

MINUTES

City of Lakewood
Measure L Citizens Oversight Committee
5000 Clark Avenue, Executive Board Room
September 8, 2021
6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bradlee Crihfield at 6:00 p.m. in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

PRESENT: Bradlee Crihfield, Chair, Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce
Crystal Jones-Duncan, Vice Chair, City Council Appointee, Seniors
Steve Croft, Chair, City Council Audit Committee
Vicki Stuckey, Member, City Council Audit Committee
Mina Carrasco, City Council Appointee, Neighborhood Watch
Cassandra Chase, Lakewood Jaycees
Jeannie Clark, City Council Appointee, At-Large
Cindy Jarvis, City Council Appointee, Youth
Ron Piazza, City Council Appointee, Business Community

ALSO PRESENT: Thaddeus McCormack, City Manager
Paolo Beltran, Deputy City Manager
Jose Gomez, Director of Finance and Administrative Services
Lisa Rapp, Director of Public Works
Edianne Rodriguez, Asst. Director of Finance and Administrative Services
Barbara Di Iorio, Executive Secretary

I. Approval of Minutes from March 17, 2021 Meeting

It was moved by Member Croft and seconded by Member Stuckey, and carried without objection, to approve the March 17, 2021 minutes of the Measure L Citizens Oversight Committee (Committee).

II. Overview of FY 20-22 Budget Mid-Cycle Update

Mr. Gomez provided a report, supported with slides displayed, that provided a snapshot of the mid-year of a two-year budget, which will carry the city through June 2022. He provided a financial outlook and explained that having big box stores and the mall and the passing of Measure L, helped the city through the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Being a contract city helped the city to be more flexible to adjust as needed. These things all helped the city to recover from the pandemic faster than anticipated.

Mr. Beltran reported on fiscal year 2021-22 revisions, which included a multi-cultural event; additional LASD traffic deputy; hiring two part time employees to boost the illegal dumping response crew; replacement of a utility vehicle; administer Hepatitis A inoculations for frontline staff; and pass-through costs for residential waste hauling Implement Organics Program.

Mr. Gomez mentioned that General Fund revenues are up in certain areas due to the passing of Measure L, and that the city is ahead of what was projected for sales tax revenue. A pie graph of departmental expenditures was displayed and showed that the city's priorities are based on what residents want and are balanced. Mr. McCormack noted that while some other cities spend more on public safety, that does not address all of the city's needs and priorities.

In summary, Mr. Gomez stated that the city is well positioned financially. It is able to maintain programs and services with balance between Recreation and Community Services, Public Works and Public Safety, as well as able to set aside funds for infrastructure improvements and long term needs.

III. Status of Capital Improvement Projects funded by Measure L

Mr. McCormack advised the Committee that the city has a huge amount of deferred maintenance that is required throughout the city. He reminded the group that \$3 million was set aside to address these needs, as promised to residents as part of Measure L.

Ms. Rapp then displayed slides showing the various projects, providing details and explanations for each as noted here.

Projects under construction include:

- Lakewood Equestrian Center demolition and improvements
- Rynerson Park restrooms roof structure replacements
- San Martin Park improvements – tot lot, picnic shelters and ADA parking
- Rynerson Park picnic shelters (to be advertised for bids soon)

Projects under study or design include:

- Public Works/Community Development counter replacement and shared space renovation at City Hall
- Electrical, roofing and HVAC improvements at various parks and city buildings
- Weingart Senior Center improvements
- Palms Park Community Center renovation
- Pillars of Community art piece replacement
- Replacement of construction trailer behind City Hall with a new modular building for Public Works and Community Development departments

Slides of facilities in need of electrical, HVAC and/or roof improvements or replacements, or all three were shown and details justifying the need for each was explained by Ms. Rapp. Facilities in need of one, two or all of these improvements include the Arbor Yard water office, print/meter shop, and plumbing shop; Biscailuz, Bloomfield, Monte Verde and San Martin Parks; Burns Community Center, The Centre, and City Hall.

Ms. Rapp explained the various annual projects that need to be done, such as park hardscape, fencing improvements, fire and security, roof maintenance, and new painting projects. Amount budgeted for each was provided in the meeting as well. Strategic Infrastructure Plans for various parks and the Nixon Yard were described as the next projects to tackle. The Mayfair Pool fence and deck improvements and locker room ADA improvements, as well as parking and path of travel ADA improvements at various parks were also explained.

In addition to Measure L funds, city staff also seeks grant funding. Ms. Rapp explained several different grants that the city has already been awarded, have submitted applications, or are currently working on the application to submit.

IV. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present to comment.

V. Committee Member Comments

Chairperson Crihfield thanked everyone for all of the information provided as well as the time and effort it has taken. Vice Chairperson Jones-Duncan expressed her pleasure in knowing the improvements planned at parks after hearing what some residents have been expressing about them. She also commented that all projects, big and small, make a difference. Committee Member Croft stated that grants have also been helpful for some projects. He thanked the committee members for staying involved and letting people know what to watch form.

VI. Adjournment

Chairperson Crihfield adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Di Iorio
Executive Secretary