MINUTES
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING OF
JULY 26, 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.lapuente.org

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 July 26, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Solis called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Members present:	Solis, Argudo, Holloway, House, Mendoza.
Council Members absent:	None.
Staff Members present:	Interim City Attorney Casso, Interim City Manager Romero, City Clerk Pat Jacquez-Nares, Police Chief Cacheiro, Recreation Coordinator, Records Technician Garcia, City Engineer Bill Pagett, Assistant Planner Chow, and Acting Finance Director Leung.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member House led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION FROM AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

Mary Bantoha, from the American Cancer Society presented the City with a plaque for being a "Gold Sponsor" in the Relay for Life, noting many residents turned out and it was a great fundraiser. She noted the funds raised go toward research for a cure, and for families as needed. She also presented the Council with a Certificate of Appreciation and requested La Puente take part next year as well. The Council thanked the American Cancer Society for all of their hard work and expressed their appreciation.

Mayor Solis identified elected officials who were in attendance of the meeting tonight, such as Laura Santo from the Basset Unified School District school board, Charley Gary from the Water Board, two Planning Commissioners, Mr. Brown and Mr. Young, and a new Police representative, Sergeant Lopez.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Leonard Rose Jr.
Stated there have been many news stories recently about the selling of drugs which are disguised as bath-salts. The news stories have been warning those who are unaware. You can identify what you are purchasing depending upon where you purchase the bath salts from. If you are in an appropriate store that would sell bath items or if you purchase bath-salts from a gas station or liquor store then you are most probably buying drugs.

Bonnie Welch spoke regarding Item E-3 stating she was part of the family-owned business from Haddocks Towing. She noted her family has owned the business for over fifty years and take pride in their work. Many in attendance were family who work at the business, their employees, and customers. She spoke how they have never received one verbal or written complaint from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and how they have brought in thousands of dollars to the City of La Puente. She noted the only complaint the business has had was recently from some of the Council Members who spoke publically to the newspaper.

Henry Nodal spoke regarding needing towing assistance through AAA, and was originally unsuccessful in receiving the tow company he has asked for. He stated he had to wait over 2 hours before his request was granted. His next request was Haddocks, but they were never sent although they were close. His concern was the control the tow companies have over the areas they are in, and patrons not being able to have a choice.

Rudy Almeida
Regarding Marijuana use in the community, Mr. Almeida noted there are 5 remaining dispensaries operating in the City including one that is close to a school. His concern was regarding safety. He briefly mentioned some pro's and con's of Marijuana use

A. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL / COMMISSION MEETINGS – None.

a. Special Meetings of April 13, 2011
b. Special Meetings of April 25, 2011

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the Council waive further reading and approve the minutes of the meetings held on April 13, 2011 and April 25, 2011.

Action Taken: The Council followed staff's recommendation and Council Member / Commissioner House made a Motion to waive further reading and approve the minutes of the Special Meetings held on April 13, 2011 and April 25, 2011. Mayor Pro Tem / Vice Chair Argudo provided a Second of the Motion. Motion carried unanimously with the following vote: AYES: Solis, Argudo, Holloway, House, Mendoza. NOES: None. ABSENT: None.

RECESS THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mayor Solis recessed the Community Development Commission portion of the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

B. PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL - None.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

C-1 APPEAL OF BUSINESS LICENSE OFFICER'S DECISION PERTAINING TO A BUSINESS LICENSE CERTIFICATE FOR TRINITY WELLNESS CENTER, INC.

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council adopt a Resolution affirming its July 12, 2011 decision that the business license for Trinity Wellness expired on February 2, 2011.

Council and Interim City Attorney Casso held a brief discussion regarding this Item.

Action Taken: The Council followed staff's recommendation and Mayor Pro Tem Argudo made a Motion to adopt Resolution No. 11-4954 affirming its July 12, 2011 decision that the business license for Trinity Wellness expired on February 2, 2011. Council Member House provided a Second of the Motion. Motion carried with the following majority vote: AYES: Solis, Argudo, House, Mendoza. NOES: Holloway. ABSENT: None.

D. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo made a Motion to approve Consent Calendar Items D-1 through D-4. Second was provided by Council Member House. The Motion unanimously carried by the following vote: AYES: Holloway, Argudo, House, Mendoza, Solis. NOES: None.

D-1 APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION APPROVING WARRANT REGISTER NO. 1301 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011

Action Taken: Approved staff recommendation and adopted Resolution No. 11-4955 approving Warrant Register No. 1300 for time frame of July 6, 2011 through June 19, 2011.

D-2 APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S / FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MAY 31, 2011

Action Taken: Approved staff recommendation to receive and file the Monthly Treasurer's / Financial Reports for May 31, 2011.

D-3 APPROVAL OF THE (UN-AUDITED) TREASURER'S / FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JUNE 30, 2011

Action Taken: Approved staff recommendation to receive and file the Monthly (un-audited) Treasurer's / Financial Reports for June 30, 2011.

D-4 APPROVAL OF FIRST AMENDMENT TO TAXI CAB FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Action Taken: Approved staff recommendation to approve the first Amendment to the Taxi Cab Franchise Agreement.

E. NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

E-1 CONSIDERATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARD POSITIONS

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the Mayor 1) make appointments to the various agency boards; and 2) the Council adopt the Resolution appointing specific representatives to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments.

Mayor Solis went over the appointments he made to the various agency board, noting where there were changes.

Council Member House made a Motion to approve the appointments to the various agency boards and to adopt Resolution No. 11-4956 appointing specific representatives to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. Second was provided by Council Member Holloway. The motion unanimously carried by the following vote: AYES: Solis, Argudo, Holloway House, Mendoza. NOES: None.

