

**MINUTES OF THE
LAWDALE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2016**

- 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 meeting was held concurrently with a meeting of the successor agency to the Lawndale Redevelopment Agency.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles, Councilmember James H. Osborne, Councilmember Pat Kearney, Councilmember Daniel Reid
Councilmembers Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Larry Rudolph
Other Attendees: City Clerk Bernadette Suarez, City Manager Stephen N. Mandoki, City Attorney Tiffany J. Israel, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Captain Steven Sciacca, Assistant City Clerk Pamela Giamario, Finance Director Kenneth Louie, Community Development Director Joe Perez, Public Works Director Frank Senteno, Community Development Manager Perry Banner, and approximately 12 audience members

- B. **CEREMONIALS** – Councilmember Osborne led the flag salute and Pastor Eddie Vargas provided the inspiration.
- C. **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT** – Captain Sciacca summarized recent law enforcement activities.
- D. **ITEMS FROM CITY CLERK** – City Clerk Suarez announced that the nomination period for the April election would close on January 15.
- E. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
- Rachel – appreciation for council support of the PTA Christmas basket program and for the Sheriff's Department
- F. **COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL** – none
- G. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Recreation – Youth Basketball Program Referees. (Recommendation: that the City Council approve the Agreement for Basketball Officiating Services with Jerome Johnson for a total amount not to exceed \$33,630.00 for up to three years of service.)

Councilmember Absence from Regular Meetings. (Recommendation: that the City Council approve a motion to memorialize the decision to excuse Mayor Pro Tem Rudolph's recent absences from council meetings.)

Claim for Damage to Property. (Recommendation: that the City Council reject the claim from Maria Rowland.)

Accounts Payable Register. (Recommendation: that the City Council adopts Resolution No. CC-1601-001, authorizing the payment of certain claims and demands in the amount of \$339,097.20.)

Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Meetings on December 2 and 7, 2015.

(Recommendation: that council approves.)

A motion by Councilmember Reid to approve the consent calendar was seconded by Councilmember Kearney and carried by a vote of 4-0. (Mayor Pro Tem Rudolph was absent.)

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Regulating Synthetic Grass and Artificial Turf on Residential Properties. Community Development Manager Banner reported that the Planning Commission had finalized its recommendations for municipal code amendments pertaining to residential artificial turf regulations which would replace the amendments contained in Urgency Ordinance No. 1117-15. The proposed new ordinance was different from the urgency ordinance in two respects: a) by allowing up to 75 percent, instead of 50 percent, of the required landscaped area to be replaced with artificial turf; and b) by requiring installation by a licensed contractor only for projects greater than 500 square feet in size.

The public hearing was opened and closed immediately, there being no one wishing to testify.

Mr. Banner discussed with the City Council the reasons for the Planning Commission's recommended changes. It was the consensus of the council to a) preserve the 50 percent maximum coverage, and b) require professional contractor installations for all projects to ensure that there would be quality workmanship and protection for home owners with the provision of product warranties.

Councilmember Osborne moved to approve the ordinance, but to revise it to restore council's original recommendations. Councilmember Kearney seconded the motion.

Community Development Director Perez read the specific revisions to be made: a) In LMC sections 17.44.015(B) and 17.44.017(D), revise 75% to 50%; b) in section 17.44.017(D), revise 25% to 50%; and c) in section 17.44.017(F)(5), the first sentence which reads "For synthetic turf areas exceeding 500 square feet...", would be revised to read "For all synthetic turf areas in the front setback area..."

Councilmember Reid suggested that that these provisions should apply to the front setback area and the visible side setback areas. Councilmembers Osborne and Kearney agreed to amend the motion.

The amended motion carried by a vote of 4-0. (Mayor Pro Tem Rudolph was absent.)

Cultivation, Sale and Delivery of Medical Marijuana. The community development manager reported that in October the state legislature approved, and the governor signed, the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act which established a statewide regulatory and licensing system for marijuana cultivation, processing, transportation, testing, distribution and use. The act left intact local government's authority to ban or regulate such activities. Upon review of the municipal code provisions pertaining to medical marijuana and the new state

laws, the Planning Commission concluded that the city should extend its existing ban on marijuana dispensaries to marijuana cultivation, processing and distribution activities.

The following persons provided testimony during the public hearing:

- Linda Unruh preferred to allow marijuana distribution centers or delivery services to mitigate drug use and drug sales in and around Hopper Park.
- Stephen Koonz discussed the difference between medical marijuana and recreational use, and opposed allowing medical marijuana dispensaries and cultivation in the city.

Mayor Pullen-Miles received clarification regarding the state law provision that limited the time that cities had to develop their own regulatory framework before the state would take jurisdiction.

Councilmember Osborne moved to read by title only, waive further reading and introduce Ordinance No. 1119-16, prohibiting medical marijuana dispensaries, cultivation facilities and mobile dispensaries or delivery services. Councilmember Reid seconded the motion which carried by a vote of 4-0 following the city attorney's reading of the ordinance title. (Mayor Pro Tem Rudolph was absent.)

I. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – none

J. ITEMS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Councilmember Osborne reported that four members attended the American Public Works Association lunch event, at which the city received a national award for the Hogan Park upgrades. Councilmember Kearney and Mayor Pullen-Miles reported their attendance at an Eagle Scout awards ceremony.

Council Subcommittee Meetings with School Districts – Councilmember Reid reported having held discussions with the elementary school district board president and superintendent and expressed his interest in revisiting the possibility of reinstating regular meetings with the district. The purpose would be to establish open communications on all issues affecting the community. Councilmembers expressed concern whether the full district board agreed that all subjects could be discussed and whether it had taken formal action to form a subcommittee to meet with the city. It was recalled that when the city suggested reinstating the meetings earlier, the board indicated that it would not discuss the joint use of Bollinger Gymnasium. There were still unanswered questions about that arrangement. The council concluded the discussion by agreeing that Councilmembers Kearney and Reid would comprise the city's subcommittee and that the city manager should communicate with the superintendent to confirm that the school board also took action to reinstate the meetings.

K. 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 two cases. City Attorney Israel reported that council was updated, no action was taken.

- L. **ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to conduct, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bernadette Suarez, City Clerk

Prepared by: Pamela L. Giamario, Asst. City Clerk

Approved: January 19, 2016
Date