MINUTES
City Council Meeting of the
La Puente City Council
February 14, 2006

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 February 14, 2006, at 7:00pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Perez led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION TO FAIRGROVE ACADEMY STUDENTS NICK TRUJILLO, EDWARD ZAMORA, ERNIE ORTEGA, AND TEACHER ERNIE DUARTE FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP

The City Council presented Certificates of Recognition to Nick Trujillo, Edward Zamora, Ernie Ortega and their teacher Ernie Duarte for noticing smoke coming from a home and immediately calling the fire department. Captain Richard Baligad from Fire Station 26 and Battalion Chief John Nieto came forward and presented a slide presentation of the damage sustained to the home that caught fire and praised the award recipients for their quick thinking.

Jesse Saucedso, Field Representative for Congresswoman Grace Napolitano presented Congressional Certificates of Honor to the students and their teacher.

DANA BARTON, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WILL MAKE A PRESENTATION ON WORK TO BE DONE IN THE CITY OF LA PUENTE

Dana Barton from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided a report to Council regarding the contamination found in the groundwater and the work the EPA would be doing to eradicate the contamination from the groundwater system. The work would begin in mid-April 2006 in various areas of the City. A slide presentation of the project areas was presented to Council.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO LA PUENTE VALLEY REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM IN RECOGNITION OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WEEK

The City Manager introduced Regional Occupational Program Superintendent Cynthia Parulan-Colser, Assistant Superintendent Donna Schwann and Public Relations Specialist Maryann King, who came forward to receive the Proclamation Recognizing Career and Technical Education Week.

Cynthia Parulan-Colser acknowledged the recognition and advised that the Rowland Unified School District was hosting a Career Awareness Day on February 15th at all of the high schools and middle schools in the Rowland, Bassett and Hacienda/La Puente area. They expected 600 to 800 students to visit career representatives from a variety of businesses at the Education Center on Gale Avenue

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION IN RECOGNITION OF THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AS AMERICAN HEART MONTH, AND FEBRUARY 14, 2006 AS "WEAR RED FOR WOMEN" DAY

There being no one present to accept the proclamation, Mayor Chavez announced that the proclamation would be mailed.

PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION TO CHIEF GIL HERRERA FOR HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Mayor announced that this proclamation would be presented at a retirement dinner for Chief Herrera.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Leonard Wayne Rose, Jr. addressed Council advising of how he was preparing for a job at the Youth Learning Activity Center next year when it opened. He advised Council of all the fitness classes he was taking and how he was exercising and eating properly to be physically healthy.

Robert Watanabe, Superintendent of Bassett Unified School District along with Dino Skokos and Albert Michel addressed Council regarding the Bassett School Bond passing this past year and the "I Love Bassett Day" parade planned for April 29, 2006. Mr. Watanable invited Council to participate in the parade and presented a packet containing "I Love Bassett Day" information to the Council and asked for the Council's support. Mr. Michel also addressed Council regarding the "I Love Bassett Day" events and presented lapel buttons to Council. Mr. Skokos asked Council for the City's assistance in personnel to do traffic control, street closures and placement of barricades, street cleaning after the event, and a waiver of the parade permit application fee.

Chrissy Morales, Maureen Garola, and Fabiola Calderon from St. Joseph's School confirmation class addressed Council regarding their class project. They explained that their class wanted to show their support for the troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan by sending care packages and asked Council for their support. They would be holding a collection drive on Saturday, February 18, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the parking lot located at St. Joseph's School. Anyone not able to attend the drive could drop items off at St. Joseph's religious education office until February 18, 2006.

Ken Medeiros addressed Council about a newspaper article regarding redevelopment and an agenda item regarding the grant amendment. Mr. Medeiros expressed his concerns regarding the lead inspections and building requirements to qualify for the City's grant program. He then addressed the availability of the City's grant funds.

Freddie Velasquez addressed Council indicating that he had been involved in the City's Little League program for 30 years. He expressed his opposition to the fee increase for the use the park. Mr. Velasquez felt the youth programs should not be charged a fee.

Mayor Pro Tem Perez clarified there was no item on the agenda to increase the fees for the use of the park facilities. He explained it was an item that one council member placed on the agenda to review the fees previously adopted. He indicated that there were expenses involved to use the park. Mr. Perez then pointed out that the City had a grant program for youth activities to assist kids that could not afford registration fees and that 1,500 pairs of cleats were going to be donated to La Puente youth sports program.

Council Member Solis indicated that he placed an item on the agenda to review the fees for the use of park facilities and that he would discuss the issue when the item came up on the agenda.

A MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A-1 READ AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2006 AND THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 24, 2006

Council Member Lujan moved to approve the Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of January 14, 2006 and the Regular Meeting of January 24, 2006; seconded by Council Member Solis. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

B PUBLIC HEARINGS

B-1 REVISION OF FEES CHARGED FOR BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT PERMITS AND PROPOSED ADOPTION OF NEWSRACK BUSINESS PERMIT FEE

Mayor Chavez opened the public hearing at 7:56 p.m.

