



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
October 25, 2011

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Van Nostran in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

INVOCATION was offered by Rabbi Howard Laibson, Congregation Shir Chadash

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Vice Mayor Diane DuBois

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Van Nostran announced that the meeting would be adjourned in memory of the victims of the salon shooting in Seal Beach. He noted that two of the victims, Christy Wilson and Michelle Fournier, had grown up in Lakewood. He advised that the meeting would also be adjourned in memory of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sergeant Robert Anderson, a resident of Lakewood and formerly a deputy out of the Lakewood Station. Finally, he announced that the meeting would also be adjourned in memory of Dan Esquivel, brother to former Mayor Joe Esquivel.

Mayor Van Nostran introduced the new commander of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, Captain Merrill Ladenheim.

Council Member Rogers thanked the City Council for the City's support of the recent Lakewood Education Foundation golf tournament which raised enough funds to allow for \$45,000 in grants to teachers in Lakewood schools.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

Mayor Van Nostran advised that Routine Item 6 had been removed from the agenda.

COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD MOVED AND VICE MAYOR DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 5 AND 7 THROUGH 11.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meetings held September 27, and October 11, 2011

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands

ROUTINE ITEMS: Continued

- RI-4 RESOLUTION NO. 2011-53; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD ESTABLISHING DISABLED PERSON DESIGNATED PARKING ON THE WEST SIDE OF BRIERCREST AVENUE WITHIN THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD
- RI-5 Approval of Reduction of Retention for Public Works Project No. 11-1, Watermain Replacement
- RI-7 Approval of Maintenance Service Agreement for Telephone and Voicemail Systems with Standard Tel Networks
- RI-8 Approval of Lease Agreement with Southern California Edison Company for West San Gabriel River Parkway, Phase 3
- RI-9 Approving Renewal of Recreational Land Use License Agreement with Southern California Edison Company for Community Gardens
- RI-10 Approval of Monthly Report of Investment Transactions
- RI-11 Approval of Quarterly Schedule of Investments

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

2.1 • STATE AUDIT OF THE CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Water Resources Director Jim Glancy displayed slides and made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda. He stated that recent legislation signed by the Governor authorized the State Auditor to establish a high-risk government agency audit program. Citing lawsuits filed by the Central Basin Municipal Water District resulting in millions of dollars of legal costs, a lack of transparency regarding expenditures and conflicts of interest, and the increasingly large surcharge fees imposed by said District; the member cities of the Southeast Water Coalition and the Central Basin Water Association were recommending a call upon the State Joint Legislative Audit Committee to identify the Central Basin Municipal Water District as a high risk government agency and direct the State Auditor to conduct an audit. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council adopt the proposed resolution to request a State audit of the Central Basin Municipal District.

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-55; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD REQUESTING THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE IDENTIFY CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT AS A HIGH RISK GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND DIRECT THE STATE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF THE AGENCY'S PRACTICES

2.1 • STATE AUDIT OF THE CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Mr. Glancy responded to a question from Mayor Van Nostran by stating that it would fall to the State legislature to enforce any recommendations made by the State Auditor as the result of a full audit.

Vice Mayor DuBois inquired about benefits to water system customers from Central Basin's surcharge or parcel tax. Mr. Glancy responded by stating that although there were some benefits to customers from the District's water conservation program, there were also some questionable expenses, such as the \$200,000 contract for "positive" news articles about Central Basin, as exposed in the recent *Los Angeles Times* article.

Council Member Croft stated that the Water Committee had made numerous unsuccessful requests for information and had concerns about how lacking in transparency the District was when it came to its contracts. He noted that the City was fortunate to have the staff expertise to know what the services provided should actually cost.

Council Member Rogers reported that he had been representing the City on the Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC) since being elected to the City Council and he had never before experienced an elected body that was so arrogant and non-responsive as the Central Basin Municipal Water District. He stated that it was time for the communities served by the District to unite and address this problem. He also called for more accountability from the City's elected representative to the CBMWD.

Alan Gafford, stated he was surprised that the City had found their CBMWD representative, Phil Hawkins, to not be helpful. He suggested the City Council table this matter and work with other agencies to resolve the issues.

Council Member Rogers responded by stating that the concerns expressed by the City Council were the same concerns of all eleven SEWC member cities and that if the CBMWD had nothing to hide, they should willingly submit to the proposed audit and prove it.

Council Member Croft noted that many City Council Members had attended CBMWD meetings and made fruitless attempts to request records. He stated that the proposed action was not a matter that the City Council took lightly.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROGERS MOVED AND VICE MAYOR DUBOIS SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2011-55. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.1 • LAKEWOOD PROJECT SHEPHERD

Recreation and Community Services Director Lisa Litzinger displayed slides and made a presentation based on the report in the agenda. She stated that Lakewood Project Shepherd, a combined effort of the City of Lakewood and the Rotary Club of Lakewood, was beginning its 39th year of assisting Lakewood residents in need. She reported that 548 families had received assistance last, and that staff was anticipating an increase in need. She noted that the program wouldn't be possible without the great support received from the community, especially from Lakewood schools, the Boy Scouts and many local businesses, who collected over 2,000 boxes of food last year. She stated that more than 350 volunteers would pitch in to help sort and box the donations and help recipients load their vehicles. She reviewed the Teddy Bear Tree Program, where children of participating families could specify a particular toy or gift. The child's first name and wished-for present were written on a paper "teddy bear" and picked-up by someone who would go out and buy the gift. She stated that over 900 teddy bear wishes had been filled last year. She advised that in addition to the many cash donations received from individual Lakewood residents, the annual Kris Kringle golf tournament raised funds to support Project Shepherd.

Ron Wade, President of the Rotary Club of Lakewood, thanked the City Council for their support of the program, requested the inclusion of a donation request through the City's water billing system, and invited the Mayor to serve as honorary chairman of the event.

Mayor Van Nostran stated he was honored to be able to participate with Rotary and the volunteers.

Vice Mayor DuBois stated she felt very fortunate to be part of a caring community of generous people so willing to help out others in need.

3.2 • MAYFAIR PARK SCHOOL-AGE PLAY AREA RENOVATION PROJECT

Administrative Services Director Diane Perkin displayed slides and made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda. She reported that the school-age play area equipment, originally installed in 1993, was reaching the end of its useful life and that two grant sources were available to assist with the purchase of new equipment. The City would be receiving a \$150,000 grant from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Spaces District and a \$50,000 grant from Boundless Playgrounds. As part of the Boundless grant, the equipment and play surfaces would be designed to provide accessibility to children of all abilities. As part of the renovation, the existing play equipment would be donated to "Kids Around The World," who dismantle, refurbish, and ship it to be re-constructed at an orphanage or school in another country to serve disadvantaged children. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council approve a grant agreement with Boundless Playgrounds; adopt the proposed resolution approving the application for the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Grant Program; approve the purchase of play equipment from Game Time/Great Western Park & Playground in the amount of \$163,459.62; approve the purchase of SpectraTurf rubberized surfacing through the KCDA purchasing program in the amount of \$26,181.78; and approve the disposition of the Mayfair Park School-Age Play Area equipment through donation to Kids Around The World.

3.2 • MAYFAIR PARK SCHOOL-AGE PLAY AREA RENOVATION PROJECT –

Continued

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-56; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT GRANT PROGRAM FOR CITIES EXCESS FUNDS FOR MAYFAIR PARK SCHOOL-AGE PLAY AREA RENOVATION

Mayor Van Nostran inquired about the time for delivery and installation of the new equipment. Public Works Director Lisa Rapp responded by stating that staff was projecting an 8- to 10-week schedule.

Council Member Croft stated that he had observed that the new play equipment at Palms and Bolivar parks was very popular with kids and families and that it was great to be able to provide the opportunity for the old equipment to have a second life for other children.

Council Member Wood remarked that he appreciated the commitment of City staff to seek out grant opportunities and make projects like this one possible.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROGERS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.3 • PROGRAM SUPPLEMENT TO MASTER AGREEMENT FOR FEDERAL AID PROJECTS FOR SEVEN STREET SEGMENTS PAVING

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3.4 • AGREEMENTS FOR COST SHARE STREET IMPROVEMENTS WITH CITIES OF LONG BEACH AND CERRITOS

The Director of Public Works displayed slides and gave a presentation based on the memo in the agenda. She stated that the City had access to \$1,694,000 in Federal funds for pavement rehabilitation and was planning for an overlay project for 5.75 miles of seven segments of local streets. The proposed project would include segments of Arbor Road; Ashworth Street; Carson Street; Del Amo Boulevard; Downey Avenue; Palo Verde Avenue; and South Street. A resolution was required to approve a supplemental agreement with the State of California for access to the Federal funds. Since part of the project would involve segments of streets bordering neighboring cities, cost sharing agreements were proposed with the City of Long Beach for part of the Carson Street segment, and with the City of Cerritos for part of the Palo Verde Avenue segment. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council adopt the proposed resolution approving the Program Supplement Agreement Number 008-N, and authorize the execution of an agreement with the City of Long Beach and the City of Cerritos for reimbursement of the cost of paving work.

3.3 & 3.4 • SEVEN STREET SEGMENTS PAVING • AND AGREEMENTS FOR COST SHARE WITH CITIES OF LONG BEACH AND CERRITOS - Continued
RESOLUTION NO. 2011-57; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD ADOPTING PROGRAM SUPPLEMENT NUMBER 008-N TO MASTER AGREEMENT NUMBER 07-5315R AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT

Vice Mayor DuBois asked if the funds for this project could be used for any other purpose. Ms. Rapp responded by stating that these were restricted funds and could only be used for projects such as this one.

Mayor Van Nostran noted that the City had been criticized in the local media for paving streets before it was needed. Ms. Rapp pointed out that the City's practice was to maintain the pavement early through the overlay process, rather than let the pavement deteriorate to the point where reconstruction was required, which was 6 to 8 times more costly.

Council Member Croft stated that when compared to some streets in neighboring cities, even Lakewood's worn streets looked good. He noted that not only were significant cost savings realized through timely maintenance, but the many trees in Lakewood made maintenance very important.

VICE MAYOR DUBOIS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.5 • PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT PICNIC TABLES AND TRASH RECEPTACLES FOR CITY PARKS

The Director of Administrative Services gave a report based on the memo in the agenda and stated there was a need to replace several damaged and unserviceable picnic tables and trash receptacles at City parks. The City had a standardized style and design, which was available in the sizes and colors compatible with City parks, from a company making use of green materials. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council authorize the purchase of 27 Wabash Valley Manufacturing adult-size picnic tables, 2 child-size picnic tables and 4 trash receptacles with lids and mounting brackets from Dave Bang Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$22,014.95.

Responding to a question from Council Member Wood, Ms. Perkin stated that the old picnic tables that were salvageable would be utilized for special events, such as the Civic Center Block Party, and those that were completely unusable would be dismantled, with appropriate materials either discarded or recycled.

3.5 • PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT PICNIC TABLES AND TRASH RECEPTACLES FOR CITY PARKS - Continued

VICE MAYOR DUBOIS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER ROGERS SECONDED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF PICNIC TABLES AND TRASH RECEPTACLES. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Rogers, Croft, Wood, DuBois and Van Nostran
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

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At 8:55 p.m., the Regular Meeting of the City Council was recessed for the Meeting of the Lakewood Redevelopment Agency. At 8:57 p.m., the City Council Meeting was reconvened.

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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 Van Nostran adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Christy Wilson, Michelle Fournier, Victoria Buzzo, Laura Webb, Michele Fast, Lucia Kondas, Randy Fannin, David Caouette, Sergeant Robert Anderson and Daniel Esquivel.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk