

**MINUTES OF
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 29 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

An Adjourned Regular City Council Meeting of the City of La Puente was held in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Senior Center, 16001 East Main Street, La Puente, California, on May 29, 2012, at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holloway called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Holloway, Klinakis, Lewis, Argudo (Arrived at 6:43 p.m.) and House (Arrived at 8:01 pm.)

Members absent: None

Staff present: City Manager Plumlee, City Attorney Casso, City Clerk Jacquez-Nares, Director of Administrative Services Komers, Director of Development Services Consultant DiMario, City Engineer Pagett, Finance Manager Leung, Recreation Manager Lerma, Code Enforcement Supervisor Blakley, Assistant Planner Chow, Rehabilitation Grant Specialist Galvan, and Management Intern Vargas

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Holloway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Attorney Casso provided the format for the public interaction for Oral Communications during this meeting which was compliant with the Brown Act. Each member of the public would have one minute to ask a question and receive an answer throughout the budget presentation.

Henry Nodal asked how many town hall meetings would the Council be having throughout the year. He is interested in the downtown area and if the Council would be addressing this during the next four years.

Mayor Holloway stated that the intent is to have three to four town hall meetings throughout the year. He asked that if any members of the public had ideas for any town hall meetings to provide those to City Manager Plumlee.

A. BUDGET TOWN HALL: DISCUSSION REGARDING FISCAL YEAR
2012/2013 BUDGET

City Manager Plumlee provided a brief introduction and history of this item. He also encouraged the public to fill out the survey provided to them for revenue enhancements and expenditure reductions.

Mayor Holloway requested that City Manager Plumlee provide the root causes that contributed to the City's financial issues.

City Manager Plumlee stated that it would become evident throughout the presentation but one significant factor was the debt services repayment for the Community Center of one million annually and that the City's reorganization of staff helped reduce the deficit.

Mayor Holloway stated that the Community Center debt was incurred in 2007 before any of the current Council was in office.

Council Member Argudo arrived at 6:43 p.m.

Director of Administrative Services Komers provided the PowerPoint presentation with the overview of Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget.

Council Member Argudo questioned the land acquisitions of \$680,000.

Mayor Holloway stated that if the Council does not move forward with these land acquisitions then the deficit would be reduced.

Council Member Argudo questioned the accuracy of the projections.

Director of Administrative Services Komers stated that the projections were conservative due to the current state of the economy and when the economy improves he can make less conservative projections.

Frank Sanchez asked how was Council going to make sure that the funds that are put into these special funds only be used for the items they are created for.

Director of Administrative Services Komers stated that a fund balance policy would be established for these funds and the Council would approve this policy.

Pat McMain stated that the City's revenue generators are double taxation on the City's residents.

City Attorney Casso informed the public that depending on the type of tax it would need a two-thirds or a 50 percent voter approval.

Ken Medeiros stated his concerns with the tax increases and the parking permit fees.

John Binakis stated his concerns with the parking permit fees.

Mayor Holloway stated that the items that the Director of Administrative Services Komers presented are just recommendations from staff. If the public had any other ideas, please let them be known because something needs to be done to address this shortfall.

Anthony Duarte requested clarification on the purchase of the property that is in the budget for \$370,000.

City Manager Plumlee stated that this item would be discussed in closed session and that it was a budgeted item that would come from the general fund.

Mayor Holloway stated that the property negotiations would be discussed in closed session on whether to move forward or to save this money.

Manuel Maldonado stated that several cities have annual fairs sponsored by television and radio stations that provide revenue to the City. He recommended that the City staff look into this for our City.

Council Member Argudo stated that the City has cut the deficit by a great measure because two years ago the gap was at four million. He would hate to see the level of services go down and further impose additional hardships on our residents.

Manuel Maldonado suggested that parts of Valinda be incorporated into the City of La Puente this could increase the revenue for La Puente.

Mayor Holloway stated that the City staff would need to research this option of incorporating this part of the County as part of the City of La Puente.

Frank Sanchez stated that the City needs to ease up on the businesses because they are leaving the City. He would like to have Council set the example and reduce their travel spending.

Mayor Holloway stated that the property by Ed Butts Ford was bought by the previous Council and with the dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency that property no longer belongs to the City.

Ken Medeiros stated his concerns with the grant funding and the transit services.

Assistant Planner Chow stated that there are currently no changes to the dial-a-ride program. The funding for these programs comes from Prop A funds.

Anthony Duarte suggested that the City should partner with the Boys and Girls Club to provide educational services in the Puente Creek Nature Center.

Council Member Argudo asked how much money was spent and the funding source for the La Puente Link. He also requested the ridership of these services by month or by year.

Finance Manager Leung stated that for the public transit subsidy is anticipated to be \$220,000 and it all comes from Prop A funding. Dial-a-ride is anticipated to be \$70,000 and for the Links it is anticipated to be \$382,000.

Assistant Planner Chow stated that every month Southland Transit provides a monthly report of the ridership.

Mayor Holloway requested that the number of ridership be provided to all of the Council.

Henry Nodal requested clarification on the services that the Sheriff's provided on the City sponsored events and how much was the cost for public safety on the budget.

Finance Manager Leung stated that the Sheriff's contract is about 4.8 million for fiscal year 12/13. She also clarified that the figures provided for the City sponsored events are mainly for staff costs not for the Sheriff's services.

Council Member Argudo explained that the City did implement a cost saving measure with the Sheriff's contract but did not lower the service to the residents.

Henry Nodal stated that the Sheriff's traffic patrolling should increase in the evening hours. He also asked about the former Texaco station on Glendora and Temple if it had been sold.

Mayor Holloway stated that the Council did change from Traffic Units to Special Assignment Officers for gang patrolling. He was not aware that the former Texaco station had been sold it may have just been developed.

City Manager Plumlee stated that what was budgeted for the fiscal year 12/13 is the same level of service for public safety.

Council Member House arrived at 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Argudo requested clarification on the cost for refinancing the debt for the Community Center.

City Manager Plumlee stated that the savings does include the cost to refinancing which was on the proposal provided to Council a couple a months ago.

Ken Medeiros asked if the City of Inglewood is contracted to provide a motorcycle officer.

Mayor Holloway stated that the City of Inglewood is contracted to process the City's citations not to provide any officers. The City would be going out for request for proposals for the citation processing service.

Council Member Lewis thanked the residents for taking the time to attend the meeting.

Mayor Holloway stated that the City staff has made great strides in lowering the deficit. His goal is to continue to lower the deficit without lowering the City services.

Council Member Argudo asked the cost for the city-wide monument signs. His concern was that this money could be used for other items instead of for these cosmetic signs.

Director of Development Services DiMario stated that the cost for the proposed city-wide monument signs would be added to that specific project.

City Engineer Pagett stated that the monument signs cost about \$90,000 and they will come from Prop C which is restricted and can only be used for specific projects.

Mayor Pro Tem Klinakis stated that the focus should be on what is going to come out of the general fund or the reserves which may bankrupt the City and not to focus on the other funding sources. The common goal should be to find the solution to balance the budget.

Council Member Argudo stated that it is important to understand the use of these other funding sources because they help save general fund monies.

Mayor Pro Tem Klinakis stated that the bottom line is that we do not want any general fund money to be used when these special funds can be used.

Mayor Holloway stated that it is important to allocate funds from other sources rather than the general fund and if we can sell these restricted funding sources to other cities then we should to help subsidize the general fund.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

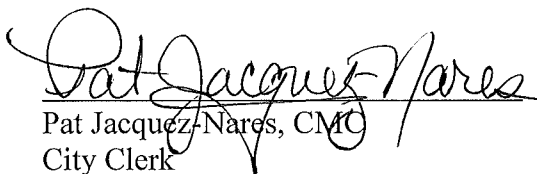
Council Member House stated that he attended the funeral services for John Patrick Brennan a long time resident of La Puente. Mr. Brennan served in the United States Marines and retired from the Los Angeles Police Department after serving for 30 years. Council Member House requested that the meeting be adjourned in Mr. Brennan's honor.

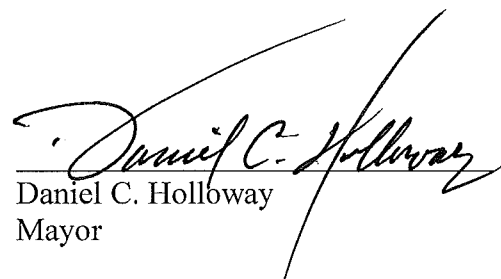
ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF – None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m. in memory of John Patrick Brennan.

Approved this 12th day of July 2012


Pat Jacquez-Nares, CMC
City Clerk


Daniel C. Holloway
Mayor