

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

September 4, 2001

Mayor Aragona called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2001, in the Council Chambers of La Palma City Hall, 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boy Scout Troop 650 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.

Mayor Aragona introduced each of the members of Troop 650 and their adult leaders.

ROLL CALL:

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

Councilmembers absent: None

City Officials present: Vince Giampa, Chief of Police
Ismile Noorbaksh, Director of Public Works/City Engineer
Tami K. Piscotty, Assistant to the City Manager
Paul Pitts, Director of Building & Safety
Robbeyn Bird, Director of Finance
Joan Hoesterey, Principal Planner
Joel Kuperberg, City Attorney
Peggie Turnage, Executive Assistant

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Aragona stated that a request had been received from the Regional Center of Orange County and announced that in response a Proclamation recognizing September 14, 2001 as Developmental Disabilities Day will be presented by Mayor Pro Tem Walker at their Spotlight Awards Banquet.

Recreation Supervisor Janet Cates introduced Recreation Specialists Cindy Robinson and Noel Munivez who, with the assistance of Mayor Aragona, recognized the Volunteens for 2001 and presented each with a stipend in appreciation of their service to the Camp La Palma Program.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Rudy Starowitz, 5801 San Simeon, addressed the Council to state he was happy to see the street signs on San Simeon Drive and Westra Lane had been corrected. He reported that the

vines on the north side of La Palma appear to be doing well but felt that the vines on the south side need more water. He also suggested that the broken tree near the bank be replaced.

Pastor Sandra Heer, 8111 Walker Street, addressed the Council to invite the City Council and staff to the Gospel Concert in the Park on September 15th at 6:30 p.m. that involves all the churches in the City of La Palma.

RECESS

Mayor Aragona recessed the City Council to convene as the Community Development Commission at 7:23 p.m. (See separate Community Development Commission Minutes.)

RECONVENING

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Assistant to the City Manager Tami Piscotty stated that staff is pulling the Adjourned Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2001 from the Agenda.

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

APPROVED THE AUGUST 21, 2001 ADJOURNED MEETING AND AUGUST 21, 2001 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2001-43 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS SEPTEMBER 4, 2001

REJECTED CLAIM PRESENTED BY DEBRA ARMSTRONG, ET. AL.

APPROVED THE COUNCIL SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN COMMITTEES RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT RICHARD MAURICE TO THE TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE AND ANDY HILBERT AND HENRY LEE TO THE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE, FOR TERMS EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2004

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

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

Mayor Aragona introduced the three new appointees to the Traffic Safety and Community Activities and Beautification Committees.

REGULAR ITEMS

ACACIA NORTHWEST SITE FUNDING

Assistant to the City Manager Tami Piscotty stated that Council had directed staff to investigate potential funding for the Acacia Northwest Site, including contacting the La Palma Community Foundation. She reported that she had contacted Steve Okamura and an application is included in the Council packets. She added that the Community Foundation's Mission Statement does not appear to support a project that helps the elderly; the foundation supports educational, cultural and recreational programs. She stated staff contacted several other cities that were considering funding the Acacia Northwest Site and reported that the City of Cypress intends to give \$50,000.00 to the project; however, the City of Los Alamitos because it is not only facing a utility users tax ratification concern but also money it lost during the ERAF shift, both of which affect La Palma, has chosen not to give any money to the project. She stated that if the City Council is interested and there is consensus to proceed, the Council might wish to give this consideration to an Ad Hoc Committee or there is money available in both the General Fund and the Capital Outlay Reserve; however, those monies are extremely limited.

Mayor Aragona expressed concern because the City has a lot of demands on the limited dollars it has and there are so many uncertainties. She suggested the Councilmembers could personally donate to this cause but did not feel the City should contribute at this time.

Councilmember Barnes expressed her concern with the tenuous situation of the utility user tax and stated she would prefer to hold off any action on this item until the ramifications of the utility users tax are known.

Councilmember Duke stated that while she would like to see the City support this activity, she shares the concerns for the city's financial situation and concurred with the Mayor's suggestion that the Councilmembers personally support the project. She announced a fund raising dinner that will be held on December 1st and asked the Councilmembers to support this fund raising activity on a personal basis.

Councilmember Blake concurred and suggested that after the utility users tax has been put to a vote, and if it passes, then it could be brought back for consideration at that point in time.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker concurred with the Council's concern and made a motion that this be investigated in a year and come back with new information at that time. 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

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES/ COUNCIL REMARKS

2001 RED RIBBON WEEK ACTIVITIES

Mayor Aragona reported that this year's Red Ribbon Week would be from October 21st to October 27th. This year the junior high school students will be targeted. In addition, they will continue with the usual activities of providing ribbons to the elementary school students, Tiny Tot students and students at the Christian Center. The schools will also be provided the ribbons to be ties on their schools and Hugs the Bear will be available. She explained that in the past the Hugs the Bear costume has been rented and the rental has become extremely high. Therefore, the costume will be purchased and the City will not have to rent it in the future. She added that ribbons have always been provided to staff but this year the Police Officers will wear red ribbon week pins rather than the ribbons. The Red Ribbon Challenge will be held on Saturday, October 20th beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Central Park and the three groups with the highest numbers present will receive first, second and third place monetary awards. Sgt. Nunez will provide Conflict Resolution posters that will be made available to anyone interested in posting them. On Thursday, October 25th, there will be two assemblies at Walker Junior High School and the City's motorcycle officer and the canine unit will participate in these assemblies as well as a probation officer.

Councilmember Duke stated that she attended the General Assembly of the Orange County Council of Governments and reported that the speaker, William Fulton, was very interesting. She also stated that she attended a program put on by the Senior Citizens and reported they had a very dynamic, motivational speaker, Jimmy Weldon.

Councilmember Blake stated that the Executive Committee of the Orange County Fire Authority met and reported that on August 16th the bonds were sold to provide twenty-five million dollars toward the building of the Regional Fire Operation and Training Center and they went out at a rate of 1.65% below estimated cost. They also approved the purchase of land for Station 29 in Dana Point from the South Coast Water District for the amount of \$430,000.00. They also approved a contract with Epics Internationa/IEDF Associates as consultants to set up the regional fuel system program.

Councilmember Blake stated he had received a call from Miller School asking if the Slurry Seal on Westra could be done on Friday the 21st when the school is closed. He shared the transportation problems the school would experience if the slurry seal were done while the school is open.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ismile Noorbaksh responded that he had talked with the school Principal this afternoon and explained that Westra Lane will be done on a separate day from Thelma which would allow access to the school on either day. He added he would try to work out a balance that will satisfy all parties.

Councilmember Barnes stated it was a pleasure for her to serve on the City Selection Committee. She stated that there is an organization called Federated Chambers and reported that the new Chairman is the Executive Director of the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce. She also reported that their survey indicated that the top area of concern is transportation and at the last meeting the speaker was Mr. Leahy from Orange County Transportation Authority. She added that she also

enjoyed the senior event. In addition she distributed flyers to two upcoming Chamber events: a luncheon "Choosing the Right Child Care" and the Health Fair and Business Expo.

Councilmember Barnes expressed concern about the vines in her area and stated she had discussed this with Directory of Public Works/City Engineer Ismile Noorbaksh.

Mr. Noorbaksh responded that all of the vines on the south side of La Palma had been trimmed up to a foot from the top of the wall. They have received some vandalism on the north side and they are working to resolve those issues. Along with that some of the trees on private property are encroaching toward the sidewalk and these areas will be looked at as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker reported that at the Sanitation District meeting they approved an emergency contract for the Santa Ana River interceptor in the amount of \$450,000.00. He also reported that the first spur of the Ground Water Replenishment System has been started.

Mayor Aragona reported that at the COG General Assembly, Planning and Growth issues were discussed and whether Orange County wants to remain answerable to the Southern California Association of Governments on issues to do with growth and planning. There was quite a bit of discussion on how we would fund our approach to not being answerable to SCAG. The utility user tax as it impacts some of the cities in Orange County was also discussed. She stated that she also attended an Emergency Medical Services Committee meeting and reported that they discussed what kind of recommendations they, as a board, had in making recommendations concerning health care to the Orange County Board of Supervisors, patient transfers, paramedic rules and regs, who are they answerable to and what criteria will be used to punished if the rules and regs are not followed. She added that they also discussed the use of automated external defibrilators. She announced that there would be a County Disaster Preparedness Study on Orange County's capability to respond to disasters, including the individual municipalities, and reported she will be taking part in an exercise at John Wayne Airport.

Mayor Aragona announced that there would be a program on "School Violence, Are We Next?" on Friday, October 19th from the Santee Fire EMS Police and School Officials at Bash Auditorium at Western Medical Center and they will have speakers from Columbine and other schools who have had this problem.

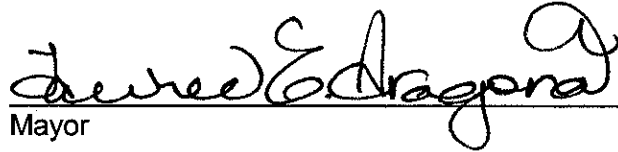
Mayor Aragona reported she attended the Ruby Slipper Awards and announced that Anaheim Union High School District Superintendent Jan Billings received a Ruby Slipper Award for a program she started and worked on with the Building Industry Technology Academy at Katella High School.

Mayor Aragona stated that she had been asked about the CAT bus by some of the seniors and added that it was very helpful to have the recent information provided by Director of Recreation and Community Services Jan Hobson to help her respond to the seniors questions.

Mayor Aragona stated that Bob Turnstall from Supervisor Coad's office was very complimentary to Director of Public Works/City Engineer for the information he provided on La Palma's Edison right-of-way.

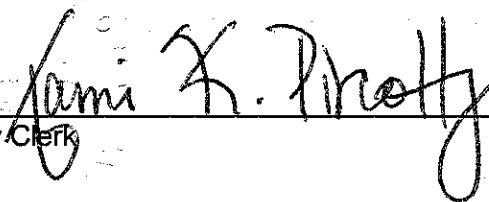
ADJOURNMENT

The City Council adjourned at 8:32 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk