

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

January 12, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Steggell called the Special Meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of La Palma City Hall, 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Steggell

ROLL CALL Council Members

Council Members present: Council Member Goedhart, Council Member Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Hwangbo, Council Member Kim, and Mayor Steggell

Council Members absent: None

City Officials present: Laurie Murray, City Manager
Terry Kim, Police Chief
Chet Corbin, Support Services Manager
Kimberly Kenney, Deputy City Clerk

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Larry Herman, a La Palma resident, addressed the City Council regarding the mud flow coming off of the Ozawa property; that Staff was investigating a resolution; concerns to address the decaying and messy pine trees on Houston Avenue; and that the trees interfere with the street lights and block the street view.

City Manager Murray responded that the extreme rain caused water run-off on the Ozawa property that rose above the bioswell location; that the project is not finished; that Staff viewed the site and noted that even with the sandbag placement, the water level rose and came through the wall after the following rain storm; and that the developer is actively trying to address the problem and may actually have to pump water out of the construction site.

Jerry Lomeli, a La Palma resident, addressed the City Council regarding the existing block wall at the Ozawa property; and that the wall is cracking from the current construction and development of that site.

City Manager Murray noted she will refer the tree matter on Houston Avenue to Community Services Director Belknap to resolve and forward Mr. Lomeli's concerns regarding the block walls to Community Development Director Dumhart.

REGULAR ITEMS

1. Study Session: La Palma Police Department Organizational Review

Recommendation that the City Council receive the staff presentation and provide direction, as applicable, regarding the La Palma Police Department Organizational Review.

City Manager Murray deferred the presentation to Police Chief Kim and thanked the City Council for making the necessary schedule accommodations for this meeting.

Police Chief Kim gave a Recap and overview of the Original Report by former Interim Police Chief McCrary.

Discussion ensued regarding the Spillman project being originally considered for cost savings; that if the City were to allocate \$25,000 for the GIS system integration and \$25,000 for needed training, the City would see the true value of the Spillman project; that it could take 6 months to a year for the upgrades; that Staff could come back after a year and report back on the outcome of the City's investment; that projects in this discussion will be brought forward to the City Council for Mid-Year budget adjustments; that only basic training was provided in the early stages; that additional training was removed from the budget that was not deemed essential at the time; that Support Services Manager Corbin would be the technical support and trainer for this project; that Police Department (PD) Staff would designate at least two people within the organization to be technical experts; that most of the Staff that was here when Spillman was launched are no longer with the organization; that the Spillman project was highly expedited for cost savings and driven at a pace that made Staff uncomfortable; that the amount of Staff time required was under budgeted that during this time, the IT budget was cut as well; that the majority of the GIS maintenance costs would be mostly labor as it is a specialized field; and that the City does not have Staff capable of conducting the GIS work.

Police Chief Kim continued with the presentation regarding Training Requirements.

City Manager Murray reported that the budget for Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) is there, but the revenue will decrease after the State stops reimbursing POST training.

Police Chief Kim continued with his presentation regarding Police Employee Retention and the continued support for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program.

Discussion ensued regarding salaries being discussed at the scheduled Goal Setting session; that some of these items will be placed in the Mid-Year budget adjustments and some of the items will need to be reviewed on a long term basis; and the importance of being fully trained to be able to respond to emergencies.

Police Chief Kim continued with his presentation regarding reintroducing the Citizen Police Academy and reinstating the Bicycle Patrol Program.

Discussion ensued regarding these items not being urgently needed; the amount of overtime required for covering a Bicycle Patrol position; that it would not be a routine patrol; that revenues and expenses need to be evaluated prior to moving forward with the suggestions.

Police Chief Kim continued with his presentation regarding the purchase and implementation of an Online Police Reporting System.

Discussion ensued regarding evaluating an online reporting system after Spillman has been fully evaluated as they may have a reporting system performing this task.

Police Chief Kim continued with his presentation regarding consideration of a School Resource Officer (SRO).

City Manager Murray reported that the Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) funds the SRO program through the Gang Reduction & Intervention Program (GRIP); that the State is planning to cut funding for that program; and that Staff is investigating other options to fund this position.

Discussion ensued regarding John F. Kennedy High School being the only High School in the AUHSD that does not have an SRO; that La Palma previously had an SRO in the late 1990's; that having an SRO is a great partnership with the Police Department and the High School; that they provide education and counseling; support for funding this program; planning discussion for possibly moving this forward for the next school year; that there will soon be a recruitment to cover for the previous Sergeant vacancy; that the Police Department would need approval for the position during the budget process, when the item will be brought back for discussion; that during the summer, the SRO would supplement the City's patrol and/or detective activities or could be placed on special assignment; that current staffing levels in the Police Department meet the service levels - however, adding these programs requires additional personnel; discussion regarding current staffing levels being sufficient; that having an SRO would serve the community better; that the other programs are being handled by allowing overtime by current Police Department and the SRO would alleviate overtime by regular patrol

officers; that this investment is extremely valuable by reinvesting in the community; support for more Police interaction with youth; that during the upcoming Goal Setting, Police Department ideas with actual numbers could provide a better financial picture; that the City Council should have the Goal Setting and budget discussion prior to making any decision on allocating funds for these programs; that CalPERS rates are increasing; that real revenues from Measure JJ need to be evaluated prior to spending; and that the City needs to review the nature of our unfunded liability prior to paying for a new or reinstated program.

Police Chief Kim continued with his presentation regarding the reinstatement of the Motorcycle Traffic Enforcement Officer.

Discussion ensued regarding the work schedule for the Motor Officer being a four day, ten hour schedule; that this officer's schedule would be adjusted to address peak traffic hours; that the Motor Officer would likely generate approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year in fines; that this program is not urgent on the list of importance; request for statistics on how a motor officer improves traffic and/or safety; the value in having a Motor Officer being somewhat marginal; and that a Motor Officer can address minor traffic concerns in residential areas because they are easier to maneuver in tight spaces.

Police Chief Kim closed his presentation with Facility Security at the Police Department.

Council Comments and Questions:

Discussion ensued regarding whether facility security for the City would be in the next budget; that Police Station security is a priority item; that the employees need to be safe and that Staff will be looking at costing that out for the City Council; that the Dispatchers currently lock the metal roll up door after 6:00 p.m.; and support for the safety for employees.

Public Input:

Jerry Lomeli, a La Palma resident, addressed the City Council regarding support for the recommendations in the Police Department Report; inquiry into why the Police Department does reactive versus proactive work; opposition to off-site Management training; inquired about the organization and cost for dispatch; cross training all of the Patrol Officers so all can use radars; opposition to acquiring bicycle officers; support for Police Department Employee retention; support to have someone from the outside look at the department in an effort to make solid recommendations; the frequency of speed surveys; that the result of the speed surveys justify the reasons for using radar; and the urgency to enforce the speed limits.

Discussion ensued regarding Staff currently cross training officers to use Radar; that Staff turnover and new hires has not allowed for cross training at this time; Management's support of cross training Officers; that Staff is currently getting quotes for a speed survey; that the Corporal position has always existed; clarification on ticket writing; plans to address all the Police Department issues brought up in the presentation to occur by next year; a request to receive quarterly reports from the Police Chief regarding status updates of operational action discussed to increase the communication; and that everything discussed is subject to the budget.

Larry Herman, a La Palma resident, addressed the City Council regarding traffic fine generation from patrol cars; and whether there is a possibility that one officer could split his time between being a Motor Officer and SRO equally.

City Manager Murray stated that Staff would need to run a report on traffic fines in order to accurately respond to Mr. Herman's inquiry.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Steggell adjourned the Special Meeting of the La Palma City Council at 8:23 p.m.

Michele Steggell
Mayor

Attest:

Kimberly Kenney
Deputy City Clerk