

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS**

REGULAR MEETING – January 5, 2009

THESE MINUTES ISSUED FOR
INFORMATION ONLY AND ARE
SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT AND
APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER

The City Council met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m., Monday, January 5, 2009, in the Council Chambers, 3191 Katella Avenue, Mayor Grose presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members: Edgar, Mejia, Stephens, Poe and Grose

Absent: Council Members: None

Present: Staff:
Nita McKay, Assistant City Manager
Angie Avery, Recreation & Community Services Director
Steven Mendoza, Community Development Director
Bill Huber, Interim Public Works Director/City Engineer
Todd Mattern, Police Chief
Patricia Gorczyca, Assistant to the City Manager
Susan C. Vanderpool, City Clerk

4. INVOCATION – The invocation was given by Mayor Grose.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

At this time, any individual in the audience may come forward to speak on any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council. Please state if you wish to speak on an item on the Agenda. Remarks are to be limited to not more than five minutes.

Mayor Grose opened Oral Communications.

Mike Kasler, Cypress College representative, spoke of the upcoming Americana Awards sponsored by the college, to be held at the Disneyland Grand Hotel at 5:00 p.m., on February 28, 2009.

Stephen Hammond, resident, asked Council to look into recruiting volunteers to teach the Seniors' computer classes and for filming football games. He stated the City was currently paying people for these services, which he thought was unnecessary since volunteers would do it for free. He asked Council to start managing the LATV station better as well. He then encouraged residents to participate in the Senior Meals Program.

Mayor Grose closed Oral Communications.

6. REGISTER OF MAJOR EXPENDITURES

January 5, 2009.

Motion/Second: Edgar/Mejia

Unanimously carried: The City Council approved the Register of Major Expenditures for January 5, 2009, in the amount of \$284,504.33.

Roll Call Vote

Council Member Edgar	Aye
Council Member Mejia	Aye
Council Member Stephens	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Poe	Aye
Mayor Grose	Aye

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

All Consent Calendar items may be acted upon by one motion unless a Council Member requests separate action on a specific item.

Motion/Second: Mejia/Poe

Unanimously carried: The City Council approved the following Consent Calendar items:

*****CONSENT CALENDAR*****

A. Warrants

Approved the Warrant Register of January 5, 2009, in the amount of \$62,581.79.

B. Application Deadline for Planning and Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commissions

Availability Notices for openings on the Planning and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Commissions were sent to local newspapers and posted at City Hall, the Community Services Center, the Museum and the City’s website.

The City Council:

1. Directed staff to arrange interviews with the City Council for the applicants to the Planning Commission; and,
2. Directed staff to re-open the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission filing period.

*****END OF CONSENT CALENDAR*****

The City Council took a ten minute break so staff could sign attendance sheets for all the students in the audience.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion of Topics

Mayor Grose requested staff place the following issues for discussion on the January 5, 2009, City Council agenda: City Council’s Vision for 2009 (including reviewing City Council adopted goals); City Council Policy Manual; City Council meeting procedures (i.e., rotation of pledge of allegiance, invocation, and discussions; Boards and Commissions (i.e., establishing joint meetings, training for members, selection of members for vacancies, workshop to outline duties for all Commissions; City Council participation in Chamber of Commerce “State of the City”; City Council group photo on

web site (presented as “the team”, not just the Mayor); Internal communications (i.e., monthly City employee newsletter; City’s travel policy (including City Council travel); Review of the City Council budget for FY 2008-09, including areas where City Council can make reductions, as requested of other departments; and, Consideration of implementing a separate LATV Board and establishing a 501c(3).

Mayor Grose read the list of topics for discussion, and asked for Council input.

Mayor Pro Tem Poe thought discussion regarding the topics: of Vision for 2009, City Council Policy Manual and LATV should be deferred to another time. She pointed out Budget would be discussed at the upcoming January 12 meeting. She asked staff to bring back a report on City Commissions regarding the number of Commissioners and the need to have all sections of the City represented on Commissions. She also wanted attendance and cancellation records included.

The City Council decided to rotate leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation, since all five wanted to participate.

Mayor Pro Tem Poe stated Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts should occasionally be invited to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, as each had a specific ceremony for such.

The City Council discussed travel, and the following ideas were put forth: 1) Council Members state at a meeting which conference/seminar they would like to attend so such could be discussed and approved by the whole; and, 2) Divide the travel budget, so each Council Member would have an equal share. The Council did not reach consensus on this topic.

The City Council created an Ad Hoc Committee (Mayor Pro Tem Poe and Council Member Edgar) to review: 1) areas of possible reduction in the City Council’s Budget; and, 2) the City Council Travel Policy.

Council Member Mejia spoke of the eleven goals previously established by Council, and suggested narrowing to three or four goals that could be better focused on. Mayor Grose suggested deferring the discussion of Council goals to another time.

Mayor Grose passed out information regarding a Vision for 2009, part of which was a Covenant/Agreement between Council and the residents and called for Council Member signatures. He stated he would like to see Council create a core value statement to put on the website in place of the usual Mayor’s Address to residents.

Council Member Mejia stated many of the points in the Covenant were already covered in policies. She did not feel comfortable signing something she had just been given. Mayor Pro Tem Poe said she had no problem signing the Covenant tonight.

Mayor Grose stated the Covenant was a good first step for the Council to move forward together, and encouraged all to approve it. Council Member Mejia did not think Mayor Grose’s actions matched the intention of the Covenant, and was reluctant to sign it until they did. Council Member Edgar pointed out the Covenant was meant to unite the Council, and encouraged Council Member Mejia to reconsider signing it.

Motion/Second: Poe/Stephens

Carried 4-1 (Mejia cast the dissenting vote): The City Council approved signing the Covenant between the City and residents.

Council Member Edgar recommended reviewing the top 3-4 goals of the City Council, and bringing them to the first meeting in February for discussion. He stated it would be helpful to have staff ascertain what goals had already been accomplished. Mayor Grose suggested such information could be included in the weekly memo to Council.

The City Council then discussed the upcoming State of the City luncheon sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber had requested funding assistance from the City, and it was suggested the Community Center be offered as a possible venue for the event.

Assistant City Manager McKay suggested having the Ad Hoc Committee take a look at any funding assistance to this event as it related to the Budget. She stated if funds were ultimately contributed to the event, the issue would need to be agendaized.

9. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL INITIATED BUSINESS**

Council Reports of City-Affiliated Committees, AB1234 Reporting, and Council Remarks

At this time, Council Members may report on items not specifically described on the Agenda that are of interest to the community, provided no action or discussion is taken except to provide staff direction to report back or to place the item on a future Agenda.

A. Consideration of City Council Assignments - Appointments/ Reappointments of City Councilmembers as Representatives to other Agencies

This report provided relevant information for the City Council's annual appointments/reappointments of Council Members as representatives to other Agencies. **(This item was continued from the December 15, 2008, meeting.)**

Mayor Grose briefed the Council on this issue, highlighting the fact there were still a few positions open.

Mayor Pro Tem Poe volunteered for the following: 1) WesComm-Representative; 2) Growth Management Area – Alternate; and, 3) California Joint Powers Insurance Authority – Delegate.

Council Member Mejia stated she was interested in being the Delegate to the Sanitation District, if Council Member Edgar's offer to her was still on the table. Council Member Edgar responded in the negative, adding he had already attended as the Delegate.

Council Member Stephens volunteered as the Alternate to the California Joint Powers Authority.

Mayor Grose volunteered as the Alternate to WesComm.

Motion/Second: Poe/Edgar

Unanimously carried: The City Council made the following appointments:

**West Cities Communications Center
Joint Powers Authority Board**

Representative: Poe
Alternate: Grose

Growth Management Area (GMA) Group No. 2

Delegate: Grose
Alternate: Poe

California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA)

Delegate: Poe
Alternate: Stephens

Council Member Mejia referred to a recent request regarding a left-turn lane into a Cypress center, and pointed out doing so would require breaking into the new median recently installed. She did not think Los Alamitos had anything to gain by granting this request.

Interim Public Works Director Huber stated he had already met with Cypress representatives regarding this issue, and stated he had instructed them to put the request in writing so it could come before the City Council for discussion.

Council Member Mejia stated she had made efforts to get along with the new City Council to form a cohesive unit; however, she felt such efforts were not being returned. She expressed disappointment that Council Member Edgar had taken back his offer to let her serve as the representative to the Sanitation District. She then wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council Member Stephens stated he had high hopes for a cohesive City Council, adding he was more than willing to work things through for the good of the residents. He then wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council Member Edgar spoke of his attendance at the following: 1) Orientation for new Board Members of the Sanitation District – December 4; and, 2) Sanitation District meeting. He went on to request an update regarding the progress of the Melting Pot restaurant.

Community Development Director Mendoza stated the Melting Pot restaurant was almost through plan check, and progress was being made.

Council Member Edgar asked the status of the Conditional Use Permit for alcohol for the restaurant at the old Burger King site. Community Development Director Mendoza stated the project was moving forward; however, final inspection had yet to be done.

Mayor Pro Tem Poe stated she was pleased to see the Cypress request for a left-hand turn lane, and it was great they would be paying for it. She asked Council Member Edgar to see that a Sanitation District Agenda was sent to the Sewer District. She stated it was nice to be back on the City Council after a two year absence, and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Grose spoke of his attendance at the following: 1) Press conference in Brea for the League of California Cities – December 19; 2) He and his wife took goodies to Fire Station #2 on Christmas Eve; 3) Congressional Club event – December 30; and, 4) Orange County Policy meeting – January 5. He went on to commend John Underwood for the Christmas program he did for LATV. He stated his intent to attend City Council meetings in other cities, and spoke of the possibility of live streaming of our own City Council meetings on our website.

Council Member Mejia asked staff to ensure that street sweeping took place after trash pickup was done. She then asked staff to bring back the cost of the LATV Dissolution along with start up costs for a 501c3 organization.

10. ITEMS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. The next meeting of the City Council is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2009, in the City Council Chambers.

Dean Grose, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan C. Vanderpool, City Clerk