



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
November 10, 2020

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:34 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Weingart Ballroom at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

INVOCATION was offered by Council Member Ariel Pe

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Council Member Vicki Stuckey

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Todd Rogers
Vice Mayor Jeff Wood
Council Member Steve Croft
Council Member Ariel Pe
Council Member Vicki Stuckey

Mayor Rogers stated that in the interest of coronavirus prevention, the meeting was being held in the Centre ballroom so people could amply spread out and that members of the public could attend in person or watch the proceedings on television in a safe, physically-distanced way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Rogers announced that the meeting would be adjourned in memory of Joe Ferraro, the owner of Ferraro's Ristorante in Lakewood.

Council Member Croft cautioned residents about the coming holiday season, which were traditionally the times for families to gather. He stated that even with the promising news of a vaccine, they were at least three to nine months away from being available. He cited that there were over ten million cases of COVID-19 in the United States and that currently, another surge was expected with the Thanksgiving holiday. He reminded residents to continue to socially distance, wear masks, wash hands frequently and maintain vigilance.

Council Member Pe reported that he had recently attended, via Zoom videoconference, the State of the State with Assembly Member Anthony Rendon as well as a virtual meeting with Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, finding both events to be informative and productive. He expressed an eagerness to move forward after having met with the Committee and staff regarding the Community Dialogue.

Noting that it was the Marine Corps birthday and the following day was Veterans Day, Council Member Stuckey expressed gratitude to the Marines and veterans for their service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: - Continued

Vice Mayor Wood acknowledged the birthday of Deputy City Manager Paolo Beltran. He also shared his appreciation for the ability to maintain discourse with colleagues from other cities and handling regional issues via videoconferencing through Zoom during the Executive Committee meeting with Contract Cities Association.

Mayor Rogers stated that Veteran's Day was a time to reflect especially in a community like Lakewood, which was founded by veterans of World War II and the Korean War. He acknowledged World War II veteran and D-Day survivor, Sam Sachs, as well as the many others who served in uniform, including Mayor Rogers' father, Thomas Edward Rogers, who served a career in the Navy. He thanked all service members, past and present, who were serving and had served the country.

The Mayor also spoke of the current phase of the COVID-19 restrictions and the effects they had on businesses. He remarked on the information coming from the County that continued to be inconsistent, ambiguous and nebulous citing as an example the varying degrees of the State and County restrictions. He observed that there was insufficient information regarding the results of contact tracing and confusion over public health guidelines. He requested that staff seek clarification and to ascertain the scientific data. Mayor Rogers suggested that the issue be brought back to the Economic Development Committee for consideration as the pandemic and its resulting restriction impacted local businesses.

Vice Mayor Wood concurred with the Mayor's statements and added the suggestion of seeking more grant opportunities to support the businesses who were suffering and to help them transition to some of the new ways that they could do business.

Mayor Rogers introduced Lakewood resident Maria Jimenez, who served as a Donate Life-One Legacy ambassador in the community and CEO of One Legacy, Tom Mone. Mr. Mone addressed the City Council by extending thanks for their support through the years of organ, eye and tissue donation and all of the life-saving good that it brings to communities and the healing it brings to donor families. He noted that although there would be no upcoming parade, a virtual unveiling of the 2021 Donate Life Rose Parade installation had been prepared and a two hour broadcast on New Year's Day would feature highlights from prior years, some current year activities and presentations. Ms. Jimenez, whose son, Adrian, had been a donor, expressed gratitude to the City Council for their continued support.

The Mayor recognized former Mayor and Council Member Joe Esquivel, who was in attendance. Mayor Rogers reported that the City had held a COVID-safe car parade for retired Council Member Diane DuBois on October 17th.

Vice Mayor Wood stated his admiration for Council Member DuBois over her years of service representing Lakewood in the larger regional organizations playing an important role in cooperative planning in the area and in dedicating resources and services to residents. He highlighted a few of the organizations on which she served, such as regional representative on the Board of Directors of the L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Gateway Cities Council of Governments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: - Continued

Council Member Stuckey remarked on Council Member DuBois' 28-year service on the Planning and Environment Commission and then joining the City Council for fifteen years. She stated that it had been an honor to follow in Council Member DuBois' footsteps and on having enjoyed their volunteering together on the board of the Lakewood Regional Medical Center.

Council Member Pe thanked Council Member DuBois for showing him the importance of being active, engaged and involved in the community. He expressed gratitude for her mentorship and lasting friendship.

Council Member Croft restated that Council Member DuBois' time on the Planning and Environment Commission combined with her service on the City Council totaled 43 years of official service. He conveyed his gratitude for her friendship and willingness to help others. He introduced the video tribute to Council Member DuBois, which was produced by Lakewood's award-winning CityTV crew.

City Manager Thaddeus McCormack echoed the comments from the City Council and stated that it had been an honor and privilege to work with and learn from Council Member DuBois.

Steve Skolnik, City Attorney's Office, described Council Member DuBois as a role model on serving as a member of the City Council and wished her well.

Mayor Rogers expressed thanks to Council Member DuBois on behalf of all the residents and the City Council for her time, energy and love that she gave to the community. He invited her to come to the dais and presented her with a gift and a framed piece of art that played on the "I Love Lakewood" theme which had been part of her mayoral term a few years earlier but had been aptly changed to read, "Lakewood Loves Diane."

Public Works Director Lisa Rapp presented Council Member DuBois with a personalized Lakewood street name sign.

Council Member DuBois reflected on how special Lakewood had been for her and she asserted that it had been a privilege to live and work in a community that cared for its residents in such a special and welcoming way.

Mayor Rogers explained that Lakewood's budget had traditionally been balanced in its focus with almost equal spending on recreation and community services, public works and public safety. He added that in different years, different budget areas received a particular emphasis, such as when Lakewood focused attention on repaving every street and modernizing park playgrounds. He reported that one area of increased spending this year was the hiring of additional civilian public safety staff and expanded community engagement through meetings with Sheriff's personnel, Neighborhood Watch, revamping school safety and crime prevention programs, and providing support services that freed up Deputy Sheriffs to spend more time on patrol and answering calls for service. He stated that the civilian staff would play an important and well-timed role in strengthening Lakewood's traditionally good community/public safety relations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: - Continued

Joshua Yordt, Director of Public Safety, introduced the most recent additions to the Public Safety staff, which included Public Safety Supervisor Cassidy Roman; Community Safety Officers Saul Silva, Edgar Montelongo, Joseph Alvarado, and Norma Pena; Administrative Secretary Elizabeth Loera; and Support Services Clerks Yvonne Galan and Valerie Vaca, who were in attendance.

Mayor Rogers thanked Lakewood residents for their approval of Measure L, which made possible the hiring of additional staff.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

VICE MAYOR WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER STUCKEY SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 14.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held June 23, 2020

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands

RI-4 Report of City Council Committees' Activities

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

RI-6 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-58; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD EXTENDING A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS

RI-7 Approval of Purchase of 2021 Chevrolet Silverado C3500 Regular Cab with Dump Body

RI-8 Approval of Refresh Youth Center Rental Agreement for Offices at Burns Community Center

RI-9 Approval of Appropriation for Facilities Maintenance Annual Projects

RI-10 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-59; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD ESTABLISHING DISABLED PERSON DESIGNATED PARKING ON THE WEST SIDE OF ADENMOOR AVENUE WITHIN THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD

RI-11 Approval of Water Rate Study Agreement with Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc.

ROUTINE ITEMS: - Continued

RI-12 Approval of Amendment to Agreement for Catered Events at Monte Verde Park with TGIS Catering Services, Inc.

RI-13 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-60; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD ADDING A JOB CLASSIFICATION AND AMENDING EXISTING PAY RATE IN ATTACHMENT B OF RESOLUTION NO. 2020-15

RI-14 Approval of Amendment to Environmental Services Agreement with Ocean Blue Environmental Services, Inc.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, Wood, Pe, Stuckey and Rogers

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

1.1 • COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT

Abel Avalos, Director of Community Development, displayed slides and stated that in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) announced the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Recovery Act (“CARES Act”) which made available supplemental CDBG funding (“CDBG-CV”) to entitlement communities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. On April 28, 2020, the City Council approved a CDBG-CV allocation of \$289,937. After spending the funds on various approved activities, there were \$32,323 that would need to be reallocated. Under the direction of HUD, an entitlement city was required to submit a Substantial Amendment of the FY 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan if it planned on reallocating funds or changing activities. This proposed amendment would reallocate funding from certain activities to others. He provided a breakdown of staff’s recommendation on the reallocation of those funds to nonprofits which relied on donations in large part to provide their services. He added that the citizen participant process for the amendments had been streamlined. He concluded by stating that staff recommended that the City Council conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Consolidated Plan Substantial Amendment and following the public hearing, approve the FY 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan Substantial Amendment No. 2, and authorize the City Manager to direct staff to submit to HUD the approved Consolidated Plan Substantial Amendment No. 2 along with the required CDBG certifications.

Council Member Croft commented that while the funding sources for the nonprofits had been negatively impacted, the demand on their services increased significantly due to COVID-19, therefore, he was in favor of the reallocation.

In response to Vice Mayor Wood’s inquiry regarding sharing information with the public on the expenditure of such funds, Mr. Avalos stated that annual reports were provided to HUD showing statistics about the types of individuals or households that received and benefited from such funds.

1.1 • CDBG PROGRAM ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT - Continued

Vice Mayor Wood suggested that the manner in which businesses had benefited from the grant funds and actions the City had taken to help the community as a result of the funding be highlighted.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 8:44 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

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

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, Wood, Pe, Stuckey and Rogers

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

1.2 • INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2020-6; AMENDING SECTIONS IN ARTICLE IV OF THE LAKEWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING PARKWAYS AND ENCROACHMENTS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Lisa Rapp, Director of Public Works, made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda and stated that the proposed ordinance would clarify several sections of the Lakewood Municipal Code related to the use and maintenance of the public right of way and included the types of landscape and features that may be installed in the parkway, which was the area between the curb and the sidewalk. She explained that while adding the opportunity to install artificial turf in the parkway, the ordinance specified certain plant materials that could pose a risk of injury to the public would not be allowed. She added that the ordinance clarified that rented storage containers and heavy equipment could not be stored in the street. Ms. Rapp noted that the City Council reviewed the proposed changes during two separate study sessions, and that staff had worked with the City Attorney on the language included in the ordinance. She concluded by stating that staff recommended that the City Council hold a public hearing and introduce Ordinance No. 2020-6.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 8:46 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-6; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD AMENDING SECTIONS IN ARTICLE IV OF THE LAKEWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING PARKWAYS AND ENCROACHMENTS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY was read by title by the City Clerk.

Mayor Rogers commented that the ordinance had not been designed to place excessive burdens on residents or undo beautification projects that had taken place. He explained that there were some unsafe conditions and potential liability issues for the City as well as for homeowners from some modifications that had been made in parkways. He noted that the City Council did not take this action lightly; however, some language in the Municipal Code required clarification relative to maintaining public safety within the community.

1.2 • ORDINANCE REGARDING PARKWAYS AND ENCROACHMENTS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY - Continued

VICE MAYOR WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER STUCKEY SECONDED TO WAIVE FURTHER READING AND INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. 2020-6. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, Wood, Pe, Stuckey and Rogers

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.1 • PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (PSA) FOR DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR WELL 13A TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT

Jason Wen, Director of Water Resources, made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda and reported that Well 13A had been removed from service in March due to increased arsenic concentrations. He stated that treatment of the system was required to bring the well back into service. A pilot study was conducted in July 2020 and it had been determined that removal of the arsenic was feasible. He explained that a Request for Proposal for design and engineering services was issued on October 7, 2020, with one qualified bid received from Murraysmith, Inc. at a bid price of \$281,050, which was much higher than the City estimated, and the proposed schedule a lot longer than expected. He added that staff immediately began to look for ways to lower costs related to the bid and had been able to negotiate prices on certain portions of the proposal and modify the scope of work to arrive at a more manageable bid price of \$155,000. Dr. Wen noted that the Water Resources Committee had reviewed and approved the recommendation at a recent meeting. It was staff's recommendation that the City Council appropriate \$170,000, which included a 9.7% contingency, in Water Reserve Funds for Well 13A Treatment Plant Project; award a Professional Services Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$155,000 to Murraysmith, Inc. of Portland, Oregon, for design and engineering services for Well 13A Treatment Plant Project; and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract in a form approved by the City Attorney.

Council Member Croft, as a member of the City Council Water Committee, extended thanks to staff for reviewing the bid and seeking ways of bringing costs down. He reminded everyone that arsenic was a naturally occurring mineral in the ground and sometimes appeared in ground water necessitating treatment.

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

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, Wood, Pe, Stuckey and Rogers

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.2 • REPORT ON COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

City Manager Thaddeus McCormack reported that in terms of the Town Hall and Community Dialogue process, feedback had been received from over 150 residents directly and from hundreds of other residents who were part of nine religious congregations who took part in the Weekend of Dialogue on racial equity issues in late September. Staff had compiled hundreds of individual comments and recommendations into common themes, and were currently in the process of discussing them with the Council committees overseeing the work. He stated that the plan was that after the Council committees and full Council reviewed the comments and made initial recommendations for action, the proposed actions would be presented to the community for feedback. He noted that the time frame had been impacted by COVID-19 in that public input had been virtual by necessity and that many of the ideas put forth were better suited for a post-COVID world. He assured that staff had been working diligently on the issues which remained a high priority for the City and added that residents could still offer written comments at lakewoodcity.org/CommunityDialogue as well as also being able to request a “home visit” to discuss racial equity issues with a Council Member, along with a Lakewood religious community leader if they would like. He notified the City Council and the community that the City would be joining the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. As a member, the City of Lakewood would have access to online resources and content including monthly membership connections, working groups, rapid response content, and other benefits. The network included local and regional government jurisdictions across the country. He provided an update on the Mayor’s Pledge to conduct a community review of the Use of Force policy of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and that at the direction of the Public Safety Committee, which was composed of Mayor Rogers and Vice Mayor Wood, the community review process had been opened on October 19th and remained open until November 9th. He reported that a total 61 reviews and comments had been received and that the Public Safety Committee would be reviewing the comments received making recommendations to the City Council and then taking those recommendations to the community for their final review prior to sending the final feedback to the Sheriff’s Department. He explained that this had been in keeping with the nationwide Mayor’s Pledge that Mayor Rogers had signed earlier in the summer.

Mayor Rogers stated that he recently had signed a proclamation on behalf of the City Council, joining with the County of Los Angeles and sister cities, to declare the week of November 30th as Lakewood United Against Hate Week and that the proclamation would symbolize the City’s dedication to preventing and opposing hate and intolerance in all its forms, to discussing the important issues related to racial equity and to making Lakewood the safest and most welcoming community.

Council Member Pe added that the Ad Hoc Community Dialogue Committee had met and he wanted to inform the City Council as well as the community that the comments received would be noted, logged and evaluated.

Council Member Croft thanked the residents who participated in the Community Dialogue meetings and expressed appreciation for their having stepped forward to share their experiences.

3.2 • REPORT ON COMMUNITY DIALOGUE - Continued

Mayor Rogers emphasized that all communications were received and read by the City Council and noted the value of the feedback citing as an example the comments received from residents on the weekly videos.

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

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SUCCESSOR HOUSING ACTIONS

1. Approval of Register of Demands

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

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, Wood, Pe, Stuckey and Rogers

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

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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 Rogers adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Guiseppe "Joe" Ferraro.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk