

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL AND
THE LA PALMA TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

November 10, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Waldman called the Special Joint Meeting of the City Council and Traffic Safety Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Royal Palm Room of La Palma Community Center at 7821 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

ROLL CALL: Councilmembers and Traffic Safety Committee Members

Councilmembers present: Councilmember Charoen, Councilmember Herman, Councilmember Rodriguez, Mayor Pro Tem Shanahan, and Mayor Waldman

Committee Members present: Committee Member Alvis, Committee Member Blake, Committee Member Goya, Committee Member Lutz, and Chairperson Johnson.

City Officials present: Dominic Lazzaretto, City Manager
John Di Mario, Community Development Director
Ed Ethell, Chief of Police
Jan Hobson, Recreation and Community Services Director
Jeff Moneda, Public Works Director/City Engineer
Laurie Murray, Administrative Services Manager/ City Clerk

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

No members of the public wished to speak.

RECESS THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE AT 7:03 P.M.

REGULAR ITEMS

Mayor Pro Tem Shanahan recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest with Agenda Item No. 1.

1. **Councilmember Request: Resolution Opposing the Closure of Steve Luther Elementary School**

Recommendation that the City Council discuss adopting a Resolution opposing the closure of Steve Luther Elementary School.

Mayor Waldman introduced and gave a brief summary of the proposed Resolution.

Public Input:

Brian Nakamura, 8062 Cheshire Circle, addressed the City Council regarding his support of adopting a Resolution opposing the closure of Steve Luther Elementary School.

Chris Olsen, 4602 Sharon Drive, addressed the City Council regarding his support of adopting a Resolution opposing the closure of Steve Luther Elementary School.

Richard Lutz, 8182 Bellhaven Street, and prior Anaheim Union High School Board member, addressed the City Council regarding the proposed Resolution and suggested certain sections be reworded. He commented that it is difficult for the Cypress School District (CSD) Board Members to make a decision to close a school; and commended the community on its involvement and grass roots approach.

Kenneth Blake, 4801 Westra Lane, addressed the City Council regarding the proposed Resolution, suggested certain sections be reworded; and commended the community on its involvement and grass roots approach.

John Alvis, 7902 Birchwood Circle, addressed the City Council commenting that La Palma students are serviced by two CSD schools, King Elementary School and Steve Luther Elementary School. He commended the community on its involvement and grass roots approach.

Council Comments and Questions:

Councilmember Charoen made a motion to approve the proposed Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herman.

Discussion ensued regarding the City Council's opposition to the closing of Steve Luther Elementary School; that residents of La Palma should have the option of attending a school in La Palma; that the closure of this school would lead to disruption for the students; that students would have to be bussed outside of the City if Steve Luther Elementary School closes; and the importance of keeping both King Elementary School and Steve Luther Elementary School open so those students stay in the Anaheim Union High School District together.

Public Input:

Mike Pererra, 4941 Berton Circle, addressed the City Council regarding his opposition to the proposed closure of Steve Luther Elementary School and his support for the Resolution.

Chris Olsen, 4602 Sharon Drive, addressed the City Council regarding keeping La Palma students in the City of La Palma.

Further discussion ensued regarding filing an appeal with the CSD if Steve Luther Elementary School closes; the disruption to students if they were relocated to another school; that only the students from King Elementary School and Steve Luther Elementary School go on to attend Walker Junior High School; the City Council's support for keeping La Palma students in schools located within the City; and the City Council's support of the proposed Resolution with the following recommended changes:

Paragraph 3: Replace "serving the residents" with "located in the City".

Paragraph 4: The paragraph should read, "Whereas, it is in the best interests of the community for La Palma students to attend neighborhood schools in the City of La Palma.

Paragraph 5: The paragraph should read, "Whereas, Steve Luther Elementary School, Walker Junior High School, and John F. Kennedy High School are located in the City of La Palma; and Cypress elementary school children should learn together from Kindergarten through twelfth grade in one neighborhood, La Palma."

Paragraph 6: The first sentence should read, "Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the City of La Palma opposes the closure of Steve Luther Elementary School and does hereby find that leaving the City of La Palma without a Cypress school located in the City would be detrimental to the students, the families, and the community as a whole."

Councilmember Charoen and Councilmember Herman, as makers of the motion and the second, respectively, accepted the proposed amendments to the Resolution.

The motion carried on the following vote:

AYES: Charoen, Herman, Rodriguez, and Waldman.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Shanahan

Mayor Waldman called for a short recess at 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Waldman reconvened the City Council and the Traffic Safety Committee at 8:05 p.m. with all members present.

2. **Traffic Calming Study Session**

Recommendation that the City Council and the Traffic Safety Committee conduct an open discussion of traffic calming issues and provide direction on the establishment of a Neighborhood Traffic Management Program.

Police Chief Ethell gave a Staff Report on Project Safe Streets.

Public Works Director Moneda gave a Staff Report on possible engineering solutions for traffic calming and a traffic calming program.

Councilmember Herman inquired as to the appropriate speed of vehicles once a speed hump is installed.

Public Works Director Moneda responded that that appropriate speed would be about fifteen miles per hour.

Public Works Director Moneda continued with the Staff Report.

Councilmember Rodriguez inquired as to whether or not parking would be restricted if chicanes were installed.

Public Works Director Moneda responded that parking would become restricted as an outcome of installing a chicane.

Public Works Director Moneda continued with the Staff Report.

Discussion ensued regarding the safety improvement statistics from each of the discussed street enhancements; the uncertainty if enhancements would create safer streets; if improvements would cause confusion for pedestrians and cyclists; that some drivers begin speeding again once they are beyond traffic calming measures; and developing a Neighborhood Traffic Management Program.

Public Works Director Moneda continued with the Staff Report.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to install some traffic calming devices on a temporary basis to evaluate what would work for La Palma streets; the criteria for conducting a traffic safety study; the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program being an evolving process; whether problem spots in La Palma are being tracked; the procedure for getting the neighborhood involved and the length of time to get a project completed; the process being similar to the assessment zone process; the process that other communities use to select study areas; residents liking different improvements within the City than what was done on their street; how to properly define what the problems and solutions are along neighborhood streets; the levels of urgency for a traffic safety study being different dependent upon its location within the City; the proposed eligibility criteria and a three phase program going before the Traffic Safety Committee prior to being heard by the City Council; the lack of residential support for traffic circles, pop-outs, chicanes, and concrete chokers; speed humps being easier to install and more cost effective than installing traffic circles; allowing Staff and the Traffic Safety Committee the flexibility to make suggestions to the City Council.

By consensus, the City Council directed Staff to proceed with the creation of a Neighborhood Traffic Management Program.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Waldman adjourned the Joint Special Meeting at 9:55 p.m. to the City Council's Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on November 17, 2009, and adjourned the Traffic Safety Committee to its Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on January 25, 2010.

/s/

Mark I. Waldman, Mayor

Attest:

/s/

Laurie A. Murray, City Clerk