The title of Resolution No. 11-4956 for the record is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PUENTE, CALIFORNIA, APPOINTING SPECIFIC REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

THE REVISED JULY 26, 2011 APPOINTMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

COUNCIL MEMBER / COMMISSIONER	**DELEGATE**	**ALTERNATIVE**
David Argudo	S.G.V. Council of Governments Foothill Transit Zone	Sanitation Districts 15 & 21 Whittier, CA When necessary following League Mtgs City Selection Committee (Meetings held in conjunction with the League monthly meeting)

CONTINUED		National League of Cities Washington, DC

CONTINUED:

E-1 CONSIDERATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARD POSITIONS

THE REVISED JULY 26, 2011 APPOINTMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

COUNCIL MEMBER / COMMISSIONER	**DELEGATE**	**ALTERNATIVE**
Daniel C. Holloway	San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District	San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District
Vince House	League of California Cities Los Angeles County Division Sylmar, CA When necessary following League Meetings City Selection Committee (Meetings held in conjunction with the League monthly meeting Southern California JPIA La Palma, CA California Contract Cities Assoc. Downey, CA	S.G.V. Economic Partnership / Valley Corporate Center Irwindale, CA S.G.V. Council of Governments Pasadena, CA
Nadia Mendoza		League of California Cities LA County Division Sylmar, CA
John M. Solis	Sanitation Districts 15 & 21 Whittier, CA S.G.V. Economic Partnership Valley Corporate Center Irwindale, CA National League of Cities Washington, DC	California Contract Cities Assoc. Downey, CA Foothill Transit Zone

E-2 APPROVE AN AGREEMENT FOR INTERIM DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council approve the professional services agreement for Interim Director of Administrative Services with Mr. Bret Plumlee at a rate of $65.00 per hour with total amount not to exceed $30,000 and authorize the Interim City Manager to sign the agreement.

The Council, Interim City Attorney Casso, Interim City Manager Romero, Human Resources Manager Sainz, and City Clerk Jacquez-Nares were all involved in discussion with the Council. Issues addressed reflected Interim City Manager Romero did need some assistance, the previous decision of the Council to eliminate all Department Heads, hiring of new employees, existing Memorandums of Understanding, the hourly financial amount of the Agreement, the current budget, and the goal for set employment salaries.

Action Taken: The Council followed staff's recommendation and Council Member House made a Motion to approve the Professional Services Agreement for Interim Director of Administrative Services with Mr. Bret Plumlee at a rate of $65.00 per hour with total amount not to exceed $30,000 and authorized the Interim City Manager to sign the agreement. Mayor Pro Tem Argudo provided a Second to the Motion. Motion carried with the following majority vote: AYES: Solis, Argudo, House, Mendoza. NOES: Holloway. ABSENT: None.

E-3 DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF CITY INITIATED TOWS (Mayor Pro Tern Argudo)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Mayor and City Council discuss and provide staff direction.

A lengthy discussion was held between the Council. Mayor Pro Tern Argudo stated he had brought this Item forward as a good measure for the City to help clean up blight and to possibly bring in additional revenue. His proposal was for the City to take on the responsibility of having towing done with the current employees the city has. He stated if the City were to raise the towing charge an additional 33% it would be advantageous. He noted he had been having discussions with Sheriff Captain Claus who has experience in establishing this for cites noting the vehicle code does allow this. Any changes and policies which would be needed were all do-able, including modifying the City's Municipal Code. Council discussed this possibility, including identifying potential problems which may arise, such as safety issues of the Code Enforcement officers, training that would be needed, the income potential of the residents who could not afford the charge to get a car out of impound, the liability of the City as a whole, claims filed, additional indemnification, and the fact the City does not have the authority to do this. Determination was made to research the concerns and review the results.

Action Taken: Mayor Pro Tem made a Motion to give direction to the Interim City Manager to research and develop and prepare as soon as possible, a comprehensive report regarding if other cities have attempted this, the results, policies written, and if the program was beneficial. Council Member House provided a Second to the Motion.

Motion carried with the following majority vote: AYES: Solis, Argudo, House, Mendoza. NOES: Holloway. ABSENT: None.

RECESS THE CITY COUNCIL AND RECONVENE THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mayor Solis recessed the City Council portion of the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

ADJOURN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL

Chairman Solis adjourned the Community Development Commission portion of the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Solis reconvened the City Council portion of the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

Interim City Attorney Casso informed the Council Closed Session would not be held tonight, due to the Labor Attorney addressing these issues.

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 TWO (2) CASES

F-2 THE CITY COUNCIL WILL RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 54957.6 TO CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR AGENCY DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE: INTERIM CITY MANAGER RAUL ROMERO EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION: SEIU LOCAL 721

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

COUNCIL AB1234 REPORTS – None.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL / COMMISSION

Mayor Solis congratulated 4 young ladies who were going to Chicago, Illinois to play in the Nationals Softball games representing the City of La Puente.

Council Member Holloway noted this week end there would be a Naval fleet of ships in San Pedro for touring, including aircraft carriers. He stated additional information could be found on the internet.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

City Engineer Bill Pagett reported Bids had been received for the Parks Projects noting 13 bids were received in total. Although they had not yet been reviews, the price range was from $890,000 to 1,344,000. Once analyzed, a status would be forthcoming to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Solis adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:04 p.m. July 26, 2011.

Approved this 22nd day of November, 2011

Adrian Garcia
Acting Deputy City Clerk

John M. Solis
Mayor