



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
February 13, 2001

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:36 p.m. by Mayor Piercy in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

INVOCATION was offered by Pastor Bill Cox, Emmanuel Southern Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Boy Scout Troop #209, Lakewood Elks Club/Christ Presbyterian Church.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Wayne Piercy
Vice Mayor Robert Wagner
Council Member Joseph Esquivel
Council Member Marc Titel
Council Member Larry Van Nostran

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Piercy announced that the meeting would be adjourned in memory of Bob McKee, a long-time resident who had been recognized as one of Lakewood's "Everyday Heroes" during the City's 45th anniversary celebration in 1999.

Mayor Piercy also announced that a reception had been held prior to the meeting to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Sky Knight helicopter patrol program and to accept an award from the Automobile Club of Southern California for outstanding traffic safety education programs.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

Council Member Esquivel requested that the Minutes of the Meeting held January 23, 2001 be considered separately.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER TITEL SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 8.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held December 12, 2000

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands dated January 18, January 25, February 1, and February 8, 2001

ROUTINE ITEMS: Continued

- RI-4 RESOLUTION NO. 2001-2; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD PROHIBITING THE PARKING OR STANDING OF VEHICLES BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 3 P.M. ON FRIDAY OF EACH WEEK FOR STREET SWEEPING PURPOSES ON THE WEST SIDE OF WOODRUFF AVENUE EAST SERVICE ROAD BETWEEN FAIRMAN STREET AND CENTRALIA STREET
- RI-5 RESOLUTION NO. 2001-3; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD DESIGNATING PUBLIC OFFICE HOURS AND HOLIDAYS
- RI-6 Acceptance of Notice of Completion for Public Works Contracts 00-18 A & B, Mayfair Park Swim Pavilion and Youth Center Flooring Replacement Projects
- RI-7 Approval of Contract with Fair Housing Consultant
- RI-8 Authorization for Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Funding

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran, Esquivel, Titel, Wagner and Piercy

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held January 23, 2001

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER TITEL SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD JANUARY 23, 2001.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran, Titel, Wagner and Piercy

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Esquivel

At 7:43 p.m., the Regular Meeting of the City Council was recessed for the Meeting of the Lakewood Redevelopment Agency. At 7:46 p.m., the City Council Meeting was reconvened with all members present.

3.1 • TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES

Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca made a brief presentation on his Strategic Plan for county law enforcement. He stated that the thirty-year plan was intended to direct operations and structure services. He expressed concern that his department not operate on traditions that were no longer valid, but rather to seek input from the communities they served as well

3.1 • TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES - Continued

as station and jail commanders for the best use of resources. He stated core values were a critical part of the growth process and that he would encourage leadership by offering leadership training to all of the department staff. He touched on other developing programs such as, alternatives for at risk youth, recovery program for domestic violence and drug dependency, and redesigned jails. He noted that City Manager Howard Chambers had participated in the selection of staff for the Sheriff's Office of Civil Review. He concluded by thanking the City Council for their continuing support, noting that Lakewood was the originator of the contract plan and the Sky Knight helicopter patrol.

Council Member Van Nostran commended Sheriff Baca for his innovative and open-minded thinking and his outstanding leadership.

The City Manager reported that there were two items to be presented under the 21st Century Law Enforcement Initiatives. The first would be the planned renovation of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, utilizing an architect specializing in public buildings. The other initiative was the LARCIS program for which the Sheriff was able to obtain additional funding that would speed up the program by three years.

a. LAKEWOOD SHERIFF'S STATION RENOVATION

Lisa Rapp, Director of Public Works, presented slides and an oral report based on the memorandum contained in the agenda packet stating that due to expanded services, staff and technology equipment, the Sheriff Station, originally constructed in 1959, needed additional space. The architectural firm of Charles Walton Associates, who had recently completed the remodel of Lakewood's Iacoboni Library, had done some initial concept design work on the proposed remodel and was ready to proceed with Phase II of the work. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council approve an amendment to the agreement with Charles Walton Associates in an amount not to exceed \$66,000 and appropriate \$75,000 to the Lakewood Sheriff Station Addition/Remodel Project Account.

Captain Bob Osborne, Commander of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, remarked that he was excited to have the opportunity to plan for the future needs of the station. He advised that the present facilities were inadequate for certain service needs, especially in the public lobby and dispatcher areas. He concluded by stating it was his goal that the Station be inviting to the public and he encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming open house at the Station on March 24th.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER ESQUIVEL SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran, Esquivel, Titel, Wagner and Piercy

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.1 • TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES - Continued

b. LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CRIME INFORMATION SYSTEM

Lee Davenport, Chief of Technical Services for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, made a brief presentation on the Los Angeles Regional Crime Information System also known as LARCIS. The purpose of the informational database system was to provide the ability to share crime information on a regional basis. He noted that by July 2001, data from the Los Angeles Police Department would have been integrated into the database with the Sheriff's data and that the County was working closely with the County Chiefs of Police Association to link with the data of other departments, like Long Beach Police Department. The system was also designed to automate field reporting, which should increase effectiveness and operational efficiency.

