MINUTES
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING OF
DECEMBER 11, 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 December 11, 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: Chavez, Lujan, Solis, Storing, Perez

Staff Members Present: City Manager Cowley, City Attorney Casso, Assistant City Manager Yamachika, City Clerk Duban, Finance Director Kim, Public Works Director Salas; City Planner Arreola, Recreation Services Director Bistarkey, Deputy City Clerk Giron

Mayor Perez acknowledged Assemblyman Hernandez; former Mayor and Assemblyman Ed Chavez; former Council Member Holguin Fallon; Hacienda-La Puente School Board President Anita Perez; and Rudy Chaveria

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of Allegiance was led by City Attorney Casso.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS BY THE AMERICAN LEGION - POST 75

The American Legion was not present.

PRESENTATION OF COMMENDATION TO FORMER PLANNING COMMISSIONERS MARK ESCALERA AND DAN HOLLOWAY

City Manager Cowley read commendations honoring former Planning Commissioners Mark Escalera and Dan Holloway. Mayor Perez and the City Council presented the commendations to the outgoing Commissioners.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TO PAT BIRNEY, CITY OF LA PUENTE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Ms. Pat Birney was unable to attend the meeting. The certificate of recognition would be delivered to Ms. Birney.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Leonard Wayne Rose discussed his recent school accomplishments, noted a letter he plans on writing regarding protecting children from negative influences, and his plans for the upcoming weeks.

Rudy Almeida, commended the incoming and outgoing officials for their professionalism and service.

ELECTION RESULTS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

1. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION RECITING THE FACTS OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2007 AND DECLARING THE RESULTS THEREOF

City Clerk Duban entertained motions to declare the results of the election.

Mayor Perez moved to adopt the resolution reciting the facts of the General Municipal Election held on November 6, 2007, declaring the results and such other matters as may be provided by law; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Storing. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Chavez, Lujan, Solis, Storing, Perez. ABSENT: None. NOES: None.

OUTGOING REMARKS BY MAYOR LOUIS R. PEREZ AND COUNCIL MEMBER RENEE CHAVEZ

Outgoing Councilmember Chavez thanked her fellow City Council Members for their support in serving the best interests of the City of La Puente. She also thanked Mayor Perez and City staff and noted the pleasure of serving the City of La Puente.

Mayor Perez began his comments by noting that he always looks to the future and was proud of the role he played in La Puente. He asked the new Council to continue their work in making La Puente one of the best cities in the San Gabriel Valley. He acknowledged the residents for allowing him the opportunity to serve on the Council and commended City staff. He also thanked his wife, Anita, for her continuous support.

2. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND OATHS OF OFFICE

City Clerk Duban invited newly elected Council Members John Solis, Dan Holloway, and Nadia Mendoza to the podium to be presented with their Certificates of Election.

City Clerk Duban administered the Oath of Office to Council Member John Solis.

Mrs. Hilda Holloway (deputized) administered the Oath of Office to her husband, Council Member Dan Holloway.

City Clerk Duban administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Nadia Mendoza.

CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

Re-elected Council Member Solis and newly elected Council Members Holloway and Mendoza assumed their seats at the dais.

3. SELECTION OF MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO TEM

SELECTION OF MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LA PUENTE

City Clerk Duban opened the nominations for the Mayor of the City of La Puente.

Council Member Solis nominated Council Member Storing for Mayor.

Councilmember Mendoza nominated Council Member Lujan for Mayor.

Noting no further submissions, City Clerk Duban closed the nominations.

The motion to appoint Council Member Storing as Mayor of the City of La Puente failed by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing. ABSENT: None. NOES: Holloway, Lujan, Mendoza.

The motion to appoint Council Member Lujan as Mayor of the City of La Puente carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Holloway, Lujan, Mendoza, Solis. ABSENT: None. NOES: Storing.

City Clerk Duban yielded the gavel to newly appointed Mayor Lujan.

REMARKS BY NEWLY ELECTED AND INCUMBENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Mendoza expressed her gratitude and thanks to the community. She looked forward to working with her Council colleagues and City staff over the next four years. She commented on her experience and desire to be an advocate for the residents of La Puente.

Council Member Holloway acknowledged the honor of serving as Council Member in La Puente. He thanked outgoing former Mayor Perez and former Council Member Chavez for selecting Commissioners who best served the residents of the community. He thanked his wife, Hilda, his children Jennifer, Christopher, Shannon and Kim, Assembly member Hernandez, Council Member Mendoza and Lujan, School Board President Solano, and all those who supported his campaign. He looks forward to working on behalf of the City of La Puente.

Council Member Solis thanked everyone who voted and supported his campaign. He looks forward to moving forward with the work of the City.

Council Member Storing looked forward to working together with her Council colleagues on various projects in the community. She thanked the outgoing Council Members for their professionalism and work on behalf of the City.

SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM OF THE CITY OF LA PUENTE

Mayor Lujan opened the nominations for Mayor Pro Tem of the City of La Puente.

Mayor Lujan nominated Council Member Holloway for Mayor Pro Tem. Noting no further names, the nomination period was closed.

The motion to appoint Council Member Holloway as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of La Puente unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Holloway, Lujan, Mendoza, Solis, Storing. ABSENT: None. NOES: None.

INCOMING MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Lujan acknowledged additional dignitaries in attendance at the meeting. He thanked his Council colleagues, his wife, and the entire community for their support during the election. He acknowledged the role of City staff in the successful management of the City. He thanked both outgoing Mayor Perez and Council Member Chavez for their public service. Looking toward the future, he welcomed newly elected Council Members Holloway and Mendoza to the Council, and congratulated Council Member Solis on his re-election.

Mayor Lujan noted the dramatic change, especially in the area of redevelopment, which has occurred in the City. The actions taken by previous Councils have created foundations and learning opportunities as fresh ideas are presented by the new Council. He looked forward to working in partnership with staff in implementing changes. He again thanked the community for their support.

RECESS FOR WELCOMING RECEPTION

The meeting was recessed at 7:43 P.M. and reconvened at 8:12 P.M.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A-1 READ AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 10, 2007, THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2006, AND THE JOINT SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 2, 2007

Council Member Solis moved to read and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 10, 2007, the Special Meeting of December 4, 2006, and the Joint Special Meeting of June 2, 2007; seconded by Council Member Storing.

City Attorney Casso recommended that Council Members Holloway and Mendoza abstain from voting on this item as they were not elected Council Members at meetings for which the minutes were submitted.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, and Lujan. ABSTAIN: Holloway and Mendoza. ABSENT: None. NOES: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Solis moved to approve Consent Calendar Items D-1 through D-3; seconded by Council Member Storing. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. ABSENT: None. NOES: None.

D-1 ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING WARRANT REGISTER NO. 1216 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

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

D-2 APPROVE, RECEIVE, AND FILE THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the Council receive and file the City's Annual Financial Reports for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007.

D-3 APPROVE, RECEIVE, AND FILE THE SINGLE AUDIT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council receive and file the City's Single Audit Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2007.

NEW BUSINESS

E-1 CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH PUENTE HILLS COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING CORPORATION (KCAT) TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND PROGRAMMING SERVICES FOR THE CITY'S GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNELS

City Manager Cowley provided the staff report. She noted the Council's prior approval to begin negotiations with KCAT and to have the City Attorney draft a proposal. City Manager Cowley briefly outlined the terms and conditions of the agreement and requested that the Council support the monthly payment to KCAT through of the Social Services Fund.

In response to an inquiry from Council Member Solis, City Manager Cowley noted that the City Council has not authorized video broadcast of the Council meetings, although the Council could initiate discussions to authorize this feature on a future agenda.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, City Manager Cowley noted that the current cash balance of the cable franchise account is $145,000 and that space has been dedicated at the Youth Learning Center for studio purposes. She recommended that the City Council revisit the scope of programming allowed by the current cable franchise agreement over the next year. The City Manager further clarified that the Youth Learning Center space is not specifically dedicated to KCAT, but is to be reserved for the construction of a studio that can support broadcast services.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, the City Manager noted that a current Council Member sits as a member of the KCAT Board, and that the Recreation Director would also serve as a future member of the KCAT Board.

City Attorney Casso clarified that the Council Member who sits on the Board of Directors was appointed by the KCAT Board based upon her status as a resident of the City of La Puente, not as a representative of the Council. The current agreement, by formally appointing a representative of the City, begins to formalize the relationship between the City and the KCAT Board. Currently, there is no formal relationship.

Council Member Storing noted that members of the KCAT Board were in attendance at tonight's meeting and were available to respond to questions.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Lujan, Mike Williams, Vice President of the Puente Hills Community Programming Corporation, noted that after consulting with the City Manager, Recreation Director Bistarkey was recommended as an appropriate addition to the Board.

City Attorney Casso clarified the status of Council Member Storing's service on the KCAT Board, which is only in the capacity of a private resident, not as a formal representative of the Council. As per the new agreement, the City has the authority to appoint a representative to the KCAT coordinating committee which will work with the day-to-day operations of KCAT as it affects the City. City Attorney Casso advised that appointing an official representative to the KCAT Board may invite the assumption of liability.

Council Member Storing noted that her current and past service on the KCAT Board is strictly in the capacity of a private citizen.

Mr. Williams noted that the KCAT Board meetings are open to the public.

Mayor Lujan suggested that members of the KCAT Coordinating Committee include at least one (1) member of the City Council in an ex-officio capacity, in addition to any staff liaisons who are appointed as formal representatives.

Mayor Lujan moved to approve the agreement with KCAT and authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City; direct Staff to develop the Operating Guidelines for City Council approval; and direct that an item be placed on the next agenda that would recommend the appointment of at least one (1) member of the City Council to serve in an ex-officio capacity on the KCAT Coordinating Committee; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Holloway. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. ABSENT: None. NOES: None.

E-2 CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR THE HANDICAPPED SIDEWALKS AND RAMPS PROJECT (CDBG 600880-7)

City Engineer Mousavi provided the staff report. He noted that funds have been reserved for driveway approaches, curb ramps, and repairs of curbs and gutters in designated areas based upon field investigations. After the award of the bid, work is tentatively scheduled to begin on February 11, 2008.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Assistant City Manager Yamachika noted that any action rededicating funds from the Ford Project for their use on alternative projects must be proposed within the scope of a public hearing. The public hearing is scheduled for the January 8, 2008 meeting.

Council Member Solis moved to approve the plans and specifications for construction of the Handicapped Sidewalks and Ramps Project; and authorize staff to solicit bids; seconded by Council Member Storing. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. ABSENT: None. NOES: None.

E-3 CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF THE GANG RESISTANCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING (G.R.E.A.T.) PROGRAM APPLICATION FY 2008 COMPETITIVE GRANT

Council Member Solis moved to authorize staff to submit the grant application on behalf of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department for Fiscal Year 2008 Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program in support of preventing youth crime, violence, and gang involvement in the City of La Puente; and authorize staff to continue planning for a future G.R.E.A.T. Program; seconded by Council Member Storing. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. ABSENT: None. NOES: None.

E-4 CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO REVISIT THE ISSUE OF HAVING ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS APPOINTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL (Council Member Solis)

Council Member Solis requested that this item be placed on a future agenda so that staff can provide the newly elected Council Members with more information.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

In response to an inquiry by Mayor Pro Tem Halloway, City Attorney Casso acknowledged a motion and a second is not required for the City Council to initiate discussion on an item that is properly noticed pursuant to the Brown Act.

Council Member Storing thanked staff for their great work on the recent parade.

COUNCIL AB 1234 REPORTS

None.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

City Manager Cowley thanked Council Member Storing for her recognition of staff, and especially noted the work of both the Recreation and Public Works Departments. She announced that there would be no further Regular Meetings of the City Council in December and that the next City Council meeting will be held on January 8, 2008. She wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lujan adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Diana Giron, Deputy City Clerk

Louie Lujan, Mayor