

**MINUTES OF THE
LAWNDALE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 23, 2017**

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Mayor Pullen-Miles called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall council chamber, 14717 Burin Avenue, Lawndale, California.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Reid, Councilmember James H. Osborne, Councilmember Pat Kearney, Councilmember Bernadette Suarez

Other Participants: City Clerk Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, City Manager Stephen N. Mandoki, Public Works Director Frank Senteno, Finance Director Kenneth Louie, Community Development Director Sean Moore, Assistant to the City Manager/Human Resources Director Raylette Felton, Assistant City Clerk Pamela Giamario, Community Services Director Mike Estes, Municipal Services Director Deborah Holland, Cable Television Supervisor Tom Strickfaden, and 3 audience members

- B. CEREMONIALS** – Councilmember Kearney led the flag salute.

- C. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA** – none

- D. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL** – none

- E. ADMINISTRATION**

Consideration of Construction for the Teen Recreation Center. City Manager Mandoki reported that he requested council discussion of the matter because council's decision might impact the next year's budget. The city had planned to finance construction of the teen center with the combination of a \$400,000 county park grant and redevelopment bond funds for a total of \$593,000 which was the engineer's estimated cost. However, all of the bids were higher than the estimate and, once other costs associated with construction projects were added in, there would be a distinct possibility that the project cost could exceed the voter-approved \$1 million dollar limit. He sought council's direction.

Council, the city manager and Community Services Director Estes discussed the following: (a) should the city change the project, it would be required to return the grant funds, though it could apply for another grant; (b) the grant funding must be spent by June 2018; (c) the bids would expire in approximately 30 days; (d) should the parks and recreation commission be amenable to donating funds, its trust fund amounted to approximately \$100,000; and (e) while the project did not include any improvements in the Municipal Services Department portion of the building, a need for repairs could arise during the course of the project.

Having expressed a preference not to tap into general fund reserves to make up the funding gap, the City Council agreed to Mayor Pullen-Miles' suggestion to direct staff to analyze the possibility of creating a foundation to solicit private donations to build the center, to look for

other grant possibilities, and to remove the allocation from the budget pending further information.

2017-2018 Budget Workshop. In his introduction, the city manager reported that the staff would present a status quo budget with only one significant increase, that being approximately \$250,000 for the LA County Sheriff's Department contract. The increase would be offset with cuts elsewhere in the budget and an anticipated increase in vehicle license fees. He predicted, however, that the current level of service would likely cost an additional \$450,000 the following year.

Finance Director Louie reported that with strong revenues and consistent expenditures, the city was fiscally sound. He highlighted expenditure increases in law enforcement, anticipated expenses related to storm drain mandates and a pay down of the city's pension liability, and reported staff's intention to present an update of recreation fees. The proposed general fund budget projected revenues and expenditures of approximately \$13.5 million and resulted in an operating surplus of approximately \$3,500. The balance of the general fund included approximately \$8.1 million in cash and investments and \$13 million in receivables from the state, including interest, as a result of the dissolution of redevelopment that would be spread out over the next 15 to 17 years.

Staff presented the proposed budgets for the City Council; city attorney; city manager; administrative services, cable TV and general operations; city clerk; finance and information systems; municipal services and public safety; community services; community development, housing, Community Development Block Grant, and redevelopment; and public works and capital improvements.

The City Council requested the following:

- Adjustment in the City Council's travel and meetings account to pay for the mayor and one councilmember to attend the annual meetings of the California Contract Cities Association and the League of California Cities
- Discussion/negotiation with the Lawndale Elementary School District to share the cost of resurfacing the parking lot at Jane Addams Middle School
- Investigation whether Air Quality Management District funding could be used to purchase a stump grinder
- Inclusion of City Hall roof replacement in the capital improvement program budget

During the discussion, council received staff's agreement to reinstitute distribution of gift cards as prizes on senior game days and at tea parties once staff developed a system for tracking them. Staff also confirmed that the allocation for Hawthorne Boulevard bicycle lanes would be carried over into the next fiscal year pending a report on costs and options.

F. ITEMS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Kearney encouraged the public to attend the Memorial Day event and suggested that he, the mayor pro tem and the city manager might discuss the school parking lot at the next meeting with LESD officials. Councilmember Suarez and Mayor Pullen-Miles expressed sympathy for those affected by the recent terrorist attack in Manchester, U.K. The councilmembers expressed appreciation for staff's work on the proposed budget.

G. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, City Clerk

/plg.

Approved: 6/5/17