MINUTES
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING OF
September 12, 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 September 12, 2006, at 06:00pm.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Chavez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Perez and Chavez

Staff Members present: City Manager Ledford, Deputy City Attorney Ruben Duran, City Attorney Casso, City Clerk Cowley, Community Development Director Yamachika, Community Services Director Adanto, Finance Director Kim, Assistant to the City Manager Lasher, Deputy City Clerk Giron, City Planner Arreola, and Community Services Manager Bistarkey

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Council Member Storing.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION TO ST. LOUIS OF FRANCE SCHOOL IN CELEBRATION OF THE SCHOOL'S GOLDEN JUBILEE (to be presented on September 16, 2006)

Mayor Chavez indicated this proclamation would be mailed.

PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION TO THE LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL IN HONOR OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY PRESENTED BY ANGIE CASTRO, COMMUNITY PRESS DEPUTY FOR SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

Field Representative Angie Castro from Supervisor Gloria Molina's office presented a Commendation to the City Council in honor of the City's 50th Anniversary.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Leonard W. Rose Jr. addressed Council regarding a letter from County Supervisor Gloria Molina addressing crime in this area. He also reported that his brother's car was vandalized. Mr. Rose then thanked Council for the proposed Neighborhood Watch Program.

Alma Barrera addressed Council regarding the dissolution of the Police-Community Relations Committee and establishment of a Neighborhood Watch Program and asked Council to support the establishment of a Neighborhood Watch Program.

Clayton Boutin expressed his opposition to a second-story bedroom and bathroom addition to a residential house on the street he lives on indicating the street already had issues with parking being overcrowded. Mr. Boutin also complained to Council that the Dial-A-Ride Program kept rescheduling his pick up appointments. The Dial-A-Ride provider did not have sufficient vehicles and suggested the City should purchase additional vehicles for the program.

Nancy Medeiros spoke about the housing rehabilitation grant program process and expressed her concerns regarding the requirements. She also spoke about the Dial-A-Ride funds from the county being deposited into the City's general fund. She felt that was unethical and illegal.

Ken Medeiros addressed Council regarding the allocation of money in various city account funds. He expressed his concerns regarding procedures to remove a person from the Council Chambers. Mr. Medeiros then addressed several issues regarding the City's organization chart; the use of the general reserve fund; and the use of public money for the attendance at the Latino Caucus.

City Manager Ledford clarified that CDBG and Proposition A Transportation funds were restricted funds and all unused funds stayed in those restricted funds and were not put in the City's general fund.

Thereafter followed a discussion regarding the Dial-A-Ride program's use of taxis and responsibilities. Mr. Ledford explained the contractor's scope of service responsibilities. He said that he would look into Mr. Boutin's incident and contact him. Mr. Yamachika indicated that Staff was not kept informed of appointment modifications unless the customer advised staff, because the appointments were scheduled between the customer and Southland Transit. There were penalties against the transit company for pick ups that were over 30 minutes late. Modifications were made to the program to address complaints and issues that were made by customers. Mr. Yamachika informed Council that Staff had met with seniors to discuss the need for customers to be flexible as well as Southland Transit, because of limited resources. Mr. Yamachika advised he would investigate Mr. Boutin's complaint.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A-1. READ AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 22, 2006

Council Member Solis moved to waive the reading and approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 22, 2006; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Perez.

The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Lujan moved to approve Consent Calendar Items D-1 through D-6; seconded by Council Member Solis.

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. 1186 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-07

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

D-2 APPROVAL OF NEW PARTICIPANT(S) FOR CALHOME HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR ROUND TWO FUNDING

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Community Development Director to execute the necessary documents to implement the Housing Rehabilitation Program in the amount of $40,000.

D-3 ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 10, CHAPTER 10.12, SECTION 10.12.1120 OF THE LA PUENTE MUNICIPAL CODE CHANGING THE ZONE DESIGNATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1103 LARIMORE AVENUE FROM R-1 (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO R-3 (MULTIPLE RESIDENTIAL) (Introduced and title read at meeting of August 22, 2006)

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council adopt the ordinance amending Title 10, Chapter 10.12, Section 10.12.1120 of the La Puente Municipal Code.

D-4 AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR PURCHASE OF CITY VEHICLES

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that City Council authorize Staff to solicit bids for the purchase of a new 2007 Ford Escape Hybrid FWD and designate Monday, October 2, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. as the deadline for receiving bids.

D-5 ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TIRE-DERIVED PRODUCT GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE PUENTE CREEK NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council adopt the Resolution authorizing the submittal of an application to the California Integrated Waste Management Board Tire-Derived Product Grant Program for FY 2006-2007 for Puente Creek Nature Education Center and authorize the City Manger or his designee to execute all necessary applications, contracts, agreements and payment requests as specified in the grant application.

D-6 PROJECT ACCEPTANCE FOR "ZONE 5" SLURRY SEAL PROJECT

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council accept completion of the Slurry Seal Zone 5 Project and authorize the City Clerk to record the Notice of Completion with the Los Angeles County Clerk Recorder.

NEW BUSINESS

E-1 STATUS REPORT AND PRESENTATION FROM PRIMESTOR DEVELOPMENT ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE LA PUENTE LANES AND VICINITY (generally located on Hacienda Boulevard between Fairgrove and Maplegrove Street)

Arturo Sneider with Primestor Development provided Council with a slide presentation of the Village at La Puente development project highlighting their vision to create a mixed use project with retail and housing. He explained the time line for the various phases of the project. Mr. Sneider pointed out that the biggest issue facing the development industry was the increase in construction materials due to natural disasters and the growth in markets around the world which has affected development projects. He then gave a status update on the acquisition of properties at the development property site indicating that they were in the process of negotiating with property owners. They were also receiving letters of intent from various retail tenants.

Dan Falcone with McCormack, Baron and Salazar addressed Council regarding the housing portion of the development site explaining the various components. He demonstrated slides of some of their housing projects. Mr. Falcone also addressed Council Member Storing's concern regarding safety issues due to the close proximity of the commercial area by indicating that their design process included a combination of secured access and electronic surveillance cameras. The primary entrance would be located on Fairgrove Avenue and the secondary entrance which would be used primarily for life safety vehicles and trucks would be located on Hacienda Boulevard.

E-2 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITIONS 1A THROUGH 1E

Council Member Lujan moved to adopt a resolution supporting Propositions 1A through 1E as passed by the State Legislature and signed by Governor Schwarzenegger and as recommended by the League of California Cities; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Perez.

Council Member Storing requested a staff report.

City Manager Ledford provided Council with a report indicating that proposed measures 1A through 1E were constitutional amendments and bonds proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger and approved by the state's legislature to address the state's infrastructure needs. If the measure passed, the City would receive $1.37 million for street improvements. Mr. Ledford then reviewed each proposition.

The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

E-3 CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A POLICY FOR PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES, COMMENDATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, PLAQUES AND OTHER RECOGNITION AWARDS

City Clerk Cowley provided Council with a report explaining that there were five types of recognitions Council presented: certificates of recognition, proclamations, commendations, certificates of memoriam, and city tiles. Staff researched the procedures of other cities to determine who signed the recognitions. In all of the cities researched the mayor was required to sign all recognitions. In some cities all council members signed the proclamations and commendations. Staff suggested that all Council Members sign commendations and proclamations and allow the Mayor to sign the certificates of recognition and memoriam on behalf of Council

Council Member Solis moved to discuss this item; seconded by Mayor Chavez.

Council Member Solis expressed his feelings that certificates of recognition and memoriam be signed by the individual Council Members.

Mayor Pro Tem Perez moved to adopt the Policy Guidelines for Recognition Requests; seconded by Mayor Chavez.

Council Member Solis indicated that he could not support this item.

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

E-4 CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROPOSITION 84: CLEAN WATER, PARKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND

City Manager Ledford provided Council with a report explaining that proposition 84 was proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger and passed by the state's legislation. If the proposition passed it would allow the state to sell $5.4 billion in general obligation bonds for safe drinking water, water quality, and water supply, flood control, natural resource protection, and park improvements. The bond money would be available for expenditure by the various state agencies and loans and grants to local agencies and non-profit organizations. It was unknown at this time if any funds would be made available for local sewer improvements.

Mayor Pro Tem Perez moved to adopt the resolution supporting Proposition 84 Clean Water, Parks and Costal Protection Bond and forward copies to The Nature Conservancy and the California Conservation Action Fund and the League of California Cities; 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-5 CONSIDERATION OF DISSOLUTION OF THE POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A "NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH" COMMITTEE

Assistant to the City Manager Lasher provided Council with a report explaining the issues the Police-Community Relations Committee (PCRC) addressed. He indicated that residents constantly approached the Committee Members requesting a viable Neighborhood Watch Program. Staff and Committee Members supported the establishment of a Neighborhood Watch Committee. If the committee was approved it would work closely with the Volunteers On Patrol (VOP) and Industry station's existing community outreach programs. The Neighborhood Watch Committee would be comprised of five members appointed by the City Council and serve on a voluntary ad hoc basis. Mr. Lasher then gave a brief history of the PCRC membership.

