



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
February 25, 2020

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

INVOCATION was offered by Rabbi Emeritus Howard Laibson, Congregation Shir Chadash

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Vice Mayor Jeff Wood

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Rogers announced that election day in Lakewood was only one week away, on Tuesday, March 3rd. He advised that Vote Centers were already open for people to vote conveniently close to where they live, work or go to school and would be open on weekends as well. He noted that there were two city council seats on the ballot, and Lakewood Measure L.

Mayor Rogers thanked everyone who came out to the “Ice Cream with the Mayor” event held on the previous Saturday at the McDonald’s on Paramount Boulevard and Carson Street. The Mayor and City Manager had been available to answer residents’ questions about any City topic on their mind, but for most folks it was Measure L or SB50. He announced one additional event on Friday, February 28th, at 5:00 p.m., at the Starbucks on Del Amo Boulevard west of Pioneer Boulevard.

Mayor Rogers also announced a proclamation, on behalf of the City Council, honoring the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote and encouraged all Lakewood residents to exercise their right to vote on March 3rd.

Council Member Piazza reported that the previous evening was the 39th Youth Hall of Fame banquet. He expressed appreciation to the staff for a very well run and successful event.

Vice Mayor Wood pointed out that one highlight of the event had been the attendance of the very first recipient of the Athlete of the Year, Jim Knabe.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

At the request of Council Member Piazza, Mayor Rogers stated that Routine Item 7 would be considered separately.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND VICE MAYOR WOOD SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 6.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held November 26, 2019

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands

RI-4 Approval of Report of City Council Committees' Activities

RI-5 Approval of Monthly Report of Investment Transactions - January 2020

RI-6 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-3; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD APPOINTING A MEMBER AND ALTERNATE(S) TO THE LOS ANGELES GATEWAY REGION INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

RI-7 Approval of Amendment No. 8 to the Agreement with City Light and Power Confirming a Change in Ownership

Council Member Piazza requested staff provide more information on the proposed change in ownership.

Director of Public Works, Lisa Rapp, stated that City Light and Power had been an outstanding service provider since the initiation of their contract. She explained that the original agreement had a clause which required the original owner, William Simmons, Sr., to retain at least a fifty percent interest in the company, and that after more than twenty years into the contract, Mr. Simmons was looking to step back from the day-to-day operation of the company noting that his family would retain a 35 percent ownership, with his sons, Tom and Bill, Jr. remaining in management.

Tom Simmons, City Light and Power, expressed appreciation for the great relationship with the City over the years of the contract to date. He stated that the company was a 24/7 operation, available to respond whenever lighting needed to be replaced. He stressed that the change in ownership did not reflect an acquisition, but rather a new partnership. He also noted that there would be no staff changes and that as part of the new partnership agreement, he and Bill, Jr. would continue to manage the company for at least another five years.

ROUTINE ITEMS: - Continued

City Attorney Steve Skolnik advised that when this change of ownership had been brought up, it was also noted that the term of the agreement would be ending relatively soon, at which time the City Council would have the opportunity to evaluate the company performance and the City's needs going forward.

Alan Gafford, Long Beach, raised the issue of the new partner, the Hunt Company of El Paso, Texas, and stated it would be beneficial to know more about them.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER PIAZZA SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEM 7. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

3.1 • PREVIEW OF 2020 EARTH WALK EVENT

Recreation and Community Services Director Valarie Frost displayed slides and made a presentation based on the report in the agenda. She stated that the 2020 Earth Walk Event was scheduled for Saturday, March 14th at Monte Verde Park. Since 2005, the event had provided participants with education on environmental practices, such as water conservation and recycling, to promote a healthy and sustainable future. She noted that there would be vendor displays throughout the park and activities for all ages, including a nature walk and talk along Monte Verde's quarter-mile accessible walking path. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council receive and file the preview of the 2020 Earth Walk event.

MAYOR ROGERS STATED THAT THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, THE ITEM WAS ORDERED RECEIVED AND FILED.

SUCCESSOR HOUSING ACTIONS

1. Approval of Registers of Demands

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

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Philip Norris, Lakewood, addressed the City Council expressing gratitude to the Sheriff's Department on a recent incident with a homeless person in the neighborhood.

Alan Gafford, Long Beach, spoke regarding traffic mitigation at Lakewood Boulevard and Michelson Street.

Vice Mayor Wood requested the inclusion of Paramount Boulevard in an upcoming citywide study mentioned by Mayor Rogers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m. to Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk