

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE LA PALMA CITY COUNCIL

September 3, 2002

Mayor Walker called the regular meeting of the La Palma City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3, 2002, in the Council Chambers of La Palma City Hall, 7822 Walker Street, La Palma, California.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Duke led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

INVOCATION

Pastor Luis Monzon of St. Irenaeus Catholic Church gave the Invocation.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers present: Lauree Aragona, Christine Barnes, Kenneth A. Blake, Alta E. Duke, Paul F. Walker

Councilmembers absent: None

City Officials present: Catherine Standiford, City Manager  
Vince Giampa, Chief of Police  
Ismile Noorbaksh, Director of Public Works/City Engineer  
Paul Pitts, Director of Building & Safety  
Jan Hobson, Director of Recreation & Community Services  
Dominic Lazzaretto, Acting Principal Planner  
Joel Kuperberg, City Attorney  
Peggie Turnage, Executive Assistant

PRESENTATIONS

Recreation Supervisor Janet Cates, assisted by Recreation Coordinator Noel Munivez, Recreation Specialist Cindy Robinson, and Mayor Walker introduced this year's Volunteers and presented each with a stipend for their service to the City.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Raman Patel, 7051 Walker Street, La Palma addressed the Council to complain of problems at the Senior Apartment Complex.

Mr. Larry Herman, 5122 Andrew Drive, La Palma, addressed the Council to complain about problems that residents are experiencing with trash scavengers in the City.

RECESS

Mayor Walker recessed the City Council to convene as the Community Development Commission at 7:20 p.m. (See separate Community Development Commission Minutes.)

RECONVENING

Mayor Walker reconvened the meeting in regular session at 8:00 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Blake pulled Consent Calendar Item No. 5. Councilmember Duke pulled Consent Calendar Item No. 3. Mayor Pro Tem Barnes pulled Consent Calendar Item No. 6. Councilmember Blake made a motion to approve the following item on the Consent Calendar:

APPROVED THE AUGUST 20, 2002 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 2002-50 APPROVING A REGISTER OF DEMANDS FOR SEPTEMBER 3, 2002

APPROVED AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT NO. C-956-982 BETWEEN THE ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF LA PALMA

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnes and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

PURCHASE OF A EMERGENCY COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS VEHICLE

Councilmember Duke asked what size this vehicle would be and what it would hold.

Chief Giampa responded that the proposed vehicle is proposed to be between 33 and 34 feet in length and is essentially a mobile emergency command and control vehicle with a complete communications center inside along with a minim conference room for staff to gather during protracted or prolonged incidents for planning purposes

Councilmember Duke stated that she has had some experience with CNG vehicles at her City of employment and suggested there could be problems with the tanks dragging when going up some driveways.

Ms. Standiford responded that she does not believe this vehicle has the CNG tanks; the vehicle with CNG tank was the truck that was purchased early this year that was envisioned to pull a mobile command trailer. This vehicle is a modified motor home.

Councilmember Duke stated that if AQMD funds are being used she believed the vehicle must be an alternative fuel vehicle.

Chief Giampa clarified that the pickup truck purchased earlier in the year used AQMD funds which was originally envisioned to pull a mobile command center in the form of a trailer but as staff got into researching the mobile communications centers they found that most cities had converted trailers into communications centers had actually gotten rid of them in favor of a vehicle like staff is proposing here.

Mayor Walker asked when the last time the City had a prolonged incident where the City would use one of these vehicles

Chief Giampa responded that last prolonged incident was slightly over a year ago when there was a barricaded suspect in the condominiums. Prior to that there was the incident at Granada Liquor. He added this vehicle would not be just for police incidents, but also could be used for natural disasters.

Mayor Walker asked about the cost of the equipment inside the vehicle.

Chief Giampa responded that the actual cost of the vehicle 97% State and Federal Funds. There is a small 3% of the total cost which is required to be matching funds from the City. A combination of all of these funds will pay for not only the vehicle itself, but the interior equipment such as the radios and all of the communications facilities, computers as well. He noted that the \$4,500 in matching funds is coming from the City's computer fund and will be primarily computers and electronic equipment.

Mayor Walker asked how many of the surrounding cities have vehicles similar to this type of vehicle.

Chief Giampa responded that probably 50% or more have this type of vehicle.

Mayor Walker asked if staff has looked into the possibility of doing a joint program with other small cities.

Chief Giampa responded they actually did have a joint program a number of years ago with Buena Park and Cypress. Buena Park backed out of it because it wasn't practical for them. However it couldn't be used in the same vein staff is proposing to use this vehicle; for example if there is a natural disaster that occurs it wouldn't limit itself just to the La Palma jurisdiction, the other City would have a need for it as well.

Councilmember Duke stated she supports having this type of vehicle to serve as an EOC. However, the report refers to SCAQMD funds and asked if the City has acquired those funds.

Ms. Standiford responded that none of the funding for this particular vehicle is coming from SCAQMD funds; the funding for the truck that the City has already purchased was part of the cities SCAQMD Grant Funds that needed to be used.

Councilmember Aragona made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2002-51 approving the purchase of a Emergency Command and Communications Vehicle; and appropriate the following funds for this purchase: Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, \$45,000; California Law Enforcement Equipment Program, \$99,500; and, Computer Maintenance and Replacement Funds, \$4,500. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Duke and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR THE RESURFACING ON VARIOUS CITY STREETS

Councilmember Blake stated that he must abstain on this item since the contractor is a customer of his employer.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Barnes to accept the work and authorize the Director of Public Works to file the Notice of Completion and Acceptance of Work with the Orange County Recorder for the Resurfacing on Various City Streets, City Project No. ST-252. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Duke and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Duke, Walker  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: Blake

SOLICITATION OF BIDS FOR THE MEDIAN IMPROVEMENTS ON MOODY STREET

Mayor Pro Tem Barnes stated she must abstain on this item since she lives within 500' of the project.

Councilmember Duke stated she recalled some conversation of redesign of the monument signs and asked if the sign included in this project includes modifications.

Mr. Noorbaksh responded affirmatively and stated the sign would be redesigned and the modified sign will come back to Council for their review and approval.

A motion was made by Councilmember Aragona to approve the Plans and Specifications, and authorize the Director of Public Works to solicit competitive bids for the Median Improvements on Moody Street from 300' north of La Palma Avenue to Houston Avenue, City Project No. ST-236. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Duke and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Blake, Duke, Walker  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: Barnes

#### REGULAR ITEMS

#### AMENDMENT TO PERS CONTRACT FOR LOCAL MISCELLANEOUS MEMBERS

City Manager Catherine Standiford stated that this item was before Council at its August 5th meeting for introduction. It is before Council tonight with the recommendation to adopt by title only and waive further reading an Ordinance of the City Council that would authorize an amendment to the contract between the City and the California Public Employees' Retirement System to basically enable the City to offer two years of additional service credit to certain classes of employees, also know as the Golden Hand Shake.

Mayor Walker made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2092-03, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of La Palma Authorizing an Amendment to the Contract Between the City Council of the City of La Palma and the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System for Two Years Additional Service Credit. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barnes and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

#### COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS FROM CITY-AFFILIATED COMMITTEES/COUNCIL REMARKS

Councilmember Aragona stated that she attended the West Orange Count Legislative Mixer, which was very well attended. She commended the Chamber for its hard work in putting this together. She also reported that in the Elected Officials Leadership Academy there will be a large increase in the Level I graduates in October. Level II and Level III advanced certificates will not occur for another year. She added that one of the issues for a City like La Palma is the cost and stated that the committee has worked on on-line classes and a program has been approved that will probably be on-line before the end of the year. The approved program will be "Fudiciary

Responsibility for Elected Officials" and will be moderated by Len Wood who has served as Interim City Manager for the City of La Palma.

Councilmember Aragona reported that a long-time community volunteers, Paul Ferazzi, recently passed away and she asked if this evening's meeting could be adjourned in his honor.

Councilmember Blake stated he attended the Orange County Fire Authority Executive Committee meeting and reported that they approved the purchase of 216 mobile data computers for the fire engines the will replace the current units that have been on the trucks for 15 years. They also approved four new type one fire engines and added that La Palma will get the benefit down the road because as these go into the higher active stations, one of those units, which are newer, will come to Station 13. He also reported that the Design Committee has approved the clay model for the Fire Fighters Memorial and the bronze statue is scheduled to be ready by September when the new facility will open.

Councilmember Blake commented that on his way to this evening's meeting he noticed a bag of trash, which has been dumped at the corner of Walker Street and La Palma Avenue. He also congratulated CAB for another successful Concert series.

Mayor Pro Tem Barnes stated that she attended the MAGLEV Task Force meeting and reported that the present focus is to determine the most likely route to be approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Barnes reported that the League is planning to amend its by-laws and since neither she nor the Mayor will be able to attend that meeting, she asked for a volunteer from the Council to vote on the recommended changes. Councilmember Duke volunteered to represent the Council.

Councilmember Duke stated she would like to have input from the Council members to provide direction on how she should cast her ballot.

City Attorney Joel Kuperberg stated that since the unavailability of the representative just came up tonight and the need to take action can't wait until the next meeting, by a 4/5 vote of the body this item can be placed on the Agenda for discussion and action.

Councilmember Aragona made a motion to discuss this item. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Barnes and carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Aragona, Barnes, Blake, Duke, Walker  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

Mayor Pro Tem Barnes explained that one of the points regards changing the Executive Steering Committees purpose and making this an advocacy committee that would be more involved with legislative matters and have a higher visibility in the community for promoting city-related issues.

Councilmember Blake added that right now only role of the Resolutions Committee is to approve the State Agenda and also the Division Agenda on policies and to review any resolutions that are presented by any of the Division's cities during the year and right before the League Conference they approve all the resolutions presented through the Policy Committee. He stated that in the last couple of years there were very few resolutions generated out of our Division. Through the grass roots program that was started it was felt that the Resolutions Committee should be expanded to act as a lobbyist to contact legislatures in Sacramento and to train new Councilmembers coming in to get active on this.

Councilmember Aragona stated there are also some changes recommended on how many members are on the committee and how they are elected.

Councilmember Blake commented that there was a move to take the membership away from the supervisory district and put it on the legislative district, but that proposal has been dropped and it will remain based on the supervisory district.

The Council concurred that they are in support of the recommended By-laws revision.

Mayor Walker stated he attended a joint Orange County Water District and Sanitation District meeting to review the Ground Water Replenishment System and reported that due to construction costs during the past year the project is anywhere from \$35 to \$50 million dollars over budget. He added that the funds allocated to build the system, 30 to 50% has come from grants. They are trying to nail them down to keep the costs at the original cost, or at a lower cost. If not, the board cannot let this go forward.

Mayor Walker stated that at the last Sanitation District meeting it was reported that along with the full secondary that was voted upon, they are moving ahead and they are hoping to have this done within the next three years. He explained that if it is not done in three years if it is not done it will cost \$3,000 a day in fines to not be in full compliance. Staff is working to find if there is some way around the fines since they are working on coming into compliance.

#### CITY MANGER REMARKS

City Manager Catherine Standiford announced that the Legislature did pass a budget and the Governor has indicated that he will sign it as early as Thursday. At first blush it's confirmed that the Vehicle License Fees will remain intact with the State's backflow to local government the same as for the current fiscal year. The State budget does include a 5% cut in State operations and the way that works is that the Department of Finance will simply appropriate 5% less to the various State departments and they will have to live within their budget. The State will also be offering an early retirement, Golden Handshake Program, to certain employees to try to reduce the number of State employees. In addition they've placed a limit on General Fund expenditures in that total expenditure authorizations for Fiscal Year 2003/2004 will be limited to total revenues for 2003/2004. She added that the proposed high increase in cigarette taxes was not adopted. The only exposure she believes the City has is the proposed shifting of Redevelopment Agency Tax Increment dollars into the State Education Revenue Augmentation Fund. Staff does not know

what the actual formula for this shift but staff does not expect the CDC to take a big hit in this area.

Councilmember Duke reported that she noticed an underground utility fixture at the southern end of the park property looks like it is being held together with tape.

Mr., Noorbaksh responded that it may be telephone, but he will check.

Mayor Walker also congratulated CAB for the excellent Concert series this year.

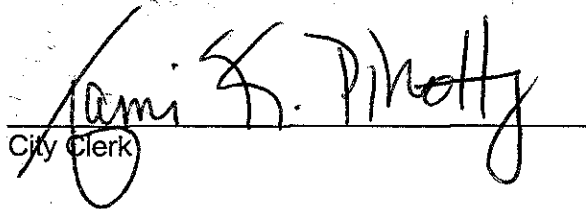
ADJOURNMENT

The City Council adjourned at 8:36 p.m. in memory of Paul Ferazzi.



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Mayor

ATTEST:



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City Clerk