

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

November 2, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Patel called the Regular Meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Council Chambers of La Palma City Hall, 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

CLOSED SESSION

CS-1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6.

Agency Designated Representatives: Conal McNamara, City Manager
Ryan Hallett Hinton, Assistant to the
City Manager

Employee Organizations: La Palma General Employees
Association
La Palma Police Association
La Palma Professional Employees
Association

Unrepresented Employees: Executive Management

CS-2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO
GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8

Property: 5410-14 La Palma Avenue, La Palma, California

Agency negotiator: Conal McNamara, City Manager
Ajit Thind, City Attorney

Negotiating parties: Victor Chung, Elite Taekwondo Center, LLC

Under negotiations: Price and/or terms of the Amended Lease

Mayor Patel recessed to Closed Session at 5:36 p.m.

Mayor Patel reconvened in Open Session at 6:30 p.m. and asked for a report.

City Attorney Thind responded that there were no reportable actions out of Closed Session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Baker

INVOCATION: Pastor Tommy Hinostrroza, La Palma Christian Center

ROLL CALL: Council and Commission Members

Council Members present: Council Member Baker, Council Member Goodman, Mayor Patel, Mayor Pro Tem Steggell, and Council Member Waldman

Council Members absent: None

City Officials present: Conal McNamara, City Manager
Ajit Thind, City Attorney
Mike Belknap, Community Services Director
Scott Hutter, Planning Manager
Terry Kim, Police Chief
Joe Cisneros, Management Analyst
Kimberly Kenney, City Clerk

PRESENTATIONS

1. Police Chief Kim introduced Jesse Amend as La Palma's new Police Captain.
2. La Palma Community Activities and Beautification Committee Member Lew and Home Spotlight Sub Committee Member, recognized the home of Marcos & Amanda Ortiz, 8171 Somerdale Lane, La Palma.
3. Mayor Patel presented a Proclamation to two Community Groups in Recognition of the Diwali "Festival of Lights"

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 6:49 P.M.

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 5, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Successor Agency.

Council Member Goodman made a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 5, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Successor Agency.

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

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

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 THE CITY COUNCIL AT 6:50 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 5, 2021, Regular Meeting of the City Council.
3. Approval of Register of Demands

Adopt Resolution No. 2021-32 approving the Registers of Demands for October 19, 2021, and November 2, 2021.
4. City of La Palma First Quarter Cash and Investment Report, Fiscal Year 2021-22, as of September 30, 2021

Receive and file the Cash and Investment Report for the first quarter of fiscal year 2021-22.
5. Resolution Amending the City Council's Regular Meeting Schedule

Adopt Resolution No. 2021-33 amending the City Council's Regular Meeting Schedule for January, 2022.
6. Amendment to Agreement with Infrastructure Engineers

Approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an Amendment to the Agreement with Infrastructure Engineers.
7. Award of Contract to Sierra Analytical Labs, Inc. for the Citywide Water Testing and Laboratory Services

Approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an Agreement with Sierra Analytical Labs Incorporated in an amount not to exceed \$50,400 annually for a period of three years for a total contract cost of \$151,200.
8. Award of Contract to Crosstown Electrical & Data, Inc. for Traffic Signal Maintenance Services

Approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with Crosstown Electrical and Data, Inc, of Irwindale, California, for traffic signal maintenance services.

9. Resolution Adopting the Measure M2 Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021

Adopt Resolution No. 2021-34 approving the annual Measure M2 expenditure report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021.

Mayor Pro Tem Steggell made a motion to approve Consent Calendar Items 1 - 9.

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

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

NOES: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. Introduction and First Reading of An Ordinance Amending City Zoning Code (Chapter 44 of the La Palma Municipal Code) Section's 44-391 to 44-402, 44-874 to 44-877, 44-487 and 44-909 Pertaining to the Regulation of Signs and Signboards

- a) Mayor Patel opened the Public Hearing at 6:51 p.m.
- b) Planning Manager Hutter gave the Staff Report
- c) City Council Comments and Questions:

Discussion ensued regarding that temporary signs in the Public Right-of-Way (PROW) in Municipal Code section 44-877 includes the use of tree wells; that temporary signs can be placed in the tree wells of a public street for the 63 day period as defined; that temporary signs for commercial businesses are required to have a permit; that now temporary signs even in a window must have the permission of the property owner; that the square footage allowed for temporary signs must be met to code; that the update includes no temporary signage being allowed in the PROW from September 10 through November 10 during election years; that City Attorney Thind noted that that change doesn't specify election signs, and maintains 'content neutrality' so business signs are treated the same, signs in the PROW are treated the same, and signs on private residential property are treated the same; that these changes apply to all who are running in an election year whether it's Congress, the Senate, or the President, or local officials; if the

sign in the PROW during that time frame, it will be removed; that Staff plans to send a letter to all elected officials of La Palma of our new changes including assembly, state, and county officials; that Staff will pursue a public information campaign so real estate agents and businesses are notified of these changes to the sign code.

d) Public Input:

No members of the public wished to speak.

e) Mayor Patel closed the Public Hearing at 7:11 p.m.

f) Introduce an Ordinance amending City Zoning Code (Chapter 44 of the La Palma Municipal Code) Section's 44-391 to 44-402, 44-874-44-877, 44-487 and 44-909 pertaining to the regulation of signs and signboards.

Council Member Goodman made a motion to Introduce an Ordinance amending City Zoning Code (Chapter 44 of the La Palma Municipal Code) Section's 44-391 to 44-402, 44-874-44-877, 44-487 and 44-909 pertaining to the regulation of signs and signboards.

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

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

NOES: None

REGULAR ITEMS

11. Study Session regarding Fee Update

Recommendation that the City Council receive the report and provide direction to staff as desired.

City Manager McNamara introduced Management Analyst Cisneros who gave the Staff Report.

Public Input:

No members of the public wished to speak.

City Council Comments and Questions:

Discussion ensued regarding the calculations, assumptions, and projections of the 2009-2010 fee schedule are being used as a methodology for the analysis for this presentation; that the study session tonight is the base of where we grow our future fees from, so the City have direction on where the City is recovering and under-recovering fees; that potential new fees and programs like real property records reports and other items are being identified; that the fees need to include a registration fee to set up short term rentals; that short term rentals is something that City Staff is working on; that City Staff is looking to recover the actual cost for services that are being provided; Council support for full cost recovery and new fees that Staff has brought forward; that previous City Councils did not raise fees at all; that City Council consensus is to review this in its entirety and return with a report so the City Council can make a more informed decision.

12. Council Member Request: Community Survey and Outreach

Recommendation that the City Council discuss Mayor Patel's and Council Member Goodman's requests for information on the BangTheTable platform as well as a community survey, respectively, and provide any direction to staff.

City Manager McNamara gave the Staff Report.

City Council Comments and Questions:

Discussion ensued regarding the problem with surveys is that you either don't get enough of a response, or the questions aren't controlled; support for setting up another survey, but not supportive of BangTheTable; opposition to BangTheTable app because it would not serve the City well and has costs related to it; that the survey has been budgeted, but COVID delayed the issuance; that the City is in good financial condition to conduct the survey; that the City uses the survey results in strategic planning; that with statistics, there is no interpretation - just results; that the Survey company asks the City Council what questions they'd like to see in the survey; understanding the City Council's hesitation to conduct a survey during this state of financial concerns; that the City has control of the survey and the trustworthy source for the Survey; opposition to moving forward with a Citywide survey; that the top three issues and concerns from the last survey have not been addressed; that the things the residents opted for haven't been done in full; that revitalizing the City's commercial centers is being done and has been done like recent renovations at the Walgreens center and Starbucks; that although the point was well taken about not wasting money, it needs to be spent in order to see what the residents want; unsure that the City would get any information that could be even be helpful; that maybe the City Council should wait a few years before conducting a survey; that there has to be a way to engage residents; that it's easier to conduct a Town Hall and get answers from the residents in an open forum

before the City conducts a survey; that we should be looking at all other options before spending the money; that maybe the City could do their own survey and pass it out during the next town Hall event; reviewing all options and conducting more research before spending money on a standard survey; and a consensus by City Council to have Staff do more research, survey other city approaches to this, and bring the matter back to the City Council early next year.

13. Council Member Request: Redistricting Boundaries

Recommendation that the City Council discuss the request from Mayor Patel to discuss redistricting and provide any direction to staff.

City Manager McNamara gave the Staff Report.

Mayor Patel gave a brief presentation on his request; that it was brought to his attention by a former Council Member; concerns that the initial mapping had La Palma in another County versus north Orange County; that although the Mayor's letter was already sent to them, he supports another letter supported by ALL City Council members; and continuing the current regional ties and interests we have as a City.

City Manager McNamara responded that the City's letter should capitalize on the positive change that was seen in the most recent visualization; thank them for the response; that we agree with the current mapping because it keeps us close to our regional partners; and stress why we feel it's critical for La Palma to be grouped with cities that need to share the same voice through their assembly, senate, and congressional seats.

Mayor Patel made a motion to send out another letter to the Redistricting Commission with the City Council's full support requesting to keep La Palma's interest within Orange County boundaries. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Steggell.

Council Member Goodman ask for a friendly amendment to the motion to have the letter include the points made by City Manager McNamara.

Mayor Patel rescinded his original motion.

Mayor Patel made a substitute motion to send out another letter, with the content to include appreciation for the recent changes made by the Redistricting Committee and also include content regarding keeping the same ties with Orange County cities as detailed by the City Manager.

The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Steggell and carried on the following vote:

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

NOES: None

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

Council Member Waldman attended the La Palma Halloween Carnival.

Council Member Baker attended the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority's (CJPIA) annual Risk Management Educational Forum; Popeye's Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; the local school's Trunk or Treat and Movie at Central Park; and the La Palma Halloween Carnival.

Council Member Goodman attended the CJPIA Annual Risk Management Educational Forum; the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) Special Meeting; Cal Cities - Orange County Division Executive Committee meeting; the Popeye's Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; OCSD Administration Committee Meeting; the Cal Cities League Leaders Briefing; the CJPIA Executive Committee meeting; OCSD Board meeting; the Cal Cities working committee meeting regarding a local control initiative, to amend the California Constitution.

Mayor Pro Tem Steggell attended the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Board of Director's meeting; the La Palma Halloween Carnival; and the OCFA Human Resources meeting.

Mayor Patel attended the Popeye's Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; taped for the Shop Local campaign, Veteran's Day, and Red Ribbon Week; the local school's Trunk or Treat and Movie at Central Park; a Diwali Festival event; the La Palma Halloween Carnival; and announced the upcoming State of the City Address on November 9, 2021.

CITY MANAGER REMARKS

City Manager McNamara announced the upcoming State of the City event; and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He noted the upcoming reorganization at the December 7, Regular Meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY REMARKS

City Attorney Thind had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Patel adjourned the Regular Meeting of the La Palma City Council at 8:22 p.m.

Nitesh P. Patel
Mayor

Attest:

Kimberly Kenney, CMC
City Clerk