois on her record of service to the Lakewood community, which he noted was exemplified by the grace and humility she displayed while carrying out her duties. He congratulated Council Member Stuckey on her appointment and stated that he looked forward to building upon the existing partnership with the City. He announced the upcoming 30th anniversary of the Lakewood Run, which would take place as a virtual run due to the pandemic. The Captain presented the crime statistics and its impacts for the third quarter, which included the COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest, fire response and protests. He explained that Lakewood Station's goals remained the preservation of life, protection of property and addressing quality of life issues. He reported that overall crime for the year was down and that there had been significant drops in rape, robbery, burglary and larceny theft. He noted an increase in aggravated assault and grand theft auto. He added that overall crime at Lakewood Center had been consistent with crime in the City. In comparing the first two quarters of the year with the 3rd quarter, overall crime continued to trend down overall. He stated that aggravated assault saw the biggest increase and although up, grand theft auto dropped from the second quarter number of 82 to 59 thefts for the quarter and that the majority of cars stolen continued to be older model Hondas and Chevy trucks. Captain Sprengel encouraged voters to make themselves aware of the impacts Measure J, Proposition 20 and the District Attorney race. He expressed concerns about budget cuts to the Sheriff's Department and the impact such cuts could have on the community. He added that the Department always worked to evolve in an ever-changing climate and continued to work positively in challenging times citing as an example the Lakewood Station's new implementation of the Body Worn Camera program, with almost the entire staff trained and utilizing the cameras during daily field operations. He asserted that the cameras would allow the Department to identify areas of concern and help to address other allegations related to personnel and their actions.

Mayor Rogers inquired about the potential for violence after November 3rd, regardless of the outcome of the presidential election.

Captain Sprengel responded that the Department had been making assessments and taking steps to beef up deployment during the week of the election.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PE SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 9.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meetings held March 16, and May 26, 2020

ROUTINE ITEMS: - Continued

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 - September 2020

RI-6 Quarterly Schedule of Investments - September 30, 2020

RI-7 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-56; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD ESTABLISHING DISABLED PERSON DESIGNATED PARKING ON THE WEST SIDE OF CLARK AVENUE WITHIN THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD

RI-8 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-57; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD RESCINDING A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS DESIGNATED PARKING SPACE WITHIN THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD

RI-9 Additional Consulting Services for Mayfair Park Water Capture Project - Willdan Engineering, Inc.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.1 • REPORT ON VOTING OPTIONS

Paolo Beltran, Deputy City Manager, displayed slides and made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda providing a report on voting options for the election to be held on November 3, 2020. He stated that voting was well underway with voters already voting by mail and that it was anticipated that there would be a large and possibly historic turnout. As of the previous day, there had been sixty million early votes cast in the country and with so many votes already being cast, there was a lot of scrutiny about ballot integrity. Completed ballots could be returned via mail, in person at any secure Vote by Mail drop box location in the County and at any Vote Center in the county when they were open. He added that for the upcoming election, the County installed more than 400 drop boxes throughout the County. Using the boxes was a safe, accessible and contact-free method for voters to return their ballots in this time of COVID-19 and County personnel collected submitted ballots at least every 24 hours. Another option was to vote in person with voters having ten consecutive days up until Election Day to vote in person at participating vote center in L.A. County.

3.1 • REPORT ON VOTING OPTIONS - Continued

He explained that the vote centers in Lakewood would be open on October 30 and voters could access the full list of vote centers at www.lavote.net.

Vice Mayor Wood reported on the ease and convenience of the Vote Center located at Long Beach City College, where there were no lines with plenty of machines.

Mayor Rogers encouraged residents who had the opportunity to vote early and to take advantage of the Vote Center at Long Beach City College or any of the other centers that were open.

3.2 • REPORT ON COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Thaddeus McCormack, City Manager, reported that in terms of the Town Hall and Community Dialogue process, staff had received feedback from over 150 residents directly and from hundreds of other residents who were part of nine religious congregations that took part in a Weekend of Dialogue on racial equity issues in late September. Staff had been reading through the hundreds of individual comments and recommendations and compiling and categorizing them into common themes. He stated the plan was that after the Council committees and the entire City Council reviewed the resident comments and made initial recommendations, the proposed actions would be presented to the full community again for their feedback before a final decision was made on steps to be taken. He added that residents could still offer written comments at lakewoodcity.org/CommunityDialogue and they could also still request a “home visit” to discuss racial equity issues with a council member, along with a Lakewood religious community leader if they would like. Mr. McCormack provided an update on the Mayor’s Pledge to conduct a community review of the Use of Force policy of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. At the direction of the Public Safety Committee, which was composed of Mayor Rogers and Vice Mayor Wood, the community review process had been opened on October 9th with approximately a dozen reviews received so far. The comment period would remain open until November 9th and it was expected that more reviews would be received closer to the deadline. He communicated that in addition to the eMagazine stories which had been done on the community review, a story would also be included in the Lakewood Community News.

Mayor Rogers thanked everyone who had participated in the Community Dialogue and stated he looked forward to building on all the good that had been accomplished and making Lakewood the safest and most welcoming city it could be.

Council Member Pe stated that he had met with Becky Nicolaidis, a PhD affiliated research scholar from USC Institute of California, who was writing a book on diversity and had been impressed with what Lakewood was doing.

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

SUCCESSOR HOUSING ACTIONS

1. Approval of Register of Demands

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

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m. to Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the Maple Room. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Tom Miller.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk