

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 23, 2007
5:30 P.M.**

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of La Puente was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 15900 E. Main Street, La Puente, California on January 23, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Perez called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

Council Members Present: Solis, Storing, and Perez
Council Members Absent: Lujan (arrived at 5:53 p.m.), Chavez

Staff Members Present: City Manager Cowley, Assistant City Manager Yamachika, City Attorney Casso, Acting City Clerk Giron, City Planner Arreola

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

A. NEW BUSINESS

A-1 PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Mayor Perez confirmed the attendance of the Planning Commission applicants Alex Alvarez, Mark Escalera, Ken Medeiros, Sal Negrete, Bobby Sanchez, and Freddy Velasquez. Marty Paz was not present for the Planning Commission Interviews.

Alex Alvarez was asked to give a brief background on himself and answer several questions posed by Council Members. Mr. Alvarez addressed Council indicating that he has been part of this community for the past 12 years and was self-employed. He was recently licensed as a real estate appraiser. He expressed that he would like to take part in the City's redevelopment projects and felt that his real estate background would be an asset to him as a Planning Commissioner. He would also like to see business in the City grow. The highest points of the City were the redevelopment projects and street improvements. The City's downtown area had potential for improvements. Mr. Alvarez then indicated that he has attended several Planning Commission meetings and would be available to attend meetings if appointed to the Planning Commission.

Mark Escalera addressed Council and provided a brief background on himself indicating that he has lived in the City for 30 years. He has been married for 12 years, had 3 children and worked as a maintenance supervisor. Mr. Escalera informed Council that he would be suited for a position on the Planning Commissioner and redevelopment projects because of his experience as an operating engineer and his knowledge of construction. Mr. Escalera answered several questions posed by Council Members indicating that he would like to see more family oriented businesses in the City. This City was a great place to grow up. He then indicated that he has attended several Planning Commission meetings in the City as well as other cities.

Ken Medeiros provided Council with a brief background on himself indicating that he lived in the community for approximately 40 years and lived in the City of La Puente because of economics.

He would like to serve on the Planning Commission to be part of the public services and improve the City. Mr. Medeiros also spoke about state laws that encompassed the Planning Commission and expressed his concerns regarding redevelopment. He then spoke about building code violations.

Sal Negrete provided Council with a brief background on himself and answered several questions posed by Council Members. Mr. Negrete informed Council that he was a volunteer fireman and participated in various sports organizations, parades and fiesta events in the City of Cypress. If he was appointed to the Planning Commission, his top priority would be to address rent control in the City. He also indicated that he has attended Planning Commission meetings in the City of Cypress and San Bernardino County.

Bobby Sanchez provided Council with a brief background on himself indicating that he has lived in the City for 13 years. He worked as a carpenter in the construction industry and was an umpire for the Little League. If he was appointed to the Planning Commission, his top priority would be to address low-income housing issues in the City. He felt that the City did not need anymore bars or liquor stores and expressed his concerns regarding on going projects in the City. The downtown area was in need of improvements. Mr. Sanchez also indicated that he had not attended any Planning Commission meetings, but read about them. When asked what he thought were the top issues a business should consider when coming into the city, he responded that there needed to be guidelines for businesses to abide by and consideration of what type of businesses come into the City.

Freddy Velasquez provided Council with his background. He has lived in the City for 68 years; worked as a farmer in Bassett; retired as a truck driver; and was involved with baseball and football organizations for 25 years. He expressed his interest in being part of the City's redevelopment process. Mr. Velasquez also responded to several questions posed by Council Members indicating that he was not in favor of more bars in the City. The redevelopment projects were the City's best points. He felt that people should be treated equally when complying with building permit requirements.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

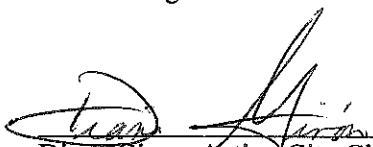
None.

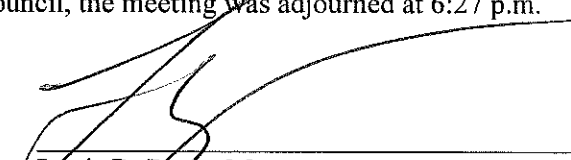
ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.


Diana Giron, Acting City Clerk


Louis R. Perez, Mayor