MINUTES
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING OF
February 13, 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 February 13, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Solis.

City Manager Cowley introduced Janice Houser as the new Senior Center Supervisor.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION TO NOGALES HIGH SCHOOL NOBLE REGIMENT BAND, STATE CHAMPIONS AT THE WESTERN BAND ASSOCIATION COMPETITION

The City Council presented certificates of recognition to Nogales High School Noble Regiment Band Members and Band Director Brad Pollock.

PRESENTATION OF THE DISTINGUISHED SITE AWARD BESTOWED ON THE LA PUENTE SENIOR CENTER NUTRITION PROGRAM

Community Services Manager Bistarkey provided Council with a presentation of the requirements for receiving the Distinguished Site Award and a slideshow of the La Puente Senior Center.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION TO THE LA PUENTE SENIOR CENTER NUTRITION PROGRAM SITE MANAGER AND VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE

The City Council presented certificates of recognition to the La Puente Senior Center Nutrition Program Site Manager and volunteers for their outstanding work and dedication.

PRESENTATION BY MINA TORRES ON THE LOS ANGELES LATINO EYE STUDY PROGRAM

Mina Torres with the Los Angeles Latino Eye Study Program provided Council with a slideshow presentation and reviewed the results of the eye study and explained the second phase of the eye study.

PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION TO THE LOS ANGELES LATINO STUDY FOR ITS SUCCESS AND FUTURE ENDEAVORS

The City Council presented the Commendation to Mina Torres and Gabriel Buelna from the Los Angeles Latino Eye Study Program.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Leonard Rose Jr. addressed Council indicating that he attended a Los Angeles Board of Supervisors meeting and spoke about recreation services provided by community centers throughout Southern California. He also spoke about his involvement with the Royal Rangers.

Marty Paz complimented Community Services Director Adanto and Community Services Manager Bistarkey on their work with City events and projects. Mr. Paz also expressed his concerns regarding the proposed rule to allow dogs at the park. He asked if the current prohibition rule was enforced and if the City had liability coverage in the event someone was hurt by a dog.

Freddy Velasquez addressed Council and Captain Smith about a newspaper article he read regarding the crime rate in La Puente, Valinda and Basset.

Nadia Mendoza indicated that she represented Cal State Los Angeles University and announced the Annual Eagle Festival on February 17, 2007, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Cal State Los Angeles. The event was for prospective students and will focus on what Cal State Los Angeles and California State Universities had to offer.

Susan Reyes thanked City Manager Cowley, Assistant Manager Yamachika, and Finance Director Kim for giving her a tour of the City's redevelopment area. Ms. Reyes also presented a letter of support from Assemblyman Dr. Hernandez for the Puente Creek Nature Education Center's grant application. She also announced the Cal Grant Workshop on February 17th at Azusa Pacific University.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A-1 READ AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2007, SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2007, AND REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2007

City Manager Cowley announced that Acting City Clerk Giron pulled the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 23, 2007.

Council Member Solis moved to waive the reading and approve the Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of January 13, 2007 and Regular Meeting of January 23, 2007; seconded by Council Member Lujan. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1 CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING REGULATIONS FOR LA PUENTE PARK

Community Services Director Adanto provided a presentation of the report indicating that on September 12, 2006 Staff was directed to study the feasibility of allowing barbeques and to review all park policies and bring back recommendations. Staff conducted a comprehensive review of surrounding cities and looked at their policies concerning dogs and use of other inflatable apparatus. Ms. Adanto reviewed the park's current rules and explained Staff's recommendations regarding additional prohibitions and dog and barbeque policies at the park.

Thereafter ensued a discussion regarding the pros and cons of charcoal and propane barbeques. Council also expressed that they would like to continue not allowing dogs at the park out of concern for public safety. Community Services Director Adanto advised that the need for more barbeques was observed by Staff during the summer months, however, the Joint Power Insurance Authority (JPIA) did not recommend propane barbeques and to limit the use of barbeques to charcoal barbeques. Ms. Adanto also explained that the park was open until 11:00 p.m. to allow for an extra hour to clean up after night games.

Council Member Solis moved to purchase three (3) new barbeques and amend the La Puente Park Use Policy to prohibit inflatable apparatus, commercial vendors, carnival apparatus, amplified sound/music unless by special event permit or in conjunction with a City sponsored event, and not allow dogs in the park; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Storing. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Solis moved to approve Consent Calendar Items D-1 through D-6; seconded by Council Member 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. 1196 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-07

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

D-2 ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FOR FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT EXCESS FUNDING FOR THE PUENTE CREEK NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council approve the resolution authorizing the submittal of an application for grant funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the First Supervisorial District Excess Funding.

D-3 AUTHORIZE SOLICITATION OF BIDS FOR CUSTODIAL SERVICES FOR CITY HALL AND THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council authorize Staff to solicit bids for custodial services for City Hall and the Senior Center and designate Thursday, March 29, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. as the deadline for submitting bids.

D-4 AWARD OF CONTRACT TO INSTALL 34 NEW BUS SHELTERS AND 8 NEW BUS BENCHES

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the bus shelter replacements and new bus benches be awarded to LNI Custom Manufacturing, Inc.

D-5 APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACT WITH TEAMAN, RAMIREZ & SMITH, INC.

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council approve the extension of the contract for one year with Teaman, Ramirez & Smith, Inc.

D-6 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION FOR EDWARD BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FUNDS (JAG)

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council authorize Staff to apply for the available Fiscal Year 2007 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Funds (JAG).

NEW BUSINESS

E-1 CONSIDERATION OF QUARTERLY CRIME REPORT PRESENTED BY CAPTAIN MICHAEL SMITH, INDUSTRY STATION

Captain Smith provided Council with a report regarding the quarterly crime statistics and responded to questions and concerns posed by Council.

Mayor Perez moved to receive and file the report as presented.

E-2 CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION DISSOLVING THE "NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH" COMMITTEE

City Manager Cowley made a correction to the Staff report indicating that there were an additional three applications. She also informed Council that of the three applicants, one person was ill and another was going to have surgery.

Council Member Lujan moved to adopt the resolution dissolving the Neighborhood Watch Committee due to a lack of interest; seconded by Mayor Perez. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: Solis.

E-3 CONSIDERATION OF LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENTS OF CORNER LOT AT NELSON AVENUE AND HACIENDA BOULEVARD (requested by Mayor Perez)

Mayor Perez addressed Council indicating that the corner lot located on Hacienda Boulevard and Nelson Avenue should be landscaped and maintained by the City because the lot belonged to the City. He also suggested placing a City marquee sign on the lot.

Mayor Perez moved to direct Staff to research the cost of landscaping the lot, and options for a sign; and bring this item back for Council consideration; seconded by Council Member Chavez. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. NOES: None.

COUNCIL AB1234 REPORTS

None.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Council Member Chavez wished everyone a happy Valentines.

Mayor Perez also wished everyone a happy Valentines.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Diana Giron, Acting City Clerk

Louis Perez, Mayor