MINUTES
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING OF
MARCH 27, 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 March 27, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Perez called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Lujan, Chavez, and Perez
Council Members absent: Storing and Solis
(Council Member Solis arrived at 7:11 p.m.)

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Lujan.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Leonard Rose Jr. informed Council that his father passed away and advised when funeral services would be held. Mr. Rose also spoke about The New Hope Ministries Peace march that he attended. Council gave their condolences to the Rose family.

Ken Medeiros expressed his concerns to Council regarding a confidential memorandum that was distributed to them on February 27, 2007. He also spoke about Items No. E-4 and E-6.

Council Member Lujan left the Council Chamber at 7:13 p.m. and returned at 7:14 p.m.

City Attorney Casso arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Deputy City Attorney Archuleta addressed Mr. Mederios' concerns regarding the confidential memorandum explaining that confidential memorandums prepared by the City Attorney's office were not purview to the public and were protected by attorney client privilege.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

None.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Lujan moved to approve Consent Calendar Items D-1 through D-6; seconded by Council Member Solis. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. ABSENT: Storing. NOES: None.

D-1 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING WARRANT REGISTER NO. 1199 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-07

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

D-2 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MONTH ENDED JANUARY 31, 2007

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council approve and file the Financial Report for the month ended January 31, 2007.

D-3 APPROVAL OF PROGRAM SUMMARY MONTHLY (PSM) REPORT FOR CALHOME HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM ROUND 2

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

D-4 APPROVAL 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 Assistant City Manager to execute the necessary document to implement the Housing Rehabilitation Program in the amount of $71,000.

D-5 CONSIDERATION OF PROGRAM SUMMARY MONTHLY (PSM) REPORT FOR CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM FY 2006-07

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

D-6 ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 07-4596 AND ESTABLISHING THE COMPREHENSIVE PERSONNEL SYSTEM AND ESTABLISHING THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED POSITIONS, MONTHLY SALARY RANGES AND HOURLY RATES

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council adopt the resolution amending the comprehensive personnel system and establishing the authorized position, and monthly salary ranges.

NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

E-1 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE TO PROVIDE TAXICAB SERVICE WITHIN THE CITY OF LA PUENTE

Assistant City Manager Yamachika reported to Council that the current contract agreement with the Bell Cab Company expired in November of 2006. Staff was not satisfied with the service provided by the Bell Cab Company because they were not visible and available. Mr. Yamachika also advised that the lack of service provided by the cab company encouraged other cab companies to operate within the City limits. Staff recommended Council's approval to solicit a new Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a new taxi cab service to franchise in the City.

Council Member Lujan moved to approve solicitation of request for qualifications from taxicab companies; seconded by Council Member Chavez. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. ABSENT: Storing. NOES: None.

E-2 CONSIDERATION OF BUS PASS SUBSIDY FOR THE NEW FOOTHILL TRANSIT LINE - SILVER STREAK

City Planner Arreola provided Council with a Staff report regarding the new Foothill Transit Silver Streak line explaining that the route would help reduce travel time and traffic impact from the City of Montclair to downtown Los Angeles. All local bus lines will stop at the El Monte bus station; from there the Silver Streak line will take commuters into downtown Los Angeles every 15 minutes. La Puente offered its residents a 30% subsidy for bus passes. Staff recommended that the City also provide a 30% subsidy for the Silver Streak passes. Mr. Arreola explained that the City would pay $80 for the pass and residents would pay $56.

Council Member Lujan moved to approve a subsidy of 30% for the new Silver Streak passes funded from Proposition A funds; seconded by Council Member Chavez. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. ABSENT: Storing. NOES: None.

E-3 CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR CENTRAL AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT FROM MAIN STREET TO STIMSON AVENUE

John Oskoui, City Engineer provided Council with a report of the Central Avenue Reconstruction Project indicating that Central Avenue was in need of rehabilitation, which required grinding of the existing pavement and overlaying it with new asphalt. The cost of the project was estimated at $310,155 and was included in the City's Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Capital Improvement Projects. Mr. Oskoui then reviewed the funding sources for the project.

Council Member Chavez moved to approve the plans and specifications and authorized Staff to solicit bids for the Central Avenue Pavement Reconstruction Project; and to appropriate $295,560 from the City's Proposition C funds for the completion of this project; seconded by Mayor Perez. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. ABSENT: Storing. NOES: None.

E-4 CONSIDERATION OF FORMATION OF A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

City Attorney Casso explained that there were two Ordinances for Council's consideration. The first Ordinance would establish the Community Development Commission which would operate and govern the Redevelopment Agency. The Community Development Commission would retain the same powers, authority function and jurisdiction over the Redevelopment Agency. The second Ordinance would cause the City Council to serve as the Community Development Commission. The establishment of the Commission would permit the Redevelopment Agency at some point in the future to entertain the establishment of a Housing Authority, which would also fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission for the purpose of establishing any sort of housing development.

Council Member Solis moved to read the Ordinance by title only and waive further reading; seconded by Mayor Perez.

City Manager Cowley read the title of the ordinance into the record.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PUENTE DECLARING THE NEED FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION IN THE CITY OF LA PUENTE, AND TRANSFERRING ALL DUTIES, POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Council Member Solis moved to introduce the Ordinance declaring the need for a Community Development Commission in the City of La Puente, and transferring all duties, powers and responsibilities of the Redevelopment Agency Board to the Community Development Commission; seconded by Mayor Perez. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. ABSENT: Storing. NOES: None.

Council Member Solis moved to read the Ordinance by title only and waive further reading; seconded by Mayor Perez.

City Manager Cowley read the title of the ordinance into the record.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PUENTE DECLARING THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PUENTE TO BE THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mayor Perez moved to introduce the Ordinance declaring the City Council of the City of La Puente to be the Community Development Commission; seconded by Council Member Solis. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. ABSENT: Storing. NOES: None.

E-5 REQUEST TO DIRECT STAFF TO LOOK AT CHANGING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE INVESTMENT OF CITY FUNDS AND FOR FINANCIAL CUSTODIAL SERVICES (Requested by Council Member Solis)

Council Members Solis pulled this Item to bring back at the next City Council meeting.

E-6 COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF A POLICY PROHIBITING SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS FROM MAKING MONETARY AGREEMENTS FOR THE USE OR NON-USE OF THE SNACK BAR AT THE SPORTS COMPLEX (Requested by Mayor Perez)

Mayor Perez expressed his concerns regarding the Little League and Girls Softball agreement wherein the Little League gave the Girls Softball a certain amount of money in lieu of the Girls Softball not using the snack bar. Mayor Perez also pointed out that the City owned the snack bar, lighting, and equipment at the baseball fields.

Thereafter ensued a lengthy discussion regarding the existing agreement between both leagues and whether the agreement was legal or not. City Manager Cowley provided Council with her understanding of what the issues were between both leagues and that in the past City Staff participation in the negotiations to help the organizations reach an agreement. Ms. Cowley also indicated that Staff should not be involved in the negotiations between both leagues.

City Attorney Casso explained that the City's legal obligation was to provide to both leagues an equal opportunity to the use of the snack bar. Each year the City fulfilled its obligation under the court settlement agreement. Mr. Casso also indicated that there was not an existing policy for the use of the field; the court order did not mention any sort of agreement.

Mayor Perez moved to form a committee consisting of the Little League's and Girls' Softball presidents, City Manager, City Attorney and Council Member Lujan regarding the use of the snack bar and to ensure compliance of the court approved settlement agreement; seconded by Council Member Lujan. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Lujan, Chavez, and Perez. ABSENT: Storing. NOES: Solis.

RECESS CITY COUNCIL AND CONVENE THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The City Council recessed to the Redevelopment Agency at 8:03 p.m. to conduct business. At 8:05 p.m. the City Council reconvened.

COUNCIL AB1234 REPORTS

Council Member Lujan reported that he attended the National League of Cities Conference. The main issue discussed by the ITC (Information Technology and Communications) Committee was the issue of broadband appointment and how telecommunication companies were lobbying to further restrict local cities' ability to negotiate. The committee was drafting a policy to enable cities like La Puente to negotiate and receive their fair share of revenue. Mr. Lujan also indicated that he brought with him documentation information to share with Council Members.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Council Member Chavez asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Leonard Rose Sr.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

City Manager Cowley announced the City Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 7, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at La Puente Park.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council the Mayor Perez adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Diana Giron, Acting City Clerk

Louis R. Perez