



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
June 10, 2014

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

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

BUDGET STUDY SESSION:

Administrative Services Director Diane Perkin displayed slides and made a presentation on the proposed budget. She advised that since the worst years of the recession were behind us, staff was proposing to return to the 2-year budget cycle. She reported on influencing factors such as the National Economic Forecast and State Budget, as well as positive signs such as the 2.6% rise in property value, and the drop in unemployment numbers. She also expressed concern about the leveling off of retail sales, partly due to increased internet sales. She reviewed all funds and noted that the budget was set up so that revenues would exceed expenditures.

Responding to a question from Council Member DuBois, Ms. Perkin stated that the 2015-16 budget was less because there were fewer funded capital improvement projects.

Deputy City Manager Carol Jacoby provided a brief presentation on the Public Safety portion of the budget, which included Safety Services, such as school crossing guards and the school safety program; Law Enforcement/Crime Prevention, including funding for the Sheriff's contract, which was projected to increase by 2.6%; the Safety Center, which was relocating to a different location within the Lakewood Center Mall; and the Sky Knight program.

She confirmed for Mayor Rogers that normally, fifteen of our units were deployed providing 7-day coverage over a 3-shift period, with different formulas for high- and low-activity periods.

Council Member Piazza inquired if there would be any significant service changes over the next 2-year period. Ms. Jacoby replied that service levels should remain stable, and that if there were any special needs, there was always the option to add a unit.

Recreation and Community Services Director Lisa Litzinger provided an overview of her areas of responsibility including recreation, human services, emergency preparedness and park maintenance.

BUDGET STUDY SESSION: Continued

Council Member DuBois asked about bee removal. Ms. Litzinger stated that the City's Licensed Pesticide Applicator was called in to assess any bee situation and that bees were only destroyed if they presented a hazard to public safety.

Public Works Director Lisa Rapp reviewed the divisions of the Public Works Department. She noted that one of the challenges of the Solid Waste Management area was the pending closure of the Puente Hills landfill. She noted that in Animal Control, there were some changes planned in the process for licensing dogs. She also noted that in the Fleet Maintenance Division, some of the City's CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) vehicles were nearing the end of the certification period on their fuel tanks.

She confirmed for Council Member Piazza that the licensing program was not able to generate sufficient funding for the entire animal control program, which was partly subsidized by the City.

Water Resources Director Jim Glancy reported that some of the challenges facing his department were the rising cost of electric power and the increases to the cost of recycled water.

The Director of Public Works provided an overview of the Capital Improvement Projects, including projects carried over from the current year such as Centre Refurbishments, West San Gabriel River Nature Trail, Phase 3, Palms Park Improvements, San Martin Playground Improvements, Del Valle Veterans' Memorial and the Dog Park.

David Ford, Southern California Edison Company, stated that he was fully committed to the project, but approval was waiting on their legal department, that was pondering liability issues and the precedent of allowing a dog park in an Edison right-of-way.

Council Members inquired why the process was taking so long and if there was any way to encourage them to speed up the approval so the dog park could be constructed. Mr. Ford stated that he expected the process to be completed by late June or early July.

City Manager Howard Chambers inquired if it were possible to begin the work to install the walkways and fences for the dog park, without opening it for use until the Edison review was complete. Mr. Ford responded by stating he would inquire.

The Director of Water Resources reviewed the water projects in the Capital Improvements budget, including the water main replacement which, after 25 years of work, was half completed. Other projects included Plant #13 Rehabilitation and replacement of the Box Reservoir at Plant #22.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC

City Clerk