



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
January 25, 2005

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

INVOCATION was offered by Vice Mayor Wayne E. Piercy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Council Member Robert G. Wagner

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Rogers announced the annual State of the City luncheon would be held on Wednesday, January 26th.

Mayor Rogers introduced Simon Banfield, visiting the City from Australia through a program sponsored by the International City Managers' Association.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

COUNCIL MEMBER ESQUIVEL MOVED AND VICE MAYOR PIERCY SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 9.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meetings held November 9, December 14, and December 28, 2004

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands dated December 16, December 23, December 29, 2004; and January 6, and January 13, 2005

RI-4 RESOLUTION NO. 2005-1; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD PROHIBITING THE PARKING OR STANDING OF VEHICLES BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 3 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY OF EACH WEEK FOR STREET SWEEPING PURPOSES ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SOUTH STREET BETWEEN OCANA AVENUE AND THE WEST PROPERTY LINE OF 5800 SOUTH STREET

ROUTINE ITEMS: Continued

- RI-5 Approval of Agreement with Colantuono & Levin for Extraordinary and Supplementary Legal Services

- RI-6 Approval of Monthly Report of Investment Transactions

- RI-7 Approval of Quarterly Schedule of Investments

- RI-8 Review of City Investment Policy

- RI-9 Acceptance of Notice of Completion for Public Works Project No. 03-9, Traffic Signal - Centralia & Claretta, Moore Electrical Contracting, Inc.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

1.1 • MAXIMUM ALLOWED FLOOR AREA RATIO IN THE R-1 AND R-A ZONES

Community Development Director Chuck Ebner displayed slides and presented an oral report based on the memo contained in the agenda. He stated a request had been received from a resident for an amendment to the Municipal Code which would increase the current floor area ratio (FAR) in single-family residential (R-1 and R-A) zones. At the direction of the Planning and Environment Commission, staff had researched the issue and recommended that the current FAR be increased from 55 percent to 60 percent, a standard more comparable to single-family residences found in new subdivisions. He noted that on a standard Lakewood lot of 5,000 square feet, a FAR of 60 percent would allow a residence to be expanded up to 3,000 square feet, providing incentive for homeowners to remodel, rather than move out of the City. He noted that the current maximum lot coverage of 45 percent would remain unchanged. It was the recommendation of the Planning and Environment Commission that the City Council hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance, approve the Negative Declaration and introduce Ordinance No. 2005-1.

Responding to a question from Council Member Wagner, Mr. Ebner advised that during discussion by the Planning and Environment Commission, there had been one commissioner who opposed the ordinance as he felt that the current standard was adequate.

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-1; AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD AMENDING THE LAKEWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE AND THE ZONING ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE MAXIMUM ALLOWED FLOOR AREA RATIO IN THE R-1 (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) AND R-A (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL-LIMITED AGRICULTURE) ZONES, LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 7:43 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

1.1 • MAXIMUM ALLOWED FLOOR AREA RATIO IN THE R-1 AND R-A ZONES

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND VICE MAYOR PIERCY SECONDED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING, APPROVE THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION, AND INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. 2005-1. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.1 • REPORT ON URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE

Recreation and Community Services Director Joan Biegel gave an oral presentation based on the memo contained in the agenda and reported that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness announced that financial assistance would be made available for certain large, high-threat urban areas, including Lakewood, due to its proximity to the Port of Long Beach. She stated that the California Office of Emergency Services had granted approval for the purchase of a public alert notification system and its annual maintenance contract for one year, increased number of phone ports, and GIS equipment to improve information gathering capabilities. Staff was proposing the acquisition of add on software that would allow expanded use of the public alert notification system to contact selected lists such as City employees, Neighborhood Watch block captains or C.A.R.E. members. There was also technology available which would allow the City's telephone and web-based information databases to be linked, providing a single, easily updated database. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council approve the expenditure of \$112,120 to purchase the FirstResponder system from Tele-Works, Inc. as a sole source vendor and purchase additional equipment to upgrade the City's public information resources and improve information gathering capabilities in responding to a terrorist threat or attack; and appropriate \$26,975 from the General Fund for the non-grant portion of the FirstResponder technology and the incorporation of the Civica Quicklink and Tele-Works integration software.

Responding to a question from Council Member Van Nostran, Ms. Biegel stated that the system could be configured to call everyone in the City to alert them to an emergency. Council Member Van Nostran noted that it would be helpful if such a call had a unique ring to alert residents to such emergency calls.

Council Member Wagner noted that such a system would be very useful for Neighborhood Watch uses.

Mayor Rogers advised that he had seen the system in operation for Sheriff's Department uses.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER ESQUIVEL SECONDED TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF GRANT FUNDS AND APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL MONIES FROM THE GENERAL FUND, AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF.

3.1 • REPORT ON URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE - Continued

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.2 • BONDING OF VEHICLE LICENSE FEE (VLF) RECEIVABLES

Finance Director Larry Schroeder gave an oral presentation based on the memo contained in the agenda and stated that the State of California was bound by statute to repay a loan of \$1.4 million in vehicle license fees (VLF) to the City by August 15, 2006. Although there had been speculation that the State would be unable to repay the loan due to its continuing budget problems, the League of California Cities had advised that cities could sell the VLF receivable to a joint powers authority in return for bond proceeds. He noted that unlike some other city governments, the City of Lakewood had been prepared for the State takeaways and had sufficient reserves that it did not need the cash flow relief from this type of bond sale. He also noted that considering the cost of issuance of the bonds, participation in a bond sale would cost the City an estimated \$65,000. He advised that the matter had been considered by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee which had recommended that the City not participate in the bond program.

Council Member Van Nostran stated that although there was a cost to fund the bonds, the City could earn \$50,400 per year, even at the current low interest rates. He noted that with the continuing budget deficit facing Sacramento leaders, it was unlikely that the debt would be repaid on time, or if repaid, could be borrowed right back, leading to an additional two year wait for payment. He concluded by stating that by the time the State was actually prepared to pay their debt, the City could have made more money in interest than what it would cost to fund the bonds now.

Responding to a question from Council Member Wagner, Mr. Schroeder stated that the State would not pay any interest on the monies they borrowed from the cities.

Council Member Wagner stated that while he could understand why certain cities with cashflow problems would be eager to participate in such a program, Lakewood was under no such pressure. He expressed concern about the impacts should the State never repay the loan, thereby defaulting on the bonds, and how this might reflect negatively on the City of Lakewood.

Mayor Rogers, noting the guarantees that were contained in Proposition 1A and that the City had been prepared for the State to take away these funds, indicated that it would be better to wait for the August 2006 repayment, rather than lose \$65,000 to fund the bonds.

Mr. Schroeder clarified that the dollar amounts cited were estimates based on the current government bond rates and would vary depending on the interest rate on the bonds at the time of issuance.

COUNCIL MEMBER WAGNER MOVED AND VICE MAYOR PIERCY SECONDED TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE BONDING OF VLF RECEIVABLES.

3.2 • BONDING OF VEHICLE LICENSE FEE (VLF) RECEIVABLES - Continued
UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran

At 8:11 p.m., the Regular Meeting of the City Council was recessed for the Meeting of the Lakewood Redevelopment Agency. At 8:17 p.m., the City Council Meeting was reconvened.

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ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk