

**MINUTES OF THE
LAWDALE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2016**

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Mayor Pullen-Miles called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. in the City Hall council chamber, 14717 Burin Avenue, Lawndale, California. The meeting was held concurrently with a meeting of successor agency to the Lawndale Redevelopment Agency.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles, Councilmember Pat Kearney, Councilmember Daniel Reid
Councilmembers Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Larry Rudolph, Councilmember James H. Osborne
Other Attendees: City Clerk Bernadette Suarez, City Manager Stephen N. Mandoki, Assistant City Attorney Michael Huston, 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, and approximately 20 audience members

- B. CEREMONIALS** – Councilmember Reid led the flag salute and Don Schmoulder provided the inspiration.

C. PRESENTATIONS

1. **Parks, Recreation and Social Services Commissioner Lu Austin** – The City Council presented a city tile plaque to the outgoing commissioner.
2. **2016 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count – Volunteers Needed** – Steven Sotomayor, Los Angeles Housing Services Authority Senior Policy and Legislative Analyst asked for volunteers to help with this year's count, noting that even young people older than 14 could help. In response to the mayor's inquiry, he also explained that there are formulas to estimate how many people are homeless that are not seen during these events, for example, those who have temporary living arrangements.

- D. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT** – Captain Sciacca summarized recent law enforcement activities. Mayor Pullen-Miles noted that recent arrests for graffiti vandalism were the result of the public reporting to police. The captain agreed that public involvement could be a key factor in reducing and preventing crime. When the mayor asked about recent countywide increases in crime, the captain noted that while certain areas serviced by the South Los Angeles Station experienced increases in 2015, Lawndale rates were relatively stable.

- E. ITEMS FROM CITY CLERK** – City Clerk Suarez announced the names of the candidates qualified for the April general election and the resignation of Beautification Committee Member Paul Aasness.

F. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- Laura Walters, LA County Fire Department – upcoming prefilled sandbag distribution event
- Don Gould, Lawndale Library – library staffing, upcoming programs

- Marco Sandoval – Firmona Ave storm drain project, pet waste, homeless count, graffiti, Lawndale Beat, economic opportunity for Lawndale with the Rams returning to LA
- Rhonda Hofmann Gorman – condition of metal banners on lamp posts in the Hawthorne Boulevard median, burned out street lights, Sheriff’s Department service
- Marge Heinemann – phone scams targeting particularly seniors
- Doris Hofmann – slow water company response to a leak near 152nd Street and Grevillea Avenue

G. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL – The City Council responded generally to the comments, but did not request placement of any issues on a future meeting agenda. Councilmember Kearney asked staff to check the banners and lights on Hawthorne Boulevard.

H. CONSENT CALENDAR

Regulating Synthetic Grass and Artificial Turf on Residential Properties.

(Recommendation: that the City Council read by title only, waive further reading, and introduce Ordinance No. 1118-16 allowing synthetic grass and artificial turf on residential properties.)

Cultivation, Sale and Delivery of Medical Marijuana. (Recommendation: that the City Council read by title only, waive further reading, and adopt Ordinance No. 1119-16 prohibiting medical marijuana dispensaries, cultivation facilities, and mobile dispensaries, cultivation facilities, and delivery services.)

Accounts Payable Register. (Recommendation: that the City Council adopts Resolution No. CC-1601-002, authorizing the payment of certain claims and demands in the amount of \$1,220,662.08.)

Councilmember Absence. (Recommendation: that the City Council excuse Mayor Pro Tem Rudolph's absence from the January 4, 2016 meeting.)

Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Regular Meeting – January 4, 2016.

(Recommendation: that council approves.)

Public comment pertaining to synthetic grass/artificial turf regulations:

- Pam London objected to the professional installation requirement as creating a hardship and additional expense for property owners when only 50 percent or less of landscaped area can be replaced with artificial turf.
- Doris Hofmann noted that the regulations apply to front yards, but a particular project might include the entire back yard.

Mayor Pullen-Miles noted that cities have the legal authority to regulate artificial turf installations and that the ordinance reflected council’s decision to require a professional contractor. Having been asked by Councilmember Reid to comment, Assistant City Attorney Huston advised that there was no specific statutory guidance in the new state law and that cities around the state were engaged in creating appropriate regulations for their communities.

A motion by Councilmember Reid to approve the consent calendar was seconded by Councilmember Kearney and carried by a vote of 3-0 following the assistant city attorney’s reading of the titles of Ordinance Nos. 1118-16 and 1119-16. (Mayor Pro Tem Rudolph and Councilmember Osborne were absent.)

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Federal Community Development Block Grant Funding to Assist Low- and Moderate-Income People and to Eliminate Blight. Community Development Director Perez proposed that the \$301,606 estimated allocation for 2016-17 be used for the following: a) continuing the senior nutrition program, b) Larch Avenue street improvements, and c) a pocket park adjacent to the community center.

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

A motion by Councilmember Kearney to adopt the FY 2016-17 budget for the CDBG program, and adopt Resolution No. CC-1601-003 approving the city's participation in the FY 2016-2017 CDBG program was seconded by Councilmember Reid and carried by a vote of 3-0. (Mayor Pro Tem Rudolph and Councilmember Osborne were absent.)

J. ADMINISTRATION

Use of Restoration Life Christian Church Parking Lot for Larch Park. The community development director reported that staff had negotiated an agreement with church officials to allow Larch Park visitors to use the church parking lot on a specified schedule in exchange for sidewalk and driveway repairs.

Pastor Eddie Vargas stated that the church wants the park to thrive and be safe, and considered it an honor to be part of the project.

Public comment:

- Rhonda Hofmann Gorman expressed concern that there were no renewal dates in the easement agreement.
- Marco Sandoval suggested that the sidewalk repairs should extend from corner to corner.

Mayor Pullen-Miles clarified that contract was in perpetuity, without specific renewal dates, but could be cancelled or renegotiated at any time, and agreed that the sidewalk repair should be expanded if funding allowed.

Councilmember Reid moved to approve the Grant of Easement for Shared Parking, and appropriate \$40,000 from LA County Metro Transportation Development Act reserves for sidewalk and driveway improvements along Larch Avenue for the church and Larch Park.

Councilmember Kearney inquired about expanding the sidewalk repairs. Community Development Director Lopez explained that there was not sufficient funding and suggested that the work be done at the park and the church before the park opens. In the meantime, staff would seek future funding for repairs on the rest of the block.

Councilmember Kearney seconded the motion which carried by a vote of 3-0. (Mayor Pro Tem Rudolph and Councilmember Osborne were absent.)

K. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Mandoki responded to comments made during the oral communications portion of the meeting about phone scams, the homeless count and the Rams stadium in Inglewood. He announced that Community Development Director Joe Perez was leaving the city and expressed appreciation for his service.

L. ITEMS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

12. Councilmember Report of Attendance at Meetings and/or Events – none

Councilmember Reid reported attending an alumni networking event at Environmental Charter High School. Councilmember Kearney attended a Centinela Youth Services meeting at which an Inglewood councilmember suggested that all South Bay cities would prosper and grow as a result of the Rams return. Mayor Pullen-Miles thanked Mr. Perez for his “short but powerful” service.

M. CLOSED SESSION

13. 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. Assistant City Attorney Huston reported that council was updated and no reportable action was taken.

N. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to conduct, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m. in memory of Florence Quintanilla, longtime resident.

Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bernadette Suarez, City Clerk

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

Approved: February 1, 2016
Date