

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

October 18, 2005

Mayor Blake called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, October 18, 2005, in the Council Chambers of La Palma City Hall, 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Herman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

INVOCATION

Pastor Sandra Heer with A Fountain of Living Water Methodist Church gave the Invocation.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers present: Christine M. Barnes, Kenneth A. Blake, Larry A. Herman,
Ralph D. Rodriguez, Mark I. Waldman

Councilmembers absent: None

City Officials present: Catherine Standiford, City Manager
Ed Ethell, Chief of Police
Dominic Lazzaretto, Director of Community Development
Ismile Noorbaksh, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Eric Nunez, Police Captain
Joel Kuperberg, City Attorney

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Blake, on behalf of the La Palma City Council, presented a proclamation designating the week of October 24 through October 28, 2005 as Red Ribbon Week in the City of La Palma.

Joan Lutz introduced the Miss La Palma Pageant Committee and Contestants. She invited everyone to attend the Miss La Palma Pageant at Western High School on November 5, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There was no one who wished to speak at this time.

RECESS

Mayor Blake recessed the City Council to convene as the Community Development Commission at 7:13 p.m. (See separate Community Development Commission Minutes.)

RECONVENING

Mayor Blake reconvened the meeting in regular session at 7:14 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Rodriguez requested that Item 4 be pulled for discussion.

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

1. APPROVED THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2005 AND SEPTEMBER 20, 2005 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
2. ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2005-43 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS FOR OCTOBER 18, 2005
3. APPROVED AND AUTHORIZED THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 10 TO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT C-95-982 BETWEEN THE ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF LA PALMA

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

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Herman, Rodriguez, Waldman

NOES: None

4. **Agreement Between the Cities of Brea, Fullerton, LaHabra, La Palma, and Placentia for the North Orange County SWAT Team**

Councilmember Rodriguez asked how ongoing costs for equipment or other infrastructure will be handled in years to come and how the decisions will be made in governing these costs.

City Manager Standiford stated that this is not a Joint Powers Agreement to establish a separate government entity with a separate governing body for purposes of allocating and expending resources related to SWAT services. Instead this is similar to an expansion of mutual aid between the cities for Special Weapons And Tactical purposes. The way the agreement is structured states that the responsibility for ongoing costs will be shared between the agencies. She gave an example where the City of Fullerton has designated one of their existing armored vehicles to be used for SWAT and explained that since they are contributing the vehicle they are responsible for its upkeep and possible replacement. If the agreement is approved the City of La Palma will be similarly responsible for any equipment that we will contribute. She gave an example, it is possible that the Mobile Command Center will be used for SWAT activities.

Chief Ethell explained that the five Chiefs of the other cities, known as the Advisory Committee, may make decisions in relation to additional or replacement equipment would not be covered by SWAT and the city responsible would present it to their City Council as part of the budget process to get approval.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked about the grant monies given to the City for the sole purpose of purchasing the Mobile Command Center and asked if there were any stipulations as to how the vehicle was going to be used.

Chief Ethell responded that there are no such stipulations.

Councilmember Barnes asked if the City would be required to provide the Command Center if in the future the City was not able to afford to maintain or replace it.

Chief Ethell responded that the City would not have such a requirement and explained that if the team felt that it was necessary to have one they would ask the City Council to contribute 1/5 of the cost to replace it.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman asked how many officers would be involved with S.W.A.T.

Chief Ethell stated that there would be one sergeant and at least two officers involved.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman asked how long the training period would be.

Chief Ethell stated that each participant will go to a two-week S.W.A.T. school and the training will continue monthly on an ongoing basis.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman asked what the protocol was for calling the S.W.A.T. team.

Chief Ethell responded that in the event an incident occurs in any of the five cities, the S.W.A.T. personnel from that city will respond first and will then make a decision whether they needed further help. If help is needed they will call the S.W.A.T. sergeant. That sergeant would then make a request to the commander of the team and they would page and all on-duty S.W.A.T. personnel who can be spared would respond immediately.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman asked how many times the City has requested S.W.A.T. services from the Sheriff's Department.

Chief Ethell responded he could recall three times. Only in one of those instances did the S.W.A.T. team deploy; the other two were cancelled before they left the Sheriff's Department.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked what the response time was with the Orange County S.W.A.T. services.

Chief Ethell responded that it takes about two hours because the Orange County S.W.A.T. team has to respond to the Sheriff's Department before responding to the City. They don't respond from the field like the North County Team will be able to.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked if the North County Team has a performance metric that they are trying to meet in terms of response time.

Chief Ethell responded that in terms of an immediate response it would be minutes for the initial response by La Palma's S.W.A.T. members and then whatever additional time is required for other members from the other cities to respond. Those members who are off duty will need to respond to their station and then the crime scene.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman asked how many members constitute a team.

Chief Ethell responded that it varies on the type of event.

Mayor Blake asked if the other City Councils have approved this program.

Chief Ethell responded affirmatively.

Councilmember Rodriguez made a motion to adopt Resolution 2005-47 approving an Agreement between the cities of Brea, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma and Placentia, and their respective Police Departments, for Joint Police Services related to the North Orange County S.W.A.T. Team, and authorized the Mayor and Chief of Police to execute the agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnes and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Herman, Rodriguez, Waldman

NOES: None

REGULAR ITEM

5. **Consideration of Recognizing La Palma's First Mayor, Jack DeVries, on the La Palma Memorial Wall**

City Manager Standiford stated that Mayor Pro Tem Herman requested that this topic be listed on the agenda. The Council Policy related to memorial plaques is attached to the staff report. If the Council would like to honor the City's first mayor with a bronze plaque on the Memorial Wall staff would need that direction. The cost of the plaque is estimated \$350.00. Unfortunately, since it is a special order, it will not be available for tomorrow night's La Palma Legends Open House but could be available for unveiling at the 2006 Memorial Day remembrance.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman made a motion to recognize La Palma's First Mayor, Jack DeVries, with a bronze plaque on the City's Memorial Wall. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Herman, Rodriguez, Waldman

NOES: None

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES/COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmember Waldman attended the Orange County Sanitation District Finance Administrative Human Relations subcommittee meeting and reported that they are moving along in the review of the operations of the sanitation district and will keep the Council informed as to the findings. Their first meeting of the Capital Improvement Committee to look at the District's capital improvements plans for the next 10 to 20 years should occur in early November. He also attended the League of California Cities Annual Conference. He attended the Red Ribbon Week Challenge. He attended a brunch of the American Association of University Women, which consists of several La Palma residents, and they expressed great satisfaction with City services, specifically the Police Department in answering and following up on calls. He then thanked the Police Department for a job well done.

Councilmember Rodriguez stated that he attended the Red Ribbon Week Challenge at Central Park and was impressed with the amount of community support. He commended Crystal Wilkerson and Officer Gonzales for a job well done. He also attended the Orange County Business Council's Economic Forecast and one of the main issues they focused on was transportation and the importance of reauthorizing Measure M.

Councilmember Barnes commented on Pastor Heer's invocation and requested a copy of it so it could be the "official" invocation for the 50th Anniversary open house tomorrow evening.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman stated that he attended the League of California Cities Annual Conference. He requested that the Orange County Animal Care services provide a presentation at a future Council Meeting and the other members concurred that they are interested. He asked for status on the flood control channel repair project.

Director of Public Works, Mr. Noorbaksh responded that the project is almost complete. There are a few cracks in the concrete that need to be repaired and hopefully the demand will go out tomorrow.

Mayor Pro Tem Herman reported that he attended the Korean Festival of Orange County event. He had nothing to report on the Orange County Vector Control Board. He asked how the supplemental advertising for La Palma Days was coming along.

City Manager Standiford stated that she was going to report on this as part of her comments.

Mayor Blake attended the League of California Cities Conference. He met with Senator Diane Feinstein with other several Orange County Mayors to discuss transportation funds. He also attended the League Orange County Division's Installation of New Officers.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Standiford updated the City Council on the advertisement for La Palma Days. She reported that in June, as part of the budget adoption process, Council directed staff to increase the promotion and advertisement of both La Palma Days and 50th Anniversary events. Since that time the City has purchased a series of half-page ads in the *Westside Weekly* and staff will be purchasing one last half-page ad on November 11th specifically highlighting La Palma Days. She stated that for La Palma Days the traditional flyer has been prepared and distributed. In addition the City is paying for an eight-page, full-color, pull-out, promotional section in the Orange County Register that will run on November 4, 2005 and be distributed to 30,000 subscribers. Neighborhood Watch has agreed to distribute a copy of the pull out to every household in La Palma starting November 8-10. The remaining 5,000 copies will be available for distribution at La Palma Days. The section will include an invitation to attend the event from the City Council, a full schedule of events including a listing of the parade entrants, a complete entertainment schedule, information about vendors and booths, the band review, Miss La Palma, and the cake cutting ceremony. It will also promote and encourage citizens that if they want to make donations to the Hurricane Katrina relief that there will be a booth for that. The cost for the pull-out section is \$3,400. The half-page sections cost \$300 each. She reported that arrangements have been made to publicize La Palma Days on television, courtesy of Comcast, costing nothing to the City. Last week the City received confirmation from Supervisor Silva's office that the La Palma Days Parade is once again being designated as the Orange County Veteran's Day Parade, so the City will be issuing press releases. The City's traditional information resources (Web Site and *The Source*) have also been advertising La Palma Days. The City is spending roughly \$4,000 on paid advertising just for La Palma Days.

Ms. Standiford reported that the traffic signal at Moody Street and La Palma Avenue has been dark since yesterday and will be fixed soon. She explained a traffic controller failed and it took several hours to replace it. Now Edison is being called out to see why it isn't getting power. It will hopefully be fully functioning by tomorrow morning.

She reminded everyone that the City's 50th Anniversary Celebration "La Palma Legends Open House" is tomorrow evening. There will be food, tours of City Hall and a ceremony recognizing all of the La Palma Legends.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney, Joel Kuperberg announced that in Closed Session the City Council, by unanimous action, authorized the City to defend an action titled "Nolan vs. the City of La Palma."

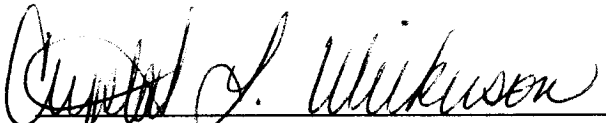
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Blake adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Deputy City Clerk