



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Special Meeting held
August 23, 2005

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

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Joseph Esquivel
Vice Mayor Larry Van Nostran
Council Member Steve Croft
Council Member Diane DuBois
Council Member Todd Rogers

REVIEWING AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL CONSULTING SERVICES

Deputy City Manager Sandi Ruyle introduced Dr. Jerry Gross, who had been recommended for the school liaison position by the City's school consultant, Gerald Hayward of MAP. She reported that Dr. Gross had previously met with the Paramount Unified School District ad hoc committee and invited Dr. Gross to share with the City Council his vision for the role of the school liaison.

Dr. Jerry Gross informed the Council of his background in the education field which included experience as both a teacher and a school superintendent. He noted that he was currently the chairman of the annual conference held for the association for school superintendents. He stated that he reviewed materials supplied by the City, including material regarding the proposed Paramount Unified deannexation and had found the work to be done as both challenging and interesting. He noted the Paramount Unified had a new superintendent of schools who was known to him and with whom he would work to see what options would be open to the approximately 150 Lakewood kids within the Paramount district. He also stated that he had noted that students at Lakewood High School did not have the opportunities for advanced classes compared with other high schools in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Council Member Rogers stated he wanted to reaffirm the four strategies previously laid out by the City Council. They included the deannexation of Lakewood residents from the Paramount Unified School District; the formation of an ad hoc committee to work on the PUSD deannexation proposal; a permanent, standing committee to work with the school districts on improving educational opportunities for Lakewood students; and to add the position of Educational Liaison to the City staff as a point of contact for parents and school officials, and to seek out grant opportunities. He stated that he had interviewed Dr. Gross and had been impressed with his credentials and contacts in the educational field, and that he had been pleased with the answers Dr. Gross had supplied to the difficult questions asked by the ad hoc committee. He concluded by stating the committee would recommend that the City Council adopt a consulting agreement with Dr. Jerry Gross.

REVIEWING AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL CONSULTING SERVICES - Continued

Responding to a question from Council Member DuBois, Dr. Gross stated that although he had previously worked with the superintendents of Long Beach and Paramount Unified, his activities with the superintendents' association had positioned him for good relationships even with those superintendents with whom he had never directly worked.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROGERS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO AUTHORIZE A CONSULTING AGREEMENT WITH DR. JERRY GROSS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Van Nostran, Croft, DuBois, Rogers and Esquivel

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

At 6:41 p.m., the City Council was recessed to a closed session.

CLOSED SESSION:

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Government Code §54956.9, in one case: Proposed Conditional Use Permit No. 778

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Esquivel adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk