MINUTES
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING OF
JANUARY 22, 2008

A Special 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 22, 2008, at 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lujan called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Present: Mendoza, Storing, Holloway, Lujan
Council Member Absent: Solis (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Storing.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lujan stated the interview process will be in alphabetical order.

Assistant City Manager Yamachika announced that during the interview process as the candidates are called the fellow candidates will remain outside the Council Chambers; although once they have finished being interviewed the candidates are allowed to remain in the Chambers during the next interview.

City Manager Cowley informed Council that there are nine candidates to be interviewed.

A-1. PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Mr. David Argudo introduced himself and gave a brief personal background. Mr. Argudo stated why he is interested in this position. Mr. Argudo indicated that beer parlors and bars could be a source of revenue for the City and opposed more smoke shops operating in the City. He stated that he would like to see more redevelopment projects completed in the City and that there is no solution for development unless changes are made to the zoning. Mr. Argudo noted his background experience and knowledge as a realtor and a businessperson. Mr. Argudo gave a brief background on the Old Town Planning Association and what is does with old town businesses.

Assistant Attorney Archuleta informed Council that Mr. Argudo would need to abstain from voting on any project that is within 500 feet of his business due to his involvement in the Old Town Planning Association.

Mr. Steve Brown was not present when called.

It was noted that a Council Member had received a letter from Mr. Roger Clark stating that he would not be able to attend due to being out of town on family matters but would like his application to still be considered.

Mr. Gil Duarte introduced himself and summarized his background and work experience. Mr. Duarte stated he has communicated with the residents of the City and would like to make changes. He stated that he supports eminent domain for certain redevelopment projects but not for residential housing. He would like to see more combined housing/retail developments. Mr. Duarte didn't feel there were many beer parlors or smoke shops in the City.

Mr. Robert Fallon introduced himself, stated he was a 38 year resident of La Puente and gave a brief personal background. He noted that he has not attended the meetings. He expressed concern over more beer parlors or smoke shops opening, and was in favor of eminent domain when necessary for redevelopment. He expressed his concerns and thoughts regarding the redevelopment process and the need for rezoning. Mr. Fallon stated that as part of Planning Commission he would be thoughtful and reasonable when making decisions for the City.

Mr. Raul Landino gave a brief personal background and reviewed his educational history in marketing and his work experience. Mr. Landino stated he is a man of action, a team player and he works well with others. He would like to make a positive impact on the City. He noted that redevelopment projects can benefit the City and can be accomplished with the new Council on board. Mr. Landino stated that sometimes the big picture needs to be looked at closely and that change can benefit the City when eminent domain needs to be exercised. Mr. Landino is in favor of mixed use development, since the City has limited space. Mr. Landino was not familiar with City policies regarding tattoo parlors, smoke shops, or beer parlors. Mr. Landino stated he views the City's meetings on the Internet.

Mr. Paz gave a brief background and stated that he is a long time resident of La Puente. Mr. Paz has attended about 95% of the meetings. The role he would play would be to make fair decisions on all projects brought to the commission that helps the community and the residents of La Puente. He stated he is a team player and that issues with the Planning Commission were in the past and it's time to move forward for the betterment of the City. He noted that he does not favor tattoo parlors, beer parlors or bars in the City.

Mr. Paz stated when it comes to eminent domain it should be used only if needed. Mr. Paz stated he does not have experience with the Planning Commission, but is involved with the City and attends Council and Planning Commission meetings and would work hard to make the fair and right judgments.

Mr. Villareal introduced himself as a long time resident of La Puente and stated his career experience has been in education and as a realtor. His goal is to help others and to change the community. Mr. Villareal noted that he has not attended many meetings and believes his role as a commissioner will be to evaluate projects that come forward within the City limits. Mr. Villareal stated that he will follow the laws when it comes to the topic of eminent domain and believes in redevelopment as long as it benefits the community and residents of La Puente. Mr. Villareal would like to see changes that will benefit the children and result in better use of vacant properties in the City.

Mr. Young introduced himself and gave a brief background on his work experience as an environmental engineer. Mr. Young stated that his experience as an engineer makes him more aware of environmental issues that can affect the community and residents. He would like to see that developments do not impact the community. Mr. Young supports redevelopment and believes the community needs to improve. He would ensure that decisions are fairly made to accommodate everyone. Mr. Young does not favor bars, tattoo parlors or smoke shops and would rather see other businesses that would benefit the residents. Regarding eminent domain, he stated that he doesn't support it when it pertains to residents, but for vacant commercial property that can be developed, he is in favor of it. Mr. Young believes that two story structures are acceptable depending on the location and the neighbors. Mr. Young would like to see the completion of the Community Center because it is needed for the residents.

Mayor Lujan announced that Mr. Steve Brown had not arrived and that incumbent Mr. Bill Rojas does not have to be interviewed but would be added to the ballot.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Lujan announced that the voting process would be held during the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. and extended his thanks to all the applicants.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lujan adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Approved this 22nd day of July, 2008

Diana Giron, Acting City Clerk

For Louie A. Lujan, Mayor