

**MINUTES OF THE  
LAWDALE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 6, 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. The City Council met concurrently with the governing board of the successor agency to the Lawndale Redevelopment Agency.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles, Councilmember James H. Osborne, Councilmember Pat Kearney, Councilmember Bernadette Suarez  
Councilmembers Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Reid  
Other Participants: City Clerk Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, City Manager Stephen N. Mandoki, City Attorney Tiffany J. Israel, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Lieutenant John Burcher, Community Development Director Sean Moore, Public Works Director Frank Senteno

- B. CEREMONIALS** – Councilmember Kearney led the flag salute and Pastor Eddie Vargas provided the inspiration.

State Senator Steven Bradford provided a brief update on the legislative year that ended September 15. He discussed the importance of the 12 cents per gallon gas tax increase to fund needed road and bridge repairs across the state, a housing bond to increase the stock of affordable housing, and a park bond. Councilmember Osborne received confirmation that the gas tax funding would be allocated to all cities and counties and received information about what the state is doing to replace funding that the city lost with the demise of redevelopment, but had formerly used for business and infrastructure improvements.

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

**World Polio Day** – The City Council presented a proclamation to Rotary International representatives, complimenting the organization on its efforts to eradicate polio world-wide. Shirley Giltzow discussed the organization's efforts.

**Maelyn Evans and Miguel Vasquez, South Bay Environmental Services Center**

**Volunteers** – The City Council presented a certificate of appreciation to Ms. Evans, expressing appreciation for her efforts on behalf of the community. Mr. Vasquez was not able to attend.

**Republic Services "Bucks for Bulkies" Annual Cleanup Contest Winner.** Government affairs and community outreach manager Sam Peña presented a gift card to Elizabeth Leighton for her participation in the annual fall cleanup.

- D. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT** – Lieutenant Burcher reported on a recent law enforcement action and shared holiday driver safety tips.

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

- Lawndale Library Manager Jose Parra – library activities and events
- Johnny Castro – recent death of longtime homeless resident, "Michael"
- Tim – manager of Brooklyn Bar, regarding the business being shut down by the city for 30 days

- Marlyce Chastain – her code enforcement case and submission of photos depicting violations on nearby properties
- Charmaine Doty – concern that a hedge in the Hawthorne Boulevard reduces visibility and creates a traffic hazard; Brooklyn Bar
- Pam London – suggestion that code enforcement officers check for violations at nearby properties when working on an individual case; Brooklyn Bar
- Deena – her code enforcement case
- Johnny London – the city’s code enforcement approach; parkway regulations; Brooklyn Bar

F. **COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL** – The City Council responded generally to the comments, but did not request placement of any issues on a future meeting agenda. City Attorney Israel and Community Development Director Moore provided additional information about the Brooklyn Bar case and the city’s code enforcement approach. Council asked staff to investigate the hedge in the Hawthorne Boulevard median and Ms. Chastain’s case.

G. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Motion to read by title only and waive further reading of all ordinances listed on the agenda.** (Recommendation: that council approves.)

**Permit Requirement to Park Recreational Vehicles on City Streets.** (Recommendation: that the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 1143-17.)

**Safe Routes to School Project.** (Recommendation: that the City Council: 1) approve the professional service agreement with Alta Planning and Design for an amount of \$44,986.00 to complete the Safe Routes to School Phase II: Education and Encouragement Project; 2) approve a contingency of \$12,000 to avoid project delays and facilitate timely project completion; and 3) establish a SRTS special fund to track revenues of \$98,412 and utilize \$66,200 for project costs.)

**Publishing Municipal Code Amendments.** (Recommendation: that the City Council consent to the increase in the cost of municipal code supplements by approving the "First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement for Codification Services" with Quality Code Publishing.)

**Status of City Investments.** (Recommendation: that the City Council receive and file the quarterly investment report for the quarter ended September 30, 2017.)

**Accounts Payable Register.** (Recommendation: that the City Council adopts Resolution No. CC-1711-053, authorizing the payment of certain claims and demands in the amount of \$317,688.29.)

**Hawthorne Boulevard Marquee.** (Recommendation: that the City Council authorize staff to prepare bid documents (plans, specifications, and estimate) and to solicit bids for the demolition of the existing marquee on Hawthorne Boulevard and 147th Street.)

**Records Management Program Update.** (Recommendation: that the City Council approve the revision of the Finance Department’s retention schedule pertaining to information system backups by adopting Resolution No. CC-1711-054.)

**Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Regular Meeting – October 16, 2017.**  
(Recommendation: that council approves.)

Public Works Director Senteno responded to Councilmember Suarez’s, Mayor Pullen-Miles’, and Councilmember Kearney’s concerns regarding the grant funding for the Safe Routes to

School project, the Lawndale Elementary School District's withdrawal from the project, and the cost of the consultant's services.

Councilmember Kearney suggested that the Hawthorne Boulevard Marquee agenda item be removed from the consent calendar to include with the budget discussion scheduled for later in the meeting. After discussion, council decided to proceed with inviting bids to demolish the sign, saving the budget discussion for later.

**A motion by Councilmember Osborne to approve the consent calendar was seconded by Councilmember Kearney and carried by a vote of 4-0 following City Attorney Israel's reading of the title of Ordinance No. 1143-17 (Mayor Pro Tem Reid was absent).**

## **H. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Marijuana Use Regulations.** Community Development Director Moore reported that Senate Bill 94, which was signed by the governor in June and became effective immediately, resulted in the need to update the city's current marijuana ordinance to be consistent with state regulations. He also reported that when the Planning Commission reviewed the proposed ordinance, the members again expressed their desire for the city to allow certain uses of recreational marijuana to create additional tax revenues for the city, and therefore recommended that the City Council not adopt the proposed ordinance.

The mayor opened the public hearing and the following persons provided testimony:

- Pam London pointed out that the planning commissioners had noted that a high percentage of Lawndale voters voted for Proposition 64 which legalized recreational marijuana, and that their interest in legalizing some uses was to increase tax revenue that city could use for law enforcement.
- Randall Abram discussed estimates that have been made about the amount of revenue that could be generated from legalized marijuana and suggested that such revenues might be applied to increasing law enforcement staffing.

Councilmember Kearney expressed his continuing support of banning commercial uses, citing concerns about "head shops" opening in the city and where the businesses' revenue will go in a cash-only industry.

Councilmember Suarez agreed, reporting that law enforcement officials anticipate that crime rates will rise with legalization of marijuana.

Citing concerns about increasing law enforcement costs, particularly the liability trust fund costs, Councilmember Osborne suggested that the city might need to consider ways to increase revenues. In answer to his question whether the ordinance should be included in the coming budget discussions, the city attorney reported that, to be consistent with state laws due to take effect January 1, the council should not delay consideration of these municipal code revisions. The council could then look at changing the marijuana regulations in the future, after receiving additional information from law enforcement and from other cities that allow commerce in recreational marijuana.

Mayor Pullen-Miles expressed concern about the experience of three cities that did not negotiate with the marijuana industry and were then faced with a ballot initiative. A successful industry crafted initiative could deprive cities of regulatory controls to the detriment of the community, such as allowing more dispensaries than the council might have allowed had the city created its own regulations. He agreed with introducing the ordinance, but wished to revisit the regulatory

issues later. He also noted that the current ban on commercial marijuana disqualifies the city from receiving certain public safety funding, which could be a disadvantage if there is an increase in law enforcement needs because neighboring cities allow marijuana sales.

Councilmember Kearney inquired whether council should direct staff to bring marijuana regulations back on a future agenda. Mayor Pullen-Miles and Councilmember Osborne suggested that it would be brought back without formal action.

**Councilmember Kearney moved to (a) determine that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines; and (b) introduce the first reading of Ordinance No. 1144-17, amending portions of chapter 17.100 and sections 1.08.020, 5.80.060 and 17.08.020 of the Lawndale Municipal Code to update the City's marijuana regulations to be consistent with new state law. Councilmember Suarez seconded the motion which carried by a vote of 4-0 following the city attorney's reading of the ordinance title (Mayor Pro Tem Reid was absent).**

#### **I. ADMINISTRATION**

**Citywide Street Sweeping Services.** Public Works Director Senteno presented a contract amendment to extend street sweeping services through the end of 2019 at a five percent rate increase which would result in an approximate cost increase of \$10,000 per year. Councilmember Osborne received confirmation that there were sufficient funds in the current year budget to cover the increase. Mayor Pullen-Miles questioned whether staff investigated the company's claim that the price increase was necessitated by a five percent increase in disposal fees. Council directed staff to require the company to justify its claim by documenting its increasing costs.

**Councilmember Osborne's motion to approve the first amendment with CleanStreet for citywide street sweeping services extending the agreement term for two additional years and increasing the contract value by \$9,960; from \$180,000 to \$189,960 per year not to exceed \$379,920 for the agreement term was seconded by Councilmember Osborne and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Mayor Pro Tem Reid was absent).**

#### **J. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Issues and Direction.** (Recommendation: that the City Council provide direction to staff regarding the areas of revenue increases and/or budget reductions on which to focus staff time in the coming weeks. With this direction staff can then work on developing specific information for further review and consideration by the City Council that will allow staff to prepare a balanced budget for FY 2018-19.)

The agenda item was continued.

#### **K. ITEMS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS**

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

All councilmembers attended and enjoyed the city's Halloween Haunt.

Councilmember Suarez attended a South Bay Cities Council of Governments meeting that included a presentation by LA Impact, a police task force focusing on top crimes in the county.

Councilmember Osborne attended a Southern California Association of Governments event where he was somewhat alarmed by a presentation on climate forecasting, including descriptions of weather patterns that were predicted to continue throughout the region. He encouraged the public to purchase a flag for the Veteran's Day Field of Honor and wished all a happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Pullen-Miles visited We Rock the Spectrum, a new facility for families with autistic children, the Lawndale High School homecoming football game and the coffee with a cop event at the library.

**L. CLOSED SESSION**

**Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation.** The City Council conducted 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 city attorney reported that council was updated and took no reportable action.

**M. ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to conduct, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m. in memory of Lawndale resident Gerardo Michael Juarez, Leuzinger High School graduate Charleston Hartfield, and Centinela Valley Union High School District principal Duff Douglas Means.

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Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, City Clerk

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Approved: 12/04/17