

**MINUTES
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING OF
JANUARY 11, 2012**

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.lapuate.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 January 11, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

Members absent: None

Staff Members present: City Manager Plumlee, Interim City Attorney Casso, Acting Deputy City Clerk Garcia, Director of Administrative Services Komers, Acting Finance Manager Leung, Chief of Police Lt. Cacheiro, Recreation Manager Lerma, Assistant Planner Chow, City Engineer Pagett, and Public Works Consultant DiMario

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Anthony Duarte expressed his appreciation to the City Council for their effort in making the City of La Puente a safer community. He suggested that Council Members contribute from their travel budgets as a means of providing funding for a reward.

**A. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING APPROPRIATION OF
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012**

Mayor Solis stated that the special meeting was called to request additional funding for the La Puente Special Assignment Officers team (SAO) to combat crime in the City. Mr. Solis stated that there has been a slight increase in crime in the City, and adding additional funding would enhance public safety. He further stated that alignments to the Sheriff's Department contract resulted in a cost savings to the City, and asked staff for the cost savings amount. City Manager Plumlee responded that the current savings is approximately \$175,000, which is an amount already appropriated in the budget. Mr. Solis suggested an amount of \$25,000 would be beneficial in combating crime.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo stated that public safety is a top priority of the City Council, and further remarked that the Sheriff's Department contract was modified to combat crime, and resulted in a cost savings to the City. Mr. Argudo inquired if \$25,000 is a sufficient amount, and asked how the additional funding would be utilized. Lt. Cacheiro responded that a strategic plan regarding level of deployment is needed in order to determine the amount of funding required, and \$25,000 would be a sufficient amount initially.

Council Member Holloway reiterated that public safety is the City Council's top priority, and inquired the time period of the crime statistics quoted. Chief of Police Lt. Cacheiro responded that statistics provided were from the period of Nov. 10, 2011 to January 10, 2012 and showed a spike in crime. Chief of Police Lt. Cacheiro emphasized the increased patrol by officers has resulted in an overall decrease in crime during the past 18 months. Council Member Holloway inquired why additional funds, which were kept in reserve, were not used during the recent spike in crime. He stated that it was his understanding that authority had already been given to utilize the funds if needed.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo responded that he did not believe the majority of the City Council approved the use of reserve funds. Mayor Solis concurred that money was not appropriated in a reserve fund for use without the approval of the City Council.

Council Member Holloway stated that funds should be available for immediate access by the Sheriff's Department if needed.

Lt. Cacheiro stated that the Sheriff's Department does not have the authority to appropriate additional funding from City funds, and further stated that the Department would continue to deliver the best possible service to the City, with or without additional funding.

Mayor Solis stated that a previous request was sent to Supervisor Gloria Molina requesting funding for a joint operation to combat crime in the area, however, the request was denied due to lower crime statistics. Mr. Solis further stated that since that response, another request has been sent to Ms. Molina informing her of the spike in crime and again requesting funding.

Council Member Mendoza urged residents to be vigilant and cautious, and become involved in their communities. Mayor Solis and Council Member Holloway concurred and encouraged residents to be attentive to their children.

Council Member House commented on recent meetings with legislators regarding future handling of criminals, and stated that many prisoners will receive an early release from prison due to lack of funding. He stated that increased surveillance would be needed.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo concurred with a suggestion made by Council Member Holloway regarding the use of reserve funds as needed by the Sheriff's Department. He encouraged future discussion regarding stricter rules and regulations of the sexual predator law.

Council Member House moved to add \$50,000 to the Sheriff's Department contract for deployment of the SAO or other teams to combat crime, as determined by the Police Chief and City Manager; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Argudo. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: House, Mendoza, Holloway, Argudo, and Solis. NOES: None.

B. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A REWARD FUND FOR CERTAIN CRIMES AS DESIGNATED BY CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Mayor Solis reported that establishment of a reward fund for certain crimes by City Council resolution would allow a reward for information without first calling a special meeting of the City Council for approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo questioned the legality of a reward and the protection of informants.

Interim City Attorney Casso responded that a reward could be issued, and further stated that the County Board of Supervisors often issue rewards. He stated that notices typically set forth the reward amount and a description of the crime committed, as well as a date when the information must be given. If establishment of a reward were added to the City's municipal code, it would not become effective for approximately 45 days. Mr. Casso stated that a reward for information regarding graffiti is already in existence in the graffiti ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo questioned if the City can move forward with the reward, or does the Municipal Code preclude the offer of a reward. Council Member House questioned if a reward can be offered by resolution. Mr. Casso responded that a reward could be offered by resolution, which could be prepared and adopted in a shorter time frame than the adoption of an ordinance memorializing a reward in the City's Municipal Code.

Council Member Holloway expressed concern regarding the determination of which crimes for which a reward would be offered, and stated his agreement with the resident's suggestion of contributions from Council Member's travel budgets as a means of appropriating funds for the reward.

Mayor Solis stated that he was tired of being questioned about the Council travel expenses. The funds for the reward would ultimately come from the general fund because the Council travel fund is a general fund item.

Council Member Holloway responded that travel funds had already been approved, but appropriating funds from the general fund for a reward had not been previously budgeted. Mayor Solis stated that travel by Council Members benefits the City of La Puente.

Council Member Mendoza stated that the Council bosses, the City's residents, have expressed their serious concerns with the travel allocations for the Council and concurred with Council Member Holloway regarding the expenditure of travel funds for the reward.

Council Member House stressed that the importance of offering a reward is to bring criminals to justice. He further stated that his travel to meetings is a part of his duty as a member of the City Council, and the meetings benefit the residents of the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo suggested that City Council travel should be placed on an agenda for future discussion.

Mayor Solis moved to appropriate an amount of \$10,000 from undesignated general funds to establish a reward fund for the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator of certain crimes as designated by City Council resolution; seconded by Council Member Mendoza. AYES: House, Mendoza, Holloway, Argudo, and Solis. NOES: None.

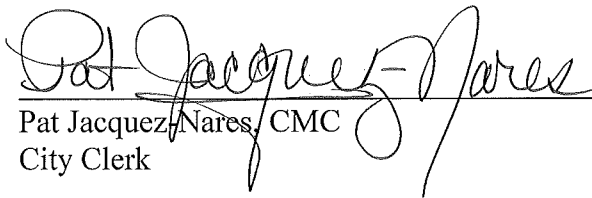
ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL – None.

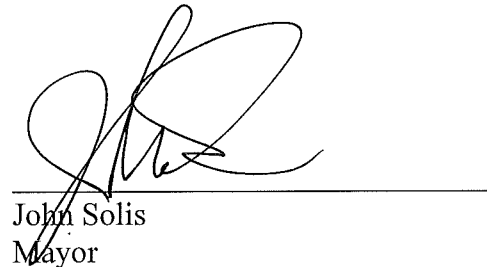
ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF - None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Solis adjourned the special meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Approved this 27th day of March 2012


Pat Jacquez-Nares, CMC
City Clerk


John Solis
Mayor