

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

February 20, 2001

Mayor Aragona called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2001, in the Council Chambers of La Palma City Hall, 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Blake led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

INVOCATION

Robert Powers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints gave the Invocation.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers present: Lauree Aragona, Christine Barnes, Kenneth A. Blake, Alta E. Duke, Paul F. Walker

Councilmembers absent: None

City Officials present: Len Wood, Interim City Manager
Vince Giampa, Chief of Police
Ismile Noorbaksh, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Tami K. Piscotty, Assistant to the City Manager
Jan Hobson, Director of Recreation & Community Services
Paul Pitts, Director of Building & Safety
Joan Hoesterey, Principal Planner
Joel Kuperberg, City Attorney
Peggie Turnage, Executive Assistant

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Aragona read a Proclamation supporting the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk on October 6, 2001.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There was no one who wished to address the Council at this time.

RECESS

Mayor Aragona recessed the City Council to convene as the Community Development Commission at 7:09 p.m. (See separate Community Development Commission Minutes.)

RECONVENING

Mayor Aragona reconvened the meeting in regular session at 7:41 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

APPROVED THE FEBRUARY 6, 2001 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2001-10 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2001

RECEIVED AND FILED THE INVESTMENT REPORT FOR DECEMBER 31, 2000

APPROVED THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZED SOLICITATION OF COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR THE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF CURB & GUTTER AND SIDEWALKS ON VARIOUS CITY STREETS, CITY PROJECT NO. ST-240

The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Walker and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC HEARING

URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mayor Aragona opened the public hearing and called in Interim City Manager Len Wood. Mr. Wood explained that the Urban Water Management Plan Act of 1994 requires that the plan be updated every five years. He then called on Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ismile Noorbaksh to present the staff report.

Mr. Noorbaksh stated that the purpose of this plan is to achieve conservation and efficient use of urban water supplies to protect the people of La Palma and their water sources, and to ensure that the City will have sufficient water supplies available for the use of its customers. He stated that the report has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines established by the Department of Water Resources and includes an estimate of water use, a discussion of current and future water conservation measures, evaluation of alternative conservation measures, an implementation schedule, urban water shortage contingency plan, and a discussion of the steps necessary to implement any proposed actions.

Councilmember Blake stated that the report indicates there are 4,079 domestic users but he thought that there were approximately 4500 residential homes in La Palma. Mr. Noorbaksh concurred that there are approximately 4,200 to 4,500 homes.

Councilmember Blake stated the population listed on page 3-2, Table 31 is 18,830 but based on the General Plan he thought that the total maximum population is somewhere around 16,500 and questioned if some of the population and water usage is being overstated.

Mr. Noorbaksh responded that this is only a projection and based on those projections the report shows that the City still has sufficient water resources..

Mayor Pro Tem Walker made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Duke and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Councilmember Blake made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2001-11 adopting the Urban Water Management Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnes and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

REGULAR ITEMS

REDUCE THE PERMITTED HEIGHT OF TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES IN NON-RESIDENTIAL ZONES

Interim City Manager Len Wood stated that this is the second reading of an ordinance that establishes the height for telecommunications antennas from 250 feet to 155 feet and the maximum structure height for monopoles at 75 feet.

Councilmember Barnes made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2001-01, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Palma amending the City Municipal Code Chapter 26., Article V. Nonresidential Districts, Section 26-54, B-1 Multiple Use Business District and Section 26-55, M-1 General Industrial District, amending the Development Standards. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Duke and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

VINE INSTALLATION PROGRAM

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ismile Noorbaksh stated that at the February 6, 2001 meeting the City Council requested a report on the status of the effectiveness of La Palma's Vine Installation Program on arterial street block walls. With the assistance of visual aids, Mr. Noorbaksh presented the status on the condition of the vines along La Palma Avenue between Valley View Street and Walker Street. He explained that an evaluation of the growth of the vines on the wall shows that in one year and three months the vines have grown by 30%. Based on an investigation into the "growth longevity" of the vines, it is anticipated it will take 5 to 7 years for the vines to cover the 6 foot block walls. Mr. Noorbaksh also explained that there has been a problem with the vines near the Bank of America due to vandalism by school children. Mr. Noorbaksh commented that a resident at Windsong and Suffield started a vine, which has been very successful, after the City project was started. In checking with the resident it was determined that he had placed a trough at the base of the block wall and the plants were placed five feet apart, rather than ten. Therefore, staff is recommending that the vine installation program be continued but in future projects, the vine pocket be placed every five feet and the contractor be required to core drill the vine pockets to an 8-inch round. He also recommends that the walls be water blasted so they will be rough enough for the material to adhere to the wall.

Mayor/Chairman Aragona commended Mr. Noorbaksh for meeting with the resident to see what he had done with his vine and stated that the resident was very impressed that Mr. Noorbaksh would ask his opinion.

Mayor/Chairman Aragona stated that it has rained very heavily in the past two weeks and she noted that the vines have improved so she suggested that watering be increased in the new project.

Mr. Noorbaksh responded that staff is reprogramming the watering system to provide more water to the vine pockets and less water to the medians.

Mayor/Chairman Pro Tem Walker stated that the walls along La Palma Avenue currently are a mixture of colors and questioned what they will look like after they have been water blasted. He added that since it takes five years for the vines to cover the walls we would have to look at these eyesores for several years.

Mr. Noorbaksh responded that all the water blasting will do is clean the walls up, it is not like sand blasting.

Councilmember/Commissionmember Blake commented that these plants cannot be destroyed and they will cover but they do better in full sun. He added that the vines on La Palma Avenue near Denni Street that do not have irrigation seem to be growing fine.

Mr. Noorbaksh confirmed that they are going well however, the homeowner provides irrigation to these vines.

Councilmember/Commissionmember Barnes asked if heavier watering would cause deterioration of the walls.

Mr. Noorbaksh responded that the watering is done to the vines at the base of the walls, the walls are not watered.

Councilmember/Commissionmember Barnes asked what the cost of the long-term maintenance will be as the vines are placed on all the arterial walls.

Mr. Noorbaksh responded that it is estimated that the maintenance of the vines would be 628 man hours annually whereas removing graffiti from the walls takes approximately 960 man hours annually.

Councilmember/Commissionmember Barnes asked how many times a year the vines would be trimmed. Mr. Noorbaksh responded they would be trimmed four times a year.

Councilmember/Commissionmember Blake commented that this program was not started strictly because of graffiti, but for aesthetic purposes as well.

Councilmember/Commissionmember Duke made a motion to award a Professional Landscaping Architectural Services Contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$13,720 to Kobata Associates, Inc. for Tree Replacements and Vine Installation on La Palma Avenue from Walker Street to Denni Street; and Tree Replacements on Crescent Avenue from Moody Street to Walker Street, City Project Nos. ST-243 and ST-244 and to continue with the Vine Installation Program on arterial streets; and, on future projects, space the vine pockets approximately 5' apart with the wall footings to be cored in the event they encroach in the vine pockets. The motion was seconded by Mayor/Chairman Pro Tem Walker and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

SURVEY RESULTS FOR POTENTIAL JULY 4TH EVENTS

Interim City Manager Len Wood stated that in the 2000/2001 budget, as the City Council considered the Recreation and Community Services budget, they took several actions that had an impact on recreation programs. First, approximately \$100,000.00 was added to Recreation

programs. Secondly, the 5K/10K Run and some other programs were eliminated and the funds were redistributed to other programs. At that time, the City Council requested that an alternatives report be submitted around September for consideration of a July 4th program. In September, staff returned with four alternatives. At that time, the City Council directed that a survey be developed. Two mediums were used for the survey; one was the La Palman and the other was through utility billing. Mr. Wood then made a visual presentation of the results of the July 4th survey that indicated that the highest preference was for the Pancake Breakfast and the 5K/10K run.

Mr. Wood then presented the following alternatives for Council's consideration:

1. Reinstitute the July 4th Run/Walk for the year 2001 and approve the expenditure of \$31,500 to conduct this event. City staff is fully prepared and willing to plan and implement this event, should the City Council desire this to occur.
2. Review again the four event options presented on September 19, 2000.
3. Review other event options in more detail over the coming months and direct that an event not be conducted in 2001. Under this alternative the Council would be able to weigh the cost and staffing implications of a July 4th event against other competing budgetary priorities, including those in other departments.

Mr. Wood stated that staff recommends the City Council approve Alternative No. 3.

Councilmember Blake commented that he feels that the sampling of 11% return was more than adequate. He added that the map indicates that the results were received from throughout the community with the exception of the few homes north of the channel.

Councilmember Duke stated she is in favor of option No. 3 because this is something that needs to be carefully thought out. In addition, the sponsorship issue needs to be looked at because the same sponsorship is sought for La Palma Days. She added she also feels there is an issue about the number of volunteers that are used; that they surpass the number of runners.

