

**MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE
THE LA PUENTE COUNCIL AND LA PUENTE
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
JANUARY 14, 2006
8:00 A.M.**

A special joint meeting of the La Puente City Council and the La Puente Redevelopment Agency was held in the Council conference room of City Hall, 15900 East Main Street, La Puente, California on January 14, 2006, at 8:00 a.m.

Mayor/Chairwoman Chavez called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Council/Board Members Present: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Perez and Chavez

Staff Members present: City Manager/Executive Director Ledford, City Attorney/Agency Counsel Casso, City Clerk/Secretary Cowley, Community Development Director/Deputy Executive Director Yamachika, Community Services Director Adanto, Finance Director Kim, Senior Accountant Leung, City Planner Arreola, Assistant to the City Manager Lasher, City Engineer Oskoui

Mayor Chavez led the pledge of allegiance.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

A. NEW BUSINESS

A-3 CONSIDERATION OF CITY AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MID-YEAR BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-06

Finance Director Kim provided a brief introduction to the Mid-Year Budget and indicated that any discussion or questions could be addressed item by item during the budget review.

City Manager/Executive Director Ledford reviewed the Mid-Year Budget by fund and department. He first discussed the demolition of the French American Bakery, thereafter followed a lengthy discussion regarding the time frame, cost, and safety issues involved in the demolition of the building as an emergency without going through the formal bidding process.

Legislative/Legal Services: Council discussed joining the Nation League of Cities at a cost of \$2,444 per year; researching the Smart Growth Government Conference; researching the option to attend the National League Conference; and hiring a lobbyist to represent the City at a cost of \$3,000 to 4,000 per month. Council concurred to bring back these items for consideration. Mr. Ledford addressed AB 1234 and the effects it would have on Council's expenditure policy.

Economic/Business Development Services: Mr. Ledford pointed out that the contract services fund, which was used for promotional advertisement, was cut by \$10,000 the original budget amount was \$55,000. Council agreed to leave the original amount of \$55,000.

Social Services: Council Member Storing moved to give \$6,000 to the Girl Scouts and develop a contract to bring back to Council for consideration; seconded by Mayor Chavez. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Chavez, Lujan, Perez. NOES: None.

Recreation Services: Mayor Pro Tem Perez asked when community services would be back in service. Mr. Ledford responded that the plans and specifications for the community center building project would be presented at the Council meeting of January 24th. The construction was anticipated to be complete in four to six months. Community Services Director Adanto advised Council of the precautionary measures taken to seal and protect the building from the rain.

Benefits: Council discussed the increasing costs of healthcare benefits and the affect it would have on the City if the City continued to pay health care benefits for the retirees and their dependents, and/or spouses for the remainder of their life. Council suggested Staff conduct a study on the policies and cost for long-term healthcare benefits for retired employees and their spouses.

Capital Improvement Projects: City Engineer Oskoui responded to Mayor Pro Tem Perez's inquiry regarding the capital improvement project on Elliot Avenue informing Council that 60% of the design was completed. The plans and specifications would be ready by March for Council's approval to bid the project.

Redevelopment Agency: A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the implementation of various commissions. Mr. Ledford indicated that the proposed budget did not alter the Redevelopment Agency stipend. He discussed changing the structure of the Redevelopment Agency and exploring options of forming various commissions. He advised that if the Agency formed a Community Development Commission then the monthly stipend would increase to \$150. City Attorney Casso gave examples of various commissions and explained their purpose. Mr. Casso suggested that he and Mr. Ledford explore options. The Agency concurred.

The City Council and Redevelopment Agency Board concurred to approve the Mid-Year Budget for Fiscal Year 2005-06 as discussed and to bring the budget back for formal adoption.

A-1 REVIEW OF FEES CHARGED FOR BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

Council Member Solis requested this item be brought back to the next Council meeting. Council concurred.

A-2 DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CREATION OF A GRANTS COORDINATOR POSITION AND THE ELIMINATION OF CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE CITY'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Community Development Director Yamachika provided Council with a report indicating that this item had been presented to Council on two prior occasions. Staff prepared a report with three options, which Mr. Yamachika reviewed for Council's consideration. Council Members expressed their concerns and preferences regarding the proposed options.

Council Member Solis moved to approve Option No. 2 with a \$20,000 contingency for consulting services; seconded by Council Member Storing.

Thereafter followed further discussion regarding the effect Option No. 2 would have on the housing rehabilitation waiting list.

Council Member Solis withdrew his motion and moved to approve Option No. 3 to provide two fulltime Staff positions consisting of one Rehabilitation Grant Specialist, one Housing and Grants Coordinator, and one parttime Rehabilitation Assistant, seconded by Mayor Chavez. The motion was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Chavez. ABSTAIN: Lujan. NOES: Perez.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

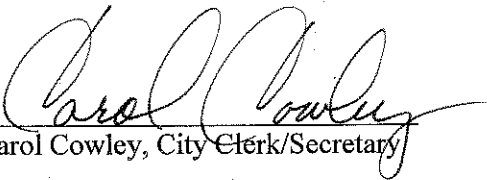
Mayor Chavez thanked Staff for their hard work on the Mid Year budget.

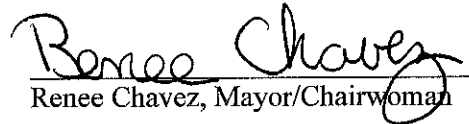
Council Member Solis thanked Staff for their work on the Mid Year budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Perez thanked Staff for doing a good job on the Mid Year budget.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

City Manager Ledford thanked Finance Director Kim for preparing the budget.


Carol Cowley, City Clerk/Secretary


Renee Chavez, Mayor/Chairwoman