

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

April 17, 2001

Mayor Aragona called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:04 p.m. on Tuesday, April 17, 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

Mayor Aragona asked everyone to join her in a moment of silent prayer.

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
Jeffrey Kirkpatrick, Police Captain
Ed Ethell, Police Captain
Ismile Noorbaksh, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Tami K. Piscotty, Assistant to the City Manager
Robbeyn Bird, Director of Finance
Joan Hoesterey, Principal Planner
Joel Kuperberg, City Attorney
Peggie Turnage, Executive Assistant

Mayor Aragona introduced her Sister and Brother-in-law Ellen and Jim Burrell who are visiting from the State of Maine. She also recognized the cub and boy scouts present in the audience.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Aragona and Mayor Pro Tem Walker presented a Proclamation to Chief O'Neill designating May 12, 2001 as Fire Recognition Day.

The City Council presented a Proclamation to Ed and Virginia Howe for their dedicated service to the La Palma Community. They also presented Edward Howe with a City Tile for his service on the Community Activities and Beautification Committee. The Lions Club and the CAB Committee also made presentations.

Mayor Aragona presented a Proclamation to Dr. Harry Rice designating the month of May as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month. Dr. Rice introduced ALS patient Leonard Fromson and his wife Dee from La Mirada.

Mayor Aragona presented a proclamation to CAB Committeemembers Noella Lew and Kim Eliff designating Saturday, April 28, 2001 as the Fifteenth Anniversary of Arbor Day in La Palma. Ms. Lew invited everyone to attend the Arbor Day Activities on April 28th. Mayor Aragona also recognized former Mayor Keith Nelson who started Arbor Day in La Palma.

Officer Tim Nolan of the La Palma Police Department gave an oral presentation on Identity Theft.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Vector Control Representative Larry Herman reported that there is a Mosquito Alert due to the recent heavy rains. He also reported that a wild animal educational program is in the works and while the Red Imported Fire Ants are quiet in La Palma, they are busy in our neighboring City of Cypress.

Mr. Herman thanked everyone for their support of Daffodil Days. He then expressed his disappointment that the focus of the July 4th event seems to be on the Fitness Run for Fun rather than on the 5K/10K Run/Walk and stated he fears the event is doomed to failure.

Interim City Manager Len Wood responded that the entire front page of the next La Palman is dedicated to the 5K/10K Run/Walk.

Anaheim Union High School District Facilities Task Force Representative Brian O'Neal reported that he recently took a bus tour of 4 schools in the District. He also reported on the problem of overcrowding and the use of relocatables versus brick and mortar structures.

Councilmember Barnes added that on behalf of Mr. O'Neal, she spoke on the interim need of classrooms, overcrowding, and the lack of science and chemistry labs at the workshop conducted by a consultant to the Board of Trustees. She stated that the source of funding is the main problem.

RECESS

Mayor Aragona recessed the City Council to convene as the Community Development Commission at 7:57 p.m. (See separate Community Development Commission Minutes.)

RECONVENING

Mayor Aragona reconvened the meeting in regular session at 7:59 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

APPROVED THE APRIL 3, 2001 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2001-15 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS APRIL 17, 2001

AWARDED CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING SERVICES TO CONRAD & ASSOCIATES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,750

APPROVED AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE AGREEMENT FOR INTERIM CITY MANAGER SERVICES

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2001-16 AUTHORIZING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE TWO VEHICLES FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF LA PALMA

APPROVED THE PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2001 LA PALMA DAYS COORDINATING COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

AUTHORIZED THE ATTENDANCE OF MAYOR LAUREE ARAGONA AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTINE BARNES AT THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAYS ON MAY 23 AND 24, 2001 IN SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

APPROVED AND AUTHORIZED THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF THREE (3) EMERGENCY CALL BOXES IN THE EDISON RIGHT-OF-WAY, FROM VALLEY VIEW STREET TO MOODY STREET, FROM GENERAL SECURITY SYSTEMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,015.00, CITY PROJECT NO. 01-PRK-01; AND APPROVED THE APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE OF THESE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,500.00 FROM THE CAPITAL OUTLAY RESERVE

AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$13,020.00 TO CIVIL TRANS, INC. FOR THE ADDITION TO THE WATER DIVISION BUILDING AND INSTALLATION OF A VEHICLE WASH AREA AT THE CITY YARD MAINTENANCE FACILITY, CITY PROJECT NO. 01-WTR-01

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

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

Mayor Aragona thanked Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ismile Noorbaksh for moving the purchase of the Emergency Call Boxes through. She explained that the City got a grant through the JPIA and Mr. Noorbaksh obtained a great bid which makes the city's match less than was anticipated. She added that Mr. Noorbaksh was very complimentary to Ayumi Takayasu for her assistance.

REGULAR ITEMS

PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED ORANGE LINE

Mayor Aragona stated that she would abstain from consideration on this item and called on City Attorney Joel Kuperberg to give an explanation.

Mr. Kuperberg explained that the rules for conflict of interest have recently changed. Rather than a complicated three part test, it's now a fairly simple test; if your home is within 500 feet of a project location it's a situation where you have to abstain from participating. If your home or property is outside the 500 foot radius then you can participate.

Cerritos Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Barrows made a visual presentation on the proposed Orange Line on behalf of the Southeast Los Angeles County Council of Governments.

Councilmember Barnes asked if there is a possibility that the steel-on-steel rail could be put in place of the MAGLEV.

Mr. Barrows responded that there is competition for the same right-of-way. He added that the City of Cerritos has voted to stop any type of light rail to go forward because of proximity of homes.

Councilmember Duke stated she feels that there is a great need to explore other avenues of transportation because we are already at gridlock.

Mr. Barrows commented that some of La Palma's neighboring cities are considering using the right-of-way as parkland, some cities have already voted to do so, and they feel that the elevated MAGLEV is compatible with that use and suggested that the entire right-of-way could be converted into a hiking/biking trail.

Councilmember Blake commented he feels it is exciting that cities are looking at new technology versus going with a 100 to 200 year old technology.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker stated he agrees and feels that the City needs to be proactive.

Councilmember Barnes made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2001-17 in support of the Orange Line Predeployment Planning Study. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Blake and carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Councilmember Blake stated that in Garden Grove OCTA has allowed a car wash to be built in the right of way and there is currently construction on another building. He suggested that the City communicate its concern in allowing this construction in the right of way and urge that no further construction be allowed.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Interim City Manager Len Wood stated that approximately a month ago the Council met with the Development Committee at which time code enforcement was discussed. He then called on Chief Giampa.

Chief Giampa stated that prior to November of 1998 code enforcement was handled exclusively by the Building and Safety Department. In November of 1998 the Police Department assumed the role of code enforcement under the Operations Division, which is managed by Captain Ethell. He then called on Captain Ethell to present the report.

Captain Ethell gave a visual presentation updating code enforcement activities and the process the code enforcement officer utilizes in trying to gain voluntary compliance. Captain Ethell stressed that the goal is to obtain voluntary compliance to code enforcement violations.

Mayor Aragona asked what the longest potential period would be between the first notice and the appeal. Captain Ethell responded that it is thirty days.

Mayor Aragona cited an instance dealing with trash being left out and commented that the code enforcement officer approached the issue from an educational standpoint, which she feels is an excellent approach.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker commented that when he was campaigning he had received some requests, which he had passed along to the code enforcement officer and the problems have been taken care of. He commended staff and the Police Department.

CITY MANAGER RECRUITMENT SCHEDULING

Interim City Manager Len Wood stated that two dates for the City Manager Recruitment need to be established. One would be to set up a screening time, which would involve one and a half to two hours, and the other would be a time to interview the candidates. He added that Mr. Murray will be presenting five to seven candidates and suggested that seven to nine hours be set aside for those interviews.

The Council considered several dates and concurred they could be available either in the morning or afternoon of Tuesday, May 29th for the screening and all day on Monday, June 4th for the interviews.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES

Mayor Pro Tem Walker reported on the CATV meeting with a representative of AT&T Broadband. He stated that some of the questions concerning customer service were answered. He commented that he has a concern that all the pay TV channels are being taken away from governmental agencies. He added this is a result of a possible law suit by HBO, Showtime and the pay channels.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker reported that at the Sanitation District now has its annual reports on CD disc and he will leave a copy at City Hall that can be viewed by anyone interested. He stated that the budget increases for gas and electric are becoming alarming and the District is talking about the possibility of generating its own power, above and beyond what it is currently generating.

Mayor Aragona stated she had received a call from Assemblyman Harman inquiring what La Palma had done to obtain park bond dollars. She commended Jan Hobson for assisting Assemblyman Harman on this matter.

Mayor Aragona reported she attended a meeting with the Southern California Edison Real Estate Division, which Supervisor Coad put together. She added this meeting dealt with Southern California Edison's secondary land use program, which was of special interest to the City of La Palma. She reported that the other cities were quite impressed with the agreement worked out between the City of La Palma and SCE and they are going to use La Palma's land use agreement as the template for all future land use leases.

Mayor Aragona reported that she recently attended an Orange County Water District tour to Northern California, which dealt with Northern California water issues that she found very educational and beneficial. She stated that the Orange County Water District made a presentation to the Northern California Supervisors on what Orange County is doing on water reclamation and conservation that the Northern Supervisors found very impressive.

Mayor Aragona reported she attended the West Orange County Legislative Meeting at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos. She commented that this is an excellent facility and recommended that the City consider the use of this facility. Mayor Aragona reported that the joint meeting for the Cypress, La Palma, Los Alamitos Chambers of Commerce will be held on August 16th at the Joint Forces Training Base.

Mayor Aragona stated she attended the senior meeting and they are planning a fun activity in the next few months and Council and staff will be receiving invitations.

Mayor Aragona reported she and Councilmember Barnes attended the Orange County League Meeting, which had an excellent presentation on the Grass Roots Initiative and stated she has a handout, which she will leave with staff for anyone interested in reading it.

Mayor Aragona reported she had the honor of representing La Palma on Good Friday at the Community Service hosted by Buena Park.

Mayor Aragona reported she attended an OCTA City Representation Task Force Meeting, which is a new Ad Hoc Committee out of the Orange County League, which has been formed to look at the Orange County Transportation Board composition.

Councilmember Blake stated that he attended the Orange County Fire Authority and reported that Assemblyman Maddox has amended his current bill to make the Board of Directors personally liable for misappropriation of funds and he has asked the Grand Jury to look at the Fire Endowment Fund given to Irvine.

Councilmember Blake stated that as Chairman of the Community Services State Policy Committee he can officially announce that La Palma's Fit-n-Fun Program won one of the Helen Putnam Awards for Excellence, which will be presented at a luncheon at the League Conference.

Councilmember Duke reported that at last there is an approved Regional Transportation Plan. She stated that the plan stresses no more growth at LAX.

Councilmember Duke reported that at the Orange County Library Advisory Board the annual budget for the year 2001/2002 was adopted. She added that the budget looks very good.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Walker asked staff to bring back a recommendation for a simplified interim per diem policy until such time as a formal policy can be reviewed.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker congratulated staff on the many awards that the City has been receiving.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker thanked Chief Giampa for his policy on rotating the purchase of police vehicles.

Councilmember Barnes reported that the West Orange County Legislative Committee Meeting coming up is planned to be a casual and informal session with the local legislators. She stated that the Chamber is planning a County Update with Supervisor Coad and the tentative date at this time is August 29th.

Councilmember Barnes thanked Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ismile Noorbaksh for his quick response to a citizen regarding tree stumps.

Mayor Aragona stated she had recently come into contact with a fairly new resident of the City and was pleased to report that this citizen was very impressed by a Public Works employee she had contact with.

Councilmember Blake reported he was fortunate to be able to attend a Court of Honor for four young men who received their Eagle Scout Award.

Councilmember Duke stated she finds it very gratifying to attend these Courts of Honor.

Councilmember Duke reported that the Easter Bunny visited 65 children that reside in the Cypress Motor Lodge and every one of them received baskets as the result of a combined effort of many people in the community, but specifically the members of the Kiwanis.

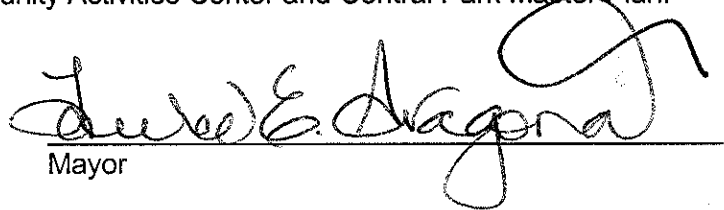
Mayor Aragona agreed that the Eagle Scout Court of Honor was very special. She also commended former Councilmember Brian O'Neal who is still very active with Scout Troop 650.

CITY MANAGER REMARKS

Interim City Manager Len Wood stated he continues to be impressed by the awards achieved by the City that other, much larger cities, have not been able to achieve. He added that the Helen Putnam Award is a very prestigious award.

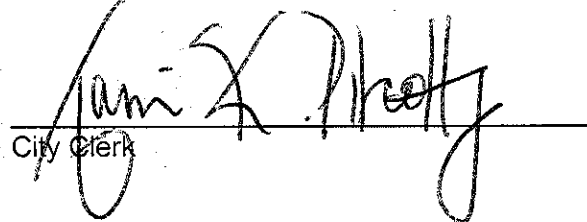
ADJOURNMENT

The City Council adjourned at 9:15 p.m. to a Study Session on Tuesday, May 1 at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the new Community Activities Center and Central Park Master Plan.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk