

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL**

March 2, 2004

Mayor Duke called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, 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, Alta E. Duke,
Larry A. Herman

Councilmembers absent: Paul F. Walker

City Officials present: Catherine Standiford, City Manager
Vince Giampa, Chief of Police
Tami Piscotty, Assistant to the City Manager
Dominic Lazzaretto, Director of Community Development
Jeff Kirkpatrick, Police Captain
Joel Kuperberg, City Attorney
Crystal Wilkerson, Administrative Secretary

PRESENTATIONS

Batalion Chief, Greg Peterson presented a proclamation to Ruben Martinez recognizing his heroic actions in saving the life of a fellow La Palma citizen.

Jenny Wedge with the Orange County Water District gave a presentation on the Orange County Groundwater Replenishment System.

RECESS

Mayor Duke recessed the City Council to convene as the Community Development Commission at 7:29 p.m. (See separate Community Development Commission Minutes.)

RECONVENING

Mayor Duke reconvened the meeting in regular session at 7:40 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

APPROVED THE FEBRUARY 17, 2004 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2004-07 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS FOR MARCH 2, 2004

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

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Duke, Herman

NOES: None

ABSENT: Walker

REGULAR ITEMS

Discussion of Fire Ant Issue

Councilmember Herman stated that he asked that this be put on the Agenda since he feels that it is an important item for the City to consider. Funding has stopped for the Red Imported Fire Ant program by the Vector Control District, and the City of La Palma will need to look at some alternatives if the City feels that the health and safety issues arising from Red Imported Fire Ants needs to be addressed in the future.

He mentioned that the three options the City has are, first, the City could do nothing and let residents handle the fire ant problem through self treatment or pest control companies. The second option would be for the City to contract with the Orange County Vector Control District for the same services the City was receiving, on a cost recovery basis. The third option would have City personnel trained to locate fire ant infestation and administer treatment using the same protocol used by the Fire Ant Authority. He spoke with Vector Control and they do not yet have any financial numbers available if the City decided to contract with them. They hope to have figures available at the next meeting, March 18th.

Mayor Duke stated that she would like to see some figures on the contract with Orange County Vector Control.

City Manager Standiford stated that some of the Public Work staff has been trained in the identification of the Red Imported Fire Ants.

Mayor Duke asked for clarification on who was responsible for the cost recovery.

Councilmember Herman stated that the City would pay for the service, not the resident.

Mayor Duke asked if the pest control companies were qualified to handle this type of insect.

Councilmember Herman stated yes.

Mayor Duke asked if anyone knew how much a company would charge to treat this insect.

Councilmember Herman stated he didn't know how much they would charge per call.

Councilmember Herman explained that if the pest control company comes out to treat a residential site, they will treat just that area where it is infested, but it gives the ants the opportunity to travel to other neighboring yards. When Vector Control treats the area, they also look at the surrounding areas and treat them as well.

Councilmember Barnes asked if Councilmember Herman knew how Buena Park or Cypress was handling this issue.

Mayor Duke asked if staff could call our neighboring cities in how they were going to handle their issue.

The City Council continued the discussion of fire ant eradication needs in La Palma until staff can provide further requested information.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES/COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmember Barnes attended the Orange County Fire Authority meeting as an alternate for Mayor Pro Tem Blake, and they discussed the legalities of allowing the Orange County Professional Fire Fighters Association to help with obtaining Prop 172 funds. They have not received any funds since 1993 and now they are looking to get a piece of this money and take 10% of the growth in Prop 172 funds until they reach 10% of the whole. They also discussed whether they should use the Fire Authority money to educate the public. She also attended the groundbreaking for the Groundwater Replenishment System that was indoors at the Arrowhead Pond. She visited the Acacia Adult Day Services grand opening.

Mayor Pro Tem Blake attended the Orange County Fire Authority mid-year budget workshop. There were nearly 100 Sheriffs who showed up to protest the Board going forward with the ballot initiative for Prop 172 money. The ballot initiative would order the Board of Supervisors to allocate 10% of the annual increase of Prop 172 money to Fire Fighters. They are trying to man a truck with four men for more efficiency and hopefully one man will be medical. He also attended the Americana Awards. Cypress College raised \$115,000 for scholarships that evening.

Councilmember Herman asked if there are any new developments with the State as far as money issues.

City Manager Standiford stated no and we are waiting for the results of the election.

Mayor Duke attended the Americana Awards. The Orange County Study, along with West Riverside Council of Governments, is concluding and they received some funding to study the issue of jobs, housing, and what is happening in Orange County and how it relates to Riverside. She also went to the Acacia Adult Day Services grand opening.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Duke adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. until the next scheduled meeting on March 16, 2004.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk