

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

June 19, 2001

Mayor Aragona called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 19, 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

Pastor Sandra Heer of the Fountain of Living Waters Methodist Church 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
Jeff Kirkpatrick, Police Captain
Ed Ethell, Police Captain
Ismile Noorbaksh, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Tami K. Piscotty, Assistant to the City Manager
Robbeyn Bird, Director of Finance
Paul Pitts, Director of Building & Safety
Joan Hoesterey, Principal Planner
Jeff Goldfarb, Deputy City Attorney
Peggie Turnage, Executive Assistant

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Aragona, assisted by the entire Council, presented a Student Recognition Award for 2001 to Jennifer Leung, a Cerritos High School student who resides in La Palma. Jennifer responded with thanks to the City of La Palma for the monetary award and this recognition.

Chief Giampa gave brief bios of each of the following new Police Department employees: Reserve Police Officer Glenn Miyoshi, Records Clerk Pat Valentino, and Records Clerk Kristin Jondle.

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 7:15 p.m. (See separate Community Development Commission Minutes.)

RECONVENING

Mayor Aragona reconvened the meeting in regular session at 7:22 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Blake pulled Item Nos. 7 and 8.

Commissionmember Walker pulled Item No. 12.

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

APPROVED THE JUNE 5, 2001 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2001-25 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS JUNE 19, 2001

APPROVED THE STREET CLOSURES FOR THE JULY 4TH FITNESS RUN FOR FUN, 5K/10K RUN/WALK

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2001-26 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE FY 2000/01 FUNDING REQUEST FORM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION'S DIVISION OF RECYCLING FOR BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING AND LITTER CLEAN UP ACTIVITIES

RECEIVED AND FILED THE REPORT REGARDING THE RATE ADJUSTMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL SANITATION SERVICES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001

RECEIVED AND FILED THE 2001 ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

APPROVED THE AGREEMENT WITH R & W HIGHWAY INSPECTION COMPANY, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$14,400.00 FOR THE PROFESSIONAL INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE RESURFACING OF VARIOUS RESIDENTIAL STREETS, CITY PROJECT NO. ST-239

APPROVED THE AGREEMENT WITH R & W HIGHWAY INSPECTION COMPANY, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$14,400.00 FOR THE PROFESSIONAL INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE SLURRY SEALING OF VARIOUS RESIDENTIAL STREETS, CITY PROJECT NO. ST-242

APPOINTED NICK HOOPER TO THE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE FOR A TERM EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2004

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2001-27 APPROVING A RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE CITY OF LA PALMA

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

AWARD CONTRACT FOR THE RESURFACING ON VARIOUS CITY STREETS, PROJECT NO. ST-239

AWARD CONTRACT FOR RUBBERIZED SLURRY SEALING OF VARIOUS CITY STREETS, PROJECT NO. ST-242

Councilmember Blake stated he would abstain from consideration of these items due to Conflict of Interest.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker made a resolution to approve Consent Calendar Items 7 and 8. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnes and carried on the following roll call vote:

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

COUNCIL POLICY NO. 29 AND NO. 41

Mayor Pro Tem Walker stated he has concerns about the increase in the annual awards for the Senior Recognition Awards and suggested that the Council take a deeper look at this.

Councilmember Duke concurred with Mayor Pro Tem Walker.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker made a motion to send Council Policy No. 29 relating to the Annual High School Awards back to the Scholarship Ad Hoc Committee for further consideration and to

approve Council Policy No. 41 relating to Girl Scout Award recipients. 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

Chairman/Mayor Aragona reconvened the Community Development Commission in joint session with the City Council at 7:25 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2001-02 BUDGET

Interim City Manager Len Wood made a visual presentation providing an overview of the revenues and fund balances. He pointed out that the Fiscal Year 2001-02 Budget is \$13,247,000.00 with a \$6.9 million General Fund, all other operations \$4.5 million, and Capital Improvements of \$1.7 million. He also presented eleven policy issues identified by staff:

- 1 Balanced General Fund Budget
- 2 Requests were Cut to Bring the General Fund into Balance
- 3 General Fund Revenues Remain Tenuous
- 4 Recurring Revenues must meet or exceed the Recurring Expenditures
- 5 The General Fund Reserve is not adequate
- 6 La Palma Must Begin Dealing with its Long Term Financial Issues
- 7 On-going Money Must be Found for the Community Center Operations and Maintenance
- 8 Money Must be Found to Continue the Slurry Seal Program
- 9 Money Must be Found for the Maintenance of CIP
- 10 Must become very discriminating about the Grants that are pursued
- 11 Community Development money is needed for Community Redevelopment Projects

Mr. Wood stressed that a balanced budget should be adopted and explained a balanced budget is one where revenues exceed expenditures. He then called on each Department Head to present a summary of their department budget.

Administration Department

Assistant to the City Manager Tami Piscotty explained that the Administration Department consists of three Divisions: Administration, Finance, and Planning. She stated that the Administration budget is the same as last year, with some minor modifications. A Purchase Order System is being requested which is a module of the existing Fund Balance Accounting software and it will provide oversight of all purchases made by City staff and will provide for review of expenditures by the Finance Department to make sure that they are within budgetary control. A wage increase for the Planning Intern is also being requested because a preliminary review of this

position has shown that it is not competitive and with the city's expansion into GIS activities this position has become critical not only to the Planning Department, but to Building and Public Works as well.

Police Department

Chief Giampa stated that there are no new programs within the Police Department budget. He pointed out that several of the departments positions are funded through Grants and do not come from the General Fund. He stated there are three items which were not in the prior year's budget and they are: the replacement of police service dog, replacement of five police vehicles, and the POST Command College. He explained that the current police service dog is 8-1/2 years old and he is scheduled to be retired from service next month. He also explained that the department has purchased only three replacement vehicles over the past four years and age, reliability and high mileage necessitate the replacement of five vehicles this year. Lastly, he explained that the POST Command College is an eighteen-month academic program primarily for management level employees focusing on leadership development. He added that this program is fully funded and reimbursed by POST.

Recreation and Community Services Department

Director of Recreation and Community Services Jan Hobson stated that this department is made up of five program areas: Administration, Youth and Family Services, Neighborhood and Community Services, Health and Wellness, and Facility Operations. She explained that there are two items that are above the base. The first is the July 4th event and it is the department's goal is to have a first class sanctioned run and they also want to attract more La Palma residents so a new Family Fun One component was added. A state of the art timing system was also added which is a chip that is attached to the runners shoe and that is used to provide immediate timing when they come through the finish chutes and on-line registration is now available. The second major area of increase is in the part time salaries which is due to the minimum wage adjustments that the city was required to implement due to federal law.

Public Works Department

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ismile Noorbaksh stated that his department is responsible for all of the city's Capital Improvement Programs. He explained that each year as some of the projects are carried forward it is found that the total dollar value keeps on increasing. However, as the infrastructure is improved within the community it is necessary to be aware that the costs keep increasing to maintain this infrastructure. He pointed out, as an example, that as the Moody Street median improvement is completed, the department will have to perpetuate budget funds for maintenance of that median. He also pointed out that the costs for traffic signal electricity is consistently increasing due to raising energy costs. He added that they have been working with the Edison Company to hopefully convert some of the traffic signal heads from incandescent to LED's, which should save some money in the energy costs. He identified new projects as: a master plan for Sewer Services and an additional \$20,000.00 for raising the water valves whenever slurry seal projects are done. Mr. Ismile stated that the City has grant funds from OCTA in the amount of \$53,900.00 to rehabilitate Orangethorpe Avenue from Moody Street east

to the Coyote Creek Channel. This is a 50% grant reimbursement and \$54,000.00 is being proposed from the Capital Outlay Reserve Fund to complete this rehabilitation. This has been discussed with Cerritos and they willing to participate with the City to complete the full rehabilitation of Orangethorpe Avenue in this area. In addition, a master plan for the Sewer Fund is also being proposed to help identify what the City has and what the needs might be in the years to come. This will also assist the city in complying with the CMOM requirements. Mr. Noorbaksh stated that there is a total of \$3.574 million for the purpose of completing the Community Activities Center and this funding comes from several sources.

Mr. Wood stated it his recommendation that the revenues be looked at quarterly. He pointed out several areas where the city is extremely vulnerable and stressed that the city is in a very tenuous position. He recommended that the City Council set a target of twelve months operating expenditures for the General Fund reserve. He also recommended that a financial plan be developed which identifies long term operating costs and revenues. Mr. Wood stated he is recommending that the City complete the design of the proposed Community Center Activities Center and then put the project on hold until it can be determined that the City can afford to operate the Center.

Commissionmember/Councilmember Blake asked if there is a time limit on the State funds.

Chairman/Mayor Aragona responded that Grant has a five-year limit.

Mr. Wood stated he had worked in another city that built a Senior Center and was able to operate the Center through an endowment.

Chairman/Mayor Aragona asked if the City would run the risk of increased labor and material costs by putting the project on hold. Mr. Wood responded affirmatively and added that the Council might find that the City just doesn't have the funds to continue with this project.

Mr. Wood stated that the City has a shortfall between the annual revenues and the operation of the slurry seal program of approximately \$135,000.00 if the City continues the five-year slurry seal program.

Chairman/Mayor Aragona stated there is one more area of the City to be slurry sealed after the projects that were approved at this meeting and clarified that consideration of a seven-year slurry seal program would not start until after all the areas have been completed. Mr. Wood responded affirmatively.

Commissionmember/Councilmember Duke stated she feels it would be most helpful if a summary page of revenues, personnel and overall costs could be provided for each Department's overall budget.

Chairman/Mayor Aragona asked that staff also provide the Council a status report on the Capital Improvement Projects that were approved last year.

Commissionmember/Councilmember Barnes made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2001-28 authorizing the continuation of expenditures and appropriations beginning July 1, 2001 and until the Fiscal Year 2001/2002 budget is adopted. The motion was seconded by Commissionmember/Councilmember Duke and carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Commissionmember/Councilmember Blake made a motion to adopt Resolution No. CDC 2001-17 authorizing the continuation of expenditures and appropriations beginning July 1, 2001 and until the Fiscal Year 2001/2002 budget is adopted. The motion was seconded by Commissionmember/Councilmember Duke and carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Commissionmember/Councilmember Duke made a motion to continue the public hearing to July 3, 2001. The motion was seconded by Chairman/Mayor Pro Tem Walker and carried on the following roll call vote:

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

REGULAR ITEMS

INSTALLATION OF A MEDIAN ISLAND ON MOODY STREET, CITY PROJECT NO. ST-236

Councilmember Barnes stated she would abstain from consideration of this item due to a conflict of interest.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ismile Noorbaksh stated that on May 15, 2001 the City Council reviewed the Conceptual Plan, Exhibits "A" and "B" for the installation of a median island on Moody Street 250' north of La Palma to Houston Avenue and, after deliberation, returned the Conceptual Plan to the Traffic Safety Committee for further consideration and requested an additional detailed traffic count of the vehicles entering and exiting Berton Circle and the shopping center alley on the west side of Moody Street, south of Berton Circle.

On May 30 and 31, 2001 a 12-hour manual traffic count was conducted of the vehicles entering and exiting the alley, along with the traffic entering and exiting Berton Circle. The results of that survey indicate the following:

- Hourly, for every 10 vehicles that turn left out of the alley, 1 vehicle turns left into Berton Circle.
- A minute-by-minute review of the vehicles turning left out of the alley and those vehicles turning left into Berton Circle revealed only two probable conflicts between the aforementioned turning vehicles, one at 12:49 p.m. and the other at 7:09 p.m.
- The average wait to turn left out of the alley is 30 seconds or less. The average wait to turn left into Berton Circle is 18 seconds. (The signal cycle on Moody Street and La Palma Avenue is 90 seconds during peak hours. The signal cycle during off peak hours is 70 seconds.)

