



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Special Meeting held
June 22, 2010

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Esquivel in the Council Chambers 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

BUDGET STUDY SESSION

City Manager Howard Chambers displayed slides and reviewed the proposed budget for FY 2010-2011. He stated that the budget development was a six-month process and looked at how economic conditions affected the City's budget decisions. Noting the number of cities struggling to provide basic services, he posed the question, "Why is Lakewood different?" The answers to that question were, Lakewood had always been a fiscally conservative city, skilled in contracting for services, intent on maintaining its infrastructure, and believing in a 'pay as you go' theory. He compared Revenues and Expenditures over a fifteen year period, noting that the City work force had remained a constant number over the years, resisting the practice of many by adding staff during economic peaks. He briefly reviewed Economic Development noting that Lakewood was still attracting new businesses. He presented the proposed Capital Projects, noting the grant funds to be used, and the ten focus areas of the budget. He concluded by stating that the budget, as presented, was balanced and briefly reviewed how a balanced bottom line had been reached. He stated that in addition to belt tightening in every department and seeking every available source of grant funding, City employees had agreed to a contract with no cost of living increase and City contractors had waived cost of living adjustments to which they were contractually entitled.

Assistant to the City Manager Carol Flynn Jacoby displayed slides and presented the proposed law enforcement budget. She advised that serious crime was on a down trend and reviewed a breakdown of the staffing. She also reviewed the programs and services for the community, such as classes offered through the Community Safety Center in the Lakewood Mall; crime prevention programs like Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch and the L.A.N.D. program for apartment owners; the Sky Knight helicopter patrol program; the Nuisance Abatement Team; the dedicated Fingerprint Identification Specialist; license plate recognition vehicle; and illegal fireworks abatement team.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Esquivel announced at 7:33 p.m. that this special meeting would be adjourned and a brief recess observed before the beginning of the regular meeting to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC

City Clerk