MINUTES
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING OF
FEBRUARY 12, 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 February 12, 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, Solis, Storing, Holloway, Lujan

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Lujan noted that City Attorney Casso was recently promoted to Principal at his law firm. The City Council offered their congratulations.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

A-1 READ AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 AND JANUARY 22, 2008

Mayor Lujan moved to waive the reading and approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of September 11, 2007 and January 22, 2008; seconded by Council Member Solis. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, and Lujan. NOES: None. Mayor Pro Tem Holloway and Council Member Mendoza abstained as to the Minutes of September 11, 2007.

PUBLIC HEARINGS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

C-1 CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT FOR THE PUENTE PRIDE COMMITTEE AND AMENDING RESOLUTION 00-4092 SELECTION PROCEDURE POLICY

Assistant City Manager Yamachika provided Council with a brief staff report. Staff had previously requested the reestablishment of the Puente Pride Committee and consideration of appointments. Tonight's item would include Mayor Lujan's and Council Member Mendoza's appointments to the committee, the one (1) at-large appointment, and minor changes to the appointment process.

Mayor Lujan called for the appointment of the one (1) at-large member.

Council Member Storing moved to appoint Deborah Pringle as the at-large member of the Puente Pride Committee; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Holloway. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. NOES: None.

Mayor Lujan appointed Elizabeth Acosta to the Puente Pride Committee. Council Member Mendoza appointed Roger Clark to the Puente Pride Committee. The City Council congratulated both new members on their appointments.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway moved to approve the amendment to Resolution No. 00-4092; seconded by Council Member Solis. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. NOES: None.

C-2 ZONE CHANGE 327 - ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 10, CHAPTER 10.12, SECTION 10.12.1140 OF THE LA PUENTE MUNICIPAL CODE CHANGING THE ZONE DESIGNATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 744 N. SIERRA VISTA COURT FROM R-1 (0NE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO C-2 (GENERAL-COMMERCIAL) (Introduced and title read at the meeting of January 22, 2008)

City Manager Cowley provided a brief background on this item, including the previous Introduction of the proposed Ordinance amendment at the January 22, 2008 meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway moved to adopt the ordinance amending Title 10, Chapter 10.12, Section 10.12.1140 of the La Puente Municipal Code; seconded by Council Member Solis. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. NOES: None.

C-3 APPROVAL OF RATE INCREASE FOR CITY ATTORNEY'S SERVICES

City Manager Cowley provided a brief report.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Ms. Cowley noted that even with the proposed increase, the City is paying less than comparable sized cities for City Attorney services.

Council Member Solis moved to approve the amendment to the agreement with Meyers Nave increasing the hourly rate of attorney's services; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Holloway. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. NOES: None.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Solis moved to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. D-1 through D-10; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Holloway. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. NOES: None.

D-1 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING WARRANT REGISTER NO. 1220 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-08

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

D-2 TREASURER'S/FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council receives and files the Monthly Treasurer's/Financial Report for the month ended December 31, 2007.

D-3 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 MID-YEAR BUDGET

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that City Council adopt the Resolution approving the revised Mid-Year Budget.

D-4 REJECTION OF ALL BIDS AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO RE-SOLICIT BIDS FOR THE HANDICAPPED SIDEWALKS AND RAMPS PROJECT (CDBG 600880-7)

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended the City Council: (1) reject all bids; and (2) Authorize staff to solicit new bids for the Handicapped Sidewalk and Ramp Project.

D-5 APPROVAL OF NEW PARTICIPANTS(S) FOR CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM (D97301-08) - FISCAL YEAR 2007-08

Staff Recommendation: The Screening Committee recommends that the City Council approve the allocations and authorize the Assistant City Manager to execute the necessary documents to implement the Housing Rehabilitation Program in the amount of $15,000.

D-6 CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE FOR SENIOR CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT-MOTORIZED GATE OPENER

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council accept the Senior Center Improvements Project-gate opener portion as complete and authorize the filing of a Notice of Completion and release of payment to California

D-7 ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 FOR THE USE OF PROPOSITION 1B FUNDS FOR LOCAL STREET AND ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council adopt the Resolution to amend the FY 2007-2008 Capital Improvement Program and approve the use of Proposition 1B Funds for Local Streets and Road Improvements projects.

D-8 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO SUBMIT EIGHT PROJECTS FOR FUNDING CONSIDERATION UNDER THE HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council approve the Resolution supporting federal funding of eight (8) projects in the City and authorize the City Manager to submit project funding consideration under the Highway Safety Improvement Project.

D-9 LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING FOR VERIZON FIBER TO THE PREMISES OVERLAY PROJECT

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council receive and file this report.

D-10 LOCAL STREET RESURFACING - PROJECT ACCEPTANCE

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council accept the Local Street Resurfacing Project as complete and authorize the recording of the Notice of Completion and adopt a resolution for amending the budget to reflect the actual cost of the construction.

NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

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

Captain Smith provided a brief report on crime incidents in the City of La Puente.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Captain Smith commented on graffiti incidents and response actions taken by the Special Response Team.

Council Member Solis thanked the Sheriff's Department for their services.

E-2 AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SEWER SYSTEM ON GLENDORA AVENUE BETWEEN HACIENDA BOULEVARD AND NELSON AVENUE

City Engineer Mousavi provided a brief staff report giving a brief history of the Sewer Master Plan as well as background related to the project site on Glendora Avenue.

Mayor Lujan moved to (1) approve the plans and specifications, and (2) authorize staff to solicit bids for the Glendora Avenue between Hacienda Boulevard and Nelson Avenue segment of the Sewer System Capital Improvement Program; seconded by Council Member Mendoza. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. NOES: None.

E-3 CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACTUAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE SEWER RATE STUDY WITH HILTON FARNKOPF AND HOBSON

Public Works Director Salas provided a brief report on this item, including the historical background of a previous sewer rate study by the consultant. The new proposed study will include a needs assessment of the sewer system as related to

funding required for maintenance and operations. A series of public hearings will be conducted to provide the public with updated information related to any proposed increases in sewer rates. John Farnkopf, representing the consulting firm, introduced himself to the City Council and was available to answer any questions.

In response to Mayor Lujan, City Manager Cowley noted that this item was discussed at the Special Meeting conducted for the purpose of reviewing the City's sewer system infrastructure, operations, and maintenance.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway noted the City's liability in not maintaining the sewer system, and mentioned potential health issues related to sewer seepage into the groundwater system.

Council Member Storing moved to (1) approve and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement with Hilton Farnkopf and Hobson for a sewer rate study on its behalf; and (2) approve the budget resolution; seconded by Council Member Solis. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. NOES: None.

E-4 REQUEST TO RECONSIDER THE POLICY FOR PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES, COMMENDATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, PLAQUES AND OTHER RECOGNITION AWARDS (Requested by Council Member Solis)

Council Member Solis noted Council past practice related to issuance of certificates of recognition. He expressed his desire for all Council Members to be able to issue certificates of recognition.

City Manager Cowley provided a brief report on the current policy, which allows for staff efficiency in the provision of certificates, proclamations, and commendations. Certificates of recognition can be presented by any member of the Council; however they are signed by the Mayor. Commendations and proclamations were signed by all Council Members.

Mayor Lujan expressed his concerns related to individual Council Member's making requests and impacting staff time.

Council Member Solis clarified that his request would allow each Council Member to issue certificates of recognition under their own signature, rather than under the signature of the Mayor.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway requested clarification of Council Member Solis' new certificate proposal.

Council Member Solis noted that his proposal would allow individual certificates of recognition to be issued by City of La Puente and signed by whichever Council Member presents it. City Manager Cowley clarified that each Council Member currently can request a certificate of recognition they can present individually, however the certificates are signed by the Mayor.

Mayor Lujan and Mayor Pro Tem Holloway expressed their concerns that a new policy would politicize the process.

Council Member Storing expressed her support of recognizing individuals and groups for their community service.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway expressed his desire that a certificate from the City of La Puente should come from the Mayor as the official representative of the City.

Council Member Mendoza expressed her desire that the certificates of recognition come from the Council as a whole and to keep the process as is currently structured.

Council Member Solis expressed his concerns that without all Council Member's signatures, the certificate may appear to come exclusively from the Mayor, rather than from the entire Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway suggested that the certificate of recognition should come from the entire Council, as representatives of the citizens of the community. Ms. Cowley noted that staff could include all signatures of the Council, or allow the requesting Council Member and Mayor to sign the certificate.

Mayor Lujan noted that he encourages Council Members to issue certificates of recognition to community groups.

Council Member Solis moved to allow each Council Member to issue certificates of recognition to members of the community; seconded by Council Member Storing.

Council Member Storing suggested preprinted Council Member signatures to facilitate the process of issuing certificates of recognition from all Council Members.

Council Member Solis moved to require certificates of recognition to be signed by all Council Members; seconded by Council Member Storing. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Storing, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. NOES: None.

E-5 REQUEST TO CONSIDER ADOPTING A POLICY IN WHICH THE CITY GOES PAPERLESS (Requested by Mayor Pro Tem Holloway and Council Member Solis)

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway and Council Member Solis expressed their desire to move toward the "greening" of the City by first addressing the processing of the formal agenda in a paperless format.

Council Member Solis also expressed his desire to move toward a paperless agenda.

Mayor Lujan expressed his support for the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway clarified that pursuant to law, the formal paper agenda will continue to be made available for the public. The new policy would reduce the overall number of paper copies that are produced. City Manager Cowley noted the City's active efforts toward the digitization of City records and on-line availability of Council and Agency agendas.

In response to Council Member Storing, City Manager Cowley noted that approval of this item would not result in the reduction of staff positions and that each Council Member would be provided with a computer, if needed. Council Members would still have the option of requesting a paper agenda packet.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Ms. Cowley noted the security provisions involved in the preservation of digital records.

Council Member Solis moved to adopt a policy by which City Council agendas are produced in a paperless fashion; seconded by Council Member Mendoza. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. NOES: Storing.

E-6 REQUEST TO CONSIDER PROTOCOL ON INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS SEEKING INFORMATION FROM CONSULTANTS UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE CITY (Requested by Mayor Lujan and Mayor Pro Tem Holloway)

Mayor Lujan expressed his desire that all Council Members receive equal access to information from consultants regardless of the requesting Council Member.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway expressed his desire that all Council Members have access to the same information. He clarified his desire that any Council Member making an information request of a consultant inform the City Manager of the request, and require the consultant to provide the information to all Council Members.

City Manager Cowley noted that staff would appreciate updates on any conversations held between City consultants and Council Members.

Mayor Lujan moved to direct staff for a policy or protocol be returned for Council approval regarding equal access to information provided by City consultants whenever information is requested by individual Council Members; seconded by Council Member Solis. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Solis, Lujan, Holloway, and Mendoza. NOES: Storing.

CITY COUNCIL AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

City Manager Cowley reported that Professional Services Review Evaluation Committee (Mayor Lujan and Mayor Pro Tem Holloway) met to review the list of consultants and the agreements to be reviewed and evaluated. The committee selected eighteen (18) agreements to review, and selected four (4) consultants to receive invitations to provide statements of qualifications.

Assistant City Manager reported on the recent activities of the Ed Butts Ford Expansion Project Committee (Mayor Lujan and Council Member Solis).

In response to Mayor Lujan, City Manager Cowley noted that a meeting of the Social Services ad hoc committee would be scheduled at the earliest convenience of Council Member Storing.

COUNCIL AB1234 REPORTS

None.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway noted his pleasure at the Council's ability to engage in discussion and come to compromise solutions. He also noted the passing of former Planning Commissioner and long-time City employee Manual Dueñes and requested that the meeting be adjourned in his memory.

Mayor Lujan thanked staff for the recent mid-year budget review and noted that the City was recognized with the Government Finance Officers Award for a Distinguished Budget Presentation. He also noted the National City Water Survey put together by the National League of Cities. He closed by announcing the upcoming La Puente Relay for Life event.

City Manager Cowley noted a request from Congress Member Napolitano's office to tour the Community Center and Youth Learning Activity Center facilities. She also noted the funding provided by Congress Member Napolitano to support the Nature Education Center Project.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lujan adjourned the meeting in memory of Manuel Dueñes and the residents, staff, and elected officials of the City of Kirkwood, Missouri, at 8:29 p.m.

Diana Giron, Acting City Clerk

Louie A. Lujan, Mayor