Mr. Noorbaksh stated that residents and businesses within the 300-foot radius of the alley were notified of the Public Discussion that was held on June 12, 2001. At the meeting, representatives from Drug Emporium and Hannam Market spoke in favor of the Traffic Safety Committee's recommendation of approval of Exhibit "A". They informed the Traffic Safety Committee that the 60' median opening was wide enough to allow their delivery trucks to make turns into and out of the alley approach. However, they expressed concerns that if the median was installed prohibiting the left turn movement out of the alley their trucks may jump the curb while making a right turn into or out of the alley due to the narrow width of the alley approach. It is, therefore, the Traffic Safety Committee's recommendation that the City Council approve the Conceptual Plan, Exhibit "A".

Councilmember Blake stated that if Median A goes in it would be literally impossible for a truck to enter that alley. He added that making a right hand turn probably would not be possible as well.

Mr. Noorbaksh responded that with proposal A the median would end southerly of the alley. The intention is to prohibit any vehicle from making a left hand turn into the alley. He added that trucks should be able to make a right hand turn into the alley but the intent is to encourage trucks to enter off of La Palma Avenue.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker asked if a no left turn sign would be posted at the nose of the median. Mr. Noorbaksh responded that can be done if need be.

Councilmember Blake asked why Median B was not being recommended.

Mr. Noorbaksh responded that the Traffic Safety Committee was concerned that if the median were moved farther back then vehicles would be making left turns into the alley from the median and they wanted to discourage that.

Traffic Safety Committee Member Richard Lutz, 8182 Bellhaven, addressed the Council to state that when they studied this they looked at not only the things that were tabulated but also the u-turns, they went to site visitations, they looked at the trucks and they heard from the businesses in

the center. He stated that he feels they have done as much research on this item as possible and he encouraged the Council to approve their recommendation.

Ms. Lisa Lipe, 4972 Berton Circle, La Palma, addressed the Council to ask on what days of the week was the survey taken. She indicated that the figures would probably be different if taken over a weekend. She added she has never witnessed a problem with a vehicle trying to turn left into the alley from Moody Street. She stated her concern is more with the outbound traffic from the alley because it doesn't seem safe to make a left turn onto Moody Street at all.

Mr. Sean Cronkite, Drug Emporium, 4951 La Palma Avenue, La Palma, addressed the Council to express his company's concern that the center's customers would be greatly inconvenienced if left turns were not permitted out of the alley. He supported Plan A and commented he felt it was a safer situation for the public in general.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker made a motion to approve the Conceptual Plan, Exhibit "A: for the Installation of a Median Island on Moody Street, 250' North of La Palma Avenue to Houston Avenue, City Project No. ST-236. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Duke and carried on the following roll call vote:

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

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES/COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmember Barnes reported that she attended the Orange County Division League of Cities meeting in Tustin. She stated she also attended the Miller School DARE Graduation, the Orange County Task Force with the League of Cities, and the West Orange County Legislative Committee Meeting. She reported that at the Legislative Committee meeting the committee approved the drafting of letters in opposition to three Senate bills. These bills are SB 11 (Confidentiality statements), SB 40 (Unemployment Insurance Benefit Increases), and SB 71 (Workers Compensation). In addition, she thanked Ms. Piscotty on following up on the Girl Scout Award for her. She reported on the Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament and stated that it was very successful. She also thanked the Recreation Department for their assistance with the family outing she held at the park.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker stated he attended the Sanitation District meeting and reported that the budget was presented at that meeting and the increases due to energy costs are alarming. He also reported that he attended a Ground Water Replenishment System Meeting and reported they are beginning to entertain bids from construction companies, architectural companies, and electrical companies and they are looking at having the project finished in three to five years.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker also reported that he attended the Eagle Scout Award for a former resident.

Mayor Aragona reported that there is a community member who is retiring from the Centralia School Board and there will be a program for her on Wednesday at 4:30 at Miller School. She reported that she attended the DARE program at Miller and Luther Schools and commented that the programs were very heartwarming. She commended Officer Flores for her efforts with the DARE program. Mayor Aragona reported that the third graders from Luther School visited the Civic Center and shared some of the comments that the students made in their thank you letters. She also mentioned the Employee Bingo Night and commended the employees that put it all together. She also reported on the Kennedy Baccalaureate ceremony and stated all the speakers were outstanding. She added that the scholarship recipients and the Baccalaureate speakers, the Valedictorian are all former members of the YATC. Mayor Aragona reported that at the OCTA Task Force it was reported that Assemblyman Harman's Bill, AB 476, to legislate increasing local representation on the OCTA Board failed. However the League of Cities is looking at finding another approach, perhaps attaching it to another bill. She reviewed the committee's proposed changes that went before the League Meeting and all thirty-four cities in the League approved it in concept. Mayor Aragona also reported on the Buena Park High School Awards program and stated she was very impressed. She added that all the students were there in caps and gowns. Mayor Aragona announced that State Senator Ross Johnson's representative here in the District, Bruce Prucilly, is retiring. She also reported that at the Orange County League meeting there was a speaker from Chapman College on the Changing Face of Orange County that was very interesting. She added that she will be serving on the Emergency Medical Services Committee and explained that this committee will deal with health care issues. She also reported that the Council presented the Principal of Luther School, Troy Hunt, a certificate thanking him for his support of our community. She added that he will be Moving to Landell School. She concluded by stating the Chamber Golf Tournament was great.

Councilmember Blake reported that he continues to receive an increasing number of complaints about the vacant property at Valley View Street and La Palma Avenue.

Principal Planner Joan Hoesterey responded that the Code Enforcement Officer has sent repeated letters to the property owner but they are having a problem getting any response.

Councilmember Blake reported that in the green belt between Moody Street and Laurelwood all the lights were out and it was completely dark. He requested Mr. Noorbaksh to check them to determine the problem.

Councilmember Duke reported on the Buena Park High School Senior Awards Program and announced that the winner of La Palma's Student Recognition Award is Isabelle Khuu. Councilmember Duke also stated that she attended the SCAG Community Economic and Human Development Committee Meeting and reported that a great deal of time was spent reviewing assembly and senate bills. She added that one of the most prominent is the Dunn bill, Senate Bill 910, which the League and SCAG are actively developing a strategy to defeat this bill. She also commented that the 2000 Census figures are lower than anticipated which could put the RHENA figures out of compliance. She added that SCAG is going forward with their suit against HCD.

Mayor Aragona announced that Catherine Standiford has been selected as the new City Manager for La Palma. She reported that Ms. Standiford is currently the Deputy City Manager of the City of Garden Grove and announced that there will be a reception for her on Monday, August 6th, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the California JPIA.

Councilmember Duke commented that there is a new face sitting next to the City Manager.

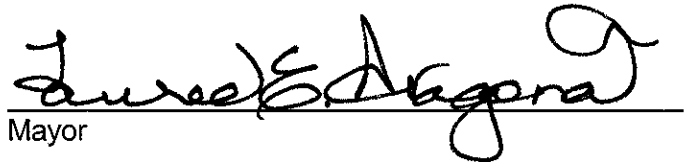
CITY MANAGER REMARKS

Interim City Manager Len Wood introduced Jeff Goldfarb who is with Rutan and Tucker.

Mr. Goldfarb stated it is a pleasure to be with the City Council this evening. He explained that City Attorney Joel Kuperberg has the status of a potential position as City Attorney of another City but this is uncertain at this time and he would not say any more at this point in time.

ADJOURNMENT

The City Council adjourned at 9:00 p.m. to a Closed Session on Wednesday, June 20, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. for Labor Negotiations.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Deputy City Clerk