Ken Medeiros addressed Council regarding the change in fees without a public hearing.

City Manager Ledford indicated that the City held public hearings in accordance with state law when it adopted its current fees. Mr. Ledford reviewed the changes in the fee schedule for the zoning permits, building permits and new fees to firms that wished to install newspaper racks in the public right of way.

After questions and concerns expressed by Mr. Medeiros, Mayor Chavez asked the Community Development Director to provide a staff report.

Community Development Director Yamachika presented a staff report indicating that this item was initiated in October 2005 at which time Council requested that Staff review the building and development fees. Council expressed concern that the cost of permits discouraged some residents from obtaining the appropriate permits to make home improvements and repairs. This item was placed on the agenda for the Council meeting of January 24, 2006 at which time Council expressed that some of the building and engineering fees were being applied without considering a way to save costs to residents. Council directed Staff to work with AAE to find ways in which fees could be reduced for building and safety permits. When Staff met with AAE it was determined to eliminate the City's administrative overhead for permit replacement of sewer lines extending from the house to the sewer lateral at the property line. Mr. Yamachika then reviewed the fee changes in the resolution. He indicated that vendors were required to obtain an encroachment permit and a business permit, and those fees were being added to the schedule.

Ken Medeiros expressed his concerns regarding the fee changes. He wanted to know what Staff worked on when they were not working on issuing permits.

There being no one further to speak, Mayor Chavez closed the public hearing at 8:10 p.m.

Perez moved to adopt the resolution approving the amended fee schedule. ; seconded by Solis.
The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

C UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1 CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING THE JOB ANALYSIS AND SALARY RANGE FOR THE GRANTS AND HOUSING COORDINATOR POSITION

Lujan moved to approve the position classification and adopt the resolution amending the Comprehensive Personnel System to include the position of Grants and Housing Coordinator position. ; 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

Council Member Solis moved to adopt Items D-1 through D-7 on the Consent Calendar ; seconded by Lujan. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

D-1 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING WARRANT REGISTER NO. 1172 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-06

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council adopt the resolution.

D-2 ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE CONTINUED NEED TO MAKE EMERGENCY REPAIRS OF AN EMINENT HAZARD ON THE HILLSIDE BEHIND 133 AND 139 ROUNDABOUT DRIVE AND 140 AND 148 HILLCREST DRIVE

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council adopt the Resolution confirming the necessity to make emergency hillside repairs behind 133 and 139 Roundabout Drive and 140 Hillcrest and 148 Hillcrest Drive.

D-3 CONSIDERATION OF NEW PARTICIPANT(S) FOR CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM (D97301-06)-FISCAL YEAR 2005-06

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council approve the allocations and authorize the Community Development Director to execute the necessary documents to implement the Housing Rehabilitation Program in the amount of $5,000.

D-4 CONSIDERATION OF PROGRAM SUMMARY MONTHLY (PSM) REPORT FOR CALHOME HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM ROUND 2

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council approvethe agenda report of the Community Development Director and authorize that it be filed for audit.

D-5 CONSIDERATION OF THE PROGRAM SUMMARY MONTHLY (PSM) REPORT FOR CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM FY 2004-05 AND FY 2005-06

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council approve the agenda report of the Community Development Director and authorize that it be filed for audit.

D-6 CONSIDERATION OF DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS CITY COMPUTERS, PRINTERS, AND CALCULATOR

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council (1) declare the computer equipment including 26 computers, 24 monitors, 6 printers, and 1 calculator, as surplus equipment and (2) authorize the City Manager to initiate the disposal of the surplus computer equipment at his discretion among the five community organizations listed in the report.

D-7 CONSIDERATION OF A CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH ZARIN-AFSAR AND ASSOCIATES

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council approve a contract amendment with Zarin-Afsar and Associates increasing the contract in an amount not to exceed $7,000 for a cost analysis of the Youth Learning Activity Center and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.

E NEW BUSINESS

E-1 CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PERSONNEL POLICY TO INCORPORATE A NEPOTISM AND FRATERNIZATION POLICY

Council Member Solis asked if Staff had discussed this matter with the union.

City Manager Ledford responded that the Staff had discussed the matter with the City's labor counsel indicating that the City had, under the existing labor agreement, management rights to set certain policies. Staff routed a copy of the policy to the union representative and sent a copy to Service Employees International Union representative. He advised the City did not receive any objections. Mr. Solis expressed his opposition to the policy indicating he did not feel it was appropriate to prohibit employees from socializing after work.

City Manager Ledford clarified that the policy did not prevent or prohibit social meeting between employees. The policy would specifically prohibit fraternization in the form of dating that would lead to emotional attachment between a supervisor and subordinate or comparable positions in the same department.

Mayor Pro Tem Perez moved to approve the amendment to the Comprehensive Personnel Policy to incorporate the Nepotism and Fraternization Policy; seconded by Council Member Lujan. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: Solis, Storing.

E-2 CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR "ZONE 5" SLURRY SEAL PROJECT

Solis moved to approve the specifications and authorize Staff to solicit bids for the Slurry Seal Project "Zone 5". ; seconded by Perez.
The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

E-3 CONSIDERATION OF USE OF LETTERHEAD WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS NAMES ENGRAVED AT BOTTOM.

Council Member Solis indicated he could not support this item, because his name would be at the bottom of letter regarding matters that he may not support. He would prefer that the city stationery not include the names of Council Members.

Mayor Chavez asked for clarification of option No. 3 provided in the staff report.

City Manager Ledford responded that the third option would be to place the names of Council Members and other city officials, if desired, in the left margin of the stationery. Council Member Solis indicated that he was in favor of option No. 1 because it deleted the names from the stationery and it would save the City $500.

Council Member Solis moved to not list individual names on the stationery. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Mayor Pro Tem Perez moved to continue listing the names of the five Council Members on the bottom of the executive stationery; seconded by Council Member Lujan. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: Solis.

E-4 CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Council Member Lujan moved to approve the CDBG and CalHome Residential Rehabilitation Guidelines as described above; seconded by Mayor Chavez.
The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

E-5 REQUEST TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Council Member Solis moved to authorize the solicitation of construction bids for the First Street Improvement Project; seconded by Council Member Storing. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

E-6 REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL SUPPORT OF AB1844 (CHAVEZ) INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE TO $6.75 PER HOUR (Requested by Mayor Chavez)

Mayor Pro Tem Perez moved to support AB 1844 and authorize the Mayor to sign a letter support; seconded by Council Member Lujan. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

E-7 CONSIDERATION OF FEES CHARGED TO YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUES FOR USE OF FIELDS AT LA PUENTE PARK (Requested by Council Member Solis)

Council Member Solis explained that in 2004 the City Council approved a park use fee schedule for the youth sports programs that would increase by one-third in 2005, one-third in 2006 and one-third in 2007. He also pointed out that the amount for the youth activity grants was lowered and he was in favor of the youth league fees remaining at last year's fees. He felt it was was the City's responsibility to take care of its park, children and seniors. His concern was the negative effect the fees would have on crime and graffiti if kids were not involved in sports. He also explained that the cleats the City received were through a grant. Council Member Solis Noted that he voted no on the fee schedule.

Council Member Solis moved to keep the fees at 1/3rd the costs; seconded by Council Member Storing.

Mayor Pro Tem Perez stated that on June 8, 2004 Council Member Solis voted in favor of changing the fees over a three year period. Mr. Perez requested Staff to give an overview of the discussion that occurred on June 8, 2004 regarding this matter.

City Manager Ledford provided background for Council indicating that the current park and field use fees were adopted by resolution by Council June 2004. At that time the fees were designed to provide four levels of fees for different categories of users. Mr. Ledford described the different types of facility users and range of costs. He explained there was a

5-0 Council vote to adopt a resolution implementing a fee schedule on a one-third, two-thirds and full fee level. Last year the fee was at one-third , this year it was at two-thirds and next year at the full fee level. The fee levels were set by resolution and the discount was set by Council action, which was adopted at that time.

Further discussion clarifying the fee schedule implementation plan adopted by Council in 2004 ensued.

The motion failed by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, and Storing. NOES: Lujan, Chavez, and Perez.

E-8 CONSIDERATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROGRAM TO REWARD PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF GRAFFITI VANDALS (Requested by Council Member Solis)

Council Member Solis expressed his feeling that the City should increase the graffiti reward from $300 to $500; and be more aggressive in advertising the reward program.

Mayor Pro Tem Perez indicated that he was not against increasing the reward amount, but felt a one year time limit should be included. Council Member Solis agreed to a one year limit.

City Attorney Casso requested that Council direct Staff to come back with a resolution rescinding Resolution 02-4191 and a new resolution that set a $500 reward with a one year limitation; and a plan of how the program would be publicized.

Council Member Solis moved to bring back a new resolution rescinding Resolution No. 02-4191 setting a $500 reward with a one year limitation and a plan for publizing the reward program; seconded by Council Member Storing. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

COUNCIL REPORTS

None.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Pro Tem Perez wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

Mr. Casso requested the closed session item be held over to the next meeting because there was nothing to report. Council concurred.

City Manager Ledford announced a community meeting that was to be held on February 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center to discuss the proposed redevelopment project at the La Puente Lanes site and encouraged everyone to attend.

F RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION --continued to February 28, 2006.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned by the Mayor at 8:45 p.m.

Carol Cowley
Carol Cowley, City Clerk

Renee Chavez
Renee Chavez, Mayor