

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

SPECIAL MEETING – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The City Council met in Special Session at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 17, 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, Interim City Manager
Jamie Raymond, Assistant City Attorney
Angie Avery, Recreation & Community Services Director
Todd Mattern, Chief of Police
Steven Mendoza, Community Development Director
Susan C. Vanderpool, City Clerk

3. 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.

JM Ivler, resident, asked the following questions regarding the LATV equipment: 1) condition of equipment; 2) lending policy; and, 3) who is responsible. He went on to speak about the importance of more workshops, program scheduling and the possibility of film classes offered through the Recreation department.

Catherine Driscoll, resident, stated the previous City Council had already addressed the issue of LATV, adding LATV Corporation had been dissolved, not LATV. She advised the reason for the Dissolution had been due to dysfunction on the Board, tax problems, and a substantial reduction in the amount of money received from Time Warner. She expressed opposition to setting up a non-profit corporation with taxpayer money, and pointed out taxpayer dollars had already been spent for litigation relating to the LATV issue.

Henry Taboada, RCSD General Manager, stated Rossmoor residents had been left out after the dissolution of the LATV3 Corporation. He pointed out Rossmoor residents would also be affected by Council decisions regarding the operation of LATV, and asked for consideration for them as well.

Althea Miller, resident, gave a brief history of the LATV3 Corporation, and pointed out the tax lien situation had been forgiven by the Internal Revenue Service.

John Underwood, resident, spoke of the benefits of LATV, and its 25 years of non-profit status. He stressed the importance of having a TV station, as well as the need for fundraising.

Larry Strawther, Rossmoor representative, thought there was much potential for success if a TV station could be located at the high school.

Fritz Pollard, Rossmoor resident, stated the former LATV3 Station Manager, Kirk Stephens, had accomplished much for the residents through his operation of the station. He felt the previous Council had made a mistake when they removed the entire Board of the LATV Commission.

Kirk Stephens, former LATV3 Station Manager, agreed with making LATV a non-profit organization again, adding good fundraisers would be needed to aid in the success of such an endeavor. He added the involvement of Los Alamitos High School would also be needed if this was to succeed.

Stephen Hammond, resident, did not agree with the notion there were no volunteers, as he was one himself. He expressed concern that funds were not being disbursed in an acceptable manner, and the programming was worse than ever.

Jody Shloss, resident, stated the following concerns: 1) more community input was needed; 2) the need for two separate channels; and, 3) this issue should not be revisited.

Mayor Grose closed Oral Communications.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

A. Los Alamitos Television (LATV) Discussion

This report provides the City Council with a summary of the history of Los Alamitos Television (LATV), including the non-profit corporation's dissolution in December 2007. Information is also provided regarding future options for the operations and programming of Los Alamitos Television.

Interim City Manager McKay summarized the staff report, noting expenditures were higher than revenues.

Mayor Grose advised Brigadier General Combs would be speaking on Option 2, the possibility of a lease option on the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB).

Brigadier General Combs gave a Power Point presentation regarding the concept of a multi-purpose facility at the JFTB (Building 6). He stated the requirements for participants would be as follows:

- only non-profit organizations would be allowed;
- payment of utilities
- rent or "in kind" services would need to be negotiated
- a \$1,000,000 bond to operate on the JFTB
- \$20,000 investment from LATV to use the facility

Mayor Grose stated the JFTB needed a Letter of Intent, along with a check for \$20,000. He pointed out the need for a quick decision, as the Base was getting ready to issue a Memorandum of Understanding.

Council Member Mejia recommended establishing a 501c3, with separate channels and no affiliation to the City. She expressed concern regarding the ability to access the TV station on the Base during a disaster.

Council Member Edgar made the following points:

- Three components to PEG – Public, Education and Government
- AB2987 cut funding
- Support for 501c3 for P (public portion)
- The station needs a “home”
- Cable Commission unsuccessful – difficult to get a quorum
- Engage all groups and do not establish fixed costs

Council Member Stephens liked the opportunity for station location at the JFTB, and agreed with doing “in kind” services in lieu of paying rent. He agreed with establishing a 501c3.

Mayor Pro Tem Poe stated the August 31, 2006, staff report had not included all the pertinent information and, if it had, the Council might not have given the LATV Board a “time out”. She expressed support for establishing a 501c3, and asked if the old one could be reinstated. Assistant City Attorney Raymond stated she would have to check into that possibility.

Mayor Pro Tem Poe thought the opportunity of LATV at the Base was a great idea, and thought it could be beneficial to check with the high school again as well.

Mayor Grose expressed support for establishing a 501c3, adding Council would need to focus on transferring the equipment once it was done.

Mayor Grose made a motion to give the JFTB a Letter of Intent as a placeholder for LATV, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Poe.

Council Member Mejia thought a 501c3 should send the letter, not the City. Mayor Grose pointed out the letter was just a placeholder, and the 501c3 could decide about funding.

Council Member Edgar suggested another meeting on this subject to gain further input and discussion.

Brigadier General Combs stated that although the Letter of Intent was merely a placeholder, as a member of the Charter group it would give the City priority regarding facility use. He pointed out the letter would state an actual partnership would not be solidified for ninety days. He stated the JFTB would seek another partner if a 501c3 was not established.

Mayor Grose made an amended motion to have the Letter of Intent be sent on behalf of the 501c3, and meet for further input on March 16, 2009, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Poe.

Motion/Second: Grose/Poe

Unanimously carried: The City Council directed staff to send a Letter of Intent on behalf of an LATV 501c3, as a placeholder for the JFTB facility (building 6); and, to meet again regarding this subject on March 16, 2009.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m. The next meeting of the City Council is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers.

Dean Grose, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan C. Vanderpool, City Clerk