

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

January 16, 2001

Mayor Aragona called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2001, in the Council Chambers of La Palma City Hall, 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

INVOCATION

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

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers present: Lauree Aragona, Christine Barnes, Kenneth A. Blake, Alta E. Duke, Paul F. Walker

Councilmembers absent: None

City Officials present: Len Wood, Interim City Manager
Vince Giampa, Chief of Police
Jeff Kirkpatrick, Police Captain
Ed Ethell, Police Captain
Ismile Noorbaksh, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Tami K. Piscotty, Assistant to the City Manager
Joan Hoesterey, Principal Planner
Joel Kuperberg, City Attorney
Mary Hagar, Administrative Secretary

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Rudy Starowitz, 5801 San Simeon Drive, La Palma, addressed the Council to congratulate Mayor Aragona on her selection as Mayor. He also reported that he has not found any broken sprinklers along La Palma Avenue between Valley View and Walker Streets lately. There was one tree near Conroy's that was broken but Public Works has taken care of it. He added there is still a problem with the vines because 20 of the 62 vines are dying on the ends and need to be trimmed.

Vector Control Representative Mr. Larry Herman, 5122 Andrew Drive, La Palma, reported that the Vector of the Month is the Red Imported Fire Ant. He also reported that the District has come up with a resolution of the Board of Trustees which will be discussed at the next meeting on Thursday to educate cities about a Raccoon parasite and recommend passage of a wild mammal anti-feeding ordinance and presented Mr. Wood with a rough draft of the ordinance. He also stated that there was a good article in the Los Angeles Times recently about the Red Imported Fire Ant.

Ms. Marilyn Sweet, 8071 Janeen Circle, La Palma, addressed the Council regarding Bus Stops. She explained that she contacted OCTA and spoke with Mr. Bill Battery who informed her that he did not feel that any money had been put away for bus stops. She added that she was given some names of ad shelter companies. Mr. Battery also told her that Santa Ana, Westminster, Buena Park, and Cypress have all gone with the ad media companies for bus shelters. She explained that these companies design the shelters to the city's specifications, install and maintain them at no cost to the city. She stated she would be happy to provide a copy of the information she has obtained to the City Manager if the Council is interested.

Mayor Aragona thanked Ms. Sweet for the information and asked her to leave a copy with the City Clerk.

RECESS

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

RECONVENING

Mayor Aragona reconvened the meeting in regular session at 7:24 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Pro Tem Walker made a motion to approve the following items on the Consent Calendar:

APPROVED THE JANUARY 2, 2001 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2001-02 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS JANUARY 16, 2001

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2001-03 AUTHORIZING THE DESTRUCTION OF TAPE RECORDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS FROM JANUARY 1997 THROUGH DECEMBER 1997

REJECTED CLAIM PRESENTED BY JERRY'S INTERIORS, INC.

APPROVED THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND MUTUAL RELEASE WITH THE CITY OF CERRITOS, AND AUTHORIZED THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

AWARDED CONTRACT FOR CITY MANAGER RECRUITMENT SERVICES TO BOB MURRAY AND ASSOCIATES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,000

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2001-04 ADOPTING SALARY CHANGES FOR CERTAIN PART-TIME EMPLOYEES AND AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2000-38

RECEIVED AND FILED REPORT ON THE PAPERLESS AGENDA SYSTEM

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

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR THE EXPANSION OF POLICE AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Chairman/Mayor Aragona opened the Public Hearing and called upon Principal Planner Joan Hoesterey to present the staff report.

Ms. Hoesterey stated that in order for the Commission to expend the tax increment funds the Commission/Council must hold a Public Hearing and the Commission must obtain consent from the Council after the required findings are made. She explained that the two projects are:

Project A – The appropriation of Community Development Commission Bond Proceed monies in the amount of \$545,700, for the remodel and expansion of Police Department facilities. The proposed project includes the following: addition of a locker room, expanded office space, expanded record and evidence storage space, and the addition of private interview space to ensure confidentiality for crime victims and families.

Project B – The appropriation of Community Development Commission Bond Proceed monies in the amount of \$750,000 for the construction of a new Community Center Building and the renovation of 3 existing facilities in Central Park.

Ms. Hoesterey stated that the Community Development Commission may pay all or part of the installation and construction of any building, facility, structure, or other improvement, which is publicly owned if findings are made for each of the following four requirements:

- (1) That the building, facilities, structures, or other improvements are of benefit to the project area or the immediate neighborhood in which the project is located.
- (2) That no other reasonable means of financing the buildings, facilities, structures or improvements, are available to the community.
- (3) The projects will assist in the elimination of one or more blighting conditions.
- (4) The Commission funding of these projects is consistent with the Implementation Plan.

Ms. Hoesterey stated that it has determined that these two projects meet the specified requirements

Chairman/Mayor Aragona asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address the Commission/Council on this item. There being no one, Mayor Pro Tem Walker made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Councilmember Duke seconded the motion.

Commissionmember/Councilmember Barnes asked about the maintenance and operation expenses.

Interim City Manager Len Wood responded that when the program is brought forward to the Council the maintenance and operation expenses will be included.

Commissionmember/Councilmember Duke stated that the City had received a little over one million from the State and commented she thought the City had allocated other funding in addition to that amount.

Mr. Wood responded that there are several funding sources for the Community Center; the one million twenty-four thousand is the grant amount.

Assistant to the City Manager Tami Piscotty clarified that there is C.O.R. money and there is CDC money, this item is memorializing the CDC money that has already been set-aside in the budget.

Chairman/Mayor Pro Tem Walker stated he was glad to see this proceeding.

Chairman/Mayor Aragona commended staff for the report and information.

Commissionmember/Councilmember Duke made a motion to adopt Resolution No. CDC 2001-04 approving payment by the Community Development Commission of the cost for certain publicly owned facilities in the City of La Palma and City Council Resolution No. 2001-05 consenting to payment by the Community Development Commission of the City of La Palma of the cost for certain publicly-owned facilities in the City of La Palma. The motion was seconded by Commissionmember/Councilmember Blake and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES

Councilmember Duke reported that the City will probably be receiving a letter from the Orange County Librarian, John Adams, suggesting how the \$40,000 will be spent for the La Palma facility. She asked if this will be agendized.

Interim City Manager Len Wood resounded affirmatively.

Councilmember Duke announced that Mr. Wood presented a very good fiscal program at the recent League of California Cities Conference in Sacramento. She commented that it was a very good program.

Councilmember Blake reported that Councilmember Duke will probably be the new Chairman of the Orange County Library Board after their next meeting.

Councilmember Blake reported that he met informally with Chief Prather of the Orange County Fire Authority regarding with the possible legislation proposed by Ken Maddox which would basically eliminate the City's voice in the Fire Authority to be replaced by five elected or appointed positions.

Councilmember Blake reported he was present at the recent League Conference in Sacramento as part of the League Leaders Workshop, which dealt in the State Level Community Services Committee. He stated that is refreshing to see that the League is finally recognizing that everyone has to come together as a united body in order to get legislation passed. He also stated that it was made quite clear that ERAF is dead as far as the cities opportunity to get any of that money back. He added that the next biggest source of funds that the city could be losing is the vehicle license fee. Right now they are taking it away from the city with the understanding that it will be back-filled but unfortunately there is no guarantee. He added that with term limits at both the Legislature and City Council levels there is a need for more training and a fast track training of people coming into City Council so they can get up to speed.

Councilmember Barnes thanked the City for allowing her to attend the League Conference. She reported that she attended the Brown Act Conflict of Interest and Fair Political Practices seminars and enjoyed meeting with the other Councilmembers and many State legislators.

Councilmember Barnes reported that she attended a Conference at Cal State Fullerton sponsored by the League of Cities, Cal State Fullerton Public Policies, Southern California Gas Company, and the Orange County Business Council regarding the coastal crisis.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker commended Mr. Wood on his presentation at the Conference and stated that La Palma was the only city that had all five members in attendance. He reported that he and the Mayor met with some of our local legislators.

Mayor Aragona reported she also attended the Orange County Coastal Crisis seminar and stated she found it very interesting that a group of federal, state, local government, and environmentalists were able to address an issue in a spirit of cooperation.

Mayor Aragona stated that she met with State Senator Ross Johnson while she was in Sacramento and reported he was very pleased to hear of La Palma's progress in moving forward on the Community Activities Center project.

Mayor Aragona reported that Assemblyman Tom Harmon has asked for some Member Requests for possible funding along the SCE right-of-way El Rancho Verde expansion.

Mayor Aragona announced that the La Palma Lions Club will be doing a Flag Day and she was impressed by the quick response from Colonel Lasser of the Los Alamitos Training Center to the Lions Club invitation to be the speaker, but unfortunately he is out of the country and will not be able to participate, but yet he still called her and agreed to participate.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmember Duke referred to the trees that have been removed on Walker Street and asked the plans for removing the remains of the trees.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ismile Noorbaksh responded they are working on a project to remove the sidewalk and once the sidewalk has been removed they will be able to grind the roots, which should be done in the next 45 days.

Councilmember Blake asked what the progress is on the property at Valley View Street and La Palma Avenue where the Mobil gas station used to be.

Principal Planner Joan Hoesterey responded staff is having difficulty getting comment from the property owners. She added she believes the property has changed owners and she will have to contact the Orange County Tax Assessor to determine the current property owner.

Councilmember Blake asked if they are still aerating the soil. Ms. Hoesterey responded the remediation equipment will probably remain for several years to come however, Building & Safety has requested the property owners to make the fence more presentable.

Mayor Aragona stated she received a telephone call that there are some lights out in the Chili's area of Centerpointe and asked staff to look into this.

Councilmember Duke asked if there has been any action on the Maroon property. Principal Planner Joan Hoesterey responded the property is going through the sale process and they won't be doing any more maintenance work on the property until the sale has been completed. She added that perhaps City staff could do weed removal and then bill the property owner.

Councilmember Barnes reminded Council that the Youth 20/20 Career Day will be on January 17th at 7:30 a.m. and on January 24th the Chamber will have a Member Appreciation Luncheon and will preview its new website.

Councilmember Blake reported he received a certificate recognizing the City of La Palma's participation in the census from the U. S. Census Bureau. He also reported he received a letter from the Governor asking residents to conserve power consumption by 7%. Mayor Aragona responded that the City Manager has been asked to prepare a resolution.

Mayor Aragona announced Flag Day, sponsored by the Lions Club, would be February 16th at Walker Junior High School at 10:00 a.m.

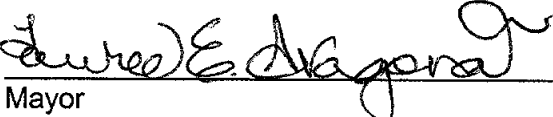
CITY MANAGER REMARKS

Interim City Manager Len Wood asked the Director of Public Works/City Engineer to give a short report on how the energy crisis has affected the Walker Street project.

Mr. Noorbaksh reported that pavement of the street had been scheduled for today but the contractor got a call that all the asphalt plants were shut down by Edison due to a lack of power statewide. At this time staff does not know when the street paving will be done

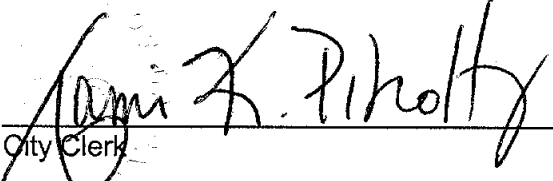
ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Aragona passed the gavel to Councilmember Barnes who adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. in memory of Hector Acala, a long-time La Palma resident.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk