

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

SPECIAL MEETING – MAY 4, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The City Council met in Special Session at 4:00 p.m., Monday, May 4, 2009, in the Council Chambers, 3191 Katella Avenue, Mayor Edgar presiding.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Council Members: None

Present: Staff: Nita McKay, Interim City Manager
Steven Mendoza, Community Development Director
William Huber, City Engineer
Angie Avery, Recreation & Community Services Dir.
Todd Mattern, Police Chief
Cassandra Palmer, Police Support Services Manager
Sandy Delgado, Finance Manager
Kim Engel, Senior Finance Assistant
David Cox, Public Works Superintendent
Tony Brandyberry, Master Mechanic
Windmera Quintanar, Department Secretary

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 Edgar opened Oral Communications. There being no one present wishing to speak, Mayor Edgar closed Oral Communications.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

A. Review of Proposed Fiscal Year 2009-10 Operating and Capital Improvement Program Budget

This report provided the City Council with the City Manager's Transmittal Letter that accompanied the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Proposed Operating and Capital Improvement Program Budget.

Interim City Manager McKay summarized the staff report, and gave a Power Point presentation. She then introduced City Engineer Huber, who gave a Power Point presentation detailing the Capital Improvement Project program(CIP). Mayor Edgar stated the intent of the workshop was budget discussion, and staff direction to bring forward a balanced budget.

The City Council discussed the following issues relating to the CIP:

- Future Measure M funding
- Completing sections of the Lexington Rehabilitation project rather than completing it in its entirety
- Applying for CDBG funding

The City Council then discussed the following issues:

- Reduction of street sweeping (from weekly to bi-weekly)
- Reduction of tree trimming services
- Business retention program
- Grant opportunities to increase revenue
- Council personally pay for travel and/or reduce the travel budget by half
- Reduction and/or elimination of the Employees' Recognition Luncheon and Commissioners' Appreciation Dinner
- Funding of essential cell phones only (used for emergencies)
- Budget placeholder for the 50th Anniversary celebration

Mayor Edgar distributed a list of questions he had provided to staff, and Council discussed the following issues:

- Further reduction of Operations/Maintenance in an effort to retain staff
- Funding from other agencies for the Safety Resource Officer (SRO)
- Cost of the Joint Forces Training Base pool upkeep, use by non-residents versus residents, and possible naming rights
- Cost of maintaining Little Cottonwood Park on a continuous basis, and its use by residents
- Refinance of the Certificates of Use for Laurel Park
- Accumulation of SCAQMD funds
- Establishment of a policy for the Garage Fund, extending the use of vehicles
- No General Funds used to balance the budget
- Worker's Compensation budget high
- Cost of red light camera versus revenue
- Reduction of City Attorney fees, and development of a policy for contact

The City Council took a ten minute break.

Interim City Manager McKay stated staff would review the following City Council concerns:

- No deficit funding from the General Fund
- Alternate schedule for the Garage Fund
- Review of Operations/Maintenance for further cuts
- Reduce City Attorney budget from \$190,000 to \$150,000 and develop a policy for City Attorney contact
- Additional grant funding opportunities

Mayor Edgar added the following items for consideration:

- Keep two Safety Resource Officer (SRO) positions unfunded
- Refinance Laurel Park
- Postpone Little Cottonwood Park irrigation
- Pool funding versus Park funding
- Reduce Council travel to \$15,000

Council Member Mejia added the following items for consideration:

- Alternatives to the Employees' Recognition Luncheon and Commissioners' Appreciation Dinner
- Eliminate dues for the League of California Cities
- Reduce all department travel, cell phones, and dues

The City Council:

1. Reviewed the Fiscal Year 2009-10 departmental revenue estimates and proposed expenditures for the operating budget; and,
2. Reviewed the Fiscal Year 2009-10 proposed Capital Improvement Program; and,
3. Reviewed the recommended budget reductions; and,
4. Directed staff to further investigate the following regarding the Proposed Operating and Capital Improvement Program Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-10:
 - Not to fund the deficit from the General Fund
 - Review the schedule for the Garage Fund and postpone any unnecessary vehicle replacements
 - Review Operations/Maintenance for further cuts
 - Reduce City Attorney budget from \$190,000 to \$150,000 and develop a policy for City Attorney contact
 - Research additional grant funding opportunities
 - Keep two Safety Resource Officer (SRO) positions unfunded
 - Possible refinancing of Laurel Park
 - Postponement of Little Cottonwood Park irrigation
 - Investigate pool funding versus park funding
 - Reduce Council travel to \$15,000
 - Investigate alternatives to the Employees' Recognition Luncheon and Commissioners' Appreciation Dinner
 - Look into the elimination of dues for the League of California Cities
 - Further reduction of all department travel, cell phones, and dues

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting of the City Council is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2009, 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers.

Troy D. Edgar, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan C. Vanderpool, City Clerk