

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

October 15, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Goodman called the Regular 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, with Council Member Kim being absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: John F. Kennedy High School JROTC Pledge of Allegiance and Flag Ceremony

INVOCATION: Father Aaron Galvizo, St. Irenaeus Catholic Church

ROLL CALL: Council and Commission Members

Council Members present: Council Member Goedhart, Mayor Goodman, Council Member Patel, and Council Member Steggell

Council Members absent: Mayor Pro Tem Kim

City Officials present: Laurie Murray, City Manager
Ajit Thind, City Attorney
Mike Belknap, Community Services Director
Scott Hutter, Planning Manager
Terry Kim, Police Chief
Sea Shelton, Administrative Services Director
Kimberly Kenney, Deputy City Clerk

PRESENTATIONS

1. Kelly Hatter, American Cancer Society Community Manager; Alice Burnett, Relay for Life Chair; and David Dunn, Relay for Life Team Coach presented a Certificate of Appreciation for La Palma's participation in North West Orange County's Relay for Life.

Mayor Pro Tem Kim joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No members of the public wished to speak.

RECESS THE CITY COUNCIL AND CONVENE AS THE CITY OF LA PALMA AS SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE DISSOLVED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AT 7:07 P.M.

Deputy City Clerk Kenney stated, "The City Council will now recess and convene as the Successor Agency to the Dissolved Community Development Commission of the City of La Palma. Members of the La Palma City Council receive no compensation or stipend as a result of convening or participating in either the Successor Agency or otherwise as serving as members of the Successor Agency."

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Successor Agency Minutes

Minutes of the October 1, 2019, Regular Meeting of the Successor Agency.

Council Member Patel made a motion to approve Minutes of the October 1, 2019, Regular Meeting of the Successor Agency.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Steggell and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Council Member Goedhart, Mayor Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Kim, Council Member Patel, and Council Member Steggell

NOES: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None Scheduled.

REGULAR ITEMS

None Scheduled.

ADJOURN THE CITY OF LA PALMA AS SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE DISSOLVED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND RECONVENE AS THE CITY COUNCIL AT 7:08 P.M.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Waive the Reading of All Ordinances
Waive the reading of all Ordinances in their entirety and read by title only.
2. Approval of Council Minutes
Minutes of the October 1, 2019, Regular Meeting and the October 1, 2019, Special Meeting of the City Council.
3. Approval of Register of Demands
Resolution No. 2019-42 approving the Register of Demands for October 15, 2019.
Mayor Pro Tem Kim announced that he had a financial conflict of interest on Item 3. Mayor Pro Tem Kim did not participate in the vote on this item.
4. Amendment to Agreement with West Coast Arborists, Inc.
Approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an amendment to the Agreement with West Coast Arborists, LLC.

Council Member Steggell made a motion to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 through 4.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Patel and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Council Member Goedhart, Mayor Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Kim, Council Member Patel, and Council Member Steggell

NOES: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. Public Hearing to Ascertain Whether a Public Nuisance Exists at 5342 Verner Drive, La Palma, CA 90623
 - a) Mayor Goodman opened the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m.

- b) Planning Manager Hutter gave the Staff Report
- c) Council Member Comments and Questions

Discussion ensued regarding clarification of the costs; that to abate the exterior would be \$25,000, and to abate both exterior and interior would be \$125,000; that Staff is recommending the house just be boarded up at \$2,500; that since the Staff Report has been published, the City has received quotes between \$2,500 and \$5,000 for boarding up the property; that the costs would be recoverable by placing a lien on the property; that City Attorney Thind added that the matter is to determine if there's a nuisance, and Staff is asking for direction on how to address the abatement if the homeowner does not comply; and that if the Council adopts the resolution declaring the property a nuisance, they'll need to direct Staff to board up the property at cost.

- d) Receive Public Input

Wally Zimmerman, a La Palma resident, addressed the City Council that even with boarding up the house, there are still exposed studs that can deteriorate over time; and that boarding up the house does not solve the problem.

City Manager Murray responded that the actions are intended to get the property owner to comply and if they don't, the City has other legal options to pursue.

Bryan Jones, owner of the property, addressed the City Council that he has a contract with an architect at the property tomorrow; that if the house is red-tagged, he cannot access it; the time frame for the plan check completion; and requested that the City Council continue this matter for a month and review his progress at that point.

Discussion ensued regarding confirmation that Bryan Jones is the owner of the property; the time frame for boarding up the property; that City Attorney Thind said from the time the resolution is approved, the owner has thirty days to comply and if he does not, then the City will board up the property; that the City Council will be providing the owner with time to comply; that according to the code enforcement history of this property, there has been ample time to resolve this matter; opposition to extending the owner additional time after the 30 day period; and that there were several permits that were open, closed, and expired over the last decade for this property and clarification as to why the owner never completed his projects.

Mr. Jones responded that he was told he had some expired permits including rehabilitating the chimney; that he reapplied for the chimney permit, but the City would not issue the permit; that he was eventually given approval until he received a stop notice from Code Enforcement; that he has tried to recover the permits and is willing to comply.

Kenneth Myers, a La Palma resident and neighbor to this residence, addressed the City Council regarding his opposition to the blight this house presents to the surrounding neighborhood; that this house decreases property values; opposition to allowing the owner any extensions after the numerous warnings he's received; support to fine the homeowner; opposition to the appearance of boarding up a house; his history of conversations with Mr. Jones including his desire to purchase yet another house; and his opposition to this horrible eye sore.

City Manager Murray responded that if the City boards up the home, the boards will be painted to match the house; that the City is hoping for owner's compliance; and that if the owner does not meet the City's requirements in thirty days including showing proof that a contractor has been hired and that at least 50% of the cost has been paid, Staff will begin the abatement immediately.

Further discussion ensued regarding the owner stating that the red tag stops him from entering the property and asked for clarification; that City Attorney Thind concurred, but added that he's been informed that the owner has already been in contact with the building department and has had access to his home.

Viabhav Goyal, a La Palma resident and adjacent neighbor to the property, addressed the City Council regarding support for getting an immediate response instead of letting this drag out further.

- e) Mayor Goodman closed the Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m.
- f) Adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of La Palma finding that a Public Nuisance exists on the property located at 5342 Verner Drive, La Palma, CA 90623 Assessor's Parcel No. 262-102-28, and order the abatement of said Public Nuisance.

Council Member Steggell made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-43 of the City Council of the City of La Palma finding that a Public Nuisance exists on the property located at 5342 Verner Drive, La Palma, CA 90623 Assessor's Parcel No. 262-102-28, and order the abatement of said Public Nuisance, as recommended by Staff.

City Manager Murray clarified that if the owner has not complied by the 30 day period, Staff will immediately commence with abatement proceedings by boarding up the residence.

Further discussion ensued that the City is not going to allow Mr. Jones any further delays; opposition to the length of time this has been going on; disappointment with what Mr. Jones has done to the neighborhood; that the City Council will no longer allow inaction by the property owner; and opposition to the lengthy amount of Code Enforcement notices the owner has received and ignored.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Patel and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Council Member Goedhart, Mayor Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Kim, Council Member Patel, and Council Member Steggell

NOES: None

REGULAR ITEMS

6. License Agreement with the County of Orange for the Placement of a Permanent Ballot Drop Box at the Civic Center

City Manager Murray gave the Staff Report.

Council Comments and Questions:

Discussion ensued regarding concerns that the Ballot Box could be vandalized; that the City wide security project will eventually have cameras in the parking lot; concerns about children throwing trash or food items in the box; the urgency to keep the integrity of voters ballots; that Staff can relay Council's concerns to the Registrar of Voters; preference to have the ballots dropped off in a secured building; that the County will have a physical location for handing in ballots, but they also planned for a drive up ballot drop off location; that the County will make modifications during the test phasing of this project; request to continue the item; that the City Council can approve the agreement tonight, and Staff will reach out to the Registrar of Voters to have them return with responses to the City Council's concerns at a future meeting; parking lot turning radius and traffic concerns; that the County Registrar of Voter took measurements that could accommodate vehicles of many sizes; the schedule for picking up ballots from the drive up ballot box; support for the item as long as the City can monitor this during the test period; whether the County will plan to have their Staff present on the final day of ballot

drop off; that there will also be a physical election site at the Community Center for 11 days during the election and should alleviate residents coming in all at once; that this is a County program and they make the rules; that this Agreement is for five years; that City Attorney Thind noted that the Council's concerns are not addressed in the agreement, but could come back a later date with those answers; that the original place the County had planned for a drive through was over at the Community Center that would have resulting in taking existing parking places away; that there is a current 90 day written notice to terminate currently in the agreement; and although there is support for this agreement, City Council requests that the County return to address their concerns.

Public Input:

None

Mayor Pro Tem Kim made a motion to approve the License Agreement with the County of Orange for the Placement of a Permanent Ballot Drop Box at the Civic Center.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Steggell and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Kim, Council Member Patel, and Council Member Steggell

NOES: Council Member Goedhart

7. Council Member Request: Reinstate Miss Palma Pageant

City Manager Murray introduced Mr. Belknap who gave a brief history on the La Palma Pageant.

Council Member Steggell brought the matter forward because residents were inquiring as to when this will be brought back; that it was a speaking opportunity for the applicants; that there is another City that had this event and it sparked her interest; and that a former Pageant Queen supports bringing this back.

Council Comments and Questions:

Discussion ensued regarding the historical number of applicants; that there were anywhere from 4 up to 12 in the early days of the program; when the pageant applicants started dwindling, the last year the pageant had transitioned into the City Ambassador Program, and only had four contestants; that there is a financial component where the City offered a scholarship; that the scholarship was split into two payments during the year, at the beginning and at the end; that this pageant

does not have to be about beauty, that it would be a challenge to propose what is their best features including their civic involvement; that this could be incorporated into La Palma's International Day; that typically, contestants would be High School Seniors and the pageant would be planned during the beginning of the School Year; support for the program with concerns that the City has not had enough contestants; that the City Council would need to approve more financial incentive to recruit participants; that the pageant is time consuming with high level of Staff involvement; that the City is usually adding this program on top of all the other school programs these students are involved in; support to see more detailed proposal about this program; that Council Member Goedhart cannot support tax payers paying for this event; and support for having a non-profit manage this event.

Public Input:

Lynn Zipes, a former Miss La Palma Manager, addressed the City Council regarding her willingness to help get this program reinstated; that she submitted letters of support from former La Palma Pageant Queens; that the contestants have become doctors, musicians, and other professionals; that this program does not have to be a beauty pageant; that Buena Park's event is being put on by the Soroptimist Club; that several girls have contacted her and asked if they can help; that contestants participate in other civic events; and noted this program's value for the contestants involved.

Discussion ensued regarding Soroptimist Club in Buena Park managing their pageant; that they do not take tax dollars for the program; that their pageant is service based and not based on beauty; and the accomplishments reached by contestants; that the \$3,000 cost for the pageant includes the \$500 scholarship to the winner, and a \$100 for other contestants; that when the Pageant Committee could curb costs, they did; that sashes and crowns were previously donated and sponsored; that the cost includes minimal time from City Staff; that contestants volunteer for projects working in the community;

Jan Jensen, a La Palma resident, retired teacher, and Kiwanis Member, addressed the City Council regarding the benefits of the program for contestants; that this pageant helps the contestants with their speaking skills and engaging in their City; that professional attire when representing the City is of utmost importance; support for having some sort of pageant or program, regardless of what the City wants to call it; that there are a lot of High school programs that could be recruited from like the Honor Society, the Debate Club; and the importance of preparing our kids for real life.

Mary Paningsoro, a La Palma resident, addressed the City Council regarding her daughter who was a former La Palma Pageant Queen; that her daughter has always been thankful for the opportunity; that the program had her working with

Toast Masters; that her current success is due to her participation in this program; support for the program; and thanked the City Council for their concerns over the Ballot Box integrity issues.

Discussion ensued regarding support for bringing back a proposal to the City Council including having non-profit group participation and funding; support for having this program being a civic service based event and not based on beauty; support for encourage speaking skills, and make the youth more proficient; and that this should not be a major expense.

8. Council Member Request: Police Canine Program

Council Member Goedhart introduced his request to have Staff review this in the City's long term goals; to investigate how this program could impact us financially; that this was to weigh the benefits to the community while maintaining fiscal discipline; and the many benefits to this program.

Police Chief Kim gave the Staff Report.

Council Comments and Questions:

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for Police Chief Kim's detailed Staff Report; that the long term financial impact decreases the surplus each year after the first year and use of one-time costs; that overall, the City will still remain in a surplus position, although the budget will get pretty tight, based on current information; that La Palma 'could' afford to reinstate this program and not go into a deficit over the next 14 years, but there would have to be a commitment to not add any budget expenses for the next ten years; support for this K-9 program; that Council Member Goedhart recommended approving this item; that when we had a program previously, that the assignment pay was a flat rate of \$150 a month was a benefit subject to labor negotiations with the La Palma Police Association.

Council Member Goedhart made a motion to fund the Police Canine Program and direct Staff to begin negotiations for incentive pay with the Police Department K-9 handler.

Discussion ensued regarding clarification of revenues; that the City's projections of investments earning were better than anticipated; that last year the City received a gain, and received over \$300,000 in interest earnings on top of a better than anticipated transactions and use tax; that the revenues were anticipated to be much less; that Mayor Pro Tem Kim supports this program, however the interim Police Chief had a different position based on financial concerns; that the City Council should revisit the La Palma Police Department Organizational Review completed by Interim Police Chief Michael McCrary before making any decisions;

and that there could be other programs listed in the report that should be considered.

Seeing there was no second for the motion, the motion failed.

Discussion ensued regarding support for the K-9 reinstatement, but consensus that some more research needs to be conducted before a decision is made; that based on Police Chief Kim's experience, any programs that return will bring different benefits to the Police Department, but the K-9 reinstatement does not require an additional body and can use existing personnel; the value to Police personnel and to the community for reinstating the program; that there could be some things that could be eliminated in order to reinstate this particular program as it produces a higher service level; that the motor officer and K-9 Officer were two items that were planned for reinstatement initially and whether the City Council wants to discuss this matter at Mid-Year or during the next Year's budget cycle; that the program can reinstate a K-9 Unit should not take that long as the dog itself can be purchased anytime; that the negotiations, K-9 training, and vehicle accommodations that need to be made would be factors in how quickly this program can be started; that Mayor Pro Tem Kim wants to see a cost benefit analysis for the motor officer and K-9 program and support for this direction; that this matter should be brought back during the Goal Setting Session in order to have this implemented next Fiscal Year; a reminder that the City Wide security project is a large financial commitment and should be reconsidered before making any decision on the K-9 Unit or motor Officer reinstatement; that because there will be a change in City leadership before the end of the year, the matter should be revisited prior to the Goal Setting Session; clarification that the necessary training that is required before the Officer can use the K-9 is seven weeks; and a consensus to bring back the matter, a deep analysis of the K-9 and Motor Officer, before the City Council in November.

Public Input:

Jan Jensen, a La Palma resident, addressed the City Council asking if the City is compensated by other cities assisting them with a K-9; the value of having a K-9 on the Police Force by putting our officers in a safer position; support for a K-9 program over a Motor Officer; and whether the City can get grants for this.

Police Chief Kim responded that the City has a mutual aid agreement with adjacent cities for K-9 services that does not cost the City any money; that many communities have a Police K-9 Fund or Foundation that provides financial support for the canine; and that the City can review some options to see what funding is available.

Wally Zimmerman, a La Palma resident, asked how many agencies have a K-9 Unit; the overtime costs with having a K-9 handler; and that he's read information regarding significant cost differences than what's been presented.

Police Chief Kim responded that it all depends on the size of the Agencies and that some larger agencies have more K-9 Units; and that the City does not calculate overtime as it's based on salary and not the fully burdened rate.

City Manager Murray responded with her confidence in Police Chief Kim's cost analysis in the Staff Report.

Mary Paningsoro, a La Palma resident, addressed the City Council regarding her apprehensions in additional expenditures giving the recent financial situations the City Council has had to be involved in for fiscal solvency; and her concerns with market volatility as being a factor that needs to be considered.

Council Member Goedhart asked that Staff identify areas in the budget that can be reduced in order to provide for the reinstatement of the La Palma Police K-9 Unit.

COUNCILMEMBER AB1234 REPORTS, REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES, AND COUNCIL REMARKS

Council Member Goedhart announced that he'd like to see a discussion item on the next Agenda regarding the next City Manager's Salary.

Council Member Patel noted that he had nothing to report, but announced the upcoming Festival of Lights for the Indian community and wished the Eastern Indian community a happy new year.

Council Member Steggell had nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Kim attended the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) Legislative and Public Affairs Committee meeting.

Mayor Goodman attended a meeting with Congresswoman Sanchez; the Walker Junior High School Field Trip for the Civics Core Class; the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA) 24th Annual Risk Management Forum; the League of California Cities (LOCC) Orange County Division General Membership meeting; and announced his attendance to the upcoming LOCC Annual Conference.

CITY MANAGER REMARKS

City Manager Murray had nothing to report.

CITY ATTORNEY REMARKS

City Attorney Thind had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Goodman adjourned the Regular Meeting of the City Council at 9:07 p.m. in memory of former Council Member, Thomas Wright, who lost his life unexpectedly on October 10th. He closed by passing on the City Council's heartfelt condolences to his wife and his family.

Marshall Goodman
Mayor

Attest:

Kimberly Kenney, CMC
Deputy City Clerk