



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
April 14, 2020

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Rogers in the Weingart Ballroom at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

INVOCATION was offered by Council Member Steve Croft

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Mayor Todd Rogers

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Todd Rogers
Vice Mayor Jeff Wood (via teleconference)
Council Member Steve Croft
Council Member Diane DuBois (via teleconference)
Council Member Ron Piazza (via teleconference)

Mayor Rogers stated that during this ongoing health emergency, an unprecedented time in history, the City Council was permitted to continue meeting, provided all safety protocols were being met. He urged all residents and businesses to continue to observe and abide by emergency regulations. He also encouraged them to support each other, family members, friends and neighbors.

MARCH 3, 2020 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION DECLARING RESULTS OF THE ELECTION

The City Clerk reported that the canvass of votes for the March 3, 2020, General Municipal Election had been completed by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. She reported that 22,932 ballots had been cast, and that the successful candidates were Jeff Wood and Ariel Pe and Measure L was adopted by a majority of the voters. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2020-7, declaring the election results.

Mayor Rogers congratulated Jeff Wood and Ariel Pe on their successful campaigns and election. He also commended all of the candidates for the civility they displayed throughout the campaign. He stated that although he could not really celebrate a tax increase, the passage of Measure L would remedy a dire budget situation forced upon the City by the State. He thanked all of the residents who had taken the time to come to community meetings to hear the facts about the Measure, to offer their opinions and to vote. He assured residents that the City Council had already begun to take steps to ensure that the new tax funds would be spent in the best possible way for the community.

MARCH 3, 2020 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION - Continued

Council Member Croft expressed appreciation to the Lakewood Neighbors In Support of Measure L advocacy group led by Don Waldie and Kirk Real, for coordinating the hundreds of volunteers who worked very hard to get information about the Measure out to the community. He noted that the Measure had passed by a solid majority in every precinct in the City.

Vice Mayor Wood stated that he echoed Council Member Croft's comments and thanked the residents of Lakewood for putting their faith and trust in the City Council's leadership.

Council Member DuBois thanked the voters for their support of Measure L and expressed her commitment to using the funds wisely for the greatest benefit to the community.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2020-7, DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-7; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA, RECITING THE FACT OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION HELD IN SAID CITY ON MARCH 3, 2020 DECLARING THE RESULTS THEREOF, AND SUCH OTHER MATTERS AS PROVIDED BY LAW

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Piazza and Rogers

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

FAREWELL TO OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBER RON PIAZZA

Mayor Rogers introduced a video produced by Lakewood's CityTV documenting Council Member Piazza's service on the City Council. He presented a poster which highlighted the "I Made A Difference" campaign logo, a creative and memorable initiative established by Council Member Piazza during his term as mayor. The wording on the poster read, "Mayor and Council Member Ron Piazza. You have made an indelible difference in Lakewood with your leadership and community engagement. Thank you for exemplifying good stewardship and for your many years of service." Mayor Rogers closed by expressing his own pleasure at serving on the City Council with Council Member Piazza.

Council Member DuBois noted that Council Member Piazza had made a great difference for the City of Lakewood and thanked him for giving his heart and soul to service to the City.

Council Member Croft stated that having served on several tough committees with Council Member Piazza, it had not only been a wonderful experience, but had produced great results. He thanked him for his friendship and service.

FAREWELL TO OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBER RON PIAZZA - Continued

Vice Mayor Wood stated that when it came to making a difference, Ron Piazza himself had been the one making that difference. He expressed his thanks for the good advice and friendship shared with Council Member Piazza.

City Manager Thaddeus McCormick characterized outgoing Council Member Piazza as representing the best of Lakewood and voiced his pleasure at having the opportunity to work for and with him.

Council Member Piazza expressed his thanks and pleasure at the video presentation. He noted that he had grown up in Lakewood and built his business in the City and stated that serving as Mayor and Council Member had been the honor of his life. He thanked his Council colleagues, the City Manager and staff for continuing the tradition of the best managed city in California.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Council Members-elect Jeff Wood and Ariel Pe. Each Council Member signed the oath and was presented with a Certificate of Election.

Vice Mayor Wood stated that with social distancing and taking the oath of office via telephone, times were anything but ordinary. He thanked his wife, Mary Jane, and daughters, Kaitlin and Courtney, who were present with him, for their support. He thanked the voters for their confidence in his re-election to a third term, and promised to continue to work on their behalf to preserve the character of the community for all generations to enjoy.

Council Member Ariel Pe acknowledged his wife, Carmina Pe, for her support, as well as his daughter, Natalia, and his parents. He stated that he felt blessed to have the opportunity to be part of the team to make sure that the community was safe, whole and alive; and to have a voice to look out for family, friends and the community. He thanked the people who had provided assistance to his election campaign and concluded by thanking the residents of Lakewood for supporting his election, stating he was truly humbled and honored to serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Rogers announced that the meeting would be adjourned in memory of Alan Faust, better known as “Big Al,” who had played the piano on Friday nights at Lakewood’s Me-n-Ed’s Pizza over the last 35 years. He announced that the meeting would also be adjourned in memory of former South Gate City Council Member Henry Gonzalez.

Mayor Rogers announced that April was “DMV Donate Life” month in Lakewood, to encourage people to designate themselves as organ donors. He advised that the issue had been brought to the City’s attention by local resident Maria Jimenez, who had become an ambassador for the cause upon the death of her son, and his enduring legacy as an organ donor.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 6.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held December 10, 2019

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands

RI-4 Report of City Council Committees' Activities

RI-5 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-8; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TAX AND FEE ADMINISTRATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A LOCAL TRANSACTION AND USE TAX

RI-6 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-9; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD AUTHORIZING THE EXAMINATION OF TRANSACTIONS (SALES) AND USE TAX RECORDS

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Pe and Rogers

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.1 • AMENDING THE JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Assistant City Manager Paolo Beltran gave a report based on the memo in the agenda and stated that Lakewood, along with the cities of Downey, Norwalk, Bellflower, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens and Artesia, formed the Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board (SELACO WDB) to work with local businesses and with job seekers regarding employment opportunities. He advised that the City of Paramount had expressed the desire to leave their current WDB and join with the SELACO member cities. In order to complete the process, each of the member cities was required to approve the Sixth Amendment and restate the Joint Exercise of Powers of Agreement. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council adopt the proposed resolution to admit the City of Paramount to the SELACO WDB.

Vice Mayor Wood stated that as the City's representative on the SELACO Board and current Policy Board Chair, he had seen the good work done to provide jobs and job training locally and that all of the member cities were in support of Paramount joining.

3.1 • AMENDING THE JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT FOR THE SELACO WDB - Continued

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD APPROVING THE SIXTH AMENDED AND RESTATED JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (SELACO WDB) FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

VICE MAYOR WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Pe and Rogers

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.2 • COVID-19 UPDATE, CITY EVENT IMPACTS & BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

The City Manager gave a report based on the memo in the agenda and stated that to date, there were forty-two known COVID-19 cases in the City of Lakewood, that over 2,500 positive cases had been identified in the County of Los Angeles and that only about twenty-five percent required hospitalization, meaning that local medical resources had not been overwhelmed. He reported that a new, drive-up testing facility, one of twenty-seven throughout the County, would be opening at the Civic Center in Bellflower. He stated that in an extraordinary time, City staff had been meeting the challenge in extraordinary ways and encouraged residents to go to the City's website for complete, updated information. He advised that the County Health Officer's "Safer at Home" order had been extended through May 15th and that all essential businesses would be required to have employees wear face coverings and all customers entering said businesses to also wear face coverings, beginning April 15th. He reported that in light of the continuation of the order, staff was recommending that the City Council cancel the annual Pan American Fiesta originally scheduled for May 7. Additionally, it was recommended that the Public Safety Expo, scheduled for June 13th be delayed and consolidated with the Emergency Preparedness Fair on September 26th. He also requested that the City Council authorize an appropriation for the additional expenditures required by the virus. He noted that the City would be eligible for some funding relief. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council receive and file the report, cancel the 2020 Pan American Fiesta, reschedule the Public Safety Expo, and approve a budget appropriation of \$151,200 for COVID-19 related expenditures.

Vice Mayor Wood thanked the City Manager, staff and first responders for keeping the City running during the pandemic; and also the Public Information Officer, Bill Grady, for providing consistent, accurate and timely information to Lakewood residents. He further noted that there were many stories about neighbors helping neighbors and spoke of how encouraging it was to see the community rallying around one another.

3.2 • COVID-19 UPDATE - Continued

Responding to a question from Council Member DuBois, the City Manager confirmed that all regular recreation programming had been suspended and would remain so through May 15th.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Pe and Rogers
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

SUCCESSOR HOUSING ACTIONS

1. Approval of Registers of Demands

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE REGISTER OF DEMANDS. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Croft, DuBois, Wood, Pe and Rogers
NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

At 8:21 p.m., a moment silence was observed in memory of Allen "Big Al" Faust and former South Gate City Council Member Henry Gonzalez.

CLOSED SESSION:

At 8:36 p.m., Mayor Rogers announced that the City Council would recess to a closed session.

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS – Pursuant to Government Code §54957.6
Agency Designated Representative: City Manager, Office of the City Attorney and Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, Director of Finance and Administrative Services, Deputy City Manager, Human Resources Manager, Personnel Technician
Employee Organization: Lakewood City Employees' Association

At 9:11 p.m., the City Council reconvened. No action was taken.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m. to Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. in the Weingart Ballroom.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk