



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
July 27, 2010

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:35 p.m. by Mayor Esquivel in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Joseph Esquivel
Vice Mayor Larry Van Nostran
Council Member Steve Croft
Council Member Diane DuBois
Council Member Todd Rogers

AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEM

Captain Christy Guyovich, Commander of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, stated that in light of the difficulties in obtaining permission from CalTrans for use of license plate recognition cameras on Lakewood Boulevard (State Highway 19), Leveridge Information Systems had developed an alternate plan.

Mark Sarria, Leveridge Information Systems, displayed slides and gave a presentation on the alternate proposal. The new plan would relocate the cameras on Lakewood Boulevard east, at both Candlewood and Hardwick Streets, but at both locations a new utility pole would be required as the street light poles could not accommodate the weight of the cameras. Another camera would be located at the Silva Street entrance to the Mall property.

Responding to a question from Council Member Rogers, Mr. Sarria clarified that there were two types of cameras proposed, an Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) camera that could read and relay license plate information and the Pan, Tilt, Zoom (PTZ) camera that could follow a particular moving vehicle.

Council Member Rogers noted that without the cameras on Lakewood Boulevard, there would be a blind spot between Candlewood and Hardwick, unless the vehicle turned into the Mall.

Council Member DuBois inquired about alternatives for working with CalTrans. City Manager Howard Chambers responded by stating that although the CalTrans approval process took an inordinately long time, one alternative the City Council could consider was approaching CalTrans about relinquishment of Lakewood Boulevard to the City. Public Works Director Lisa Rapp noted that because Lakewood Boulevard was named as a State Highway in the California Codes, legislation would be required for a relinquishment.

Responding to Council Member Croft, Mr. Chambers stated that the only difference in cost with the alternative plan would be installation of the additional poles.

AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEM - Continued

Council Member Rogers stated he saw a number of drawbacks with the alternative plan that would need to be addressed before it was ready to move forward. Captain Guyovich concurred that the original plan, with the Lakewood Boulevard cameras, was a better plan and that the alternative plan was a work-around for the CalTrans problem.

The City Manager suggested that if the City Council was in agreement, the ALPR plan could be turned over to the Council's Public Safety Committee to explore other options and hammer out the details.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON SYSTEM REVIEW

Ben Harvey, Regional Manager Local Public Affairs for Southern California Edison, made a presentation on Edison's new SmartConnect grid system. He reported that the conversion to electronic "smart meters" had been mandated by the Public Utilities Commission. The "smart meters" would be installed, usually in just minutes and with minimal disruption, by Corix Utilities, an Edison subcontractor. He noted that they were working with City staff on meter change-outs for City facilities to ensure there were no interruptions in service. He stated that since the new meters could be read remotely, meter readers would no longer be necessary and were being retrained for other positions. He noted that although rates were scheduled to increase by 1.6% following the meter installations, new programs would be offered that customers could take advantage of to manage their consumption and reduce their bills. Edison customers would also be able to view their accounts through the SCE website.

Council Member DuBois expressed the need for educational outreach, especially seniors who might be less familiar with technology.

Responding to a question from Council Member Croft, Mr. Harvey stated that some of the meters had built in transmitters that were able to collect data from the meters in the area and pass on the data to Edison.

PARK POLICY ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Recreation and Community Services Director Lisa Litzinger advised the City Council that her department would be conducting a trial program at two facilities, Rynerson Park and the West San Gabriel River Nature Trail. During the trial period, dogs would be allowed within the park, providing they were continuously controlled on a leash not more than six feet in length. Staff had met with representatives from the Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAACA) and clarified that citations should not be issued at those locations, except for dogs not on a leash. Dogs would continue to be prohibited at special events, such as the Concerts in the Park for safety reason. She stated that staff would monitor complaints and any problems that arose and report back to the City Council.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Esquivel adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk