

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

August 7, 2001

Mayor Aragona called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, August 7, 2001, in the Council Chambers of La Palma City Hall, 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

INVOCATION

Mayor Aragona gave the Invocation.

ROLL CALL:

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

Councilmembers absent: Paul F. Walker

City Officials present: Catherine Standiford, City Manager
Vince Giampa, Chief of Police
Ismile Noorbaksh, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Tami K. Piscotty, Assistant to the City Manager
Robbeyn Bird, Director of Finance
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 introduced Executive Director Mallory Vega and Program Director Sherry Diamond of Acacia Day Care Services.

Executive Director Mallory Vega, 2989 North Wood Street, Orange, addressed the Council to state that Acacia Day Services is pursuing the establishment of a satellite site to serve the communities of Cypress, La Palma and Los Alamitos. She explained that Acacia started providing Adult Day Care programs in 1979 and in 1993 Adult Day Health Care programs were added. She explained that these services help the frail, elderly, and disabled in the community and the health care givers as well. The scope of services includes activities, nursing supervision, therapy, doctor supervision of all of the activities, transportation to and from the center, and personal care services. Ms. Vega added that since they started in 1979 they have served over 2100 people and they are currently adding 8600 square feet to their current facility, which will allow them to serve 120 people at the Garden Grove site.

Program Director Sherry Diamond, 3816 East Wilton Street, Long Beach, addressed the Council to state that Acacia Northwest promises to be an alternative to nursing homes providing an intermediary place where older adults may enjoy their independence while remaining in the community because they require just a little support in their activities of daily living. The site is to be located on Ball Road between Walker and Moody Streets in Cypress. She reported that a site has been identified in the City of Cypress which is central to the communities they are looking to serve. The Cypress location is on Ball Road between Walker and Moody Streets. The building they are looking at is 2200 square feet and they hope to expand that facility to 4500 square feet, which would allow them to serve 60 participants a day. Ms. Diamond stated that they will need approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000 to complete the construction and operate the facility through the first year and added that they are about half way there, raising just under \$200,000 to date. She asked the Council for assistance in referring individuals and organizations to them who might be willing to provide financial support for their project.

Mayor Aragona asked the hours of operation.

Ms. Diamond responded the hours of the Garden Grove facility are Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. She added they are currently looking at extending those hours until 6:00 p.m. These hours will be replicated at the Northwest Site.

Councilmember Blake asked if the \$400,000 to \$500,000 is to operate the 2200 square foot building, or for the fully expanded 4500 square foot building.

Ms. Diamond responded those funds are for the full expansion of the building.

Ms. Vega added that also includes start up funding.

Councilmember Blake asked what the on-going costs would be.

Ms. Vega responded operating costs would probably be between \$500,000 to \$750,000 because they are licensed by the State of California and they have specific guidelines about how many staff members must be on site.

Mayor Aragona asked if there is a fee for the service.

Ms. Vega responded that in the Adult Day Health Care program and the Adult Day Care program SCAN would pay for that, less the co pay. If the person is on MediCal, MediCal will pay for Adult Day Health Care services if it is determined there is a medical need for that person. Currently on the Adult Day Health Care program it costs approximately \$74.00 per person per day to operate. If a person is not on MediCal or SCAN they are charged on a sliding fee scale based on their ability to pay. In the Adult Day Care Program the cost is \$54.00 per person per day. In Garden Grove they have Federal Funds coming in which allow them to offer these services on a donation basis. At this point in time there aren't any federal funds for the Northwest site but the services will be provided on a sliding fee scale.

Councilmember Duke asked if there are any funds available under the Older Americans Act to provide funding for these services.

Ms. Vega responded negatively.

Councilmember Duke asked if they are licensed by the State under Title 5. Ms. Vega responded they are licensed under Title 22.

Councilmember Duke stated she had the pleasure to attend the ground breaking a year ago and it was wonderful to see the support they have in the Garden Grove community as well as surrounding communities.

Councilmember Barnes asked when it is anticipated this facility will open.

Ms. Vega responded they hope to open at the beginning of 2002.

Councilmember Duke announced there would be a fund raising activity on December 1st.

Ms. Vega added that Councilmember Duke is going to be a celebrity waiter for the "Home for the Holidays" event at the Richard Nixon Library.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Lions Club President Steve Di Leo, 5411 Athens Circle, addressed the Council to request that temporary signs for the local Service Clubs be installed pending the installation of the permanent monument sign.

Councilmember Duke suggested the service club emblems could be affixed to the top of the current marquis as a temporary measure.

Mayor Aragona referred the item to staff.

Vector Control Representative Larry Herman addressed the Council to share a recent frightening situation relating to a wild animal attack and suggested that the Council invite a representative from Animal Control to make a presentation at a future meeting.

Mayor Aragona referred this item to staff.

RECESS

Mayor Aragona recessed the City Council to convene as the Community Development Commission at 7:27 p.m. (See separate Community Development Commission Minutes.)

RECONVENING

Mayor Aragona reconvened the meeting in regular session at 7:29 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Duke pulled Item No. 4.

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

APPROVED THE JULY 17, 2001 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2001-37 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS AUGUST 7, 2001

DESIGNATED COUNCILMEMBER BARNES AS THE ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE AT THE LEAGUE'S ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

ACCEPTED THE WORK AND AUTHORIZED THE FILING OF NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR THE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF P.C.C. CURB & GUTTER AND SIDEWALK ON VARIOUS CITY STREETS, CITY PROJECT NO. ST-240

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2001-38 PLEDGING ENERGY CONSERVATION

AWARDED A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,100.00 TO MACADEE ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION FOR THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS ON WALKER STREET AND LA PALMA AVENUE, AND MOODY STREET AND LA PALMA AVENUE, CITY PROJECT NO. ST-245

The motion as seconded by Councilmember Duke and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Aragona, Barnes, Blake*, Duke,
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Walker
ABSTAIN:	*Blake (On Minutes Only)

EL RANCHO VERDE PARK EXTENSION, CITY PROJECT NO. 99-PRK-02

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ismile Noorbaksh stated he has been communicating with Edison staff regarding the status of the plans that were submitted to them. He added that while he has not received the approved plans, the Edison staff has advised him that they are going to make it happen.

Councilmember Duke asked if any of the proposed trees might cause allergies for the adjacent residents.

Mr. Noorbaksh responded he would research this with the landscape architect.

Councilmember Blake made a motion to approve the Plans & Specifications and authorize the Director of Public Works to solicit competitive bids for El Rancho Verde Park Extension, City Project No. 99-PRK-02. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Duke and carried on the following roll call vote:

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

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES/COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmember Duke stated that at the Southern California Association of Governments meeting, it was reported that in Chapter 11 of the North American Free Trade Agreement there is a potential for a real affect on local agreement with respect to their purchasing procedures. She suggested that the City Attorney research this item to see if there is any impact on La Palma. She also reported on the current status of the Dunn bill and stated there may be another bill coming out that would counteract the Dunn bill. She announced several meetings coming up and SCAG is promoting staff attendance at these meetings. She stated that at the Regional Council Steven Neeson, Director of the State Office of Planning and Research spoke and one of the interesting facts he reported is that California adds one person per minute exceeding all other states. He also spoke on the energy issues and how it is vitally important for us to work with the contiguous states we share the grids with. She added that there is going to be a Power Walk and a big media blitz on conservation. She also reported that SCAG has just completed and voted in a classification and salary study.

Councilmember Duke reported that the Concerts in the Park are going well and they have been averaging about 500 a night and to date they have received \$914 in donations.

Councilmember Blake stated that at the Orange County Fire Authority Executive Board meeting they approved the extension of the contract with EDF Associates for fuel tank removal management. They also approved the solicitation of bids to remove the final underground fuel tanks at seven fire stations. At the General Board Meeting the Irvine Company has granted an additional 3.749 acre parcel of property at no cost adjacent to the 16 acre Regional Fire and Training Facility which will be used for parking, primarily in the training area. The Board also accepted an irrevocable offer of dedication of land in the Madera Ranch Housing Project for Fire Station No. 58. They also approved the purchase of land for construction of a new fire station, No. 29, in Dana Point. The final financing plan for the Regional Fire Authority was also approved and the \$25 million bond issue will be going out some time within the next few weeks. It is hoped that groundbreaking will be in October with actual construction to start in November and a move in date of late 2003, early 2004. A Public Information and Community Outreach Consultant contract was also approved to create a public awareness and education program. They also adopted the five-year Orange County Fire Authority Strategic Plan and the first phase works on the Volunteer Program. Lastly, they had elections and the new Chair will be Susan Ritschel, the current Mayor of San Clemente and Vice Chair is Chris Lowe who is a Councilmember from Placentia.

Councilmember Blake commented he has been receiving several calls from residents on Marview regarding the skunk problem. He asked when the Emergency Phones would be operational.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ismile Noorbaksh responded there is a problem with the vendor's batteries; the solar was not charging the batteries. New batteries were received today and hopefully if all goes well the first one will be tested on Thursday and subsequently the other two will be tested and then they will be operational.

Councilmember Blake stated that on Westra Lane there are several locations with substantial cracks that were not patched as part of the current slurry seal work. He asked staff to check these locations.

Mr. Noorbaksh responded that as part of the slurry program the contractor will seal all of the cracks but staff will check the areas Councilmember Blake is concerned about.

Councilmember Blake announced that he has been appointed to the League of California Cities 2001 General Resolutions Committee.

Mayor Aragona commented that the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority holds its annual meeting in July and last year the City of La Palma was honored when it received a \$20,000 Grant from the CJPIA for the call box program. This year La Palma was featured on the Agenda for the installation of the Call Boxes. She also reported that while workers compensation claims are down overall in the JPIA in number, the cost of the claims has skyrocketed over 40%. She added that most of that is personal injury claims and suggested everyone should be aware of and be careful with common things like lifting and sitting in their chairs at computers.

Mayor Aragona reported that in July she attended a program in Monterey and was honored to serve as a facilitator for a class on Council Ethics and Improving Relations amongst other municipalities in Sacramento and how to improve the Council and Mayor's Forum. She also reported that she attended a session on Redevelopment and stated she has a publication available for anyone interested on Policy Making in Politics. Mayor Aragona further reported that in August she attended an Ethics Committee at La Palma Hospital and stated that the hospital is working with the Chamber on a Health Fair and in addition they are working on a symposium to pull together community leaders from all the diversities; age, gender, and ethnicity as well as backgrounds to discuss health care issues and how they impact the quality of life in our community. In addition, Mayor Aragona reported that she attended the SCAG meeting and stated that the Transportation and Communications Committee reported that the State has come up with \$1.3 million for MAGLEV funding but they will need federal dollars and local dollars to go forward with the program. They also deferred the Orange Line and it will be addressed at the West Orange Counties Cities Association on August 16th. They also recommended approval of the Regional Transportation Improvement Plan 2001 and a lot of it deals with airport.

Mayor Aragona reported that the Red Ribbon Week Committee met and she would like to have this item agendized for the September 4th meeting.

Mayor Aragona announced that on August 20th the Seniors Club will have a speaker and they are asking staff, Council, and community members to join them at 12 Noon for this event.

Councilmember Barnes reported that she attended the Transportation and Communications Committee meeting with Mayor Aragona, the League of Cities Mayor's and Councilmembers Executive Forum, and briefings on energy issues. At another conference she attended they were proposing an amendment to the constitution to protect local revenues be placed on the March ballot and ABC Action for Better Cities, is requesting that cities adopt a resolution establishing a voluntary contribution check off program for elected officials. She also reported that in the General Session draft bylaws for the League's Mayor's and Councilmembers Department were distributed and they would like input. Councilmember Barnes reported that she attended a Workshop on the Governance Process which included how Council can set policies which allow staff to perform at their best yet still be accountable and it also addressed the importance of engaging the public in the deliberative and decision making process. The second Workshop she attended dealt with Effective Media Relations.

Councilmember Barnes announced a Mixer with Cypress, Los Alamitos and La Palma on Thursday, August 16th at the Los Alamitos Air Base at 5:00 p.m. and Pacific Bell is providing the food. She referred to SB 975 that regards Prevailing Wage Advances to Assembly for public works project works costs expected to rise sharply which would significantly increase the costs of various projects undertaken by all public agencies and stretch already scare infrastructure dollars even thinner and stated that the League is urging cities to send opposition letters to their assembly members and senators with a copy to the author Senator Alacon and the League.

Mayor Aragona suggested this information be included in the Friday report and asked Council to individually let the City Manager know their feelings.

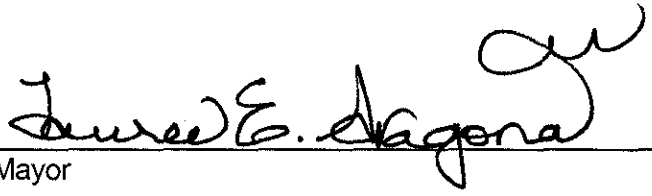
Mayor Aragona announced that the staff is putting together a Family Picnic on August 16th starting at 6:00 p.m. at Central Park and encouraged everyone to come.

CITY MANAGER REMARKS

City Manager Catherine Standiford requested the Council to provide her with a list of topics that they would like to see scheduled for a Study Session. She added that the City Council had directed that the City Manager bring a report to them at the second meeting in September advising of the impact of the utility user tax and some recommendations related to that and reported that she is on target to do that. She also thanked the City Council, staff and the community for the warm welcome.

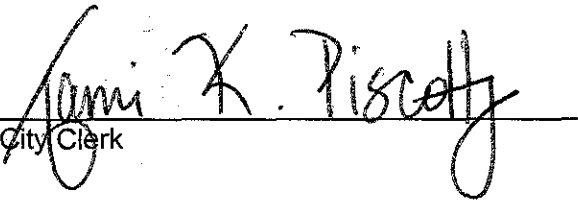
ADJOURNMENT

The City Council adjourned at 8:06 p.m. to an adjourned Meeting on August 20th at 6:00 p.m. at the La Palma Community Center to conduct a Study Session on the Design of the Community Activities Center.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk