



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
July 12, 2016

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

INVOCATION was offered by Deacon Gary Alley, Good Shepherd Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Girl Scout Troop 4893

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Piazza introduced Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce President Joshua Castellanos, who made a presentation regarding the Summer Stampede Car Show to be held at Mayfair Park on August 14th. He stated that the family-oriented event would feature vendor booths, contests, prizes, custom street rods and classic cars.

Vice Mayor DuBois congratulated Mr. Castellanos on his efforts in organizing the event and in working to increase Chamber membership.

Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company Government Affairs Representative, made a slide presentation and gave a brief history on the usage of natural gas as an energy source and its delivery into the region from storage fields. She provided an update to the operations at the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility and emphasized the importance of energy conservation to ensure system reliability and to prevent curtailments, which were similar to rolling blackouts by the electric utility. She reported that a joint coalition of gas and electric utilities, known as Conserve Energy SoCal, had been working to help residents conserve energy, save money and reduce the risk of power shortages.

In response to Council Member Wood's inquiries regarding the possibility of outages and the notification process for such occurrences, Ms. Emerson explained that it was difficult to predict when curtailments might occur due to usage and the other factors involved but that a notification list, which included the City Manager, had been prepared to inform area cities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: - Continued

Ms. Emerson further responded to Council Member Wood's concerns regarding storage by stating that one of the vulnerabilities of the system had been that weather events occurring elsewhere in the country could affect whether natural gas supplies were available for southern California customers. She added that the difficulties with establishing additional storage facilities included locating the appropriate geological structure, avoiding populated areas and the considerable investment required for such sites.

Council Member Croft, citing the unintended consequence of increased costs from decreased water usage, inquired whether natural gas rates would rise as a result of conservation efforts. Ms. Emerson stated that gas prices, as with any commodity, were based on market rates. She explained that any adjustments to the charge for transportation of natural gas, would require approval by the Public Utilities Commission.

Mayor Piazza suggested that Mr. Castellanos provide some notice to the local business community regarding the potential for curtailment of services and requested that Ms. Emerson provide regular updates to the City Council.

Responding to Council Member Wood's request for an update, Ms. Emerson described the upgrade/replacement project at Del Amo Boulevard and Cherry Avenue noting the importance of the improved valves on the transmission lines. She stated that some of the project delays were due to the permit process which involved both the cities of Long Beach and Lakewood but that completion was expected in a couple of months.

Lisa Rapp, Director of Public Works, reported that the project inspector had conducted daily visits to the site, and that she and Assistant Director Max Withrow had met regularly with the superintendent and maintained close coordination with the Gas Company. She further explained that the upgrade to the lines and the installation of the special remote controlled safety valves were required by Federal law. She stated that there were complexities due to the large size of the transmission main and noted that similar projects had been successfully completed at Faust Avenue and at Bloomfield Avenue.

Suely Saro, Field Representative to Senator Ricardo Lara, reported on recent actions in the Legislature and highlighted the progress of some of the bills being considered such as SB 953, which provided for improved transparency and accountability of the Central Basin Municipal Water District and SB 1227, to establish an employment and training program for veterans.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

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

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held June 28, 2016

ROUTINE ITEMS: - Continued

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands

RI-4 Approval of Designation of Voting Delegate for League Annual Conference

RI-5 Approval of Report of Monthly Investment Transactions

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.1 • APPROVAL OF LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR PREPARATION OF WIRELESS FACILITIES ORDINANCE

Steve Skolnik, City Attorney displayed slides and stated that due to changes in technology and the law, an amendment to the Municipal Code had been proposed to regulate wireless telecommunications facilities in the City. Assisting with the municipal code amendment would be Jonathan L. Kramer of Telecom Law Firm PC, a firm that handled wireless and broadband projects and served government clients in both legal and consulting capacities. Mr. Skolnik stated that the scope of work would include drafting a proposed ordinance for wireless facilities to be deployed on public property, private property, and in the public rights-of-way of the City and that Telecom Law Firm would consult with staff to tailor the proposed ordinance to suit the local preferences and policies in the City, and revise the draft ordinance to prepare it for public consideration and the introduction process. He concluded by stating it was recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with Telecom Law Firm, PC, subject to approval as to legal form by the City Attorney.

Responding to an inquiry from Vice Mayor DuBois, Lisa Novotny, Assistant City Manager, stated that the protrusions on the telecommunications poles might be avoided with the amendment to the existing code.

Mr. Skolnik replied to Council Member Rogers' question by stating that the agreement would be for a flat fee of \$10,000 for the preparation of a proposed ordinance.

Ms. Novotny responded to Council Member Wood's query by stating that Mr. Kramer represented a majority of cities in California and with over thirty five years of extensive technical experience in the field, his was the ideal firm to draft the proposed ordinance.

3.1 • APPROVAL OF LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR PREPARATION OF WIRELESS FACILITIES ORDINANCE - Continued

COUNCIL MEMBER ROGERS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH TELECOM LAW FIRM. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.2 • VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Public Information Officer Bill Grady displayed slides and made an oral presentation regarding the veterans history project. He explained that when the city renovated and expanded its Veterans Memorial Plaza last year, commemorative bricks were laid around the memorial so that veterans with a connection to Lakewood could be remembered and honored. The city had recently launched www.lakewoodveterans.org, a website containing stories of veterans and active-duty military service members with a Lakewood connection, including those whose names appear on the commemorative bricks at the Veterans Memorial Plaza at Del Valle Park. A page on the site had been dedicated to "The Boys of Del Valle Park," and included the poem, a video, along with a personal history of the young people of early Lakewood who gave their lives during the Vietnam War. The public were invited to complete a form and submit a photograph and a webpage would then be created for each veteran's story so visitors to the memorial could learn about the veterans honored there.

Council Member Croft commented on the ease with which the website had been to navigate.

Council Member Wood noted the importance of the brick locator having recently utilized the feature at the Lakewood High School reunion event.

Mayor Piazza commended staff on providing a first-class project for the community to honor those who served their country.

SUCCESSOR HOUSING ACTIONS

1. Approval of Register of Demands

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND VICE MAYOR DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE REGISTER OF DEMANDS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Valerie Moore addressed the City Council regarding housing issues at the Whispering Fountains senior apartments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Piazza adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. A moment of silence was observed in memory of the five police officers killed in Dallas, Texas, and for all who had lost their lives, and been injured, in the recent tragedies and unrest in the country.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk