



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
August 12, 2014

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Todd Rogers
Vice Mayor Jeff Wood
Council Member Steve Croft
Council Member Diane DuBois
Council Member Ron Piazza

WATER CONSERVATION

James Glancy, Director of Water Resources, displayed slides and made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda reporting that earlier in the year, the Governor had issued executive orders declaring a state of emergency caused by a lack of precipitation and calling for a 20% reduction in water use. The State Water Resources Board actions included using 2013 as the baseline for comparison, placing restrictions on outdoor water use, establishing penalties for violations and established reporting requirements for water utilities. He identified statewide water use restrictions such as prohibiting washing down driveways, sidewalks, parking lots and structures; prohibiting runoff from landscape areas; prohibiting washing vehicles except when using hoses equipped with a shut-off nozzle; and prohibiting decorative water fountains unless water recirculated. Some elements of the emergency regulations included requiring that retail water agencies implement water shortage contingency plans with adoption of mandatory water restrictions for landscape irrigation, tracking of urban water use by suppliers and enforcement of water use restrictions. Mr. Glancy stated that the proposed resolution would implement Phase 2 of the City's Water Conservation Plan setting mandatory limits on landscape irrigation, allowing watering three times a week in the summer and two times per week in the winter with each station running no more than ten minutes and watering prohibited between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. He presented the items for future implementation such as adjusting the water conservation rate and calling for businesses with higher usage to submit a water conservation plan.

Philip Lopez, Parks Superintendent, reviewed the water use restrictions as they impacted landscape irrigation and presented slides showing the varying impacts of reduced watering on turf.

Tree and Hardscape Manager Grant Pickering reported on the impacts of reduced watering on the City's tree inventory and identified some best practices such as deep watering to encourage root development, using a hose shut-off valve or a five gallon bucket, and applying water directly beneath the foliage and shaded areas.

WATER CONSERVATION - Continued

Mr. Glancy stated that recycled water had been exempt from water use restrictions and provided a gallon for gallon savings of potable water. He reported that the City's recycled water system had been operational 25 years ago and currently served 70% of City facilities, five schools and one commercial grower. He added that 580 acre feet of recycled water sold in fiscal year 2014 saved enough drinking water to serve over 1,000 Lakewood families for one year. He provided a list of the City facilities utilizing non-potable water and reviewed the potential recycled water system expansion.

Responding to Vice Mayor Wood's concerns regarding the visibility of recycled water signs, Mr. Glancy stated that a survey would be conducted to determine replacement needs.

Mr. Lopez demonstrated the uses of technology to increase efficiency which included the capability of the system to show mainline breaks. He highlighted other efforts to lessen reliance on potable water such as installation of artificial turf, drip irrigation and subsurface irrigation at various locations and identified some of the proposed projects such as installation of a dual system recycled/potable water service, a water conservation demonstration garden and replacement of ivy with low water use plant material.

Allison Brammer, Assistant Director of Recreation and Community Services, summarized the effects of drought conditions on City functions including impacts to the seasonal recreation and park programs, community pools and decorative fountains.

Lisa Litzinger, Director of Recreation and Community Services, reviewed the results of a survey of drought impacts on other communities.

Public Works Director Lisa Rapp provided other conservation efforts such as water saving median design and plumbing fixture retrofit.

Sonia Southwell, Director of Community Development, described other potential impacts to outdoor water use and code enforcement issues.

Mr. Glancy reported on the results of the turf removal residential rebate and water saving irrigation device rebate programs.

Public Information Officer Bill Grady detailed the public education plan to communicate water use restrictions to residents and businesses in the form of website and newsletter articles, billing envelope reminders, and letters.

Diane Perkin, Director of Administrative Services, identified the financial impacts of the drought on revenues and provided projections for conservation rates.

Council Member Piazza, noting the many suggestions for residents, expressed the need to provide tools for businesses to help with their water conservation programs.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
Acting City Clerk