Thereafter ensued a brief discussion regarding the committee's declining membership.

Council Member Lujan moved to dissolve the Police-Community Relations Committee and establish a Neighborhood Watch Committee as an ad-hoc committee with five members, serving on a voluntary basis to establish a Neighborhood Watch Program in La Puente; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Perez.

The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

E-6 CONSIDERATION OF LETTER IN SUPPORT OF SHERIFF BACA'S PROPOSAL TO MODIFY THE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT STRUCTURE

City Manager Ledford provided Council with a report explaining the funding structure for anti-terrorism and public safety programs in urban regions. Individual cities were seeking funding for their own programs; small cities would be dominated by the larger cities such as Long Beach and Los Angeles. Sheriff Baca believed that it would be more effective if he represented all of the independent and contract cities as well as the unincorporated areas to seek the funding directly. The letter of support would give Sheriff Baca a more authorative seat when negotiating for funding. Mr. Ledford suggested that the motion be changed to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter.

Council Member Lujan moved to authorize the Mayor to sign and forward the proposed letter of support to Sheriff Leroy Baca; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Perez.

The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

E-7 CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING COUNCIL ATTENDANCE AT THE CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS INSTITUTE PUBLIC POLICY CONFERENCE (Requested by Council Member Lujan)

Council Member Lujan addressed Council indicating that the conference was a public policy conference that would address topics such as education, health and safety issues, and business economic development. He was requesting approval to allow Council's participation at the conference.

Council Member Storing expressed her opposition indicating she felt the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute was a specialized group.

City Attorney Casso clarified that the Congressional Hispanic Caucus was a non-profit and non-partisan organization.

Council Member Lujan moved to authorize Council attendance at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Conference; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Perez.

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

E-8 CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE POLICY ALLOWING PORTABLE BARBEQUES AT LA PUENTE PARK BY PARK PATRONS (Requested by Council Member Solis)

Council Member Solis addressed Council indicating that after the 4th of July Fireworks event he received phone calls from residents with concerns regarding portable barbeques not being allowed at the park. Mr. Solis explained that not everyone at the park had access to the park barbeques. He requested that propane barbeques be allowed at the park.

City Manager Ledford indicated that Staff members had experience working in other cities that allowed propane barbeques. He felt that this item was a reasonable request. There were also a few park rules that Staff would like to consider and bring back to Council. Staff was recommending that Council refer this item to Staff to research this change and bring back a comprehensive proposal to Council. Mr.

Ledford advised that Staff would also consult with the Joint Powers Insurance Authority before making any recommendations.

Thereafter followed a discussion about the occurrence of accidents and liability issues.

Community Services Director Adanto addressed Council's concerns indicating that there was a dozen park barbeques and pointed out that there were groups of tables that did not have barbeques. She also advised that most cities allowed portable barbeques and did not have any barbeque restrictions other than state parks.

Council Member Solis moved to refer this item to Staff to evaluate this issue including 5 miles per hour speed limits, and dogs on leashes and bring back to Council for consideration; seconded by Council Member Lujan.

The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Storing gave a presentation on the League of California Cities Conference in San Diego. She attended classes on general revenues versus fees, assessments, and special taxes. She learned about implementing fees on property taxes for various city projects. She attended the Mayor's and Council Member's Department meetings. Ms. Storing also attended other redevelopment workshop classes on road blocks and building better communities. San Diego was a beautiful City with a lot of Redevelopment in old Downtown Historical area.

Mayor Pro Tem Perez also attended the League of California Cities Conference in San Diego. He had the pleasure of meeting former Secretary of the Treasury Rosario Marin. Mr. Perez named the workshop sessions he attended. He also toured the Gas Light District indicating that it was rehabilitated and looked very nice.

Council Member Solis indicated that he attended the League of California Cities Conference in San Diego. He attended workshop sessions that addressed homeless issues and redevelopment.

Council Member Lujan indicated that he also attended the League of California Cities in San Diego. He learned more about all the bond issues that will be on the ballot this year. He supported the bond issues because he felt they were important to the infrastructure of the state.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Council Member Storing asked to adjourn the Council meeting in memory of Connie Robles.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

City Manager Ledford announced that Staff was preparing for the Main Street Run and looking for volunteers. They were also seeking community donations to augment the program and ultimately go into the scholarship program. Anyone who was interested in volunteering could contact city hall during regular business hours.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting in memory of Connie Robles at 8:33 p.m.

Carol Cowley

Carol Cowley, City Clerk

Renee Chavez

Renee Chavez, Mayor