



# Minutes

## Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held  
December 27, 2012

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**MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER** at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor DuBois in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Council Member Todd Rogers

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

### **2.1 • REVIEW OF AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS FILED FOR CITY COUNCIL VACANCY AND APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

Vice Mayor Croft stated that the City Council Vacancy Ad Hoc Committee had met twice over the holiday period and spent more than four hours thoroughly reviewing the applications of the twenty individuals requesting consideration of appointment to the vacancy on the City Council due to the passing of Council Member Larry Van Nostran. He thanked the applicants for their thoughtfully written statements and expressed the hope that they would continue to be actively involved in the community. He offered a special thanks to Donald Waldie for presenting the City Council with an additional option by offering to serve in a caretaker capacity, without seeking the seat in 2015. He stated that the task of narrowing down the list had been a difficult one, but the Committee had prepared a list of five. The five applicants, in alphabetical order, were: Bill Baca, Ron Piazza, Vicki Stuckey, Marc Titel and Ron Wade.

Council Member Wood stated that the Committee had put a lot of time into the review of the applications in order to present five names for full Council consideration. He stated that in addition to providing the short list of five names, the Ad Hoc Committee was also making a specific recommendation that the remainder of the term of office held by Larry Van Nostran be filled by the appointment of a long-time resident with extensive civic and business experience, Ron Piazza.

Council Member Rogers thanked the Ad Hoc Committee for tackling the huge task of reviewing the applications and noted that many of the applicants would have made great City Council Members. He stated that although a special election, letting the voters decide, was an option that appealed to him, there were a number of considerations such as having to wait until June to actually fill the vacancy; making candidates have to run two campaigns in two years, an expensive and incredibly stressful process; the expense of an election – as much as \$100,000 that could be needed for other things should there be additional take-aways by the State. He suggested the City Council consider appointing a caretaker to fill the unexpired term until the 2015 election, where all candidates could make their case to the voters.

**2.1 • REVIEW OF AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS FILED FOR CITY COUNCIL VACANCY AND APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY COUNCIL - Continued**

Mayor DuBois stated that she did not want to drag out the process to more meetings, and that since the Brown Act required the City Council to conduct the entire process at a public meeting, it was up to the City Council to use the applications that were submitted and their knowledge of the five final applicants to make the best choice possible for the City.

MAYOR DUBOIS MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2012-74, COMPLETED WITH THE NAME OF RONALD PIAZZA AS THE APPOINTEE.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-74; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD APPOINTING RONALD PIAZZA TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF LARRY VAN NOSTRAN

Vice Mayor Croft stated that a lot of thought was put into the caretaker option, with the major benefit being skipping the election, and that would have been a good option had the applicant pool been lacking. He noted that there were needs within the community that the funds could be better spent on than the holding of a special election. He pointed out that appointment process was made feasible by the ability of the City Council to work together in a unified manner and that he was comfortable that they were making a good recommendation for the community. He also noted that at the end of the term in 2015, all of the applicants would have the opportunity to make their case to the voters for why they would be the best candidate to serve the community.

Council Member Wood stated that he was not in favor of the caretaker option. He noted that as the most newly elected Member of the City Council, he had found that there was a learning curve and if someone were limited to a two-year appointment, they would barely get through it before it was time to step down. He stated that with so many good applicants, capable and willing to serve, there was no value in prolonging the process. He concluded by stating that he felt the appointment of Ron Piazza would be beneficial to the City.

Council Member Rogers stated that in the interest of collegiality, and proceeding in the manner he believed Larry Van Nostran would have, he seconded the motion and called for the question.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROGERS SECONDED THE MOTION. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

Mayor DuBois congratulated Mr. Piazza and again thanked all of the wonderfully talented residents that had submitted applications, encouraging them to remain active in the community.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mike Bostic addressed the City Council regarding the impacts on the surrounding neighbors of the media and fan presence at the Rivera home, following the death of their daughter Jenni.

Stephanie Swantek requested the City Council authorize an extension of time for her family to comply with the demolition of illegal structures.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor DuBois adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC  
City Clerk