

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

March 6, 2001

Mayor Aragona called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2001, in the Council Chambers of La Palma City Hall, 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

CLOSED SESSION

The Council recessed to a Closed Session at 5:30 p.m. pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION; one case

RECONVENING

The Council reconvened in regular session at 7:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

INVOCATION

Pastor Darrell Yarbrough of the La Palma Christian Center 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
Tami K. Piscotty, Assistant to the City Manager
Jan Hobson, Director of Recreation & Community Services
Joan Hoesterey, Principal Planner
Joel Kuperberg, City Attorney
Peggie Turnage, Executive Assistant

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Aragona, assisted by Councilmember Blake, presented a Proclamation to Robert Tzong in recognition of his attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker presented a Proclamation to Mayor Aragona in recognition of her selection by State Senator Ross Johnson as District No. 35's Woman of the Year.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Roselyn Aguilar, 8195 Valley View Street, Buena Park, addressed the Council to defend the Kennedy Shamrock Regiment Boosters and demand a public apology from La Palma Days Parade Committee volunteer Carl Eriksen regarding an incident that occurred at the last La Palma Days Parade.

RECESS

Mayor Aragona recessed the City Council to convene as the Community Development Commission at 7:22 p.m. (See separate Community Development Commission Minutes.)

RECONVENING

Mayor Aragona reconvened the meeting in regular session at 7:50 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Larry Herman, 5122 Andrew Drive, La Palma, requested that Item No. 3 be pulled for discussion.

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

APPROVED THE FEBRUARY 20, 2001 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2001-12 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS MARCH 6, 2001

The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Walker and carried on the following roll call vote:

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

COMPUTER PURCHASES

Mr. Herman addressed the Council to ask what kind of computers were being proposed, their cost and the justification for their purchase other than for the use of e-mail.

Management Assistant Ayumi Takayasu responded that they could be laptops or desktop computers and the estimated expense was based on the figure of \$2,800 for a laptop. She stated

the City currently purchases Dell computers. In addition to e-mail, the computers would allow councilmembers access to the City's Web Site and City Council agendas.

Councilmember Blake commented that the paperless agenda system would cut down on reproduction costs and would be a conservation measure.

Mayor Aragona added that if a Councilmember wishes to use their own computer they may do so, which would reduce the cost to the City.

Councilmember Barnes stated her computer has a firewall and it would require modification before she could connect to the City's network.

Ms. Takayasu responded that was correct, she would have to bring the central processing unit in for the modification.

Councilmember Barnes asked that if she chose not to make the modifications to her computer a City computer would be made available to her and Ms. Takayasu responded affirmatively.

Mayor Aragona stated that if a Councilmember prefers the hard copies they would be available as well.

Councilmember Blake made a motion to approve the purchase of computers to allow Councilmembers to access and respond to their e-mail from residents directly, with the computers to be returned to the City upon completion of the Councilmember's term of office. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Walker and carried on the following roll call vote:

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

REGULAR ITEMS

2000 LA PALMA DAYS REPORT

Director of Recreation and Community Services Jan Hobson stated that the La Palma Days event was a major undertaking and it took a large number of staff and volunteers to pull it off. She asked everyone in the audience who participated in the planning and implementation of this event to stand for a round of applause.

Ms. Hobson stated that an evaluation of the 2000 La Palma Days event was conducted in four phases:

- The Coordinating Committee held its evaluation meeting on November 27, 2000. At that time, each subcommittee filed its own event report, along with overall event observations;

- Guests were surveyed throughout the November 11th event, and the results were tabulated and presented to the Coordinating Committee;
- Subcommittee chairs were interviewed by Recreation staff for their recommendations at the beginning of January 2001;
- Staff met to determine its recommendations.

Highlights of the Coordinating and subcommittees' overall event evaluations and recommendations are:

- Everyone felt that the overall event was successful;
- Planning and theme selection for the 2001 La Palma Days event should begin in April;
- Preliminary event information should be sent to the elementary schools in May 2001, and to the junior highs and high schools in August 2001;
- Decorations should be consistent throughout the event (stages, booths, directional signs activity areas;
- Keep event to one day, but operate longer hours (10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.)
- Reduce event net expenditures by 20-30%.

In addition Ms. Hobson highlighted the recommendations specific to each sub-committee. She concluded her report by presenting the following staff recommendations:

- ❖ Reduce the size of the Coordinating Committee, to be determined at a later date;
- ❖ To encourage community leadership, limit the number of years that a subcommittee representative can serve on the Coordinating Committee;
- ❖ Maintain the one-day event, but increase hours of operation;
- ❖ Clarify Coordinating Committee/Subcommittee/Staff relationships and responsibilities;
- ❖ Conduct further discussions with the CAB Committee regarding their involvement;
- ❖ Impose budgetary restraints on the Coordinating Committee and subcommittees.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker made a motion to receive and file the report. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Blake and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

LA PALMA DAYS INVESTIGATION RESULTS

City Manager Len Wood stated that at its November 21, 2000 meeting the City Council directed staff to investigate all of the complaints received about the La Palma Days Parade and give the City Council the findings. Mr. Wood stated he would not be talking about any specifics; however, during the process some policy issues were identified that need to be brought before Council.

Mr. Wood stated that the City received four complaints after the La Palma Days Event. These complaints pointed out the necessity of having a structure to deal with issues of this type. Mr. Wood pointed out how fortunate the City is to have so many volunteers dedicated to the City. Mr. Wood then made a visual presentation categorizing the different types of volunteer groups in our community.

Mr. Wood stated that as a result of this investigation staff is recommending that Council approve the implementation of the following recommendations:

1. Institute a Volunteer Policy establishing standards to insure volunteers act in an appropriate manner when representing the City of La Palma;
2. Approve the development and implementation of an optional annual Training and Orientation Program for all City volunteers, perhaps tied in with a recognition process; and
3. Review the organization of the Coordinating Committee at a later date.

Councilmember Barnes stated she sat on the coordinating committee of La Palma Days and felt it was a good format to work under.

Councilmember Duke stated she feels it is important to have an understanding when you go into any type of program and volunteer your time, what is expected of you and to have some volunteer standards and goals is very, very important.

Councilmember Blake suggested that the VIP's and RACE's should be pulled from the City volunteer category and moved into independent because they have their own set of guidelines that fall under the Police Department and he would like to see it stay under the jurisdiction of the Police Department.

Mr. Wood responded the intent is not to move volunteers from department to another, what is being addressed is general guidelines that apply citywide. In addition, the specific training and any other additional guidelines will continue to be provided by the department. Mr. Wood added that the Police Chief assisted in the preparation of these guidelines.

Mayor Aragona stated she believes policies and procedures are a beginning point and they allow a program or an organization to grow, so she supports this idea.

Councilmember Duke stated she likes the idea of the incorporation of the "Six Pillars of Character"; something that the City has been promoting to the young people and it is time that the adults buy in as well.

Mr. Larry Herman, 5122 Andrew Drive, La Palma, addressed the Council to ask if this item, as it is seen tonight, will come back before Council in a modified form or will they be taking action this evening.

Mr. Wood suggested that the Council adopt this in concept at this meeting and staff would come back with the refined product.

Mr. Herman stated that the policy outlines what the volunteer agrees to and it also outlined what the City agrees to. He asked what recourse volunteers have if they feel that the City is not holding up their end of the bargain.

Mayor Aragona responded that if the volunteer feels there is a staff person not adhering to the policy they are free to come to the City Council and you can go to the City Manager on any issue. She added the first line would be the City Manager and he would direct the volunteer from there.

Mr. Herman asked if the guideline requiring interview would still be in place or if that requirement would be dropped.

Mr. Wood responded that more work has to be done on this policy.

Mayor Aragona stated that this would come back as an agenda item.

Mr. Herman suggested that staff talk with the volunteers and ask for their input.

Councilmember Barnes made a motion to institute a Volunteer Policy, approve the development and implementation of an optional Training and Orientation Program for all City volunteers, and review the organization of the Coordinating Committee at a later date. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Blake and carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Mayor Aragona announced that there would be a workshop on Thursday, March 8th at 7:00 p.m. at Central Park dealing with the new Community Center Building as well as potential redevelopment of the facilities as they exist now and she invited the audience to attend and give their input.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES

Councilmember Duke stated that she attended the Orange County Council of Governments meeting and reported that several topics were covered. One was a program being implemented by the City of Anaheim called the smart shuttle, "Art Smart Card". She explained that this is a reader card for riders of the inter-city transportation program. She added that the long term hope is that if this is successful within the City of Anaheim, a reader card system could be developed County-wide and even possibly state-wide. She also reported that the OCCOG voted to be a part of the Clean Cities Coalition with Anaheim being one of the lead cities and the main focus would be alternative fuel infrastructure. It was also reported that there are alternative fuel vehicles, light, medium and heavy duty that are available on a trial basis to cities. In addition, Colonel Lennibur from the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps made a presentation regarding the invasion of habitat pointing out that portions of their land for endangered species as well as infringement of their buffer zone by surrounding cities.

Councilmember Duke stated she attended the Southern California Council of Governments meeting and in the committee she sits on they found that the negotiations with HCD are not going well. It is still hoped that HCD will accept the housing element that was submitted.

Councilmember Blake stated that he attended the Orange County Fire Authority meeting and reported that the board approved the labor agreement with the firefighter's union with a five-year contract. They also approved the purchase of nine new base stations that will replace the outdated base stations on the mountain tops around Orange County. He added that this ties into the new 800 megahertz system. He added their workers compensation carrier informed them that they are no longer writing insurance in the state of California and the premiums with the new company are going from 2.3 million up to 6 million dollars. The board authorized the insurance agent and the chief to get a temporary policy and at the same time request a premium bid from State Fund. The board also asked staff to look into the feasibility of self-insurance.

Councilmember Barnes reported that she accompanied Mayor Aragona to the SCAG Transportation subcommittee.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker stated he attended the Sanitation District meeting where workers compensation increases were also discussed. He stated their premium has a little more than doubled. He also reported that they approved a five-year staff and business plan update. He stated that over the past ten years they have gone from approximately 700 employees down to 508 and over the next five-years they are looking at going to an increase of 522. The ongoing study of the outfall is still a big item and the University of Irvine will conduct a test.

Mayor Aragona stated she wants to publicly thank Assemblywoman Sally Havice, State Senator Joe Dunn, Assemblyman Tom Harman, State Senator Ross Johnson, Assemblyman Maddox, and State Senators Jim Brulte, Bill Campbell, and John Campbell for taking the time to meet with her while she was recently in Sacramento on personal business. She also thanked Tami Piscotty for her assistance in all her phone calls to arrange for these meetings.

Mayor Aragona also reported briefly on the Read Across America program and commented how important reading is. She also spoke about a program called "Seedlings" for children who are not sighted. She also commented on the poem she had received from the students at Miller School after she had read to them about lighthouses.

Mayor Aragona stated she attended the SCAG Transportation and Communication Committee meeting and reported they are in the process of recommending a 2001 regional transportation plan. Some of the issues that impact La Palma are street funding and HOV lanes, but the issue for the past few months has been aviation and because El Toro is such a controversial issue she asked that it be agendized in the future for Council discussion.

Mayor Aragona stated she is a member of the State League Policy Committee on Public Works, Communication and Transportation and reported that she will be a member of the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence Committee on Public Works and Transportation. She added that a lot of great programs come through this committee and she is very honored to be a part of that committee.

Mayor Aragona reported that she attended Opening Day at Continental Little League and got to throw out a ball with Officer Morales. She added that she received a very nice letter from Continental Little League thanking the City for its interest.

COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmember Barnes reported that she attended a breakfast sponsored by the Orange County League of Cities with Senator Joe Dunn as the speaker who spoke primarily on the energy issue. He also commented on SB 910, which has to do with the Housing and Community Development, and stated that the penalties are more for those who refuse to be compliant, not those who are trying to be compliant.

Councilmember Barnes shared some of the letters she got from students at Pat Nixon school after she had read to them.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker gave his regrets for being unable to attend the Americana Award Dinner but added he was pleased that his wife, Lisa, was there to represent him in honoring Brian O'Neal.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker asked staff to conduct a survey of surrounding cities of total Council compensation to ensure La Palma is compatible to other cities.

Councilmember Duke stated she sits on the Kennedy Site Committee and reported on some of the things they are currently working on which includes a PA system and replacement of their copier machine.

Councilmember Duke complimented the La Palma Americana Awards Committee and congratulated Brian O'Neal on his selection as La Palma's recipient.

Councilmember Duke stated she sits on the LINC Housing Board and reported that they plan to start interviewing tenants in March.

Mr. Wood stated staff has had meetings with Mr. Swanson and he has agreed that he will not start that process until it's clear that the project has been completed.

Principal Planner Joan Hoesterey stated that there is a requirement in their DDA that the Commission approve the Marketing and Management Plan prior to proceeding with any interviewing or marketing of the project. She added that plan went to the City Attorney and came back with numerous comments that were forwarded to LINC Housing and Mr. Swanson.

Councilmember Duke reported that she read to a third grade class on Read Across America and it was fun.

Councilmember Duke asked staff to come back to Council with an update on the Community Foundation that the Council established three years ago.

Councilmember Blake congratulated Brian O'Neal and thanked Duane Schuster and his committee for the hard work they did.

Councilmember Blake reminded everyone of the Kennedy Choir Show which will be Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at Cook Auditorium.

Councilmember Blake reported he had the opportunity to ride an OCTA bus, hitting all the freeways in Orange County in an hour and a half. During the trip he was assured that the lane from the 91 east to the 5 south will be completed by the end of April.

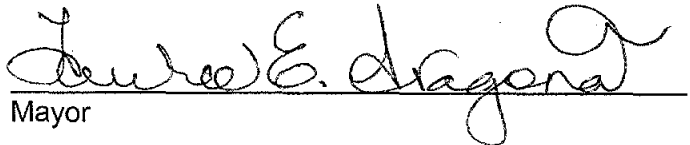
Mayor Aragona announced that La Palma has again been designated as a Tree City USA and congratulated Mike Belknap on his efforts in submitting the city's application.

Mayor Aragona thanked staff for this evening's reception honoring her in her selection as Woman of the Year. She also stated that it was an honor for her to be able to escort Brian O'Neal across the stage on Saturday when he was honored as La Palma's citizen of the year.

Mayor Aragona reported that she met with Paul Wafer of the La Palma Intercommunity Hospital and stated that his organization wants to reach out and work with the community and partner on things.

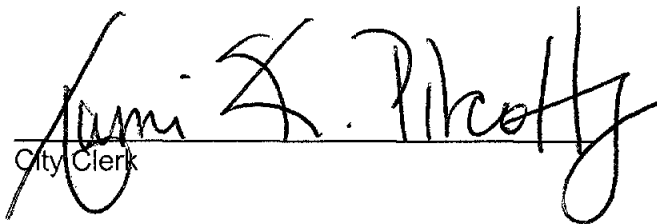
ADJOURNMENT

The City Council adjourned at 8:57 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk