

**MINUTES OF
LA PUENTE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 17, 2014**

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 Special 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 June 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Members present: Lewis, Holloway, Klinakis, and Muñoz.

Members absent: Argudo.

Staff present: City Manager Carmany, City Attorney Casso, Director of Administrative Services Bird, Director of Development Services Consultant Di Mario, City Engineer Pagett, Finance Manager Purificacion, Recreation Manager Lerma, Lieutenant Cacheiro, and Administrative Secretary Ramirez.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Muñoz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Nicolas Hernandez expressed his concerns regarding the recent budget reductions and lay-offs within the Code Enforcement Division and asked for clarification on who residents should contact when they have a Code Enforcement issue such as Animal Control.

Bob McKennon, representative from the East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless, stated that the City had supported this program in the past and that he noticed they were not included in this year's budget. He expressed how important money was for helping the homeless since 1994 with such items as showers, food, bus tokens, and clothing. Basic things needed to survive in a reasonable manner. The Coalition serves families in La Puente, Hacienda Heights, and surrounding communities. They cannot provide these services without donations and that is why he was present to ask for help.

A. BUDGET TOWN HALL: DISCUSSION REGARDING FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015 BUDGET

City Manager Carmany thanked the community for being present adding that this was an important meeting. He then provided a brief introduction and history of this item.

City Manager Carmany and Director of Administrative Services Bird provided a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget.

Lieutenant Cacheiro reviewed the services provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department adding that this year La Puente was named one of the top 50 Safest Cities in California.

Director of Administrative Services Bird continued with the Public Safety budget portion of the PowerPoint presentation.

Recreation Manager Lerma provided a brief description of the services provided by the Recreation Department that include the Community Center, Youth Learning Activity Center and the Senior Center.

Development Services Director Di Mario continued with the Development Services portion of the PowerPoint.

City Manager Carmany stated that in the past as a cost saving measure the City had decided to finance its retrospective Deposit Payments to California Joint Powers Authority (CJPIA) for a six year period, paying an annual interest charge of about 2.1%. He noted that he would ask for direction at next week's Council meeting to pre-pay the balance saving the costs of interest.

Director of Administrative Services Bird continued with the Development Services and Information Technology Budget portions of the presentation. Ms. Bird added that this was the end of the presentation and the meeting was now open for questions or direction.

Mayor Lewis asked for clarification regarding the six payment option to CJPIA which increased each year.

City Manager Carmany responded that CJPIA calculates how much the City owes based on the claims and loss history. La Puente went through some expensive years but has recently become better at risk management. By paying the retrospective amount lump sum, the city would save the costs of interest carry, some 2.1%.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway asked for clarification about the retrospective payment.

Director of Administrative Services Bird responded that it was an amount calculated like by actuaries, that it was based on claims loss. This is billed to the City in May and paid by July 1st. The CJPIA reviews the claims at the end of the year and member agencies either owe or receive a refund.

City Manager Carmany responded that the retrospective deposit balance was \$569,872. He explained that this was different than a classic insurance company insurance policy. He then gave a brief description on what type of claims the City had received.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway asked for clarification on City Scholarships.

Recreation Manager Lerma responded that \$4,200 was placed in the budget for Education Scholarships.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway stated that in the past the Main Street Run had provided funds for these scholarships. We have never taken general fund money to fund scholarships.

City Manager Carmany noted that in the accounting the Main Street Run proceeds were a general fund revenue as well as a general fund expenditure. A Council and staff discussion ensued concluding that the amount of the scholarships was determined by the Main Street Run revenue.

Council Member Klinakis stated that his issue was funding the scholarships instead of helping the homeless. He requested that staff revisit this item. Also, he questioned under the IT Budget the vehicle charges of \$55,000.

Council Member Klinakis asked for clarification on the Bond Refund money; the annual saving would be going back to the County, School Districts and the City. We could get a saving to off-set our administrative costs.

City Manager Carmany responded in the affirmative, adding that refinancing made sense due to the fact that interest rates have dropped.

Council Member Klinakis asked for clarification on how much was saved by paying off the HVAC system last year out of the reserve fund.

Development Services Director Di Mario responded \$79,000.

Council Member Klinakis responded this was showing how we use the reserves in a prudent manner.

City Manager Carmany agreed, noting that the City was trying to avoid the use of reserves for operating expenses.

Mayor Lewis request that staff address Mr. Hernandez's questions regarding Code Enforcement.

City Manager Carmany responded that Code Enforcement would be provided through a contractual model it would soon get that up and running. The City of Rosemead has a similar successful program. The schedule will be filled with part-time employees working no more than 960 hours per year.

Mayor Lewis stated that sometimes we have to make difficult decisions, we have been hearing for the last three years to do something with Code Enforcement. The move was pretty bold, but we need the communities help if you do not agree with something or have an idea we need to hear that when making a decision.

Mayor Lewis announced that if anyone from the audience had any questions or comments now would be the time to come forward.

Lou Perez suggested that the Senior Center needed more money and better promotion there had been a decrease in participation, he suggested that the City should advertise in the Spotlight and the S.G.V. Tribune newspapers. He also said he would like to thank the Sheriff's Department for making La Puente one of the safest Cities in California, he then thanked Council for all their hard work.

Bryan Coreas thanked the Council and staff for all the important information. He stated how beautiful the monument signs are when entering the City. He also suggested a 1% Art Tax on new business or new construction coming into the City which was easily agreed upon by these new businesses and contractors.

City Manager Carmany invited anyone who does not feel comfortable coming up to the podium to please stay after so staff could assist with any questions.

Mayor Lewis thanked the residents for taking the time to attend the meeting and that the Budget document was available on the City's web page.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Council Member Muñoz stated that she would like some time to consider what was presented tonight before giving final direction.

Council Member Klinakis expressed his preference for receiving timely information.

Mayor Pro Tem Holloway noted that in the past study Budget Sessions were held on Saturday mornings and that Council would go over every single line item.

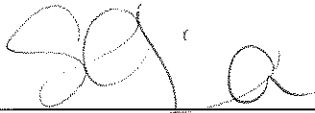
Mayor Lewis added that Council had until next week and that she would like to give Council Member Argudo a chance to go through the budget.

ORAL COMMENTS FROM STAFF – None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Lewis adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m. in memory of Deputies Michael G. Martinez and Al Rivera.

Approved this 8th day of June, 2014



Sheryl Garcia
Chief Deputy City Clerk



Violeta Lewis
Mayor