Councilmember Barnes questioned how interest in a fireworks show is high in one area yet the ranking was low in another.

Director of Recreation and Community Services Jan Hobson explained that in the first area the question was for bus transportation only. The latter asked if citizens would like to see La Palma participate in a partnership program with other cities and does not include bus transportation.

Mayor Aragona commented that when she attended the Los Alamitos program last year the dollar figure she heard was not \$8,000, it was less. She stated she is a little concerned with the \$8,000 figure.

Ms. Hobson responded that Cypress and Los Alamitos both pay \$8,000. Rossmoor and Seal Beach pay a small amount but they contribute in-kind services. La Palma was given a figure of \$8,000 to participate and that includes entertainment, restrooms, fireworks and so on.

Councilmember Barnes stated that the comments indicated that many residents enjoyed La Palma's old fireworks program and asked if there is anyway that the City could put on a low level display of fireworks in conjunction with the 5K/10K Run.

Ms. Hobson responded that staff had noted the comments from residents wanting the fireworks back at Central Park but because of the construction of the houses behind Central Park that eliminated that option. She added that staff had contacted pyrotechnic companies but the low level fireworks would be more ground displays and some fireworks going up to 300 feet. In addition, staff has asked Edison to determine what their guidelines are but staff has not heard back from them.

Councilmember Blake commented that current fire regulations require that for every foot you go up you must have a foot radius.

Mr. Richard Lutz, 8182 Bellhaven Street, La Palma, addressed the Council to state that he discussed this survey with a friends in marketing who indicated that the number of responses to this survey was significant, and he urged approval for the 5K/10K run. He urged the Council to approve option No. 1 to reinstate the 5K/10K run this year.

Mr. Keith Nelson, 5311 La Luna Drive, La Palma, addressed the Council to concur with what Mr. Lutz had stated regarding the results of the survey. He stated he felt the Kiwanis Club would be willing to take on the task of the Pancake Breakfast once again. He added that he feels the public expects a response to this survey and it would therefore be appropriate to go forward and reinstate the run this year.

Mr. Larry Herman, 5122 Andrew Drive, La Palma, addressed the Council to state he felt the survey was a good idea, the Council has the results, and all that is left is to act on it.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker asked the approximate number of runner participants for the run held two years ago.

Ms. Hobson responded that there were 692 runners of which 114 were La Palma residents and there were a total of 213 volunteers, 74 were La Palma residents.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker stated that perhaps the City could start the day off with the Pancake Breakfast, hold the 5K/10K run and then follow it up with some type of event later in the afternoon or evening.

Mayor Aragona stated she feels that the sampling is adequate and the community has sent the Council a message on what they want and urged a vote for option No. 1.

Councilmember Blake commented that the survey told him that people saying they would like to have the joint fireworks project, but did not want the City to spend any money. He added that the City had tried a bar-b-que a few years ago and it was cancelled due to lack of interest. He stated he did not see block parties as a solution because residents on through streets are prohibited from holding block parties. He suggested that more volunteers be utilized and reduce the number of

paid staff working the event. He also suggested that staff consider doing away with the contract-timing device and have volunteers do the timing, which would reduce the cost of the event.

Councilmember Duke explained that her reason for supporting option No. 3 was to give staff time to prudently think this through and make sure they are going about this in the right way.

Councilmember Barnes stated she does not feel people would come out just for a pancake breakfast, it needs to be tied to the run. She suggested that perhaps the children could be included in some sort of run or walk.

Mayor Walker suggested maybe something could be done through the schools as a challenge. Mayor Pro Tem Walker made a motion to hold the Pancake Breakfast and 5K/10K Run in July 2001 and appropriate \$31,500 for this event. The motion was seconded by Mayor Aragona and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

REQUEST BY MAYOR PRO TEM WALKER TO DISCUSS JOINT EFFORTS WITH CITIES
HAVING AT&T BROADBAND

Mayor Pro Tem Walker stated he asked this to be placed to the Agenda to obtain permission to meet with surrounding cities that have AT&T Broadband to create a format to get everyone together and create an alliance. He explained that he feels this combined force would send a stronger message to AT&T Broadband when they are approached with service concerns.

Mayor Aragona suggested that the Cable TV Advisory Committee be authorized to sit down with staff and layout what needs to be done.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker made a motion to authorize the Cable TV Ad Hoc Committee to meet with staff to develop guidelines. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Blake and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES

Councilmember Blake stated that he attended the Orange County Division Resolutions Committee meeting and reported that he distributed the state platform to everyone and would like any comments by March 8th.

Councilmember Barnes stated she attended the League of Cities meeting and reception for new Councilmembers, which she enjoyed very much. She stated that she also attended a SCAG MAGLEV meeting with Mayor Aragona as well as the West Orange County Cities Association meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker stated he attended the Sanitation District and reported a couple of items were brought to their attention. One was the increase of two million dollars for natural gas to run the generators and the plants. Another issue that was discussed was the disposal of Bio-Solid Bs and the district is looking at possibly going to Bio-Solid A disposal in the near future. There will also be a meeting on March 20th to discuss CMOM because there is more information coming down the pipe.

Mayor Aragona reported that she attended the Chamber Legislative Breakfast and stressed how informative these meetings are. Mayor Aragona also reported that she attended the Neighborhood Watch Meeting where Detective Nolan gave an excellent presentation on identity theft and suggested Detective Nolan be invited to make this presentation at a Council meeting. She also stated that she attended the SCAG MAGLEV meeting and reported that former President Clinton's decision to not include the California project as one of the final two is being challenged and Secretary Monnetti will meet with SCAG on March 2nd. Mayor Aragona also reported that she attended the West Orange County Cities Association and a CMOM presentation was made at that meeting. The West Orange County Rail Project was also discussed which would impact La Palma on the PE right-of-way, however, the primary route would be Beach Boulevard/Katella.

Mayor Aragona reported that she participated in a "cub reporters" program sponsored by AT&T Broadband and stated she was very impressed by the 8th grade student that interviewed her. She added that Mr. Noorbaksh was also interviewed. She also reported that she attended a Pancake Breakfast at Kennedy and announced that the Choir Show will be held on March 8, 9, and 10 in Cook Auditorium at Anaheim High School.

Vector Control Representative Larry Herman reported that there have not been any new sightings of red imported fire ants in La Palma. They continue to retreat the sites that are already on record. He stated that the ordinance dealing the feeding of wild animals has been dropped and the district is going to create an educational program instead. He stated the information sheet on the raccoons is being revised and when it is available, he will provide copies to the City.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmember Barnes thanked the Lions Club for the excellent Flag Ceremony. She added that she read to third graders at the Pat Nixon Elementary School for President's Day. She also stated

that she attended the Neighborhood Watch Dinner and appreciates the efforts of all the volunteers.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker added his appreciation for the very fine Flag Ceremony and commented that they had a phenomenal band composed of 8th graders.

Councilmember Duke echoed the comments on Flag Day. She reported that she will be taking part in a "Read America" program on March 2nd.

Councilmember Blake shared a couple of humorous ideas on signs that could be posted in the community. He also asked staff to remove one of the City Flags from the Council Chambers and replace it with one of the two State Flags from the Conference Room.

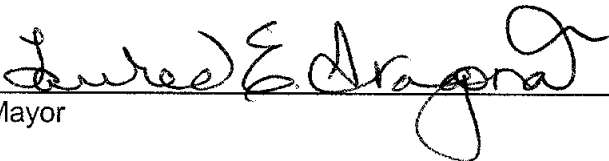
Mayor Aragona thanked the Council and staff for their participation in the Flag Day ceremonies at Walker Junior High School. She commented that it was a pleasure to see Miss La Palma in attendance at all the city events. She also stated that she has been in attendance at a number of meetings where Nancy Brewer has been present to report on the COW and CAT programs now available to La Palma's citizens.

CLOSED SESSION

The City Council recessed to a Closed Session at 9:25 p.m. pursuant to Section 54957.6 of the Government Code: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
Agency Negotiator: Len Wood, Interim City Manager
Employee Organizations: La Palma General Employees Association, Non-Represented Employees, La Palma Police Association.

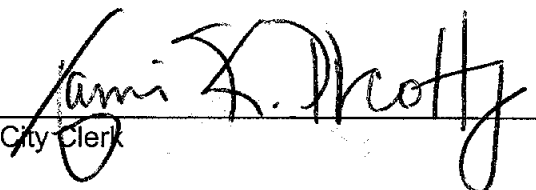
ADJOURNMENT

The City Council reconvened and adjourned at 9:45 p.m. to an Adjourned meeting on February 27, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. in the Central Park Community Center for a Budget Goal Setting Session.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk