MINUTES
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING OF
JANUARY 8, 2008

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 8, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lujan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Members present: Mendoza, Storing, Holloway, Lujan
Council Members absent: Solis (arrived at 7:14 p.m.)

Staff Members present: City Manager Cowley, Assistant City Manager Yamachika, City Attorney Casso, Acting City Clerk Giron, Finance Director Kim, Public Works Director Salas; City Planner Arreola, Recreation Director Bistarkey, City Engineer Mousavi

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF TIME WARNER CABLE VIDEO FOR THE MAIN STREET RUN 2007

Recreation Director Bistarkey presented the Main Street Run 2007 video produced by Time Warner. It will be airing on the local CNN channel over the next few weeks after their regularly scheduled programs.

Mayor Lujan congratulated the City employees for their hard work.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO PUENTE PRIDE AWARD WINNERS: THE CALDERON FAMILY, THE JEAN AND LEOTA HALE FAMILY, AND THE LUNA FAMILY

The City Council presented certificates recognizing the winners of the Puente Pride awards.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION TO THE PUENTE PRIDE COMMITTEE

The Mayor and Council Members expressed their thanks to the Puente Pride Committee for their service to the community. The Council presented Certificates to the Committee Members.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TO JESUS GONZALEZ, CITY OF LA PUENTE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

The City Council presented Jesus Gonzalez with a Certificate of Recognition.

City Manager Cowley briefly noted the background of the "Employee of the Month" program.

PRESENTATION BY AZIZ AMIRI ON BEHALF OF THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Aziz Amiri, Chamber President, provided a brief report on the work conducted by the Chamber on behalf of businesses located in the San Gabriel region.

In response to an inquiry from Council Member Storing, Mr. Amiri noted the specific nature of work that could be conducted in partnership with the City of La Puente.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Mr. Amiri noted the location of the Chamber's offices and the scope of measurable results of a potential partnership agreement with the City.

In response to an inquiry from Council Member Storing, Mr. Amiri noted the volunteer status of the Regional Chamber Board of Directors, the paid status of the Chief Executive Officer, and the paid status of the three (3) part-time staff.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Lujan, Mr. Amiri briefly outlined the responsibilities of the Vice President of Business Advocacy in terms of developing policy on behalf of local elected officials and affected regional businesses.

In response to an inquiry from Council Member Storing, Mr. Amiri noted that the Chamber absorbs costs for ribbon-cutting and grand openings for new members.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Mr. Amiri noted that the Vice President of Communications handles the public relations work on behalf of the Chamber.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Rudy Almeida addressed Council regarding recent newspaper articles that noted Mayor Lujan's membership on the Air Quality Management Board and also his concerns regarding emissions.

Joel Torrez, Field Representative for Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, noted the Senator's support for the City. He invited residents to contact the Senator anytime regarding issues or concerns.

Nancy Medeiros commented on her concerns related to the recent election, voting behavior by prior Councils, and the process by which the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem are selected.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

B-1 PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

Assistant City Manager Yamachika presented the staff report. He outlined proposed projects and related costs for the 2008 - 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding cycle.

In response to an inquiry from Council Member Mendoza, Assistant City Manager Yamachika noted that the City Council has the right to amend the allocations to specific projects.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Mr. Mousavi noted that the City was currently mid-process in its current slurry seal cycle.

In response to an inquiry from Council Member Storing, Assistant City Manager Yamachika provided additional information regarding the City's Code Enforcement Program.

In response to an inquiry from Council Member Storing, Assistant City Manager Yamachika clarified that the CDBG funds proposed for Code Enforcement would be to supplant the General Funds currently dedicated to that program. This action would release General Fund monies to be used for other purposes.

In response to inquiries from Council Member Mendoza and Mayor Lujan, Assistant City Manager Yamachika noted the funding restrictions and fluctuating amounts of annual CDBG allocations.

Mayor Lujan opened the public hearing at 7:57 P.M. There being no pubic comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:58 P.M.

Council Member Solis moved to adopt the resolution authorizing the City's CDBG Program for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, reflecting the projects and associated budgets determined by the City Council; seconded by Council Member Mendoza. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. ABSENT: None. NOES: None.

B-2 PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER NEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

Assistant City Manager Yamachika provided the staff report. He outlined the three (3) additional projects that were brought to the City Council's attention after the original allocation of 2007 - 2008 CDBG funds.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, City Engineer Mousavi outlined American Public Works Association standards related to handicapped ramps.

In response to an inquiry from Council Member Solis, the City Engineer Mousavi responded to questions related to construction management costs.

Mayor Lujan opened the public hearing at 8:06 P.M. There being no public comments, Mayor Lujan closed the public hearing at 8:06 P.M.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway moved to consider three (3) new CDBG program projects for Fiscal Year 2007 - 2008: the re-roofing of the Senior Center, the expansion of the handicapped sidewalk project, and the partial funding of Community Preservation activities in predominantly low- and moderate-income census blocks; seconded by Council Member Solis. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. ABSENT: None. NOES: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

C-1 CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 04-4407 ESTABLISHING POLICY FOR THE USE OF CITY STATIONERY BY MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

City Manager Cowley outlined the proposed resolution amendments including prohibitions against the violation of mass mailing laws, equitable use of stationery by all Council Members, maintenance of the "50-sheet" rule, and allowing City staff to provide clerical service to Council Members for city-related business.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway noted his support for the revision.

Council Member Solis requested that the policy regarding certificates be placed on a future agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway moved to adopt the resolution amending Resolution No. 04-4407; seconded by Council Member Solis. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. ABSENT: None. NOES: None.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Solis moved to approve Item Nos. D-1 through D-3 on the Consent Calendar; 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. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING WARRANT REGISTER NO. 1217 AND 1218 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-08

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

D-2 FINAL APPROVAL OF TRACT MAP NO. 67659; 16029 MAIN STREET

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council: (1) find that the Final Map complies with all of the conditions of approval set forth within Tentative Tract Map No. 67659; (2) approve the attached subdivision agreement and authorize the Community Development Director to execute the agreement on behalf of the City; and (3) approve the Final Map and instruct the City Clerk to endorse the face of the Final Map, the certificate which embodies the approval of said Map.

D-3 APPROVAL OF RENEWAL CONTRACT WITH CITY OF INGLEWOOD FOR PARKING CITATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council approve the renewal contract with the City of Inglewood for parking citation management system.

NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

E-1 CONSIDERATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARD POSITIONS AND ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE TO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

City Manager Cowley clarified that the Mayor could appoint Council Members as delegate and alternate to the KCAT Government Access Coordinating Council. She further noted that the Police Community Relations Commission is no longer in existence.

In response to an inquiry from the Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, City Attorney Casso affirmed that he would review any potential legal issues related to a La Puente staff member's appointment to the KCAT Board of Directors.

Mayor Lujan made the following appointments to the various board positions: California Contract Cities Association: Council Member Storing, Delegate and Council Member Mendoza, Alternate. Sanitation Districts 15 & 21: Mayor Lujan, Delegate and Council Member Storing, Alternate. League of California Cities/Los Angeles County Division: Mayor Lujan, Delegate and Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Alternate. City Selection Committee: Mayor Lujan, Delegate and Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Alternate. San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments: Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Delegate and Council Member Mendoza, Alternate. Southern California Joint Powers Insurance Authority: Council Member Solis, Delegate and Council Member Storing, Alternate. Foothill Transit Zone: Council Member Mendoza, Delegate and Mayor Lujan, Alternate. San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership: Council Member Mendoza, Delegate and Council Member Solis, Alternate. San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District: Mayor Lujan, Delegate and Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Alternate. National League of Cities: Mayor Lujan, Delegate and Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Alternate. Business Development Commission: Mayor Lujan, Delegate and Council Member Solis, Alternate. KCAT (Government Access Coordinating Group): Council Member Mendoza, Delegate and Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Alternate.

City Manager Cowley clarified that the Mayor serves a two-year term on the Mosquito and Vector Control District (through 2008). She will inquire into the possibility of Mayor Lujan resigning from the Board and allowing another member of the Council to serve the remaining term.

Mayor Lujan moved to approve the Mayor's appointments to various agency boards, including a delegate and alternate to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and adopt the resolution designating the appointed delegate and alternate to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments; 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 RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PUENTE PRIDE COMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE PUENTE PRIDE COMMITTEE

Assistant City Manager Yamachika presented the staff report. He briefly outlined the nature and scope of the Puente Pride Committee, requested Council's re-establishment of the Committee, and approval of any Council appointments.

Council Member Solis moved to re-establish the Puente Pride Committee through the end of 2008; 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.

In response to an inquiry from Mayor Lujan, Assistant City Manager Yamachika noted that Council reserves the right to make appointments outside of those who have applied or currently serve on the Board.

Council Members Storing and Solis supported reappointment of their current Committee Members, Lois Maben and Julia Cortez respectively.

Mayor Lujan elected to defer his appointment until he received written notice of his appointee's resignation from the Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway recommended the appointment of Patricia Nodal.

Council Member Mendoza elected to defer her appointment to a future agenda.

In response to an inquiry from Council Member Storing, Assistant City Manager Yamachika noted that all current Committee members have requested reappointment.

Direction was given to staff to place the following items on next month's agenda: the appointments to the Committee by Mayor Lujan and Council Member Mendoza, expanding the at-large appointments to two (2) members, and additional resolution amendments to be presented by staff.

E-3 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS CONSENTING TO THE EXPENDITURES OF TAX ALLOCATION BONDS 2007 PROCEEDS TO FINANCE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND YOUTH LEARNING ACTIVITY CENTER AND ADOPTING FINDINGS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA CODE

Assistant City Manager Yamachika presented the staff report. He noted the Council and Community Development Commission's need to make findings via resolution prior to committing the funds to the Community Center and Youth Learning Activity Center project.

Council Member Solis moved to consent to the expenditures of Tax Allocation Bonds 2007 proceeds to finance capital improvements to the Community Center and Youth Learning Activity Center and adopt the attached Resolutions; seconded by Council Member Mendoza. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, and Lujan. ABSTAIN: Holloway and Mendoza. ABSENT: None. NOES: None.

E-4 CONSIDERATION OF AGREEMENT TO ASSUME LEASE OBLIGATIONS AND WAIVER OF RIGHT TO ABANDON EMINENT DOMAIN ACTION FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1313-1335 N. HACIENDA BOULEVARD

City Attorney Casso requested that this item be pulled from tonight's agenda and placed on the next Regular City Council agenda.

E-5 REQUEST TO SEEK "STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS" FROM QUALIFIED FIRMS TO CONDUCT PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS/REVIEW OF EXISTING PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS AND/OR CITY CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS (REQUESTED BY MAYOR PRO TEM HOLLOWAY AND COUNCIL MEMBER MENDOZA)

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway and Council Member Mendoza noted that during their election campaigns they received many inquiries from residents regarding the process for approving and managing public projects. They both recommend a professional review process to provide residents with a clear and transparent understanding of how contract awards are made and project management is handled in the City.

In response to an inquiry from Council Member Storing, City Manager Cowley provided information related to cost estimates for a study.

Council Member Storing suggested that the two new Council Members review existing contracts with the assistance of the City Attorney.

In response to an inquiry from Council Member Solis, the City Manager noted that an authorized study would specifically address the processes and procedures regarding contract award and project management.

City Attorney Casso noted that tonight's item would strictly authorize only the seeking of "Statements of Qualifications" from qualified firms, not the hiring of a specific firm. He further noted issues surrounding the waiver of attorney-client privilege.

City Manager Cowley wanted to note that City staff must follow State statutes related to the award of public contracts.

Mayor Lujan suggested the formation of an ad hoc committee to assist staff in developing the "Statement of Qualifications" and to provide assistance with the review process.

Mayor Lujan moved to request staff to seek "Statements of Qualifications" from qualified firms to conduct a performance evaluation/review of existing professional service contracts and/or City Contracts and Agreements; and to appoint an ad hoc committee consisting of Mayor Lujan and Mayor Pro Tem Holloway to clarify the intent and scope of work that should be included in the Request for "Statements of Qualifications"; seconded by Council Member Holloway. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. ABSENT: None. NOES: Storing.

COUNCIL AB 1234 REPORTS

None.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway briefly addressed comments made by Ms. Medeiros during the public comment period.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items to come before the City Council, Mayor Lujan adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:56 P.M.

Diana Giron, Acting City Clerk

Louie Lujan, Mayor