

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

May 6, 2003

Mayor Barnes called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6, 2003, in the Council Chambers of La Palma City Hall, 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

INVOCATION

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

ROLL CALL:

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

Councilmembers absent: None

City Officials present: Catherine Standiford, City Manager
Vince Giampa, Chief of Police
Tami Piscotty, Assistant to the City Manager
Jeff Kirkpatrick, Captain
Ed Ethell, Captain
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

Mayor Barnes, on behalf of the City Council, presented a proclamation to several members of the La Palma Police Department recognizing May 15, 2003 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

Mayor Barnes, on behalf of the City Council, presented a proclamation to Don Case recognizing May 2003 as Mental Health Month.

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 7:16 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

APPROVED THE APRIL 15, 2003 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2003-20 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS FOR MAY 6, 2003

APPROVED THE ATTENDANCE OF MAYOR PRO TEM DUKE AND COUNCILMEMBER BLAKE FOR THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAYS, MAY 14-15, 2003 AND DESIGNATED MAYOR PRO TEM DUKE AS THE CITY OF LA PALMA'S VOTING DELEGATE AT THE LEAGUE'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND COUNCILMEMBER BLAKE AS THE ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE

APPROVED THE PARTIAL CLOSURE OF WALKER STREET ON MONDAY, MAY 26, 2003, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CAB COMMITTEE FOR THIS YEAR'S MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

AUTHORIZED THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE AN ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO MR. GLEN HARRY OF 4752 WINDSONG AVENUE, LA PALMA, CA 90623, TO ENCROACH INTO THE CITY'S 4' UTILITY EASEMENT (BACK OF SIDEWALK) TO INSTALL A PROPERTY BLOCK WALL FENCE

APPROVED THE INSTALLATION OF A CLASS 2 BIKE LANE ON MOODY STREET FROM HOUSTON AVENUE NORTH TO ORANGETHORPE AVENUE

REAPPOINTED DALLAS BINGER, RICHARD LUTZ, AND NARESH PATEL TO THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE, FOR TERMS EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2005

RECEIVED AND FILED THE INVESTMENT REPORT AS OF MARCH 31, 2003

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2003-21 IDENTIFYING PERSONNEL AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY ANY ACTIONS NECESSARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE STATE DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

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

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Duke, Herman, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

6. PURCHASE OF A UTILITY BED TRUCK

Councilmember Walker pulled this item from the Consent Calendar for further discussion. Councilmember Walker asked City Manager Standiford if the purchase of vehicles was still frozen due to her direction. City Manager Standiford stated that this is going to be the last vehicle purchased for this fiscal year and there are no vehicles scheduled for purchase next fiscal year.

Councilmember Walker made a motion to award a contract in the amount of \$21,235.95 to Ford West of Bellflower, CA for the purchase of a ½ Ton Utility Bed Truck (LP-31). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Blake and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Duke, Herman, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

10. Third Quarter Revenue Report

Councilmember Herman requested this item be pulled from the Consent Calendar to receive a report by City Manager Standiford.

City Manager Standiford stated that one of the Council's financial policies is that City Staff review revenues received by the City, along with the City Council, on a quarterly basis. Tonight on the Council's agenda is the third quarter revenue report, which compares the City's major revenue sources going into the general fund with what the City has received currently this year as compared to the same time period from the last fiscal year. This is based upon the receipts that the City has from the third quarter. The report projects where the City's revenues will be at the end of the fiscal year. In the third quarter revenue report, the first schedule looks at revenues received for the first three quarters of the Fiscal Year 2002/2003 and compares that with the revenues that the City received for the first three quarters of Fiscal Year 2001/2002. This comparison indicates that revenues are \$117,000 lower than for the same time period in the previous year. This reduction in revenues is due to two revenue sources, one being the Utility Users Tax, which is now being projected to having a shortfall of almost \$200,000 due to conservation from a mild winter. The tax is assessed on electricity, cable, gas, and phones. There have also been several bankruptcy filings from several telecommunication companies that have accounts with the City of La Palma. The other area of revenues which are down this year is interest income. The City has \$17 million dollars worth of investments and the City depends a lot

on the interest income from these investments as part of the City's revenues. Because of the downturn in interest rates, the City is seeing much less interest income. Due to these shortfalls the third quarter and remainder of the fiscal year, the City is projecting that revenues will be coming in around \$133,700 less than what Staff had projected in the budget. City Manager Standiford explained that even though revenues will be coming in lower, expenditures for the current year are also low. The City will probably not spend 3.5 to 4% of the City's budget by the end of the fiscal year due to vacancies being kept open and expenditures that are not going to occur this fiscal year. As a result of this, staff is continuing to monitor revenues on a monthly basis. Since the decline in expenditures should more than cover the decline in anticipated revenues, she isn't recommending any additional expenditure controls at this time. In preparation for the budget next fiscal year and in part because of the uncertainty of the State's actions, three full-time positions that are vacant at this time will be held vacant. This has been factored in the budget for next fiscal year.

Councilmember Walker made a motion to receive and file the quarterly revenue report for the period ending March 31, 2003. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herman and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Duke, Herman, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

REGULAR ITEMS

12. Proposed User Fee Schedule

Councilmember Walker made a motion to continue this item to the City Council meeting of June 6, 2003 to give City Staff time to research specific permit fees for the Building Department and Recreation Department. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Duke and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Duke, Herman, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

13. A REQUEST TO CHANGE THE LAND USE DESIGNATION OF TWO PARCELS

Community Development Director, Dominic Lazzaretto gave a staff report on Zone Change Z-58 and General Plan Amendment 2003-01. He stated that the applicant is Paul VanderPutten, and the location is two parcels (APN: 262-233-18, APN: 262-233-17) at the northwest corner of Moody Street and Crescent Avenue containing 63,383 square feet in an existing Zone C1 (Neighborhood Commercial).

Mr. Lazzaretto explained that the applicant is proposing to change the land use designation from C1 (Neighborhood Commercial) to R1 (Single Family Residential) to facilitate future development of up to ten single-family residential dwelling units. The current proposal only involves changing the land use designation of the subject site. If the proposed Zone Change is approved, the applicant would need to obtain approval of a Precise Plan. The surrounding zoning and land uses to the North is R1 (Single Family Residential), East is C1 (Neighborhood Commercial), South is C1 (Neighborhood Commercial) and to the West is R1 (Single Family Residential). Mr. Lazzaretto stated that the abutting properties to the north and west are zoned as R1 (Single Family Residential) and the proposed project site area is in an area developed with residential uses.

The Expanded Housing Element recommends converting certain underutilized commercial properties to residential purposes. It specifically refers to the proposed project site as a potential area for residential uses. Residential uses are considered less intensive uses than commercial uses for two reasons. Commercial uses have greater potential for noise, glare, traffic, and circulation impacts and nine to ten single-family residential units do not have the potential to generate these negative impacts.

The site is accessible by three streets: Crescent Avenue being a secondary arterial street, Moody Street being a primary arterial street and Partridge Circle, being an existing residential street. All streets are able to accommodate a slight increase in traffic from the proposed project. It is not known where the exact ingress/egress will be for the proposed residential units, as this will be identified during the Precise Plan process.

Mr. Lazzaretto explained that Lot 17 is vacant of structures and has been for sale for an extended period of time because it lacks market interest for commercial uses. There is a general housing shortage in California and specifically in La Palma there is a large need for new single family housing that should result in an increased demand for the site for residential development.

Mr. Lazzaretto stated that an environmental review has been conducted and that this was the main purpose of this second meeting, since the review process was still going on during the first meeting. The initial study was circulated to local governments and agencies and no comments have been received. Therefore adoption of a negative declaration is appropriate since the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

There being no one who wished to address the Council on this Item Councilmember Herman made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Duke, Herman, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Councilmember Walker made a motion to introduce by title only, waiving further reading, an ordinance approving Zone Change No. Z-58 and General Plan Amendment No. 2003-01, a change of the land use designation of two parcels at the northwest corner of Moody Street and Crescent Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herman and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Barnes, Blake, Duke, Herman, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES/COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmember Herman stated that he attended Arbor Day and commended Director of Recreation, Jan Hobson, and City Manager Standiford, for a job well done. He stated that he was pleased to find that staff has come up with a revised employee evaluation form through reading the employee newsletter, the "Visionary".

Mayor Pro Tem Duke attended the Library Board Meeting and they discussed the financial reductions that the State has taken from \$1.2 million to 700,000 and stated that more will be cut in the next two years. She stated that most positions are currently frozen and more reduction in staff will be coming, but the hours of operation will not be cut. She mentioned that the City of Irvine is receiving a substantial overage of money from the State and has given portions of their money to smaller cities that are in need.

Councilmember Blake attended a closed session for the Orange County Fire Authority to discuss the sale of property. He stated that no action was taken. He thanked City Staff and the City Council for their support, flowers, cards and prayers for the passing of his mother-in-law.

Mayor Barnes attended a School Facilities Meeting on April 18, 2003. She also attended a Legislative Breakfast on April 25, 2003.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

There will be an Orange County League Legislative Breakfast in the City of Cypress, June 6, 2003.

There was an article in the newspaper in regards to Governor Davis stating that several bills were passed that involved reductions in the State budget but would not affect cities.

There will be a State of the City meeting at the Chamber of Commerce in the City of La Palma on Wednesday, May 14, 2003 at 11:30. The topic will be "What is going to impact business in the City of La Palma" and she will be the speaker.

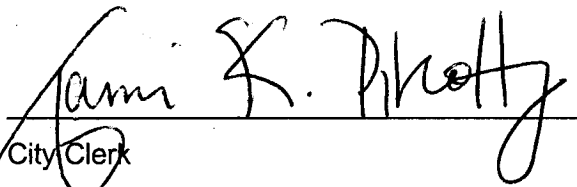
ADJOURNMENT

The City Council adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk