

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

April 1, 2003

Mayor Barnes called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, in the Council Chambers of La Palma City Hall, 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

INVOCATION

Councilmember Herman gave the Invocation.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers present: Christine M. Barnes, Alta E. Duke,
Larry A. Herman, Paul F. Walker

Councilmembers absent: Kenneth A. Blake

City Officials present: Catherine Standiford, City Manager
Vince Giampa, Chief of Police
Tami Piscotty, Assistant to the City Manager
Ismile Noorbaksh, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Robbeyn Bird, Director of Finance
Jan Hobson, Director of Recreation & Community Services
Dominic Lazzaretto, Director of Community Development
Joel Kuperberg, City Attorney
Crystal Wilkerson, Administrative Secretary

PRESENTATIONS

Police Chief, Vince Giampa introduced the Police Department's newest employee, Julian Gonzalez, Reserve Police Officer. He mentioned that Julian is a native of Central California. He graduated from Hanford Union High School in 1980 and earned his Associate of Arts Degree in 1982. Julian Gonzalez served in the Marine Corps in a variety of locations. Mr. Gonzalez also received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration. Julian hopes to retire from the Marine Corps in November, 2003 and pursue a career as a full time Police Officer, preferably with the La Palma Police Department. Julian Gonzalez resides in Murrietta with his wife and daughter.

Reserve Police Officer, Julian Gonzalez, thanked the City of La Palma for inviting him to the Council Meeting and he is looking forward to being a part of the outstanding Police force. He is excited about retiring from the Marine Corps, depending on how the war turns out, and providing his services to the City.

Director of Community Development, Dominic Lazzaretto, introduced the Community Development Department's newest employee, Rina Leung, Associate Planner. Rina received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Ecology and Psychology from the University of California, Irvine. She has a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Studies and Planning Policy from California State University Fullerton. Rina began her career in social work with emotionally and behaviorally disturbed children. She then went on to work in the City of Irwindale as a Planning Assistant and most recently worked in the City of El Monte as a Planner. Her hobbies and interest include reading and jogging with her dog. Rina lives in the City of Brea with her husband Dan.

Associate Planner, Rina Leung, stated that she is very happy to be on board and noted how wonderful the staff is to work with. She hopes to be of service to the community and be an asset to the City of La Palma.

Director of Recreation and Community Services, Jan Hobson, mentioned that last month the City of La Palma Recreation and Community Services Department received an Agency Showcase Award of Excellence at the Annual California Park and Recreation Society Award banquet in San Jose. Ms. Hobson stated that of the 297 nominations submitted for 2002, 54 agencies were honored with an award. La Palma received this award in the Marketing Theme category for the La Palma Days 2002, "Celebrate La Palma the American Way". Ms. Hobson mentioned that this award is a credit to the outstanding group of volunteers and staff who have demonstrated their commitment to the community by taking ownership of this signature event and improving it over the last few years to reflect the targeted issues of celebrating our cultural diversity, providing a place for La Palma residents to gather, and improving health and well-being. Jan Hobson introduced the Coordinating Committee and graphic designer to recognize them in their accomplishments. Jane Adams, Executive Director of California Park and Recreation Society, commended the City of La Palma for its effort in achieving this award, saying that it expressed the great spirit and teamwork that the City has with their staff and Coordinating Committee. Jan

Hobson presented an award to the City Council along with Jane Adams, from the California Park and Recreation Society, for the La Palma Days Marketing Plan.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There was no one who wished to address the City Council at this time.

RECESS

Mayor Barnes recessed the City Council to convene as the Community Development Commission at 7:15 p.m. (See separate Community Development Commission Minutes.)

RECONVENING

Mayor Barnes reconvened the meeting in regular session at 7:19 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

APPROVED THE MARCH 18, 2003 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2003-13 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS FOR APRIL 1, 2003

REJECTED THE CLAIM PRESENTED BY MARY E. CROMMETT

AUTHORIZED THE APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE OF SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR ABANDONED VEHICLE FUNDS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,530.00, FOR THE BREA MDC PROGRAM ANNUAL SERVICE FEE

APPROVED THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, AND AUTHORIZED THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO SOLICIT COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR RE-STRIPING OF CITY ARTERIAL STREETS, CITY PROJECT NO. ST-258

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2003-14 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION, THE INCURRING OF AN OBLIGATION, THE EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT AND ANY AMENDMENTS NECESSARY TO SECURE A CODE ENFORCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM GRANT FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

AYES: Barnes, Duke, Herman, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: Blake

Councilmember Herman pulled Item 5 on the Consent Calendar for discussion.

AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO SOLICIT COMPETITIVE BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A ½ TON UTILITY BED TRUCK (LP-31)

Councilmember Herman commended Ismile Noorbaksh for keeping the truck that is proposed for replacement for over twenty years, and agreed that it was about time to replace it.

Councilmember Herman made a motion to approve Consent Calendar Item 5. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Duke and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnes, Duke, Herman, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: Blake

REGULAR ITEMS

RECOMMENDATION THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE FACILITY LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM

Assistant to the City Manager, Tami Piscotty, gave a staff report related to the new insurance program that the City would like to require facility users to abide by. She stated that back in September of last year, City staff began developing a comprehensive program of insurance coverage for special events and organized activities conducted at City managed facilities, specifically use of recreation facilities. Facilities include the Central Park ball fields, Pavilion, Gazebo, tennis courts, and indoor Community Center meeting rooms.

Upon review, the "indemnification" language in the permit agreement was found to provide adequate hold harmless coverage for the City of La Palma. The permit agreement clearly states that the organization or individual signing the agreement accepts all responsibility for damage to the premises, as well as all liability for any claim arising out of their use of the facility.

Over 100 recurrent users of the City's recreation facilities were invited to attend a meeting on January 28, 2003, to receive information on the proposed program and provide input. Eight people attended the meeting. Attendees understood the need for the program and, for the most part, already have liability insurance through their parent organizations.

While the permit agreement appears to hold the city harmless for liability, if the person signing the permit does not have adequate coverage to pay for a claim, ultimately the City will be brought into the claim and likely be made to pay.

Twelve cities were surveyed on their special event and organized activity insurance requirements. Eleven of the twelve cities require some form of insurance, for either indoor versus outdoor events.

Beginning June of this year, it is recommended that La Palma start requiring proof of general liability insurance. Proof of insurance would be required for the following activities: groups of 100 attendees or more, events where alcohol is consumed, and events that are open to the public, versus events conducted on an invitation basis only.

At this time, the program would not cover sports activities. City staff is currently working on a program with the CJPIA to expand the insurance requirement coverage to groups using La Palma's facilities for these activities. Expansion of the liability insurance program to these groups is expected at a later time.

Facility users have several different means to obtain proof of liability insurance. Typically, the parent organization of non-profit and service organization have umbrella coverage that can be utilized. The facility user can also contact an insurance agent or broker directly to obtain the liability insurance. Finally, the City will offer coverage through its insurance carrier at rates determined by the specific use (number of people, type of activity). The City charges the user the insurance premium and remits this money to Driver Alliant, subcontractor to the CJPIA for special events coverage.

Mayor Pro Tem Duke asked staff if the City reserves Tennis Courts for Groups or are they open for users at all times. Recreation and Community Services Director, Jan Hobson, answered that they are open all the time and for scheduled classes. Mayor Pro Tem Duke asked if the City was going to require the contract teachers to have insurance. Ms. Hobson replied not at this time. She also asked if the applicant chose to purchase the insurance through the City, when the insurance would take effect. Mrs. Piscotty responded that the insurance will cover the day of the event. Mayor Pro Tem Duke expressed her concern with the time frame that staff has in submitting the insurance coverage request for events when scheduled two weeks before the applicants requested event date. Jan Hobson explained that Driver Alliant will accept faxed copies of the insurance coverage applications and it takes a minimal amount of time for

processing. She also mentioned that if the applicant chose to use their current insurer that the City would also accept a fax copy for proof of insurance and then in turn send them a permit. Mayor Pro Tem Duke requested staff to allow a larger time frame for staff to verify insurance coverage before submitting the permit. Mayor Pro Tem Duke verified that staff is recommended this additional insurance coverage for groups of 100 people or more. City Manager Standiford clarified that, yes, it is for groups of 100 or more and for any groups serving alcohol, regardless of the amount of people.

Councilmember Herman felt the proposed Facility Liability Insurance coverage is very reasonable and feels staff has targeted the right areas.

Mayor Barnes asked if staff was going to amend this proposal for four to five day sports events or programs. Mrs. Piscotty explained that the City currently has a number of organizations that use the recreational fields and the CJPIA, thru Driver Alliant, does not have a mechanism for the City to charge the applicant for repetitive use of the fields, at this time. The City is in the process of working to develop something to target these repetitive uses.

Mayor Pro Tem Duke asked if the four to five day events included league play or tournaments. Director of Recreation, Jan Hobson explained that the City right now does not have league play, but groups do come in for practices. She gave an example of the American Softball Association that may want to use the Recreation Softball Field to conduct a tournament or league. The City does not have the ability to provide additional insurance coverage for them at this time. Mayor Pro Tem Duke stated that most of them already have their own umbrella insurance coverage and most likely would not need to use the City's insurance provider.

Councilmember Duke made a motion to approve the proposed Facility Liability Insurance Program. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herman and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnes, Duke, Herman, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: Blake

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES/COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmember Herman commended Ismile Noorbaksh for the hydrant flushing signs that are posted on the streets when the Water Division is flushing the storm drains. Councilmember Herman mentioned that cemeteries are having a mosquito problem due to water in vases on burial sites. He stated that Forest Lawn in Cypress received a "B" Rating on this problem. Councilmember Herman asked Ismile Noorbaksh when the City was going to look at filling a couple of the Traffic Safety Committee member seats since they have expired. He also attended the Youth 20/20 banquet and mentioned that we have excellent dancers within the City Staff.

Mayor Pro Tem Duke complemented the Police Department on a job well done at the Saturday, March 29, 2003 Bicycle Rodeo. She mentioned that they were very organized and there was a steady flow of traffic. She stated that the Police Department provided free licensing of bicycles and lamination of I.D. cards. Mayor Pro Tem Duke also mentioned that the car seat event is coming up in June with the California Highway Patrol and will be by reservation only.

Mayor Barnes attended the MAGLEV Task Force meeting. She mentioned that the Shanghi Maglev system is running and they are giving demonstration rides every weekend. The MAGLEV Task Force has a presentation video that is available if the Council would like to review it. Mayor Barnes also attended the Youth 20/20 "Aloha Night" and stated that she appreciated the community's support of this organization.

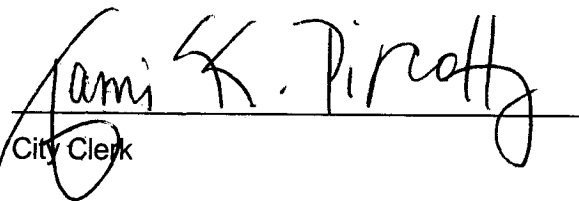
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Barnes adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m. in the memory of the United States military troops who are giving their lives up in the name of our freedom.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk