



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
August 24, 2004

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Executive Board Room at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

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

STATUS OF "PILLARS OF COMMUNITY" PROJECT

Assistant City Manager Michael Stover presented an oral report based on the memorandum contained in the agenda and stated that the purpose of the session was to give the City Council Members a sense of design elements for the "Pillars" project. He advised that since one of the provisions of the grant agreement with the S. Mark Taper Foundation had been that the design was subject to the approval of the City Council, the design elements were presented for approval at this time. He also stated that the Public Works Department had made a full-size mock-up of Pillar 1 to demonstrate the scale of the project.

Sheryl Musicant-Stewart, Community Relations Manager, introduced public art consultant, Leslie Elwood, and artist, Cheri Gaulke. She noted that staff had been working closely with the artist on the selection of photographic images to be used, which would provide a sense of community, from 1954, through the present and on into the future.

Ms. Elwood stated that she and the artist would move through the design scheme of each of the three proposed pillars.

Ms. Gaulke thanked the City Council for selecting her to do this project and stated that she had chosen glass for the project so that the completed work would be durable, but elegant and not heavy or overpowering. She stated that Pillar 1 was dedicated to the founders of the City; Pillar 2 to the City's vision; and Pillar 3 to the principle of community. She noted that the pillars were not intended to be only about the past, but to express the community's vision for the future. She stated that with the interior lighting, the pillars would also be dramatic from a distance.

Mr. Stover advised that student tours of the Civic Center would either begin or end at the site of the pillar project.

Ms. Elwood stated that the pillars would have a sacrificial coating on them that would make them resistant to damage from scratching or paint.

STATUS OF “PILLARS OF COMMUNITY” PROJECT - Continued

The Community Relations Manager noted that the placement of the pillars had taken into consideration other uses of the plaza area and that the stage that had been used in the past would still fit, even after the placement of the pillars.

Recessing to the plaza area in front of the Centre, Ms. Elwood pointed out the locations for each of the three pillars and the place on the wall of the Centre building where the dedication plaques would be located.

Mayor Rogers pointed out several spots in the proposed wording that had grammatical glitches and questioned whether the names “Legends of Lakewood” and “Pillars of Community” had been chosen for symmetry of wording.

Ms. Gaulke confirmed that symmetry had been one consideration and that the phrasing was intended to be more poetic in nature.

Council Member Wagner clarified that “community” was not intended to mean “the community” but was rather intended to convey the larger sense of building community.

City Attorney John S. Todd noted that the caption under the photograph of the first City Council did not list the members in the order in which they appeared in the photo.

Council Member Van Nostran suggested Mayor Rogers work with staff and the artist to review and sign off on the grammar of the text for the pillars. Mayor Rogers stated that if there were no objection, he would be pleased to do that.

Ms. Gaulke briefly reviewed the design for the dedication plaques that would be crafted from the same materials as the pillars and would share design highlights.

VICE MAYOR PIERCY MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN SECONDED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY AD HOC COMMITTEE. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Wagner, Esquivel, Piercy, Van Nostran and Rogers

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

UPDATE ON SHERIFF’S STATION RENOVATION PROJECT

Public Works Director Lisa Rapp reported that staff had been working to resolve some of the serious issues regarding the Sheriff’s Station Renovation Project. She discussed some of the challenges involved in performing a remodel and addition to an existing building which included determining building codes at the time of construction and whether the plans that had been identified for the building were the actual “as built” construction plans. She advised that the jail portion of the station was considered to be a separate building-within-a-building. She reported that due to a continued escalation in construction costs, it would be advisable to carefully evaluate the floor plans and the proposed square footage with Captain

UPDATE ON SHERIFF'S STATION RENOVATION PROJECT - Continued

Fender, Commander of the Lakewood Station, to determine if the project could be scaled back to keep within the original budget, perhaps through the elimination of the second floor of the addition, and still be able to accommodate critical station functions. She stated that should it be necessary to reduce the scope of the project, the obvious area would be the service garage, which could be bid with the rest of the project as a deductive alternative.

City Manager Howard Chambers stated that County input was needed to determine what they would be willing to cut from the project if necessary. He noted that the sales tax initiative on the November ballot for law enforcement could, if passed by the voters, provide some additional funding for the renovation project.

Ms. Rapp also advised the City Council that the project architect had requested that a clause in their contract be revisited. The original contract contained a provision which would require a complete re-draw of the plans in the event the bids received were more than ten percent over projections. She stated that with current market conditions in the construction industry, this clause was unreasonable and should be reconsidered. She noted that current market conditions had caused and would continue to cause delays in the project. She reported that the County had requested an independent, third party estimator review the project and that such a review would be helpful in projecting actual bid amounts. She concluded by stating the project continued to move forward, with staff working on the draft funding agreement and construction MOU with the County, although she noted that if the project should become fatally stalled, the City would ask the County to reimburse hard costs to date.

Mayor Rogers stated he felt it was dangerous to start gutting a project like this one because it reduces or removes the value of doing the project. He stated that the project should be done right or not done at all. He suggested awaiting the outcome of the vote on the Sheriff's sales tax measure which could provide the additional funding needed to complete the entire project.

The City Manager noted that with the timing of the project schedule, the results of the November election would be known before a critical point was reached.

Vice Mayor Piercy stated he agreed with Mayor Rogers and that one option which should be considered would be to approach the other cities served by the Lakewood station for help with the renovation project.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk