MINUTES
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING OF
FEBRUARY 14, 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.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 February 14, 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, Solis

Members absent: None

Staff Members present: City Manager Plumlee, Acting Deputy City Clerk Garcia, Interim City Attorney Casso, City Engineer Pagett, Recreation Manager Lerma, Chief of Police Lt. Cacheiro, Director of Administrative Services Komers, Acting Finance Manager Leung

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recreation Manager Roxanne Lerma led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL BY MICHAEL CACCIOTTI, SOUTH COAST AIR DISTRICT

Mr. Cacciotti presented a video made available by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and provided a summary of the video. Mr. Cacciotti stated that information on various programs, including lawn mower and leaf blower exchanges, this information could be obtained at www.aqmd.gov. The City Council discussed the installation of charging stations within the City, the use of an alternative fuel vehicle by the Police Department, and cleaner, lower-emission buses.

Chief of Police Lt. Cacheiro summarized the Volunteers on Patrol (V.O.P.) program, and Captain Claus introduced the newest V.O.P. members.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Jose Del Rio thanked the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for recent roadside assistance with his disabled vehicle.

Leonard W. Rose, Jr. spoke on the benefits of exercise and proper diet. Mr. Rose commended the Neighborhood Watch program.

Armando Rosales expressed concern with traffic problems at Lassalette School on Orange Avenue, and requested that a motorcycle officer be assigned to that area to monitor the traffic. Mr. Rosales asked if the speed limit could be printed on the street, in addition to being posted on signs.

Lou Perez stated his concern with medical marijuana dispensaries and litigation costs involved. Mr. Perez expressed his appreciation to the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in the closure of the dispensaries.

Frank Sanchez expressed concerns regarding agenda Item E-2, the reorganization of City personnel, and commended Beth Chow, Assistant Planner. Mr. Sanchez also expressed his concerns regarding the Valley Boulevard Improvement Project, and expenses incurred during trips taken by City Council Members.

Brenda Alvarez yielded her time to Frank Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez again stated concerns regarding expenses incurred during trips taken by Council Members and summarized a previously adopted resolution which outlined the City's policy regarding expenses and the use of City funds.

Rudy Almeida expressed his appreciation to the Sheriff's Department for their assistance in the closure of marijuana dispensaries and expressed hope that the remaining dispensary would also be shut down.

Marty Paz suggested an electrical charging station be installed at the Community Center. Mr. Paz thanked Council Member Holloway for attending the Veteran's Benefits event at the Senior Center. Mr. Paz requested information regarding grants and extended his thanks to Assistant Planner Chow for her work in the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo stated that he was also in attendance at the Veteran's Benefits event.

Acting Deputy City Clerk Garcia announced that a resident in attendance was unaware of the requirement to complete a speaker slip and was requesting permission to speak during Oral Communications. Mayor Solis agreed to allow the resident to speak.

Joe Alvarez read a notice that was left at his property regarding a building violation. Mr. Alvarez expressed concern that the inspection of his property was conducted without his permission and that the structure in question was not in violation of the City's Municipal Code at the time of construction.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo requested clarification from legal counsel. City Attorney Casso suggested that a discussion with Code Enforcement personnel should take place for an explanation of the matter. City Manager Plumlee stated that a member of staff would meet with the resident the following day.

A. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING - None

B. PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL - None.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL – None

D. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Holloway removed Item D-2 for separate discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo moved to approve Consent Calendar items D-1 and D-3; seconded by Mayor Solis. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: House, Mendoza, Holloway, Argudo, and Solis. NOES: None.

Item D-3 was later reconsidered and voted upon during the New Business portion of the meeting. During the reconsideration of Item D-3, it was the consensus of the City Council to bring the item back for discussion at the next City Council meeting.

D-1 CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING WARRANT REGISTER NO. 1313 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-12

Action Taken: The City Council adopted Resolution No. 12-4996 approving Warrant Register No. 1313.

D-2 CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT BIDS FOR THE VALLEY BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (PHASE II)

Council Member Holloway pulled this item for separate discussion.

City Engineer Pagett reported that the proposed project would provide pedestrian and storm drain improvements, as well as a retaining wall along a portion of the north side of Valley Boulevard. CDBG and Gas Tax Measure R funds would provide the funding for the project.

Mayor Solis moved to (1) Approve the plans and specifications for the Valley Boulevard Improvement Project (Phase II); and (2) Authorize staff to solicit bids; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Argudo. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: House, Argudo, and Solis. NOES: Mendoza and Holloway.

D-3 CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE HANDICAPPED RAMPS AND SIDEWALKS PROJECT

Action Taken: This item was reconsidered and voted upon during the New Business portion of the meeting, and it was the consensus of the City Council to bring the item back for discussion at the next City Council meeting.

E NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

E-1 PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS TO REPAY AND RESTRUCTURE THE LEASE AGREEMENT RELATIVE TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND YOUTH LEARNING ACTIVITY CENTER

Director of Administrative Services Komers stated that a proposed refunding bond issue would provide proceeds sufficient to repay the Lease Agreement to the La Puente Public Financing Authority. The debt service savings over the first 12 years of the refunding bond issue would be approximately $1.5 million. Mr. Komers stated that in order to proceed with the proposed debt issuance, it would be necessary to retain the services of several advisors.

Council Member House expressed concerns that refinancing the existing loan would cost the City more money over the next 25 years. Doug Anderson, representing Urban Futures, outlined the proposed cost estimates. Mr. Anderson stated that the only way to lower the payments is to extend the term of the loan. City Manager Plumlee stated that there is a larger cash flow savings up front, but it would be offset by this option.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo expressed his concerns with supporting this item. Council Member Holloway stated that the City is in a very serious financial situation and expressed concern that there would not be a cost savings by refinancing the existing loan.

Council Member House moved to not approve Item E-1; 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.

E-2 CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PUENTE (1) SUPPORTING A REORGANIZATION OF CITY PERSONNEL AND AMENDING THE CITY OF LA PUENTE CLASSIFICATION PLAN, COMPENSATION PLAN, AND TABLE OF ORGANIZATION; AND (2) RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 11-4945, AND AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PERSONNEL SYSTEM AND ESTABLISHING THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED POSITIONS, MONTHLY SALARY RANGES AND HOURLY RATES FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

City Manager Plumlee stated that since the adoption of the resolution reorganizing City personnel, the Ad-Hoc Organization Committee, City Manager and management staff have reviewed the organizational structure, and will continue to provide future additional items related to the assessment of the organizational plan. The Planning Division has been reevaluated and it is recommended that a new position of Principal Planner be adopted into the City's classification plan. Mr. Plumlee stated that the Associate Planner and Assistant Planner positions would be eliminated effective June 30, 2012.

Council Member Holloway expressed concerns over the proposed new position, and asked for clarification of the duties. In response, Director of Administrative Services Komers outlined the duties of the position.

Mayor Solis moved to adopt Resolution 12-4997 supporting a reorganization of City Personnel and amending the City Classification Plan, Compensation Plan, and Table of Organization; and (2) Adopt Resolution 12-4998 rescinding Resolution No. 11-4945, and amending the comprehensive personnel system and establishing the number of authorized positions, monthly salary ranges and hourly rates for City employees; seconded by Council Member House. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: House, Argudo, and Solis. NOES: Mendoza and Holloway.

E-3 CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA PUENTE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 2.13 OF THE LA PUENTE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO EXCEPTIONS TO THE CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM

City Manager Plumlee presented a brief summary of this item. He stated that both Items E-2 and E-3 have been reviewed by the City Attorney's office, as well as the office of labor attorney Irma Rodriguez.

Council Member House moved to waive reading of the ordinance and read by title only; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Argudo. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: House, Mendoza, Argudo, and Solis. NOES: Holloway

Mayor Solis read the Ordinance by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 12-921

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA PUENTE AMENDING SECTION 2.13 OF THE LA PUENTE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO EXCEPTIONS TO THE CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo moved to introduce Ordinance No. 12-921 – an ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Puente amending Section 2.13 of the La Puente Municipal Code Relating to Exceptions to the Civil Service System; seconded by Mayor Solis. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: House, Argudo, and Solis. NOES: Holloway and Mendoza

E-4 DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON ADOPTING CONSTRUCTION COST ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES FROM STATE CONTROLLER JOHN CHIANG (Mayor Pro Tem Argudo Report to Follow)

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo requested that this item be continued to the next City Council meeting in order to provide the City Council adequate time to review of the report and attachments. It was the consensus of the City Council to continue the item.

E-5 DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REQUIRING CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL TO TRAVEL PRIOR TO ATTENDING A CONFERENCE (Mayor Pro Tem Argudo)

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo requested that this item be continued to the next City Council meeting. It was the consensus of the City Council to continue the item.

ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo requested that the City Council reconsider Item D-3 on tonight's meeting agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Argudo moved to reconsider Item D-3; seconded by Council Member Holloway. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: House, Mendoza, Holloway, Argudo, and Solis. NOES: None.

D-3 CONSIDERATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE HANDICAPPED RAMPS AND SIDEWALKS PROJECT

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo stated that information related to the location of the projects was just received and he has not had a chance to review this information. He also stated that the State of California would adopt new disability regulations in July and he would like to be assured that the new laws would be met.

City Engineer Pagett responded that CDBG funds would be utilized for the repairs and all improvements met ADA requirements. He further stated that the new laws that would be adopted in July refer to the private sector and current regulations for the public right away would remain the same.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo questioned if he should recuse himself due to the close proximity of repairs to a sidewalk near his place of business. Interim City Attorney Casso responded that the repairs will be made on the public right of way, but if Mayor Pro Tem Argudo wishes to recuse himself, he should step down from the dais. Mayor Pro Tem Argudo recused himself at this time.

It was the consensus of the City Council to bring this item back for discussion at the next City Council meeting.

E-6 DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION TO DESIGNATE APRIL 2012 AS "MAKE LA PUENTE BEAUTIFUL MONTH" (Council Member House)

Council Member House stated that visible blight in the City is causing the decline in property values and provided a brief summary of numerous violations in the City. Mr. House stated he has requested that the City Manager work with the Code Enforcement Division to address these issues. City Manager Plumlee reported that a team has been created to educate the community and provided a summary of strategies developed to date.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo moved to designate April 2012 as "Make La Puente Beautiful Month"; seconded by Mayor Solis. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: House, Mendoza, Holloway, Argudo, and Solis. NOES: None.

E-7 DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING PARKING ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES (Mayor Solis)

Mayor Solis provided a summary of the item and stated that he would like staff to evaluate programs in other cities to determine if they can be incorporated in La Puente in order to increase customer service for the residents of the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo moved to direct City staff to do a comprehensive analysis of parking enforcement programs in other cities in order to increase customer service for the City's residents; seconded by Mayor Solis. The motion unanimously carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: House, Mendoza, Holloway, Argudo, and Solis. NOES: None.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Solis recessed to closed session at 9:09 p.m.

Interim City Attorney Casso recessed into closed session for discussion of one item as posted on the agenda.

F. CLOSED SESSION

F-1 THE CITY COUNCIL WILL RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 5495956.9(a), EXISTING LITIGATION, *Trinity Wellness Center Inc., et al., v.* City of La Puente, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC472548.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Solis reconvened to open session at 9:39 p.m.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Interim City Attorney Casso reported that as to Item F-1 direction was given to the City Attorney's office by a 5-0 vote, no final action was taken and there was nothing further to report.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo reported that the Organization Ad Hoc Committee has met.

COUNCIL AB1234 REPORTS

Mayor Solis reported that he attended the Mayor's Conference in Washington, D.C.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Council Member Holloway questioned if a certain business had been contacted regarding an ADA issue. City Manager Plumlee responded that the business owner has been contacted and the building official is looking into the matter.

Council Member Holloway stated that the January 11, 2008, minutes need correction as to the vote on the bond issue.

Council Member Mendoza thanked Lt. Cacheiro and the Code Enforcement Officer for meeting with her to discuss the creation of a Neighborhood Watch committee in her neighborhood.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo commented on the effectiveness of the SAO team and the other bureaus involved.

Mayor Pro Tem Argudo reported that it was brought to his attention that Lois Maben claimed she was threatened in the Council Chambers. Mr. Argudo expressed his concern over the incident and stated that the claim should be investigated. Mayor Solis concurred.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF

City Manager Plumlee reported that he recently attended a City Manager's conference in Indian Wells which provided a good opportunity to network with other City Managers.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Solis adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m. to February 28, 2012, at 6 p.m. for a Special Meeting of the City Council.

Approved this 9th day of October 2012

Pat Jacquez-Nares, CMC
City Clerk

Daniel C. Holloway
Mayor