



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Regular Meeting held
April 28, 2020

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

INVOCATION was offered by Council Member Ariel Pe

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 (*via teleconference*)
Council Member Diane DuBois (*via teleconference*)
Council Member Ariel Pe (*via teleconference*)

Mayor Rogers advised that in accordance with State and County guidelines, the City Council was continuing to hold meetings, and with appropriate social distancing, four Members of the Council and the City Attorney would be attending via video teleconference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Rogers expressed gratitude for the show of support over the past Sunday for the 105th birthday of Lieutenant Colonel Sam Sachs, a resident who called Lakewood America's greatest community. He noted that although an in-person birthday party had been out of the question for the year, over 6,200 people from Lakewood, around the nation and even internationally, had sent birthday cards. He stated that a car parade was organized by some Lakewood residents with a small gathering in the afternoon in front of Mr. Sach's house. The City Council had sent a framed birthday card, a cake and a video birthday message. He also noted that CityTV was putting together a video that residents could view in the Lakewood eMagazine and Facebook page.

Vice Mayor Jeff Wood made an announcement about the Pan American Fiesta, stating that although the in-person event had been canceled, the Recreation and Community Services staff had crafted a "virtual version" of the Fiesta as an alternative. He reported that beginning on Thursday, May 7th, on the City's website, links would provide virtual amusement park rides; a video and photos about the history of the Pan Am Fiesta; photos from recent Fiestas; and links to Lakewood restaurants that offered carry-out or delivery service. He thanked Director Valarie Frost and the Recreation and Community Services and other City staff involved for their efforts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: Continued

Council Member Croft announced that there were some families in Lakewood hurting from the impacts of the coronavirus health crisis and that Lakewood residents had a long tradition of answering the call to help their fellow residents in need. He reported that Lakewood Center, the Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lakewood had banded together to create the “Lakewood Cares” program to provide a way for Lakewood residents to assist their neighbors who may need a little extra help. The program called for the creation of “care packages” of food, grocery store gift cards and even a family game or activity to help Lakewood folks experiencing some tough times. Anyone interested in providing assistance could go online to www.lakewoodcity.org/LakewoodCares to make a donation via credit card, or by purchasing a grocery store gift card and mailing or dropping off at City Hall in an envelope marked, “Lakewood Cares.” The care packages were scheduled for distribution at a drive-through event on Saturday, May 9th at Lakewood Center. Sign-ups for the care packages were being accepted through Monday, May 4th.

QUARTERLY PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Mayor Rogers introduced Captain David Sprengel, Commander of the Lakewood Sheriff’s Station, who would be presenting a Quarterly Public Safety Report.

Captain Sprengel reported that even with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lakewood station was able to continue to function and deploy under normal operations to serve the community. He commended local businesses, like Costco and WalMart, for cooperatively managing business to maximize the safety of the community. He stated he was pleased to report that overall Part I crime was down almost six percent, with a slight increase in aggravated assaults, due to domestic violence. He also stated that crime at the Lakewood Center Mall was down about three percent. He commented on a specific event that had taken place outside the Mall’s Round One Bowling location by noting that a suspect was in custody. He concluded by stating the Sheriff’s Department would continue to address quality of life issues for the community and extended his thanks to the City Council for their ongoing support.

Members of the City Council thanked the Captain and his station personnel for their service to the residents and businesses of the City, and expressed their continuing support for their law enforcement partners.

ROUTINE ITEMS:

COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROVE ROUTINE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 4.

RI-1 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held January 14, 2020

ROUTINE ITEMS: Continued

RI-2 Approval of Personnel Transactions

RI-3 Approval of Registers of Demands

RI-4 Approval of Monthly Report of Investment Transactions - March 2020

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

1.1 • COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2020-2024 FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN, ACTION PLAN AND ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE

Abel Avalos, Director of Community Development, displayed slides and gave a report based on the memo in the agenda. He stated that as a recipient of Federal Block Grants, issued through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City was required to implement and bring forth certain plans. He stated that the Consolidated Plan was a five-year strategic plan which included a housing needs assessment, housing market analysis, strategic plan and action plan. The Action Plan listed the activities planned for funding as well as priority needs and local objectives for the upcoming fiscal year. He reported that the City was scheduled to receive \$492,866 in Block Grant funding and reviewed the proposed breakdown for expenditures. He stated that the final component was an update for the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, that would document Lakewood's continuing efforts to provide fair housing services to residents, specifically landlord-tenant type issues. He stated that a workshop on the Plans, to which the public had been invited, had been advertised and held on January 27, 2020. He noted that, to date, no public comments had been received. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council conduct a public hearing for the proposed 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, the FY 2020-21 Action Plan and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice; approve said Plans; and authorize the City Manager to direct staff to submit the approved Plans, along with the required CDBG certifications to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, no later than May 14th.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 7:56 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

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

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

1.2 • CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT (CARES ACT) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACTION PLAN FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT (CDBG-CV) AND AMENDED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

The Community Development Director made a presentation based on the memo in the agenda and stated that the Department of Housing and Community Development had announced that funds would be available through the CARES Act to assist communities to prepare, prevent and respond to the coronavirus outbreak. He reported that Lakewood would receive an allocation of \$289,937, which could be used to reimburse virus-related costs. He reviewed the proposed activities for funding, including an additional allocation to Lakewood's social services providers. He stated that in order to receive the funding, the City needed to amend its Action Plan for the current fiscal year. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council conduct a public hearing on the proposed Action Plan amendment; approve the Action Plan substantial amendment; and authorize the City Manager to direct staff to submit said amendment, amended Citizen Participation Plan, and required CDBG certification to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 8:02 p.m. and called for anyone in the audience wishing to address the City Council on this matter. There was no response.

VICE MAYOR WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

2.1 • APPOINTMENTS TO CITY COMMISSIONS

Mayor Rogers called for appointments to the City's commissions.

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMISSION

Ben Maleki by Council Member Croft
Linda Quarto by Council Member DuBois
Lourdes Baez by Vice Mayor Wood
Erin Stibal by Council Member Pe
Bill Baca by Mayor Rogers

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Jan McKinnon by Council Member Croft
Linda Manis by Council Member DuBois
Peter Samaniego by Vice Mayor Wood
Joe Ung by Council Member Pe
Vicki Stuckey by Mayor Rogers

2.1 • APPOINTMENTS TO CITY COMMISSIONS - Continued
RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

Winnie Heiss by Council Member Croft
Kirk Real by Council Member DuBois
David Allen by Vice Mayor Wood
Stacey Valdez by Council Member Pe
Ted Spaseff by Mayor Rogers

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-13; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS COMMISSIONS OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD

COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2020-13. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

3.1 • APPOINTMENTS TO GOVERNMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & COMMITTEES

Mayor Rogers presented the list of appointments to governmental associations, organizations and committees.

ORGANIZATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

California Contract Cities Association	Wood - Representative	Pe - Alternate
California Joint Powers Insurance Authority	Wood - Representative	Croft - Alternate
So. Calif. Association of Governments (SCAG) General Assembly	DuBois - Representative	Pe - Alternate
Gateway Cities COG Board	DuBois - Representative	Pe - Alternate
Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District	Croft - Representative	
Job Training Partnership Act SELACO WIB	Wood - Policy Board	

3.1 • APPOINTMENTS TO GOVERNMENTAL ASSOCIATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & COMMITTEES - Continued

League of California Cities L.A. County Division	Pe - Representative	DuBois - Alternate
City Selection Committee	Croft - Representative	DuBois - Alternate
Annual League Conference	DuBois - Representative	Croft - Alternate
L.A. County Sanitation District #3 & #19	Rogers - Representative	Wood - Alternate
Southeast Water Coalition	Rogers - Representative	Croft – Alternate

STANDING COMMITTEES

Intergovernmental Relations	Rogers - Chair	Wood - Member
Lakewood Schools	Wood - Chair	Rogers - Member
Environmental Management	Pe - Chair	DuBois - Member
Public Safety	Rogers - Chair	Wood - Member
Park Development	DuBois - Chair	Wood - Member
Water Resources	Croft - Chair	Pe – Member
Community Promotion	DuBois - Chair	Pe – Member
Economic Development	Rogers – Chair	Croft – Member
Hall of Fame - Board of Electors	Wood - Chair	
Audit	Croft - Chair	Pe - Member
Capital Improvement Plan	Wood - Chair	Croft - Member

VICE MAYOR WOOD MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE ORGANIZATIONAL APPOINTMENTS AS PRESENTED. UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

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

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

3.2 • QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT OF MAJOR FUNDS AS OF 3/31/2020
3.3 • QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS - MARCH 31, 2020

Director of Finance and Administrative Services Jose Gomez, displayed slides and made a presentation based on the memos in the agenda. He stated that since both of these items were intended to track the quarterly progress of the operational budgets and investments, he would present them together. He advised that economists were calling the current financial climate a “services section recession,” largely stemming from social distancing directives. He noted that while impacts were being felt worldwide, they varied significantly from city to city. He stated that expenditures were very much in line through the quarter which ended March 31st, and actually was a little bit lower than expected, although there had been additional expenditures for additional Sheriff’s patrolling, care packages for seniors, and personal protective equipment for City employees. He reported that revenues had been slightly ahead until the Stay At Home orders had shut everything down, and that the impacts had been quickly felt, especially in the area of sales tax, one of the largest revenue sources for the City budget. Additionally, gas tax had declined with both the reduced price of gasoline and the lower volume of sales. Revenue typically generated through fees and permits, such as building permits, plan check fees and facility rentals had also dropped. He noted that Lakewood had not been affected like some other cities who had lost revenue from the tourist industry, large event venues or hotel stays. He stated that the largest single factor in the relative stability of the City’s budget was the measured approach taken by current and past City Councils to operate with a balanced budget and established reserves. He also noted that the passage of Measure L on the March ballot would provide stabilization. He advised that the City currently held over \$20 million in reserves, set aside for emergencies or uncertain economic situations. He reviewed the City’s conservative, high quality investment portfolio with its emphasis on safety, liquidity and yield. He stated that with conditions changing so quickly, sometimes daily, staff was in constant communication with financial advisors to continually monitor the status of both the City budget and the investment portfolio. He concluded by stating that as a result of past prudent management, Lakewood was better positioned than most other cities to weather the financial challenges. It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council receive and file the Quarterly Budget Report and Quarterly Schedule of Investments as presented.

Responding to a question from Council Member Croft, Mr. Gomez stated that staff was continuing to track all extraordinary costs related to the COVID-19 response in preparation for any opportunity for reimbursement.

Council Member Croft expressed his thanks to current and prior City Councils for maintaining a conservative fiscal management policy and building reserve funds for a rainy day, like a coronavirus storm.

Vice Mayor Wood agreed and noted that fiscal responsibility and vigilance was something the residents of Lakewood had come to expect and that this preparation would allow City services to continue. He thanked Director Gomez and his staff for their hard work.

3.2 • QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT OF MAJOR FUNDS

3.3 • QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS - Continued

Mayor Rogers stated that there were still many uncertainties and that thanks to the fiscal prudence of the City Council, current and past, the City was in a better position to deal with whatever came next. He noted that another unknown was the California Governor's recent announcement of a food delivery program for at-risk populations, for which local governments would be required to cover part of the cost.

City Manager Thaddeus McCormick advised that the details of the Governor's plan were as yet unknown, including both administration and cost. He noted that the unique factors which made up the City's revenue stream which may have historically been a hindrance were now the very things that would see it through the crisis.

Mayor Rogers observed that without the support of the community, specifically through the approval of Measure L, the current situation would be much more dire.

COUNCIL MEMBER DUBOIS MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER CROFT SECONDED TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE REPORTS. THERE BEING NO OBJECTIONS, IT WAS SO ORDERED.

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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 8:26 p.m. to Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in the Pan American Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Mayberry, CMC
City Clerk