



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
May 8, 2001

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Wagner in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Robert Wagner
Vice Mayor Larry Van Nostran
Council Member Wayne Piercy
Council Member Todd Rogers
ABSENT: Council Member Joseph Esquivel (excused)

PRESENTATIONS ON PROPOSED SHERIFF'S STATION RENOVATION

City Manager Howard Chambers reported that staff had been working hard to bring forth a project that would not only meet the immediate needs of the Sheriff's Department staff in Lakewood, but would serve the community well into the next decade. He reviewed the background on the \$3 million the County of Los Angeles had committed for the project. He also talked briefly about the need to incorporate facility improvements into Sheriff Lee Baca's long-range plans for his Department. He noted that staff had worked with the Lakewood Station personnel to develop a needs assessment for the station. He concluded by stating a meeting with Sheriff Baca would be scheduled to review the needs and the renovation plan.

Captain Bob Osborne, Commander of the Lakewood Sheriff's Station, gave a brief historical overview of the Lakewood Station construction and renovation. He noted that when the station first opened in 1958, it had provided service to 164,000 residents of the region. And although the station was remodeled in 1985, when it served 192,000, it was now providing service to 242,000 residents. He stated the staff assigned to the station had increased from 246 positions in 1985 to 326 today.

Mayor Wagner asked about how the Cerritos Station had impacted staffing level at the Lakewood Station. Captain Osborne responded by stating the Cerritos Station was mostly patrol personnel and did not really impact office staff in Lakewood.

Vice Mayor Van Nostran inquired if Lakewood Station was providing any services to Cerritos. The Captain responded by stating that Lakewood still provided mechanic services and some crime analysis to Cerritos.

Responding to a question from Council Member Rogers, Captain Osborne stated that when Cerritos decided they wanted a full-service station, they contracted separately for those services as new positions and did not take staff away from the Lakewood Station.

PROPOSED SHERIFF'S STATION RENOVATION - Continued

Captain Osborne reported that during the 1985 remodel, it was not foreseen that the demand for computers would be what it had become, therefore, accommodations would need to be made for more technology uses. Since 1985, there had been a significant increase in the number of female officers and so the women's locker facility needed expansion. Also, the shift to community policing meant increased interaction with the public, necessitating additional lobby and meeting space.

Sergeant Christy Lawrence displayed slides and discussed the results of the Sheriff's Station needs assessment study. The areas of improvement included: need for improved/additional interview rooms, separate conference and briefing areas, larger maintenance garage, additional parking spaces for staff, separate juvenile detention area, computer area for crime analysis unit, and need to increase accessibility for the handicapped.

Mayor Wagner questioned the computer setup in the public lobby area. Sgt. Lawrence responded by stating that the Station not only needed to supply public access to Megan's Law files, but the computer would also provide an additional outlet for public access to the Internet for those without a computer in the home.

Sgt. Lawrence confirmed for Council Member Rogers that the goal was to provide a less institutional look for the lobby area and make it more of a waiting area. The public lobby would be increased to an 817 square foot area.

Council Member Rogers, noting that the individual cities in the region provided separate sub-stations and the Sheriff's Department was moving toward smaller, local stations, asked if the station expansion would be cost-effective in the long run. The Captain responded by stating that the sub-stations located within the individual cities were only intended to provide service to walk-in residents and increase visibility, not replace services provided by the regional station in Lakewood. Also, since individual cities contracted separately for those services, if economic times warranted, funding for them could be eliminated. He added that it was unlikely that the other cities in the region would be interested in building their own stand-alone stations.

Responding to a question from Mayor Wagner, the Captain stated that he had seen no indication that any of the other region cities wished to have a full-service station in their city.

Architect Charles Walton reviewed the preliminary site plans, highlighting the new addition between the existing buildings which would have a second floor and feature a two-story lobby area.

Responding to a question from Vice Mayor Van Nostran, Mr. Walton stated that entrance and lobby security had not yet been addressed as part of the design process.

Mr. Walton stated that a preliminary cost estimate for the redesigned facility was \$10 - \$11 million including the proposed parking structure, valued at \$1.7 million.

PROPOSED SHERIFF'S STATION RENOVATION - Continued

Public Works Director Lisa Rapp reviewed a preliminary schedule for the construction and stated it would take approximately one year to finalize the architectural drawings and two years actual construction. She noted that one of the biggest challenges of the project would be to keep the Station operational while the construction was being completed.

The City Manager stated that obviously the original \$3 million planned for the project would not be adequate to meet the needs specified by the assessment study. He advised that staff would be meeting with representatives from the Sheriff's Department over the next six weeks to see if additional funding could be found in the Sheriff's budget and from the County Board of Supervisors. He concluded by stating that it would be necessary to have a commitment for the funding before the drawings could be finalized.

Council Member Rogers inquired if there was an alternative plan should full funding not become available. The City Manager responded by stating that since the Station absolutely required updating and Sheriff Baca was committed to a 30-year plan, every attempt would be made to obtain full funding. He noted, however, that the project could be scaled back if necessary or could be funded on a multi-year basis.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Wagner adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk