

**MINUTES OF THE  
LAWDALE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2017**

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Mayor Pullen-Miles called the meeting to order at 6:31 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, City Attorney Tiffany J. Israel, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Captain April Tardy, Municipal Services Director Deborah Holland, Community Services Director Mike Estes, and approximately 12 audience members

- B. CEREMONIALS** – Councilmember Kearney led the flag salute and Senior Pastor Tom Murray provided the inspiration.

- C. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT** – Pastor Murray announced the donation of 12 bullet proof vests to the Sheriff's Department by the Christian Heritage Church.

Captain Tardy discussed the impacts of Assembly Bill 109 and Propositions 47 and 57, all of which were intended to address state prison overcrowding. The consequences included low level felons now being housed in county jails, offenses reclassified as misdemeanors leading to rapid release of those arrested, increases in certain crime rates, and a high recidivism rate of 61%.

- D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

- Jose Parra, Lawndale Library Manager – library activities
- Marco Sandoval – invitation to St. Catherine Laboure's annual fiesta, appreciation for support after his mother's death
- Charmaine Doty – thanks from Beautification Committee for community participation in Clean Up Day

- E. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL** – The City Council responded generally to the comments, but did not refer any matters to staff or request placement of any issues on a future meeting agenda.

- F. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Community Center Temporary Janitorial Services.** (Recommendation: that the City Council approve a standard service agreement with Ultimate Maintenance Services, Inc. for janitorial services for the Harold E. Hofmann Community Center in the amount of \$27,144 for the period of August 1 through March 31, 2018.)

**Claims Against the City.** (Recommendation: that the City Council reject the claims filed by Saturnina Perez, Antonio Andrade and Angelina Barreras and instruct staff to process the appropriate correspondence to the claimants.)

**Accounts Payable Register.** (Recommendation: that the City Council adopts Resolution No. CC-1709-046, authorizing the payment of certain claims and demands in the amount of \$108,581.41.)

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(Recommendation: that council approves.)

**A motion by Councilmember Kearney to approve the consent calendar was seconded by Councilmember Suarez and carried by a vote of 5-0.**

**G. ADMINISTRATION**

**Honoring Lawndale Residents for Exemplary Service to the City.** City Manager Mandoki summarized the history of the community center's Wall of Distinction and presented the nominating committee's recommendation that four of six nominees be recognized on the wall, a subject that was on the August 7 agenda and continued by council. He suggested that council now approve one or more of three options presented in the new report.

Councilmember Osborne noted that the council's original intent was to depoliticize the selection of honorees, recalling the mayor's stated preference not to include anyone honored on any building or facility. City Manager Mandoki acknowledged that staff had misinterpreted council's intent in crafting the language of the policy by stipulating only that a park, building or facility could not have already been dedicated to a nominee. He noted that one of the current recommendations was to direct staff to revise the policy.

Councilmember Suarez asked if the committee investigated whether any of the nominees' names were on buildings. Community Services Director Estes reiterated the policy that eliminates a person if there is a facility named after her/him. Councilmember Osborne asserted that the mayor's statement not to honor someone whose name is on a building or park clearly includes persons named on a plaque. There was further discussion about how or whether to define what was meant by being honored on a facility.

Councilmember Kearney agreed with Councilmember Suarez that the intent of the policy was not meant to include elected officials because they already receive a great deal of recognition while in office. However, he preferred not to penalize the four current nominees because council's stated intent was lost in the writing of the policy. He favored accepting the committee's recommendations and revising the policy later. Councilmember Reid agreed.

Mayor Pullen-Miles and Councilmember Osborne continued to discuss the eligibility criteria and council's intent to honor "unsung heroes".

**Councilmember Reid's motion to approve the committee's recommendation to honor Rosine Dreese, Lertis R. Ellett, James Ramsey and Ella Traver and to direct staff to revise the eligibility criteria in the policy was seconded by Councilmember Kearney.**

Public comment:

- Doris Hofmann agreed with Councilmember Osborne.
- Pam London cautioned council to ensure that the revised policy is worded exactly right and would not be open to differing interpretations.
- Steve Koonz preferred that only unsung heroes be recognized.
- Melani Bell also supported recognizing unsung heroes, noting that there are other places where councilmembers can be recognized.

Councilmember Kearney suggested that perhaps only one person recommended by the committee should qualify, the rest having served on council, commissions or the school board, or perhaps the council should simply remove the wall of distinction plaques. Councilmember Reid suggested that if only unsung heroes will be recognized, anyone whose name is on a plaque or who had

received a certificate of recognition or commendation should be disqualified. Councilmember Osborne preferred to disqualify those who held elective office. Mayor Pullen-Miles agreed that elected officials should not be included, but hesitated to agree that being named on a plaque would be disqualifying.

Public comment: Nominating committee member Charmaine Doty did not remember seeing any paperwork that referred to unsung heroes and requested that if the policy is to be revised, the committee receive clear direction.

**The motion failed 2-3 (Mayor Pullen-Miles, Councilmember Osborne and Councilmember Suarez voted no.)**

Councilmember Osborne and Mayor Pullen-Miles supported directing staff to revise the policy to reflect council's original intent. City Manager Mandoki agreed to revising the policy by using the term "unsung heroes" and to exclude elected officials from consideration.

Councilmember Suarez asked whether commissioners would be excluded. There was no consensus whether or not they would qualify for consideration.

## **H. ITEMS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS**

**Recreational Vehicle Parking** – Councilmember Kearney reported seeing many rundown RVs on the streets, including some that seemed to have people living in them. He preferred that they be parked on private property or be banned, and that applicants for a permit be required to submit a DMV printout and home utility bill. He asked Municipal Services Director Holland to summarize her written report. Councilmember Osborne requested her to focus on what could be different from the current permit system.

Director Holland reported that RVs often exceed the 6,000 pound weight limit and that the Sheriff's Department has had to deal with waste being dumped from them and crimes being committed. She suggested that the city could prohibit them altogether unless they have a temporary permit for visitors or for loading up for a trip. Councilmember Osborne suggested limiting the street parking to in front of the residence and asked for an accounting of complaints and incident reports.

Referring to a survey of nearby cities, Mayor Pullen-Miles expressed a preference for restrictions like Gardena's and also noted El Segundo's restrictions. Councilmember Osborne agreed that they seemed more beneficial than others and asked about differences in enforcement depending on the approach. Ms. Holland noted that the Sheriff's Department would have to enforce during off-hours and supported prohibiting RV street parking at all times unless the owner has a temporary visitor's permit or permit taken for the purpose of loading the vehicle. Councilmember Kearney supported allowing RV parking only with a permit, limiting permits to two or three per month and five per year, and requiring a DMV printout and utility bill.

Public comment:

- Pam London opposed allowing people to live in an RV parked in a driveway.
- Johnny London suggested that, while citing RVs, the city should also cite cars parked in front yards.
- Gary White reported seeing RVs with extension cords and water hoses hooked up for more than three days and moved only for street sweeping. He supported more enforcement.

Mayor Pullen-Miles and Councilmember Osborne responded to the comments.

**Councilmember Report of Attendance at Meetings and/or Events** – see below

Councilmember Kearney attended no meetings and encouraged attendance at the Jazz and Blues Festival. Councilmember Osborne attended Hawthorne's good neighbors day and requested more chairs at the blues festival. Mayor Pro Tem Reid expressed appreciation for graffiti removal efforts. Mayor Pullen-Miles reported on beneficial seminars on youth engagement and the recent gas tax increase that he attended at the League of California Cities conference.

**I. CLOSED SESSION**

**Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation** - The City Council was scheduled to conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4), because the City was considering whether to initiate litigation in one case. The item was removed from the agenda.

**J. ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to conduct, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

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Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, City Clerk

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Approved: 10/2/17