

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

February 15, 2005

Mayor Blake called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, 2005, in the Council Chambers of La Palma City Hall, 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Herman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

INVOCATION

Pastor Tony Robles with La Palma Christian Center gave the Invocation.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers present: Christine M. Barnes, Kenneth A. Blake, Larry A. Herman,
Ralph D. Rodriguez, Mark I. Waldman

Councilmembers absent: None

City Officials present: Catherine Standiford, City Manager
Ed Ethell, Chief of Police
Tami Piscotty, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk
Ismile Noorbaksh, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Robbeyn Bird, Director of Finance
Jan Hobson, Director of Recreation & Community Services
Dominic Lazzaretto, Director of Community Development
Joel Kuperberg, City Attorney
Crystal Wilkerson, Administrative Secretary

PRESENTATIONS

Swan Ngin with the Orange County Human Relations Commission gave a presentation on their activities in La Palma and presented a certificate to Mayor Blake on behalf of the City Council.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

RECESS

Mayor Blake recessed the City Council to convene as the Community Development Commission at 7:10 p.m. (See separate Community Development Commission Minutes.)

RECONVENING

Mayor Blake reconvened the meeting in regular session at 7:35 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Barnes made a motion to approve the following items on the Consent Calendar:

APPROVED THE JANUARY 24-25, 2005 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES AND THE FEBRUARY 1, 2005 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2005-11 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2005

APPROVED THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, AND AUTHORIZED THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO SOLICIT COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR EXTERIOR PAINTING OF THE CITY YARD AND WALKER WELL RESERVOIRS, CITY PROJECT NO. 04-WTR-06

APPROVED PAINTING RED, THE NORTHWEST CURB RETURN ON SUFFIELD STREET AT AMBERWOOD AVENUE FROM 10" SOUTH OF THE CURB RETURN ON SUFFIELD STREET TO THE END OF THE CURB RETURN ON AMBERWOOD AVENUE FOR A TOTAL DISTANCE OF 42.0"

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Herman, Rodriguez, Waldman

NOES: None

REGULAR ITEMS

5. **Approval of Citizen Committee Recommendations**

Councilmember Rodriguez pulled this item to take a moment to recognize the citizens who applied for the commissions. He thanked them for stepping up for the community. He stated that the Community Activities and Beautification Committee are still looking for volunteers.

Councilmember Rodriguez made a motion to approve the citizen committee selection recommendations for a four-year term, expiring on December 31, 2008: Warren Heer, Henry Lee, Noella Lew, Claude Coker, and Abe Waheed. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Waldman and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Herman, Rodriguez, Waldman

NOES: None

6. **Consideration of Automated Trash and Manual Green Waste Collection System**

Assistant to the City Manager, Tami Piscotty, gave a presentation on this subject stating that the current collection system provides for unlimited refuse collection, with no separation requirements. The cost is \$14.14 per month, billed with water/sewer utility services by Park Disposal (ACS Billing Service).

She explained that since 1990, all trash is hauled to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Stanton, with recyclables separated manually/mechanically. California Assembly Bill 939 established solid waste diversion requirements for cities and counties with 25% diversion by 1995 and 50% diversion by 2000 and beyond. The MRF was La Palma's response to AB939's solid waste diversion requirements. The City of La Palma was required to file a "good faith effort" for not achieving 50% in 1999 and 2000. At the 2002 hearing, the CIWMB made clear that the MRF alone was not acceptable for long-term diversion for La Palma unless more materials were pulled out of La Palma's waste stream.

Park Disposal submitted a proposal in January 2005 for a new solid waste collection system. This proposal included automated collection of trash with unlimited manual collection of green waste, with efficiencies sharing collection system over two cities (Buena Park as the other city), with the cost savings from automation helping to offset the costs of the additional green waste recycling program.

Automated trash collection is a proven technology. It is used in communities throughout the United States, including those with significant street configuration issues (cul de sacs, hills, heavy on-street parking, and alleys). 27 cities in Orange County have automated refuse collection.

She explained that green/yard waste collection represents 23% of La Palma's residential waste stream and will achieve 5% overall diversion if cleanly separated.

The proposed collection system includes an automated 95-gallon gray refuse cart for regular trash. A 65 gallon cart is available for small entry gates and individuals who are unable to handle the larger cart. There will be unlimited manual green waste pick up, using resident's existing trash barrels and the traditional recyclables would continue to be separated at the MRF.

The proposal is \$.49/month per home. Automated trash collection drives down overall program costs, helping to offset the cost for the new green waste recycling program. If the City chooses to have manual green waste pick up only, without automated trash pick up, staff estimates it would be up to a \$3.00 increase per home.

Ms. Piscotty stated that the policy decision before the City Council, based on Park Disposal's proposal, is whether to implement automation and green waste recycling now, or potentially in the future. If the City Council chooses to accept the proposal now, it will need to direct staff to draft an Amendment to the Solid Waste Handling Services Agreement incorporating the terms of this new service; and have Staff return with a detailed timeline for program roll-out. If the City Council chooses to implement in the future, it will need to provide direction to Staff on when this item may wish to be reconsidered by the Council, either when the CIWMB mandates a Plan of Correction or revisit the concept in 6 months, or some later date based on Council's discretion.

Jay Goldberg, 4782 El Rancho Verde Drive, stated that the white paper prepared by the City seemed to relate to recycling, but the presentation this evening related to green waste. He brought up the additional cost in replacing the street sweeper signs if trash day is changed since the sweeper follows the trash truck. He feels this will be a big inconvenience for La Palmans.

Bill Coil, 5307 Achilles Circle, doesn't want to see additional costs for the citizens. He feels the additional costs should be absorbed by EDCO since adding La Palma to their route is going to save the company money. He feels the containers are too large for the side yards of the homes. He doesn't feel that the large containers are friendly for senior citizens.

Keith Nelson, 5311 La Luna, spoke on behalf of Brian O'Neal who resides on Cartagena. He asked how many of the 27 cities using the automated system was achieving the 50% goal. City Manager Standiford stated, on that the most recent CIWMB report (2002) there are 13 cities that are not meeting the goal.

Richard Lutz, 8182 Bellhaven Street, asked if there is any way that La Palmans can have their trash picked up all on one day. He asked if an additional trash cart is needed if it could be paid for in one lump, instead of over the years. He asked if there could be a proposal drawn up to supply carts for green waste.

Mayor Blake stated that the problem with automating green waste only it that is frequently found contaminated with regular trash, and then the whole truck gets contaminated. The benefit of manual pick up of green waste is the driver can view the container before dumping.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman agreed that separating the green waste into a uniform bin would be more of a benefit.

Jan Jensen, 7562 Trabuco Lane, stated that all of her friends from different cities do not like their automated systems.

Carl Eriksen, 5832 Crestview Circle, stated that if the 95 gallon trash cart should fall to the ground it would be difficult for him to pick it up by himself. He stated that uniformity should not be a

selling point for this new system, since the green waste will be placed in non uniform containers. He mentioned that the neighbor always parks their vehicle in the cul de sac causing a problem for the trash hauler now, so requesting additional space to accommodate the new carts will be impossible for him. He stated that if it is the green waste that the City wants to recycle, why not set up a green waste program.

George Mast, 4741 El Rancho Verde Drive, mentioned that he has parking issues with the Cerritos residents parking in front of their home so it would be difficult for him to make space for the new proposed carts. He stated that the City should look into asking the residents to separate their waste to have a green waste pick up.

Roger Ciesinski, 5541 Fir Circle, stated that a full 95 gallon cart would be very difficult for him to handle. He mentioned that looking at several different variations of collection should occur before making a quick decision on this one system.

Efrain Ramirez, Vice President/General Manager for Park Disposal, stated that since Buena Park is turning over to this new system, their company wanted to give La Palma an opportunity to join them. He stated that by automating the trash collection, there is cost savings in the operational costs. Mr. Ramirez stated that the pick up will be on the same day but a larger volume of homes will be picked up. Mr. Ramirez stated that the reason why the extra cart is offered at \$3.50/month is that it pays for the additional service and disposal along with the new cart.

Councilmember Barnes asked if the Council chooses to delay accepting this proposal, would there need to be additional trucks purchased for the City of La Palma later. Mr. Ramirez responded that an additional vehicle would need to be purchased. She then asked if the price would go up on the carts or if it would still be \$.49. Mr. Ramirez stated that the rate would go up.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked how long the cost proposal will be good. Mr. Ramirez stated 60 days. He stated that if La Palma decided to change their collection system there is no guarantee that its diversion rate will change, so why change the current system when La Palma is at 53%.

Councilmember Waldman asked what happens when a senior citizen can't handle either size container, how does Park Disposal handle their trash. Mr. Ramirez stated that in other cities the drivers assist and address each individual case.

Council directed staff to hold two special meetings to allow the citizens of the community to voice their opinion on the trash system, along with advertising through the identified methods in the staff report.

Councilmember Rodriguez requested that staff put together an information packet for citizens attending these special meetings.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES/COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmember Waldman attended an Orange County Sanitation District meeting.

Councilmember Rodriguez stated that tomorrow evening is the orientation for the Orange County Sanitation District and he will be sitting in as an alternate for Mayor Pro Tem Herman. He will be attending the Neighborhood Watch dinner Thursday evening. He will be attending the JFTB tour on Thursday. He will be judging the Luther Elementary Science Fair and extended the invitation to staff and Council. He mentioned that Center Line has been discussed a lot in the newspaper and was disturbed that there was a misprint stating that La Palma supports it. He requested that staff prepare a Resolution reaffirming the City's position.

City Manager Standiford clarified that the West Orange County Project Definition Study has two components, one being the Orange Line. La Palma originally supported that a study be conducted, but has not joined the Orange Line Joint Powers Authority. She stated that La Palma has not taken any formal position, and it has been the concern of past Councils not to support it. The other component is either a light rail spur off of Center Line or a rapid bus service. The City of La Palma did take a position of support for this with a condition that the project terminates in Cypress. This position was not done formally by Resolution, but was communicated to OCTA by the City's representative to the West Orange County Project Definition Study. The Council may direct staff to prepare a Resolution that will reaffirm support of the West Orange County Project

Definition Study provided that it stops in Cypress and to craft a Resolution expressing clear opposition to any transit use of the Pacific Electric Right of Way adjoining the City of La Palma, if it so desires.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked if staff could request the residents who have the damaged brick wall, if they could clean up the rubble on the sidewalk during the interim of the insurance investigation. Mr. Lazzaretto stated that the City has sent them several letters and made phone calls and it is very difficult to get them to react since the homeowners did not create the problem.


Councilmember Barnes judged the Kindergarten science projects at Luther Elementary. She stated that if anyone has any comments on the League of Cities Platform, they need to be in by March 2nd. She mentioned that some of the residents in her neighborhood have been asked to remove the dead leaves from their palm trees, so she is informing Mr. Noorbaksh that Public Works needs to clean up the City trees off of Orangethorpe Avenue and Walker Street.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman attended the MBCAC conference where they had a poster contest. He also brought back a report showing statistics on the West Nile Virus. He attended the FBLA mixer, which had a low turnout. He reminded everyone of the kick off for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life event.

Mayor Blake reported that the Orange County Fire Authority would be having a work session on the OCFA's Medics contract on February 24th. He stated that the attendance at the Chamber/FBLA was disappointing.

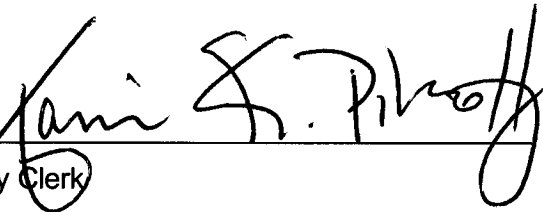
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Blake adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of March 1, 2005.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk