

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

SPECIAL MEETING – MAY 22, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The City Council met in Special Session at 5:30 p.m., Friday, May 22, 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: Jeffrey L. Stewart, City Manager
Nita McKay, Assistant 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
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. Review of Proposed Reductions to the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Preliminary Operating Budget

This report provides the City Council with a follow-up discussion of the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Proposed Operating Budget, including recommendations for additional budget reductions.

City Manager Stewart summarized the staff report, referring to the information contained there and answered questions from the City Council.

Assistant City Manager McKay detailed proposed additional adjustments to the operating budget.

The City Council discussed the following issues:

- Concerts on the Green – seek underwriting
- Lap swim program – reduce sessions

- Police Department Explorers' Program
- Sales tax revenue
- City Attorney Costs – reduce to \$120,000 - \$150,000
- City Attorney – conduct a cost comparison
- Garage Fund
- Helicopter charges
- City Attorney – procedures for contacting
- Labor union discussions – close gap soon

The City Council approved the following budget adjustments:

Decreases in Proposed Appropriations

City Council.....\$(7,500)

The City Council recommended the travel and meetings line item be reduced from \$15,000 to \$7,500 for fiscal year 2009-10.

City Attorney.....\$(40,000)

This item was discussed at the May 4, 2009 FY 2009-10 Budget Workshop and City Council recommended reducing City Attorney contractual services. The City Manager and the City Attorney had further discussions on this item and a \$10,000 reduction was recommended in this line item. (It should be noted this line was also reduced \$10,000 at mid-year 2008-09.) Council decided to reduce by \$40,000 – leaving a budget of \$150,000.

Police Department.....\$(8,000)

It was proposed the Explorer Post be eliminated from the Police Department budget. Explorers are volunteers who provide community service in a variety of capacities. In addition to distributing neighborhood meeting flyers, providing crowd control and working at a variety of community and scouting functions, they serve in a manner that allows them to “explore” the law enforcement profession. They are mentored by police officers and then serve as leaders for other youth in the community to emulate. This program is valuable, but is not considered a core or required service. By eliminating the Explorer Post and the associated staff overtime, the special personnel charges account could be reduced from \$8,000 to zero.

Recreation and Community Services Department.....\$(11,020)

This recommendation included reductions in part-time hours at the front counter within the department (\$1,200), part-time hours for special events (\$1,820), part-time hours for special classes (\$2,000), part-time hours for and the elimination of Pee Wee Volleyball (\$1,000), and the elimination of three Concerts on the Green (\$5,000). The City will still have our major concert event, “Band in the Park”.

Non Departmental.....\$(42,130)

A full-time employee within the City voluntarily approached the City Manager with a proposal to become a part-time employee for the duration of the entire fiscal year 2009-10. If approved by the City Council, the full-time position would remain unfunded for the fiscal year and part-time hours (part-time deferred comp in lieu of FICA and Medicare are the only benefits) would be adjusted accordingly. The net savings to the General Fund would be \$42,130.

Garage Interdepartmental Charges to the General Fund.....\$(73,330)

Administrative Services and Public Works worked together to amend the vehicle replacement schedule and extend the useful lives of most vehicles and equipment on this schedule. With the revisions in place and the redistribution of replacement monies collected in past years, the charge to the General Fund for the replacement of the four Police Department vehicles can be eliminated for fiscal year 2009-10.

JFTB Pool Fund Reductions/Transfer from the General Fund.....\$(25,020)

This recommendation reduced part-time hourly lifeguard personnel in the JFTB Pool Fund, therefore reducing the operating transfer required from the General Fund. This reduction eliminates the lap swim program for a total reduction of \$5,740. Additionally, in place of the City providing lifeguard services for the various pool user groups, the user groups will be trained and become certified through the American Red Cross. As a result of this certification, the user groups will be able to provide their own lifeguarding services. Staff reviewed this adjustment to City programs with the City's Joint Powers Insurance Authority for approval regarding City liability. CJPIA signed off on this program revision. This will be a savings to the General Fund of \$19,280, with a total Pool Fund/General Fund savings of \$25,020.

Garage Fund – transfer \$100,000 to the General Fund.

The City Council directed staff to:

- Bring back a list of businesses that have left the City (last six months); and,
- Bring back a list of top expenditure vendors; and,
- Bring back a list of top sales tax earners.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. The next meeting of the City Council is scheduled for Monday, June 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers.

Troy D. Edgar, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan C. Vanderpool, City Clerk