MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 22, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of La Puente was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 15900 East Main Street, La Puente, California, on 11/22/2005, at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present:	Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez.
Staff Members present:	City Manager Ledford, City Attorney Casso, City Clerk Cowley, Community Development Director Yamachika, Finance Director Kim, City Planner Arreola, Assistant to the City Manager Lasher, and Community Services Director Adanto.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem Chavez.

PRESENTATION OF SOAP BOX DERBY AWARD

City Manager Ledford provided the audience with an explanation of the new voting and display system.

Deputy Paul Wilms presented the City Council with a plaque in appreciation for the City's participation in the All-American Soap Box Derby.

Mayor Lujan accepted the award on behalf of the Council and thanked the Sheriff's department.

PRESENTATION OF CHECK TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF FUND

City Manager Ledford provided background information regarding the funds collected at City Hall to give to the American Red Cross for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Hector Martel of the West Covina Office of the American Red Cross accepted the check and thanked the City Council stating that relief efforts were still continuing. There were seven shelters currently operating with 3.5 million individuals.

The Mayor announced that staff prepared commendations for three school board members, which would be presented to them at a later date.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Michael Armijo addressed Council relative to Item C-1 indicating that his agreement with the City was approved four years ago and he has never increased his fees. He advised of the amount of money the City has saved over the past four years. He then thanked the Council for a great experience both on a personal and professional level. Mr. Armijo made himself available to respond to any questions.

Patrick Beltran spoke on behalf of Hacienda La Puente Pop Warner Football indicating that he was the vice president and co-founder of the organization. He updated Council on the program indicating that their teams had the ability to compete nationally. One of their junior midget teams would be going on to the western regionals. Mr. Beltran requested funding to assist them with expenses to travel to Disney World. He then explained the expense of participating in a conference championship. Mayor Lujan gave direction to staff to contact Mr. Beltran and schedule a meeting with him to see if staff could point him in the right direction.

Council Member Solis asked Mr. Beltran the amount his team needed. Mr. Beltran responded that the total amount had not been calculated because they were still waiting to hear from the National Football League. The cost would be from $1,200 to $1,500 per child. He further explained how the funding process from the NFL and the Conference worked. Their team had 27 boys, 10 coaches and staff.

Elizabeth Rocha addressed Council regarding comments made about her by a council member that were not true.

Doug DeMint addressed Council regarding the removal of the tree on Third and Workman Streets. He expressed his opposition to having the tree removed because it was 100 years old.

Ken Medeiros addressed Council regarding the Spotlight Newsletter indicating the warrant register showed an expenditure of $4,600, but the report stated a lesser amount. He felt the City should go out to bid, expressing his views on the laws that state you have to go out to bid when it was over a certain dollar amount. He also advised Council about a letter he received from the County regarding a backflow valve problem with the sewer on his property. He expressed his view that the sewer should be on the City's right of way and not his property and expressed his displeasure as to other issues.

A. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A-1 READ AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 2005

Solis moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2005; seconded by Chavez. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1 CONSIDERATION OF SPOTLIGHT LA PUENTE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER UPDATE

City Manger Ledford provided background information indicating that about four years ago the City went through a competitive bid process wherein it received two bids. One bid was received from Armijo Industries for approximately $3,700 per issue, and a second proposal from another firm that was about $3,000 higher than the proposal from Armijo Industries. Consequently, the City Council selected Armijo Industries who has provided satisfactory service since that time. Mr. Ledford explained that it was mentioned under oral communications that the most recent bill was for $4,600 and that was because in addition to the regular issue of the Spotlight a supplement was published highlighting the Veteran's Day event and all of the La Puente residents serving in the military over seas and domestically resulting in an additional $900 for that issue. At this point, Armijo Industries is requesting a 10% increase, which is the first increase they have requested in four years. He advised that during this time, the consumer price index has increased by 15%. Mr. Ledford reiterated that the City has not received any complaints about the publishing of the Spotlight and advised that Council had the choice to approve the increase or go out for a new request for proposal process.

Council Member Storing expressed her support of Armijo Industries complementing the services provided by them and her approval of the 10% increase.

Council Member Solis expressed his support for continuing the contract with Armijo Industries and approving the 10% increase as requested. He indicated the City has never experienced any problems with Armijo industry.

Council Member Perez expressed his opposition to approving the 10% increase without going through the competitive bid process. He expressed his opinion that after four years of working with one company it was good business to obtain competitive bids.

Mayor Lujan asked legal counsel if there were any state laws requiring the City to seek competitive bids at this time.

City Attorney Casso said he could not think of any compelling reason to go through the competitive bid process. He indicated that Armijo Industries provided a professional service and this would merely be an amendment to the Agreement to change the amount for the service being provided. The Mayor asked what the cost would be for a request for proposal process. The City Manager responded that there would be at least ten hours of staff time to prepare the proposal but did not indicate a dollar amount.

Thereafter followed further discussion regarding the issues with Mayor Pro Tem Chavez expressing her support to approve the 10% increase.

Storing moved to to approve option (1) to amend the agreement with Armijo Industries to increase the fees paid for the publication of the Spotlight by 10%. The City Attorney confirmed he would prepare an amended agreement for the Mayor's signature. Council concurred.; seconded by Solis. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

D-1 ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING WARRANT REGISTER NO. 1167 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-06
Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council adopt the resolution.

D-2 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2005
Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council receive and file the Financial Report for the month ending September 30, 2005.

D-3 ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION CANCELLING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF DECEMBER ON AN ANNUAL BASIS
Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution cancelling the second meeting in December, each year.

D-4 ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NEED TO MAKE EMERGENCY REPAIRS OF AN IMMINENT HAZARD ON THE HILLSIDE ABOVE 133 AND 139 NORTH ROUNDABOUT DRIVE
Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council adopt the resolution confirming the necessity to make emergency repairs above 133 and 139 North Roundabout Drive.

D-5 ACCEPTANCE OF STREET DEDICATION AT 738 TONOPAH AVENUE (Javier Gonzalez)
Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council accept the Street Dedication so that the street may be realigned with the existing roadway, curb, gutter and parkway.

Solis moved to approve the Consent Calendar consisting of Items D-1 through D-5; seconded by Chavez. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

E. NEW BUSINESS ACTION TAKEN

E-1 <u>REQUEST FOR DIRECTION REGARDING THE SOLICITATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING COMMISSION SEATS AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS</u>

City Manager Ledford provided background of the appointment process for the audience explaining the terms of Commissioners Rojas and Holloway were expiring and the Council has the option of reappointing the two commissioners or advertising the vacancies and accepting applications for those positions; or advertising to accept applications for a larger number of positions on the Planning Commission.

Chavez moved to reappoint Commissioners Rojas and Holloway and maintain the current members on the Commission; seconded by Solis. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

E-2 <u>CONSIDERATION OF A CONTRACT FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH ZARIN-AFSAR AND ASSOCIATES</u>

City Manager Ledford provided a brief report advising that the City sustained substantial damages as a result of the Youth Learning Activity Center contractor walking off the job site leaving the work incomplete and the Community Center opened and exposed to rain resulting in damages to the Community Center as well. As a result it was necessary to obtain the services of an independent engineering firm and after discussions and direction from Council the firm of Zarin-afsar & Associates was engaged to evaluate the damages at the Youth Learning Center. In addition, they evaluated the damages at the Community Center and the work necessary to repair that. He explained that because it would be more efficient to conduct the renovation of the Community Center simultaneously with the repairs, Zarin-afsar was directed to prepare plans for both the renovation and repair. The plans have been completed and submitted for plan check and it is anticipated that we would go out to bid in January to conduct the repairs to the Community Center so the building could be reopened. Mr. Ledford advised that it would be appropriate to consider a contract with Zarin-afsar & Associates. He indicated that the cost breakdown has been provided in the contract and a not to exceed amount has been included per Council's direction at the previous meeting.

A general discussion followed, with Council Members Solis and Storing expressing their opposition to awarding the contract to Zarin-afsar without going through the bid process; and Mayor Pro Tem Chavez expressing her support in moving forward with a contract for the services of Zarin-afsar & Associates.

Perez moved to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute a contract agreement with Zarin-afsar & Associates to continue providing services related to the Youth Learning Activity Center deficiencies and the Community Center repairs and renovation; seconded by Chavez. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: Solis, and Storing.

E-3 <u>DISCUSSION RELATING TO THE FACILITY USE FEES CHARGED TO YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS (Requested by Council Member Solis)</u>

Council Member Solis provided background indicating that the Girls Softball was given a bill for the use of the softball fields in La Puente Park, which was paid. The City then realized they made a mistake in the cost and sent another bill to the Girls softball for an additional $502 and to the Little League for an additional $1,924. Mr. Solis was asking that the Council waive the additional fees for both the Girls Softball and the Little League because it was the City's mistake and the City needed to be responsible for its mistakes. He advised the problems it would cause the leagues to pay this additional amount.

Thereafter followed a lengthy discussion with Council Members Perez and Chavez expressing their opposition to the request and expressing their views. Council Member Chavez questioned whether there was a conflict of interest for Council Member Solis to vote on this issue since he was the President of the Girls Softball League and a Council Member.

City Attorney Casso did not believe there was a conflict of interest under Government Code Sections 87100 and 1090 since Mr. Solis did not have a financial interest in the League and it was not a source of income for him.

Further discussion continued regarding the issue.

Solis moved to waive the fees as to the La Puente Girls Softball and the La Puente National Little League; seconded by Storing. The motion failed by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, and Storing. NOES: Lujan, Chavez, and Perez.

E-4 CONSIDERATION OF PERMITTING A PRIVATE HERITAGE TREE TO PROJECT INTO THE SIDEWALK AREA NEAR THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THIRD AND WORKMAN STREETS (Requested by Council Member Storing)

Council Member Storing advised that there were people in the audience who expressed an interest in a 100 year old tree that sits on the Rambou property. She acknowledged that some of the roots go in the sidewalk and needed to be taken care of but also in the same area of the sidewalk was a telephone pole in the middle of the sidewalk. She felt the reasoning to remove the tree because the roots were growing into the sidewalk when a telephone pole was situated in the middle of the sidewalk was not a legitimate reason to remove the tree.

Storing moved to allow the tree to remain as long as the tree's health is viable and until there should be any renovations made to the sidewalk wherein removal would be necessary for ADA compliance; ; seconded by Chavez. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

RECESS CITY COUNCIL AND CONVENE THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The City Council recessed at 8:07 p.m. and convened to the Redevelopment Agency to conduct business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Council Member Perez wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Storing requested that the meeting be closed in memory of Mr. Keith Eubay who was a long-time resident of La Puente and who lived on Victoria Street.

Mayor Pro Tem Chavez wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and commented on the new technology being used by the City Council.

Council Member Solis wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded the audience that his committee group would be feeding the homeless people again on Glendora Street. He mentioned they expected to feed approximately 500 people.

Mayor Lujan thanked the City Clerk for directing Council to implement the new voting system and hoped that in the future, the public would be able to access the meetings over the internet.

The City Clerk acknowledged her Deputy, Diana Giron, who performed the research on voting systems and found the Granicus System.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

City Manager Ledford advised that Staff would be adding additional features to the system to display the agenda item as well as the motion and audio visual effects. He reminded everyone of the annual Holiday parade and tree lighting ceremony on December 1st beginning at 4:45 p.m. on Main Street. The Grand Marshall this year would be Specialist Jorge Gaspar, U. S. Army, a recipient of the Purple Heart who is in the final stages of recovering from his wounds. Following the parade at 700 p.m. at the Senior Center would be dinner with Santa with entertainment and pictures. The cost of the dinner is $10 per person and tickets were still available.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Carol Cowley

Carol Cowley, City Clerk

Louie A. Lujan, Mayor