

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

SPECIAL MEETING – MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The City Council met in a Special Meeting at 4:00 p.m., Monday, May 11, 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: Todd Mattern, Police Chief
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 Edgar opened Oral Communications. There being no one present wishing to speak, Mayor Edgar closed Oral Communications.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

A. LAFCO Sphere of Influence

The Mayor requested a special meeting to discuss an upcoming LAFCO Staff Report and Hearing.

Police Chief Mattern summarized the staff report, referring to the information contained therein, and answered questions from the City Council.

Mayor Edgar stated the sphere of influence issue under review was basically a reconfirmation that Rossmoor remain in the City's sphere of influence. He then opened the meeting to public comment.

Henry Taboada, Rossmoor Community Services District Manager, stated Rossmoor had officially requested LAFCO not include it in Los Alamitos' sphere of influence. He stated although the recent measure regarding Rossmoor's incorporation had failed, residents were concerned that being included in Los Alamitos' sphere of influence was just the first step toward being annexed into the City.

Bob Aldrich, LAFCO Assistant Executive Officer, gave a brief history of this situation prior to 2006. He stated the LAFCO Board had reviewed the situation, and recommended a reconfirmation of Rossmoor's inclusion in the City of Los Alamitos' sphere of influence.

Dave Emerson, resident, expressed concern with benefits and/or problems related to the inclusion of Rossmoor in the City's sphere of influence. He stressed the importance of keeping City interests the number one priority.

Council Member Stephens asked if inclusion of Rossmoor into the City's sphere of influence would create additional responsibilities for the City. Mr. Aldrich responded in the negative, adding it could be included in the City's General Plan; however, that was merely an option not a requirement.

Council Member Mejia asked what would happen to Rossmoor if Seal Beach and Los Alamitos both declined to have it in their respective spheres of influence. Mr. Aldrich stated LAFCO alone would make the determination of which City would have Rossmoor in its sphere of influence. Council Member Mejia expressed concern with forcing Rossmoor to be included in Los Alamitos' sphere of influence when it was clear they did not want to be.

Mayor Edgar recommended Council Members review the recommendations to be presented at the League of California Cities' dinner this Thursday. He pointed out there might be a potential opportunity to provide Joint Powers Authority services to Rossmoor.

Mr. Taboada stated Rossmoor would not object to a Joint Powers Authority, but would need to know more about potential benefits.

Mayor Edgar closed the meeting to public comment.

Mayor Pro Tem Poe pointed out Rossmoor residents participated heavily in the City's recreation programs, along with having access to other benefits. She thought discussion regarding a Joint Powers Authority might be a logical next step.

Council Member Mejia stated she would support Rossmoor by not supporting the reconfirmation, particularly since it was clear Rossmoor did not wish to be in the City's sphere of influence. She recommended sending a letter of nonsupport to LAFCO, and thought staff should look into the possibility of a Joint Powers Authority.

Mayor Edgar spoke of an upcoming LAFCO meeting this Wednesday, and suggested City staff attend. He stressed the importance of maintaining a dialogue with the County and the bordering City of Seal Beach.

Council Member Mejia suggested having a town hall meeting with residents and representatives of LAFCO, before moving forward.

Mayor Edgar agreed, and asked staff to agendize the issue of a town hall meeting regarding this issue. He then suggested staff send a draft letter of support for Rossmoor remaining in the City's sphere of influence to be submitted at this Wednesday's meeting.

Council Member Mejia opposed sending such a letter at this time without resident input.

Mayor Pro Tem Poe agreed residents should give input, and thought a town hall meeting would be also be a good forum to get the facts out as well.

Motion/Second: Edgar/Poe

Carried 4-1 (Mejia cast the dissenting vote): The City Council:

1. Directed staff to draft a letter of support regarding Rossmoor remaining in the City's sphere of influence; and,
2. Directed staff to bring back a staff report identifying potential opportunities regarding the possibility of a Joint Powers Authority with the County and/or surrounding cities; and,
3. Directed staff to begin an education process with the community regarding the issue.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. The next meeting of the City Council is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers.

Troy Edgar, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan C. Vanderpool, City Clerk