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MINUTES
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING OF
January 9, 2007

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 January 9, 2007, at 7:00pm.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Perez called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Storing, Lujan, Chavez (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Perez
Council Members absent: Solis

Staff Members: City Manager Cowley, City Attorney Casso, Assistant City Manager Yamachika, Acting City Clerk Giron, Community Services Director Adanto, Finance Director Kim, City Planner Arreola, and Community Services Manager Bistarkey

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by City Attorney Casso.

Mayor Perez acknowledged Superintendent Dr. Barbara Nagaoka from the Hacienda-La Puente Unified School District.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF AWARD TO PUENTE PRIDE AWARD WINNERS: THE REYES FAMILY; EDWARDO AND MARGI RANGEL; AND MICHAEL AND BARBARA SOLIS

The City Council presented a certificate recognizing the winners of the Puente Pride awards for the winter season to Michael and Barbara Solis.

Mayor Perez recognized the Puente Pride Committee Members: Lois Maben, Dan Holloway, Julia Cortez, and Freddy Velasquez.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION TO POP WARNER HACIENDA LA PUENTE JR. MIDGET WILDCATS FOR WINNING THE WESCON REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The City Council presented certificate of recognition to each member of the Pop Warner Hacienda La Puente Jr. Midget Wildcats team and coaches for winning the Wescon Regional Championship.

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 7:14 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

The City Council presented a certificate recognizing the winners of the Puente Pride awards for the winter season to Edwardo and Margi Rangel.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Leonard Rose Jr. addressed Council regarding a program that he was attending at Mt. San Antonio College so that he could obtain employment in a local government agency's recreation department. He also suggested placing cameras in restrooms at public schools to prevent any lewd conduct. Mr. Rose reported litter in the alley behind his house and other locations throughout the City. He then asked everyone to pray for the troops in Iraq and their safe return home.

Ramiro Herrera with Harris and Associates addressed Council regarding Agenda Item No. C-1 indicating that the firm had over 35 years experience in dealing with these types of projects with agencies throughout California. Harris and Associates was excited and pleased to be part of the project process.

Manuel Maldonado thanked Mayor Pro Tem Storing for attending the parent meetings at Nelson Elementary School. He addressed Council regarding a letter from the principal at Nelson Elementary advising parents of meetings that will be held on January 22, 2007 and January 23, 2007. The meetings were going to address the Alemeda Corridor Construction project that would affect California Avenue between Nelson Avenue and Valley Boulevard. Mr. Maldonado also expressed his concerns regarding various issues at the intersection of California Avenue and Nelson Avenue. He then encouraged Council and Staff to attend the meetings at Nelson Elementary because the construction project will affect City residents.

Susan Reyes addressed Council introducing herself as the field representative for Assemblyman Dr. Ed Hernandez. She invited Council and the City Manager to attend the Local Government Summit, which will address transportation issues. Cal Trans representatives would be in attendance to discuss transportation funding. The summit will be held at the West Covina City Chamber of Commerce on January 20, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be open to the public. Ms. Reyes announced that the new assembly district office will be located at 1520 West Cameron Avenue, West Covina.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A-1 READ AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2006 AND SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2006

Council Member Lujan moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 21, 2006 and the Special Meeting of December 18, 2006; seconded by Council Member Chavez. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Storing, Lujan, Chavez, Perez. NOES: None. ABSENT: Solis.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

B-1 PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

Assistant City Manager Yamachika presented Council with a staff report indicating that the county anticipated the new allocation for the next fiscal year would be $605,106. In addition, to these new funds there was currently $46,350 from unallocated funds. All together there will be $651,456 available to use for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Mr. Yamachika then reviewed the proposed projects for the next year, which included administrative costs; public services; the handicap ramp project; and the housing rehabilitation program.

Mayor Perez opened the public hearing at 7:39 p.m.

Manuel Maldonado addressed Council expressing his concern that there were not enough after school programs for the youth in this community and suggested that the City allocate money for after school programs.

Mayor Perez closed the public hearing at 7:42 p.m.

Council Member Lujan moved to adopt the resolution authorizing the City's CDBG Program for Fiscal Year 2007-2008, reflecting the projects and associated budgets determined by the City Council; seconded by Mayor Perez. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Storing, Lujan, Chavez, Perez. NOES: None. ABSENT: Solis.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1 CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE LA PUENTE COMMUNITY CENTER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Community Services Director Adanto provided Council with a staff report indicating that three firms were interviewed and Staff was directed to gather additional information relating to fees, staffing levels, and contract information from Harris and Associates and Totum. Both firms submitted responses to a questionnaire that was provided by Staff. Both firms were found to be very qualified with positive references. Ms. Adanto reviewed each firm's qualifications and proposals. Staff recommended that a 10% contingency for construction management services also be included and to direct the City Manager to finalize the contract negotiations and enter into an agreement with Totum for the construction management services for the La Puente Community Center in the amount of $127,635 plus a 10% contingency for a not to exceed amount $140,398.

Thereafter followed a lengthy discussion in which Council Members Lujan expressed his concerns with Staff's recommendation in the staff report and his concerns regarding Totum's corporate status.

Council Member Lujan moved to hire Harris & Associates for the construction management services of the La Puente Community Center.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the google search conducted by Council Member Lujan and businesses that operate at a residence.

Mayor Perez recommended that staff conduct further research on Totum consulting firm and come back with findings.

Council Member Lujan withdrew his motion and agreed with the Mayor's recommendation to bring this item back.

C-2 CONSIDERATION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT CD & C, INC., V. PERT CONSTRUCTION CO., INC., ET AL, CASE NO. BC328044 AND RELATED CASES

City Attorney Casso reviewed the four settlement agreements indicating that if the agreements were approved by Council they would bring approximately $1.1 to 1.2 million in services and money in addition to $1.9 million previously received from Pert Construction. This would bring an end to the Youth Learning Activity Center litigation allowing the City to proceed with re-bidding for the project and re-start construction on the facility.

Council Member Lujan moved to approve the settlement agreements in the Youth Learning Activity Center (YLAC) litigation; authorize City Attorney Casso to file the notices of dismissal in these actions; and advise the court that this matter has been resolved; seconded by Council Member Chavez. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Storing, Lujan, Chavez, Perez. NOES: None. ABSENT: Solis.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Chavez moved to approve Consent Calendar Items D-1 through D-4; seconded by Council Member Lujan. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Storing, Lujan, Chavez, Perez. NOES: None. ABSENT: Solis.

D-1 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING WARRANT REGISTER NO. 1193 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-07

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

D-2 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING WARRANT REGISTER NO. 1194 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-07

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

D-3 CONSIDERATION OF NEW PARTICIPANT(S) FOR CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM (D97301-07) - FISCAL YEAR 2006-07

Staff Recommendation: The screening committee recommends 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 $7,000.

D-4 AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR STIMSON AVENUE STREET IMPROVEMENTS FROM CENTRAL AVENUE TO SAN JOSE AVENUE

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council: (1) award a contract in the amount of $393,605.20 to Excel Paving Company for the Stimson Avenue Street Improvements from Central Avenue to San Jose Avenue; and (2) authorize the Finance Director to appropriate $53,000 from the City's Proposition C fund for the completion of this project.

NEW BUSINESS

E-1 AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN AND CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE PUENTE CREEK NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

Mayor Perez moved to authorize the solicitation of proposals for engineering design and consultant services for the Puente Creek Nature Education Center and Design and designate 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2007, as the deadline for submittal of the Proposal; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Storing. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Storing, Lujan, Chavez, Perez. NOES: None. ABSENT: Solis.

E-2 CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH CGI COMMUNICATIONS, INC. TO PRODUCE ADVERTISING VIDEOS FOR THE CITY WEBSITE

Council Member Chavez moved to approve the Agreement with CGI Communications, Inc. and authorize the Mayor to execute the Agreement on its behalf; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Storing. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Storing, Lujan, Chavez, Perez. NOES: None. ABSENT: Solis.

E-3 CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION 06-4548 AND AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PERSONNEL SYSTEM AND ESTABLISHING THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED POSITIONS, MONTHLY SALARY RANGES AND HOURLY RATES

Council Member Lujan moved to adopt the resolution amending the comprehensive personnel system and establishing the authorized positions, and monthly salary ranges; seconded by Mayor Perez.

City Manager Cowley gave a presentation of the staff report advising Council of the reorganization in the Administrative Division of city hall and explained that the personnel resolution had to be updated to show the current positions and their salary ranges. These changes resulted in a net savings of $117,000.

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

E-4 MAYOR APPOINTMENT TO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT (Requested by Mayor Perez)

Mayor Perez appointed Council Member Lujan as the Delegate to the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District.

COUNCIL AB1234 REPORTS

None.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Council Member Chavez said she hoped everyone had a nice holiday and congratulated City Manager Cowley for accepting the City Manager position and making changes and cross training Staff.

Council Member Lujan welcomed City Manager Cowley. He knew that she would do a great job.

Mayor Pro Tem Storing indicated that she was glad to have Ms. Cowley on board.

Mayor Perez hoped everyone had a nice holiday and was certain that Ms. Cowley would continue to do a great job.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

City Manager Cowley thanked Council for believing in her to do the job as City Manager. She then announced that the 2007 calendars had been distributed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Diana Giron, Acting City Clerk

Louis R. Perez, Mayor