Mayor Piercy and Vice Mayor Wagner commended Sheriff Baca for his visionary support of such a useful and advanced computer system.

Council Member Titel stated he supported making an investment in a program that would allow the Sheriff's Department to enhance their crime fighting efforts.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND VICE MAYOR WAGNER SECONDED TO ALLOCATE \$64,000 IN CLEEP GRANT FUNDS FOR THE LARCIS SYSTEM. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran, Esquivel, Titel, Wagner and Piercy

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.2 • IACOBONI LIBRARY PROJECT, ACCEPTANCE OF NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR PW CONTRACT 00-8

The Public Works Director displayed slides and presented an oral report based on the memorandum contained in the agenda packet reporting that renovation work on the Iacoboni Library had been completed. She noted that a grand re-opening reception had been held on Saturday, February 10th, with the library re-opening for service yesterday. She commended the project team made up of both City and County staff in addition to the architect's staff for working together so well to accomplish the project. She concluded by stating it was the recommendation of staff that the City Council accept the work and authorize filing a notice of completion in the amount of \$649,609.06; ratify change orders no. 1 through no. 11; assign all furniture, fixtures and equipment purchased as part of the project to the County of Los Angeles; and authorize the Director of Finance to present financial records to the County substantiating \$1,020,000 in expenses and request reimbursement.

Vice Mayor Wagner stated that as part of an ad hoc library committee, he had reviewed the proposal for this project and yet was amazed how much larger and more spacious the facility looked now. He extended compliments to the architect, staff and library staff for the tremendous success of the project.

3.2 • IACOBONI LIBRARY PROJECT, PW CONTRACT 00-8 - Continued

COUNCIL MEMBER TITEL MOVED AND VICE MAYOR WAGNER SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran, Esquivel, Titel, Wagner and Piercy

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.3 • ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LAKEWOOD CENTER MALL

Chuck Ebner, Director of Community Development, displayed slides and presented an oral report based on the memorandum contained in the agenda packet stating renovation and expansion of the Lakewood Center Mall were nearing completion with the Grand Opening of the last phase scheduled for April 7, 2001. He briefly reviewed a history of the economic development of the Mall and noted future challenges such as replacing the Montgomery Wards store, the possible closure of the Pacific Theater South location and the demolition of the former hospital site on the northeast corner of Clark and Candlewood Streets.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESQUIVEL MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN SECONDED TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORT. THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, IT WAS SO ORDERED.

3.4 • COUNTY JURISDICTION AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT – COLLECTOR STREET RESURFACING PROJECT

The Public Works Director presented an oral report based on the memorandum contained in the agenda packet and stated the County of Los Angeles had agreed to provide bidding, award and construction management services for a project to resurface several collector streets: Ashworth, Allington and Candlewood Streets, Arbor Road and Harvey Way. In order to facilitate the work, the City must grant jurisdiction to the County during the course of the work. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council grant jurisdiction to the County of Los Angeles by consenting to the establishment of segments of Ashworth, Allington, Candlewood, Arbor Road and Harvey Way as part of the system of highways; approve an agreement with the County for the project; and finds the project to be of a minor nature and exempt from CEQA.

RESOLUTION NO. 2001-4; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD CONSENTING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PORTIONS OF VARIOUS STREETS WITHIN SAID CITY AS PART OF THE SYSTEM OF HIGHWAYS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

3.4 • COUNTY JURISDICTION AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT – COLLECTOR STREET RESURFACING PROJECT

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER ESQUIVEL SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION AND ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2001-4. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran, Esquivel, Titel, Wagner and Piercy

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.5 • ENERGY CONSERVATION ANALYSIS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Director of Public Works presented an oral report based on the memorandum contained in the agenda packet and reported that in response to the energy crisis, staff had met with a Certified Energy Manager regarding an audit of City facilities to evaluate current energy usage and make recommendations regarding changes to conserve energy. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council approve a consulting agreement with Energy Options, Bruce Hatchett, in the amount of \$4,000 and appropriate \$15,000 for the purchase and installation of energy efficient fixtures and equipment.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER ESQUIVEL SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran, Esquivel, Titel, Wagner and Piercy

