

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

October 4, 2005

Mayor Blake called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2005, 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

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:

City Officials present: Catherine Standiford, City Manager
Ed Ethell, Chief of Police
Jan Hobson, Director of Recreation & Community Services
Dominic Lazzaretto, Director of Community Development
Ismile Noorbaksh, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Michael Houston, City Attorney

PRESENTATIONS

Assemblyman Tom Harman gave an update on the actions of the legislature and the various measures that will be on the November special election ballot.

RECESS

Mayor Blake recessed the City Council to convene as the Community Development Commission at 7:40 p.m. (See separate Community Development Commission Minutes.)

RECONVENING

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

Mayor Blake stated that Items 2 and 3 have been requested to be pulled from the Consent Calendar.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2005-42 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS FOR OCTOBER 4, 2005

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

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Herman, Rodriguez, Waldman

NOES: None

2. **Design Services for Rehabilitation of Orangethorpe Avenue**

City Manager Standiford requested this item to be pulled from the Consent Calendar and asked the Council for additional time so staff can get more proposals for comparison staff will bring this item back to the Council for approval at a later time.

3. **Architectural Services for City Hall Needs Assessment**

Councilmember Rodriguez pulled this item from the Consent Calendar for clarification on the bids. He stated that between the two highest bids, the second highest bid includes a seismic analysis he wondered if any structural or soil analysis was being included in the proposed bid from A.J. Lumsden & Associates.

Public Works Director, Ismile Noorbaksh responded that various analyses will be conducted as part of the site evaluation. It will not be a "report" but there will be notes in reference to the site.

Councilmember Rodriguez stated that the other bids referenced the analysis to be conducted better than the one recommended.

City Manager Standiford stated that a seismic analysis of the building was already conducted a few years ago. Part of the scope of work for the contractor is to evaluate that prior analysis to see if a newer one needs to be conducted.

Public Works Director, Ismile Noorbaksh concurred, stating that the analysis was conducted nine or ten years ago.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman asked what the time table will be if the contract is approved.

Public Works Director, Ismile Noorbaksh stated that hopefully the assessment will be completed within the next six months.

Councilmember Rodriguez made a motion to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an Agreement in an amount not-to-exceed \$28,000.00 with A.J. LUMSDEN & ASSOCIATES for the Development of a City Hall Needs Assessment and Space Analysis for Future Expansion & Financing, City Project No. 05-BLDG-02. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Herman and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Herman, Rodriguez, Waldman

NOES: None

REGULAR ITEMS

4. **Ordinance to Reduce Consent Requirements for Block Parties**

City Manager Standiford stated that this Ordinance was introduced two weeks ago. This Ordinance reduces the signature requirement for the purposes of a block party in a cul-de-sac from 100% to 90% of the homeowners, and is back for adoption by title only.

Councilmember Barnes made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2005-04, by title only, waiving further reading, adopting Development Code Amendment 2005-01, to reduce the consent requirements for block parties. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Herman and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Herman, Rodriguez, Waldman

NOES: None

Mayor Blake re-convened the Community Development Commission.

5. **Discussion of Rehabilitation of Community Center**

Community Development Director, Dominic Lazzaretto, stated that the City Council held a Study Session on August 30, 2005 to obtain input from the community. The major questions that arose were: "Does the exterior architecture need to be updated?", "Do the meeting space need to be overhauled?", and "Should the buildings be expanded?"

Mr. Lazzaretto commented that the direction received that evening included the following: 1) The project should not be done in a "piece meal" fashion, but should be completed as a comprehensive project; 2) The end product should show La Palma's pride as a community and be respectful of the past; 3) All public meeting spaces should be upgraded with priority given to the following order: a) The Multipurpose Building, b) Tiny Tot Room, c) Community Center North; 4) It is acceptable to remove the shuffleboard court and trees/landscaping in that area to accommodate expansion needs, if necessary; 5) Look for ways to maximize existing storage and

staff spaces and to increase efficiency; 6) Priority of funding should go toward interior enhancement versus exterior modifications; 7) The overall architectural theme of the exterior should be preserved; 8) Any exterior design modifications should keep future modifications to the Civic Center in mind; 9) Upon completion regular maintenance schedules should be established to preserve the condition of the improvements; 10) Cost estimates should be developed as early as possible and continually refined as more specific information is available.

Mr. Lazzaretto stated that based on the direction received, the completed scope of work for each public meeting space is in the staff report. It does not focus on a specific design/footprint because alternatives are to be presented by the selected architect. In addition, the current budget appears sufficient to accommodate the proposed scope and will include all items in priority level from 1 to 4. However, the budget will be refined as more information becomes available about to construction costs, which are expected to rise significantly.

Mr. Lazzaretto explained the tentative schedule for completion includes the preparation and circulation of a Request for Proposals for a project architect (Nov. '05), selection of an architect to begin design (Jan. '06), first plan available (Mar. '06), design modifications and hiring contractors (June '06) and construction beginning (Aug. '06).

Mayor Pro Tem Herman asked why one of the slides was reflecting a 4,000 ft expansion if the proposal was reflecting a 2,000 ft expansion for the meeting rooms.

Mr. Lazzaretto stated that there is a maximum expansion available of 4,000 ft and he is waiting to see what the architect suggests to best layout the facility.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman asked if the shuffle board and trees would be removed if the 4,000 ft were used.

Mr. Lazzaretto stated that everything would need to be removed.

Councilmember Barnes commented that if the exterior was improved, more members of the community would want to rent out the meeting rooms.

Mr. Lazzaretto responded that the proposed scope of work does include paint and rehabilitation of any of the exterior surfaces and to identify a main entry into the court yard.

City Manager Standiford stated that at the public meeting the members of the community stated that they would like to preserve the exterior building and emphasize improving the interior instead.

Councilmember Waldman commented that expanding east of the building would not be as important to upgrade since very few additional people would be utilizing this area. He stated that he would like to see the monies invested used in areas that would be more beneficial.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman concurred. He asked if the Gazebo was part of the project.

Mr. Lazzaretto responded negatively.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman stated that it looks a little worn, the plaque on the front is barely visible to read, and some of the wood is rotten.

City Manager Standiford stated that both plaques have been reported for repairs and cleaning and a work order has been submitted to patch some of the cracks.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked what the requirement is for an appropriate turn around for emergency vehicles.

Mr. Lazzaretto stated that there is a minimum 25 foot requirement.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked what the material requirement is.

Mr. Lazzaretto responded that the traditional material for a turn around is asphalt.

Councilmember Rodriguez stated that he has seen some areas have material under landscaping that is still suitable for the fire engines to drive on it, but allows guests to enjoy the park.

Mr. Lazzaretto stated that staff could ask the architect to look into something if the Council wishes.

Councilmember Waldman asked if the expansion size was reduced to 18,000 sq ft if all of the trees.

Mr. Lazzaretto responded that the shuffle board court would still need to be removed and maybe three or four trees and would leave more green space.

Mayor Blake asked where the bins that are currently in the parking lot would be relocated.

Mr. Lazzaretto stated that the architect will be looking into this and one alternative would be to move them behind the basketball courts on top of the horseshoe pit.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked if there is a consensus to not expand the center to the east could they approve the proposed Scope of Work reflecting that change.

Mr. Lazzaretto responded positively.

Mayor Blake stated that he would like to see expanding more to the west or making another meeting room instead of expanding to the east.

Councilmember Waldman asked if some landscaping could be added to the scope of work that might address some of Councilmember Barnes concerns to the exterior of the building.

Mr. Lazzaretto stated that this is already included.

Mayor Blake asked for the Council to show a number of hands for not expanding the multipurpose room another 400 feet to the east. All members agreed except Councilmember Barnes, who commented that she would like to see what the architect's suggestion first before eliminating the option.

Mayor Blake stated that an additional room could be added where the storage room is at the end of the bathrooms.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman stated that he doesn't think any additional space from what has been proposed needs to be added.

Mr. Lazzaretto stated that he needed clarification from the Council on three questions: 1) Does the main multipurpose room need to be larger than 150 people capacity, 2) Is there a desire for moving to the east for meeting space, bathroom space, etc., 3) Does Council want to add a fourth meeting room to accommodate a certain amount of people.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman responded negatively to options one and two. He stated if item three could be added without removing any trees he is okay with it.

Councilmember Rodriguez concurred.

Councilmember Barnes stated that she wants to take advantage of this opportunity in expanding the center to its full potential. She stated she is okay with losing a tree or two to benefit the community.

Councilmember Waldman concurred with Councilmember Rodriguez and Mayor Pro Tem Herman.

Mayor Blake stated that he would like to wait to see what the architect suggests.

Mr. Lazzaretto asked Mayor Blake for clarification on the size of room he would like to see added.

Mayor Blake said the same size as the north building.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked if parking layouts would be submitted at the same time as the plans.

Mr. Lazzaretto responded positively.

Councilmember Barnes asked if parking agreements could be drawn up with Peppertree and the hospital.

Mr. Lazzaretto responded positively.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman asked if the glass in the front counter office could be removed and filled in permanently giving more storage space for supplies. He expressed his concern that the glass is a safety issue and the display is not very visible.

Mayor Blake asked if a display case could be moved outside.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman expressed his concern with an electrical box door that doesn't close well and is open to the elements and should not wait to be fixed.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman asked for clarification in regards to hot water for the restrooms and tiny tot room. He asked if this is a big plumbing project or does a water heater need to be replaced.

Mr. Lazzaretto stated that the public restrooms should just remain the way they are. It is not difficult to add a water heater to the tiny tot room but in the past because the hot water was not used often it caused more plumbing issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman asked Mr. Noorbaksh when the roof was going to be repaired.

Public Works Director, Mr. Noorbaksh responded that the roof repair would begin on October 17, 2005.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman asked when Council will have a feel for the actual cost of the project.

Mr. Lazzaretto stated sometime between March and June of 2006.

Mayor Blake made a motion to approve the initial Scope of Work and General project Objectives for the Community Center Rehabilitation Project as presented in the staff report with the additional clarification not to expand the multipurpose room at all but it is acceptable to add additional meeting space to the west in similar size and scope to the Community Center North space if it can be accommodated without removing the second row of trees. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Waldman and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Blake, Herman, Rodriguez, Waldman

NOES: Barnes

Mayor Blake stated that he would like to have the architect present the plans in a workshop format.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES/COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmember Barnes had nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman had nothing to report on the Orange County Vector Control District. He attended the funeral service for former Mayor Jack Devries and stated he was the very first Mayor of La Palma. He asked if a plaque could be prepared in memory of him for the Memorial Wall.

Director of Recreation and Community Services, Jan Hobson stated that she has already been in contact with Mr. DeVries' granddaughters and the family will be invited to the La Palma Legends

Event and to the La Palma Days Parade and both the granddaughters will be acknowledged on his behalf.

City Manager Standiford stated that there is a Council Policy regarding to memorial plaques and she will agendize Mayor Pro Tem's request for the next meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman asked if the playground resurfacing was part of the Community Center Rehabilitation Program and if the sand was being replaced by cedar chips.

City Manager Standiford responded that the playground resurfacing is part of the capital improvement project and that the sand is not being replaced by cedar chips.

Director of Public Works, Ismile Noorbaksh explained that the sand will stay even though it is hard to maintain.

Councilmember Waldman expressed that he would like staff to look into replacing the surface with rubberized material.

Mrs. Standiford asked for clarification since there is already a rubberized material which has a layer of sand on top of it.

Councilmember Waldman stated that there are playgrounds where there is only a rubberized surface.

Director of Public Works, Ismile Noorbaksh stated that project plans are complete and will be coming to the Council for approval.

Councilmember Rodriguez attended a Latino Caucus Workshop on healthy eating habits. He attended the reopening of Minute Man Press. He also attended the service for former Mayor Jack Devries. He will be attending the League of Cities Annual Conference.

Councilmember Waldman reported that the Orange County Sanitation District voted to add the district to the FEMA call list.

Mayor Blake reported that he attended the Orange County Fire Authority Executive Meeting where they discussed administrative items. He also attended the Board Meeting where they discussed fire FRIENDS. He attended the Orange County Round Table for Mayors where they were updated on hydrogen vehicles, and Anaheim's Disaster Preparedness Plan. He also attended the Chamber Mixer and was disappointed that only three Chamber members were present. He met with Laverne Moody who is the Great Granddaughter of the Moody Founder, Joseph Moody.

Councilmember Rodriguez commented that a resident pulled him aside at the Devries funeral stating that she was disappointed that there wasn't any historical information on the City's website and she was hoping to find some information.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Standiford reported that she attended the International City/County Management Association Conference, completing 16 hours of professional development toward her credential. She stated that Assemblyman Tom Harman failed to mention that the Governor signed a Bill expanding the Los Angeles low cost automobile insurance program to other Counties; it will be effective January 1, 2006. She stated that there will not be a Friday Report this week.

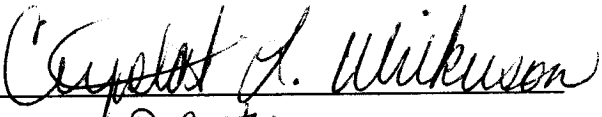
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Blake adjourned in memory of the City's former Mayor Jack Devries at 9:15 p.m. to a joint study session with the Traffic Safety Committee at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 regarding traffic calming measures.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk, Deputy