

**MINUTES
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING OF
APRIL 25, 2011**

Per *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 10th Edition*, minutes are a record of the actions taken by the body. These minutes do not include a summary of the discussion but only reflect the action taken by the body. A complete audio recording of this meeting is available on the City's website www.lapueente.org

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 April 25, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Members present: House, Mendoza, Solis, Holloway, Argudo

Members absent: None

Staff Members present: Interim City Manager Romero, Interim City Attorney Casso, City Clerk Jacquez-Mares, and Assistant Planner Chow

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Julie Alarcon requested to be appointed to serve on the Education Commission for the City. Ms. Alarcon provided a brief summary of her qualifications for the position.

E. NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

E-1 DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A TEMPORARY FREEZE ON ALL ZONE CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE CITY

Mayor Argudo requested this item for discussion and requested exemption of the bowling alley site.

Interim City Manager Romero recommended that the bowling alley site be exempted since the DDA has been signed and the project is moving forward.

Mayor Argudo stated that he asked that this item be placed on the agenda since the City is going through a zoning code update, a major reorganization and is currently facing staff shortages. He further stated he felt it would be prudent to seek a short term zone freeze until all staff is in place and after the City Council reorganization.

Interim City Attorney Casso confirmed that the concept of a temporary freeze on all zone changes could be discussed, however, he further stated that a temporary freeze is not within the parlance of planning law. He stated that the Government Code allows the City Council to impose a moratorium on zone changes within a specific area of the City instead of a temporary freeze on zone changes. A moratorium would continue to allow the processing of applications, but the actual approval of the applications would not occur. Mr. Casso stated that any type of zone change must be approved by adoption of an ordinance by the City Council.

Assistant Planner Chow confirmed that she was unaware of any authority that would permit a temporary freeze or situation other than a moratorium. Ms. Chow confirmed that all zone changes processed are consistent with the general land use policy set by the general plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway requested information on the zoning code update that the City has been undergoing, including time lines and constraints associated with the process. Ms. Chow responded there is no legal requirement as to a time line for the zoning code update; however, constraints faced are budgetary and staffing time. She further stated that staff desires to move forward with the comprehensive zoning code update since it has never been done in the City.

In response to a question regarding the status of the bowling alley if a moratorium is adopted, City Attorney Casso responded that the DDA with the bowling alley states that the bowling alley must comply with all ordinances and regulations of the City. Any changes to the project will be required to go through that process. Mr. Casso reiterated that he is unaware of any statutory authority for the City Council to impose a temporary freeze on zone changes, but is aware of statutory authority allowing the option to impose a moratorium. Further research needs to be done regarding a moratorium affecting all other areas except the bowling alley site.

Interim City Manager Romero stated that the Main Street park site might require a zone change in the future. Assistant Planner Chow stated that if a zone change were required it would be a city-initiated zone change. In response to a question by Mayor Pro Tem Holloway, Ms. Chow stated that a potential zone change for the Main Street park site should not inhibit the purchase of the property.

Mayor Argudo moved to give direction to legal counsel to work with staff to 1) draft a resolution calling for a moratorium on zone changes and exempting the bowling alley site and all related aspects to that property; and (2) present the resolution to the City Council for consideration in one week; seconded by Council Member Solis. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: House, Holloway, Argudo, Mendoza and Solis. NOES: None.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Argudo recessed to closed session at 7:37 p.m.

Interim City Attorney Casso recessed the City Council into closed session with all members present to discuss the two items as listed on the agenda

F. CLOSED SESSION

F-1 THE CITY COUNCIL WILL RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(b), SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION, TO CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION: FOUR (4) CASES

F-2 THE CITY COUNCIL WILL RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT: INTERIM CITY MANAGER

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Argudo reconvened to open session at 10:10 p.m.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Interim City Attorney Casso reported that the City Council recessed into Closed Session to discuss Item F-1 with no reportable action taken. On Item F-2 the City Council unanimously voted to appoint Raul Romero as Interim City Manager through May 31, 2011, and after the termination of this amendment to his contract, he will remain on a week to week basis until the permanent City Manager recruitment is completed. The contract amendment will be presented at a projected special meeting on May 3, 2011.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Council Member Mendoza appointed Julie Alarcon to the Education Committee.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF - None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Argudo adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

Approved this 11th day of October, 2011



Adrian Garcia
Acting Deputy City Clerk



David E. Argudo
Mayor