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.6 • STATUS REPORT FROM AD HOC SCHOOL DISTRICT FORMATION COMMITTEE

Vice Mayor Wagner stated a four-year process that had begun with 14,000 Lakewood residents signing petitions for their own school district had ended with the negative decision by the State Board of Education. He noted that perhaps the largest obstacle had been the grandfathering in of current bussed students, which although assurances were offered by the proponents that the new district would be willing to do this, the State Board found that there was no legal way a future board of education could be held to such a promise. He expressed indignation that the final report by the staff of the State Board held many factual errors, exaggerations, and misrepresentations which made the formation of a new district seem virtually impossible without destroying the educational process of the whole area. He also stated that the State Board gave no weight whatsoever to the number of people who had signed the petitions. He further stated that he felt the petition did not get a fair hearing at the State level and, noting that State law pertaining to city involvement in such processes had changed, it was necessary to determine where do we go from here.

3.6 • STATUS REPORT FROM AD HOC SCHOOL DISTRICT FORMATION COMMITTEE - Continued

City Attorney John S. Todd advised that although the new legislation would allow the City to be a petitioner for a new petition, since the City had not been one of the petitioners on the recently rejected petition, the City had no standing and could issue no legal challenges directed at the State Board's handling of the original petition. He noted that the City could seek a writ of mandate, but that it would be expensive and might not succeed. He concluded by stating the best legal option would be to prepare a new petition, independent of the previous one, and use the City's power to support it.

Council Member Van Nostran stated that the State Board hearing had been a lesson in school district politics, with the Board not appearing to even lend an ear to the petitioners, rather appearing to have been influenced by the existing school districts. He inquired about the process for filing a writ of mandate.

The City Attorney advised that a writ filed in Superior Court would have to prove that the State Board had acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner.

Jerry Cleveland stated that as an elected board member of the Bellflower Unified School District, he would like to think that things had gotten better for Lakewood students in his district but was aware that was not necessarily the case in other districts. He further stated that he would like to see if a combined Lakewood/Bellflower district would be feasible.

Al Juliano stated that as one of the three chief petitioners of the school district petition, he thought there might be room for cooperation. He noted that the City Council had done a lot to assist the School District Reorganization Committee and that he felt it would be advisable to appoint a group to study the issue to see if there was a remedy now rather than starting over. He expressed his opinion that even though the Sacramento hearing before the State Board was a kangaroo court, the Long Beach Unified School District should be aware that the Organizing Committee would not just go away.

Vice Mayor Wagner stated the Mr. Cleveland's comment about a combined Lakewood/Bellflower district was worthy of consideration although it would not be easy to accomplish. He recommended an ad hoc committee be formed to study alternatives for school district formation.

VICE MAYOR WAGNER MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER TITEL SECONDED TO FORM AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT FORMATION.

Mayor Piercy concurred that the petitioners did not get a fair shake in Sacramento and an ad hoc committee was necessary to talk to the people involved and get suggestions.

3.6 • STATUS REPORT FROM AD HOC SCHOOL DISTRICT FORMATION COMMITTEE - Continued

Council Member Titel stated it had clearly been a long and divisive battle. He suggested Sheriff Baca serve as an example to the City of how to look at what was best for an organization and that a district formation committee look carefully at what was best for the children of Lakewood. He also expressed interest in Mr. Cleveland's comments and stated it was time to look for how best to reach the goal.

Mayor Piercy asked Council Member Van Nostran if he was available to serve on an hoc school district formation committee with Vice Mayor Wagner. Council Member Van Nostran indicated his willingness.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran, Esquivel, Titel, Wagner and Piercy

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

At 10:16 p.m., the Regular Meeting of the City Council was recessed for the Meetings of the Lakewood Redevelopment Agency and the Lakewood Housing Authority. At 10:17 p.m., the City Council Meeting was reconvened.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Vernon Recker, Raymond Groom, Debra West and Jim Yamaguchi addressed the City Council regarding overgrown foliage and fire hazard on the property at 21402 Seeley Place and difficulty accessing the cul-de-sac because of on-street vehicle parking.

CLOSED SESSION:

Based upon the confidential written report of the City Attorney, the City Council recessed at 10:35 p.m., to a closed session to confer with or receive advice from its legal counsel pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(c), pertaining to its decision to initiate litigation in one case.

At 11:15 p.m., the City Council reconvened. Mayor Piercy announced that the City Council had met in closed session to receive facts and consider circumstances pertaining to its decision to initiate litigation in one case and had given instructions to its legal counsel pertaining to that matter.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Piercy adjourned the meeting at 11:15 p.m. to Tuesday, February 27, 2001, at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk