

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

SPECIAL MEETING – MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The City Council met in Special Session at 5:30 p.m., Monday, January 12, 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: Dave Rudat, Interim City Manager
Nita McKay, Assistant City Manager
Dean Derleth, City Attorney
Angie Avery, Recreation & Community Services Director
Steven Mendoza, Community Development Director
Bruce McAlpine, Police Captain
Cassandra Palmer, Police Support Services Manager
Sandy Delgado, Finance Manager
Patti Gorczyca, Assistant to the City 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 Grose opened Oral Communications.

Debbie Feldman, resident, expressed concern regarding a request from Cypress for a left-turn from Katella into the 24 Hour Fitness center, discussed at a recent City Council meeting. She pointed out Council had voted unanimously quite some time ago not to allow a left turn at that site. She stated the proposed left-turn was a safety hazard, and asked if Council was negotiating with Cypress at this time. She went on to speak about the following concerns: 1) buses with criminals being diverted through the New Dutch Haven neighborhood; and, 2) displeased with Council Member Mejia's name being left off the Holiday message to residents from the City Council.

Rob Feldman, resident, did not support a left-turn from Katella into the 24 Hour Fitness center. He did not understand why this issue was coming up now after it had been decided long ago not to allow such. He stated residents had worked long and hard to get a solid median all the way to Siboney. He then asked Council not to allow the diversion of traffic into the New Dutch Haven neighborhood.

JM Ivler, resident, stated he recently sent all of Council an email outlining Cypress issues related to Katella. He reiterated he did not support a left-turn from Katella into the 24 Hour

Fitness center, and asked Council to meet with the original negotiators of the Settlement Agreement. He asked Council not to do away with City Commissions, as they were an asset to the community.

Jody Shloss, resident, asked Council if she could give her allotted five minutes to Catherine Driscoll, as she needed more than five minutes. The Council agreed.

Catherine Driscoll, resident, read aloud, and submitted, a letter regarding potential alterations to the completed median at the intersection of Siboney and Katella Avenue. She further commented about the Covenant Mayor Grose had submitted at the previous meeting, pointing out it had not been agendaized nor made available to the public prior to the meeting, and she disagreed with such tactics.

Mayor Grose closed Oral Communications.

4. CLOSED SESSION

A. Conference with Labor Negotiator

Agency Negotiators: David Rudat, Interim City Manager and Dean Derleth, City Attorney

Employee Organization: Executive Management, Middle Management and Non-Management Employees; Police Officers' Association; and, the City Employees' Association

Authority: Government Code Section 54957.6

B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT

Title: City Manager

Authority: Government Code Section 54957

Mayor Grose read aloud item 4A-B, and the City Council recessed into Closed Session. The Closed Session was conducted from 6:00 p.m. to 7:09 p.m.

RECONVENE

Mayor Grose reconvened the meeting at 7:10 p.m., and stated Council would be recessing back into Closed Session, at the end of the agenda, for further discussion on items 4A-B.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Mayor Pro Tem Poe abstained from the vote, as she had been absent from the meeting the minutes applied to.

Motion/Second: Edgar/Mejia

Carried 4-0 (Poe abstained): The City Council approved the following item:

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

A. Approval of Minutes

Approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2008.

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

6. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

A. Fiscal Year 2008-09 Preliminary Mid-Year Budget Review Discussion

This report provided the City Council with a preliminary look at the City's mid-year financial performance compared to the amended budget for Fiscal Year 2008-09. Additionally, a comparative analysis to prior year (FY 2007-08) was provided.

Assistant City Manager McKay provided an overview of revenues and expenditures, highlighting the fact that property taxes, sales and use taxes and utility users' taxes represented 75% of General Fund revenues.

Interim City Manager Rudat spoke of a recent meeting with department heads to discuss possible reductions to their budgets.

The City Council discussed the following:

- Recreation programs
- Increasing fees
- Increasing franchise fees, particularly pipelines
- School Resource Officer (SRO)

Recreation & Community Services Director Avery listed the following programs currently operating without offsetting revenues:

- Concerts on the Green
- Halloween event
- Easter Egg Hunt
- After School program at Little Cottonwood Park
- Senior Meals
- Activity Guide
- 4th of July (Council discussed possibility of contributions from Cypress, Seal Beach, JFTB and Rossmoor; and, possible per car, or per person admittance charge.) City of Los Alamitos expense is \$85,000.
- Possible non-profits' contribution/sponsorship of 4th of July event
- Activity Brochure

Council Member Edgar stated there should be budget reductions of at least \$200,000 to \$300,000. He suggested department heads come up with areas to reduce expenses. He then suggested the Community Development Director take over the managerial portion of the Public Works Director's job, and keep the part-time Public Works Director – rather than hiring a full-time Director.

Council Member Edgar went on to speak on the following: 1) the need for policy guidelines; 2) reduce City Council stipends; and, 3) establish "Gates"; and, 3) have Assistant to the City Manager produce a one page monthly newsletter regarding budget updates.

Interim City Manager Rudat thought suspending the hiring of a full-time Public Works Director, and expanding the duties of the Community Development Director was a good idea. He went on to recommend giving department heads the latitude to reduce their own line items, adding the City was currently operating within its cash flow and no money was needed from the General Fund.

Mayor Grose spoke on the following: 1) the need for town hall meetings; 2) the need to meet with existing businesses for retention purposes; and, 3) the need to review the vehicle replacement schedule process.

The City Council took a five minute break.

Council Member Mejia suggested Council cut/eliminate its travel budget of over \$20,000. Mayor Grose advised that issue would be reviewed by the Ad Hoc Committee.

Council Member Mejia noted the City of Villa Park was similar in size to Los Alamitos, and they only had six employees, three of which were part-time. She further noted the City of Mission Viejo had a population of 100,000 and only had 90 employees. She suggested Los Alamitos might have too many employees, and asked staff to check into this possibility. Council Member Edgar pointed out those two cities were contract cities while Los Alamitos was a charter city. He stated Los Alamitos was a full service city that did not contract out for all its services. He thought it would be an "apples to oranges" comparison.

Mayor Pro Tem Poe thought there was unanimous agreement the following programs were important to keep: 1) Senior Meals; and, 2) After School Program at Little Cottonwood Park. She thought staff should find out if the 4th of July program could pay for itself through admission, etc., and bring back a report. She then spoke of the Vons remodel, and asked the status. Community Development Director Mendoza stated the plans were almost through plan check. Mayor Pro Tem Poe thought staff should speak to the owner of the Vons center to discuss remodeling the entire center.

Mayor Pro Tem Poe stated she and Council Member Edgar were on the Budget Ad Hoc Committee, and would be gathering information to bring back to Council in a report. She suggested staff check into the possibility of lowering the Council's monthly stipend, as a way to help lower the Budget. She then suggested staff check contact surrounding cities for help in funding the School Resource Officer position at the high school. Police Captain McAlpine stated his department had already done so to no avail.

Council Member Edgar stated he would like more information regarding the alleged danger posed by a left turn into the 24 Hour Fitness center.

Mayor Grose referred to the 4th of July program, and asked staff to review issues such as charging for parking and fees for cars and "walk ons". Interim City Manager Rudat stated staff would so review.

Motion/Second: Edgar/Poe

Unanimously carried: The City Council directed staff to:

1. Permanently postpone hiring a Public Works Director; and,
2. Establish policy guidelines; and,
3. Establish GATES; and,
4. Move ahead with recommended reductions for each department; and
5. Have the Assistant to the City Manager develop a monthly newsletter with Budget updates; and,
6. Have the Community Development Director prepare a business retention plan; and,
7. Collect information regarding a "contract cities" approach with regard to cost comparisons with a "charter city".

7. CLOSED SESSION(Continued)

A. Conference with Labor Negotiator

Agency Negotiators: David Rudat, Interim City Manager and Dean Derleth, City Attorney

Employee Organization: Executive Management, Middle Management and Non-Management Employees; Police Officers' Association; and, the City Employees' Association

Authority: Government Code Section 54957.6

B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT

Title: City Manager

Authority: Government Code Section 54957

Mayor Grose read aloud item 7A-B, and the City Council recessed into Closed Session. The Closed Session was conducted from 10:00 p.m. to 11:48 p.m.

RECONVENE

Mayor Grose reconvened the meeting at 11:49 p.m., and stated there was no reportable action.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m. The next meeting of the City Council is scheduled for TUESDAY, January 20, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers.

ATTEST:


Susan C. Vanderpool, City Clerk



Dean Grose, Mayor