

CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS, CALIFORNIA
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING
May 2, 2012
2:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Connors called the Adjourned Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Laguna Woods to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

Councilmember Robbins led the flag salute.

III. ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS: PRESENT: Hack, Rhodes, Robbins, Ring, Connors
 ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Keane; Assistant City Manager Reilly; Public Safety Director Macon; Finance Manager Jones; Deputy City Clerk Trippy; City Attorney Cosgrove

IV. CITY COMMENDATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

4.1 Proclamation – National Preservation Month, May 2012

Mayor Connors presented the Proclamation to Historical Society Member Bebe Shaddock and acknowledged the Society's efforts in preserving the history of the community.

V. CITY MANAGER

5.1 Fiscal Year 2012-13 Annual Budget

City Manager Keane reviewed the Fiscal Year 2011-12 revenue and expenditure budgets and accomplishments. She then discussed projected FY 2012-13 General Fund revenues and the base budget proposal. She noted that continuation of all existing General Fund programs at current service levels would result in \$127,729 in revenues over expenditures. The base budget includes a \$20,000 increase in community organizations grants, as requested by Council last year. The base budget also includes continuation of the redlight camera program with a projected \$62,000 deficit. This amount would increase by an additional \$100,000 if grant funding is discontinued. Finally, she identified the balance in the City Hall improvements funds and some suggested expenditures for this fund and the General Fund revenue surplus.

Councilmember Hack asked about the proposed City Hall generator.

Public Safety Director Macon reported that the existing generator is sufficient to power City Hall for three hours and that it is powered by gasoline; however, it is not conducive because it requires significant down time between refueling to avoid overheating. The proposed new generator would power City Hall for up to three days without refueling.

Councilmember Rhodes asked if the fuel tank would be located on the roof of City Hall.

Public Safety Director Macon stated that the location of the generator would be in the parking lot adjacent to City Hall.

Mayor Pro Tem Ring suggested looking into a gas turbine generator.

Public Safety Director Macon noted that staff can explore different types of generators; however, diesel generators are generally the most cost-effective.

Councilmember Hack stated that diesel generators are an advantage because their parts are typically readily available and that they are considered non-volatile.

Councilmember Robbins stated that City Hall serves as the center of the City's Emergency Operations Center and that it is important that the City has a functioning generator.

City Manager Keane acknowledged that it is the consensus of the City Council to move forward with a new generator.

Councilmember Rhodes reported that he has heard comments from residents that the John Wayne Airport (JWA) vouchers are hardly worth the savings. He suggested that the cost should be reduced to \$24 or the program discontinued.

City Manager Keane noted that there is also an on-going problem with qualified residents purchasing the voucher and giving them to unqualified family members and friends.

Councilmember Rhodes suggested eliminating the JWA vouchers.

Councilmember Hack asked if it would not be a benefit to the taxi driver to monitor the abuse of the vouchers who would otherwise not be compensated for the taxi fare.

City Manager Keane noted that it is not actually a benefit to drivers to refuse to take vouchers from unqualified individuals because then they are not paid.

Councilmember Hack acknowledged that it would not be fair to expect the drivers to monitor the use of the City's program.

City Manager Keane explained that the goal of the program is to remove cars from the road and provide transportation to those in need of critical assistance; and the JWA program does not meet those needs.

Mayor Connors asked if residents can still use their current vouchers after expiration.

City Manager Keane affirmed that the current vouchers are good until June 30, 2012; but, they cannot be used after that date and they are not refundable.

City Manager Keane acknowledged the Council's consensus direction to eliminate the John Wayne airport taxi voucher program.

Councilmember Rhodes proposed eliminating the red light camera program and the traffic deputy position.

City Manager Keane clarified that the traffic deputy also provides traffic enforcement and patrols the City. She suggested that the Council could eliminate the traffic deputy position and allocate \$100,000 to \$200,000 – depending on continuation of the Supplemental Law Enforcement grant program – to directed traffic enforcement if the redlight camera program is eliminated. Directed enforcement would provide law enforcement staffing on an as needed basis.

Councilmember Robbins asked if the City has any accident related statistics prior to the red light camera program.

City Manager Keane stated that staff presented the most recent statistics at the Council's December meeting.

Councilman Robbins expressed his concern about the loss of traffic enforcement at the Gate 12/Moulton intersection if the redlight camera program is eliminated.

City Manager Keane suggested that staff could monitor traffic patterns at Gate 12 and provide directed enforcement to monitor the area during peak hours.

Councilmember Rhodes stated that visibility of the signal is a problem.

Councilmember Hack stated that the curvature of the road has always been an issue even prior to the City's incorporation. The City has installed flashing warning lights and the Moulton smart street project should help improve the visibility.

Councilmember Rhodes suggested that the City install additional flashing lights along the side of the street, in addition to the existing one in the center median.

Mayor Connors asked for legal counsel's remarks to the City's exposure once the red light camera program is removed.

City Attorney Cosgrove stated that there is no case law that says the absence of a red light camera pose a dangerous condition.

City Manager Keane noted that several cities have recently eliminated red light camera programs.

Mayor Connors stated that it is the consensus of the City Council that staff eliminates the redlight camera program from the FY 2012-13 Budget.

City Manager Keane asked if Council is supportive to increase the \$100,000 to \$200,000 to be deposited into the directed enforcement account.

Councilmember Hack noted that he is supportive of that proposal.

City Manager Keane discussed the possible add-on items for the budget. She noted that the monies for City Hall's electricity and water connections, trash enclosure, and the downstairs carpeting could come from the City Hall Improvement Fund.

Councilmember Hack asked for clarification regarding the total dollar amount for the projects and what is available.

City Manager Keane clarified that approximately \$352,000 is available from City Hall acquisition funds and that the three projects would total \$248,855.

Councilmember Rhodes stated that \$180,000 seems excessive for a trash enclosure and asked if City Hall generated that much trash. He asked if staff could look into prefabricated buildings that typically run \$40,000 and to see if it's allowed in the City.

Public Safety Director Macon noted that the trash enclosure will house the generator and includes the costs for the generator pad and hook-ups.

Councilmember Rhodes asked for clarification if the cost of the generator for \$75,000 was in addition to the trash enclosure.

Public Safety Director Macon clarified that \$75,000 is the cost of the generator itself.

City Manager Keane acknowledged that the Council had reached consensus on the City Hall projects.

Councilmember Hack asked what the cost would be for the additional part-time accountant position.

City Manager Keane stated that staff estimates \$23,800.

City Manager Keane acknowledged that the Council had reached consensus to add the part-time accountant position.

City Manager Keane concluded her budget presentation and noted that the next budget discussion will include the transportation and special funds budgets. She asked Council if there were any issues Council would like to add that were not covered in the presentation.

Councilmember Rhodes noted that Council has been conservative with its budget and suggested that Council could choose to add something at a later date if warranted.

Councilmember Hack asked if the Laguna Woods Goods Exchange will be brought back.

City Manager Keane affirmed that a second event for the year has been included in the base budget, per Council's request last year.

Mayor Connors suggested that staff contact the assisted living facilities, in advance, of the event so that they may prepare to participate in the City's hazardous medicine program.

Councilmember Hack asked if San Sebastian was informed of the event.

City Manager Keane affirmed that all residential facilities were informed of the event and that residents in other cities also became aware of the event since it was published on several external Earth Day websites.

Councilmember Rhodes asked if the City paid for the paper shredding services provided.

City Manager Keane stated that Green Monster Shredding provided the services at no cost to the City; however, there is no guarantee there won't be a charge for the next event.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

VII. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Ring announced that it is Councilmember Hack's birthday.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

8.1 The City Council will meet in closed session to confer with legal counsel regarding two matters of potential litigation pursuant to the provisions of Government Code Section 54956.9(c).

Council reconvened in open session at 3:47 p.m. City Attorney Cosgrove advised that there was no reportable action.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m. The next regular meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday May 16, 2012 at Laguna Woods City Hall, 24264 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637.

YOLIE TRIPPY, Deputy City Clerk

Adopted: June 20, 2012

CYNTHIA S. CONNERS, Mayor