

**MINUTES****Lompoc City Council Special Meeting/Budget Workshop****Tuesday, May 3, 2011****City Hall/100 Civic Center Plaza****9:00 A.M. – Council Chambers**

Council Members Present: Cecilia Martner, Dirk Starbuck, Ashley Costa, Mayor Pro Tempore Bob Lingl, and Mayor John Linn.

Staff Present: City Administrator Laurel Barcelona, City Attorney Joe Pannone, and City Clerk Stacey Alvarez, Management Services Director Brad Wilkie, Public Works Director Larry Bean, Library Director Molly Gerald, Utilities Director Ron Stassi, Parks, Recreation and Urban Forestry Director Dan McCaffrey, Urban Forestry Manager Cindy McCall, and Recreation Manager Joanne Plummer.

Others Present: Ann Rughe, Kathleen Cortopassi, Jenna Ahrens, Skylar Baker, Charlie Doyle, James Aranguren, Ryan Schrader, Alexander Jacob, Maegan Bullock, Vulcan Brummer, Donald Smith, Karen Orsua, Cecilia Hunter, Sachiko Yenokida, Dan Powell, and Jim Dixon.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Kathleen Cortopassi, Jenna Ahrens, Skylar Baker, Charlie Doyle, James Aranguren, Ryan Schrader, Alexander Jacob, Maegan Bullock, Vulcan Brummer, Donald Smith, and Karen Orsua spoke about the proposed Charlotte's Web Children's Library project, requesting Council provide funding for the library project.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- CITY            1.        **Review of FY 2011-2013 City Biennial Budget Consolidation and Cost Savings Considerations.**

City Administrator Laurel M. Barcelona explained the agenda for the Budget Workshop and briefly spoke about the Budget Objectives, recommended department and division consolidations/restructures, a proposed schedule for upcoming budget workshops/meetings, and then introduced Management Services Director Brad Wilkie who presented an overview of topics of discussion regarding the FY 2011/13 Budget.

Council Member Martner asked for clarification of the procedure Council will use to take action on the agenda items. Mayor Linn stated after all Staff presentations are received, Council will begin discussion and deliberation of each agenda item, take public comment, and then vote or take action as Council sees appropriate.

- **Proposed City Department Consolidations/Reorganizations**

Council Member Martner requested discussions of proposed consolidations begin with the consolidation of the RDA, CDBG, Planning, and Recreation into the Economic Development Department. Mayor Linn distributed an unaudited cost analysis of the Planning Division, his recommendations for reductions in the Planning Division personnel and placing RDA, CDBG and the Planning Division under the still vacant Economic Development Director/Assistant City Administrator.

Council discussed at length changes to the Planning Division and consolidation the of RDA, CDBG and Planning Division with the Economic Development Department, as proposed by Mayor Linn, and Recreation Division consolidation with the Library Division or any other City department; the recruitment process for an Economic Development Director/Assistant City Administrator; possible consolidation of Planning into the Public Works Department; and estimated cost savings to the General Fund.

- **Proposed City Department Consolidations/Reorganizations**  
(cont'd)

Public Comment:

1. Ann Rughe spoke against the Mayor's proposed changes to the Planning Division and asked what savings could be realized in the General Fund if the proposal is accepted.

Finance Director Brad Wilkie stated the estimated savings to the General Fund could be \$399,000.

Council Member Martner motioned to request Staff return with a recommendation plan for the RDA, CDBG and Planning Divisions to be consolidated with the Economic Development Department, under the supervision of the Economic Development Director/Assistant City Administrator. The motion was seconded by Council Member Starbuck and passed by a unanimous vote.

Council discussed the proposed personnel eliminations within the Planning Division, the use of contracted consultants for planning needs, and building and permit fees. With a general consensus Council requested Staff return at a later date with a proposal for an estimated \$200,000 in cost savings regarding Planning Division personnel.

**BREAK:**

At 11:00 A.M. Mayor/Chair Linn announced a break. At 11:10 A.M., the meeting reconvened with all Council/Agency Members present.

Mayor Linn distributed a proposal for changes in the Parks, Recreation, and Urban Forestry Department and an unaudited cost savings estimate for the proposed changes.

Council discussed at length Mayor Linn's proposal, along with the estimated savings to the General Fund; the recommendations given by the Ad-Hoc Committee on reorganization; the consolidation of Park Maintenance and Urban Forestry into the Public Works Department; and the use of outside contract services for grounds maintenance services.

Council Member Martner motioned to consolidate the Parks and Urban Forestry Division to the Public Works Department. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lingl, the motion carried with a 4-0-1 vote (*Council Member Costa Abstained*).

Mayor Linn requested Council begin discussion of using contracted services for park maintenance. Council Member Martner requested Staff return to Council with a report on the Mayor's suggestion of contracted services for park maintenance. With a general consensus, Council directed Staff to present a feasibility study on the use of contracted services for park maintenance at a later date, after the budget process has been completed.

Council discussed Mayor Linn's suggestion to transfer the Solid Waste Division from the Public Works Department to the Utilities Department. Council asked Staff to comment on the proposed transfer. Public Works Director Larry Bean and Utilities Department Director Ron Stassi each stated the transfer should pose little disruption to either department.

Council Member Costa motioned Staff return to Council after the budget process is complete with a detailed plan on this suggested transfer. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lingl. Council discussed the earlier decision to consolidate the Parks and Urban Forestry Divisions to the Public Works Department, and the added workload to the Public Works Director Larry Bean, if the Solid Waste Division transfer is not approved. Council Member Costa withdrew her motion.

Council discussed the timeframe for the elimination of the current Parks, Recreation and Urban Forestry Director position, and with a 3-1-1 vote (*Council Member Martner voted No, Council Member Costa Abstained*), Council approved to eliminate the Parks, Recreation and Urban Forestry Director position at the City Administrator's discretion to be on or before the end of the 2011 Calendar Year.

- **Proposed City Department Consolidations/Reorganizations**  
(cont'd)

Council Member Martner moved to transfer the Solid Waste Division from Public Works to the Utilities Department, Council Member Starbuck seconded the motion and with a 4-0-1 vote (*Council Member Costa Abstained*), the motion was carried.

City Administrator Laurel Barcelona confirmed the Council actions: RDA and CDBG will be consolidated to the Economic Development Department; Recreation Division of the Parks and Recreation, and Urban Forestry Department will temporarily report to the City Administrator; Parks Maintenance and Urban Forestry will be consolidated to the Public Works Department; Solid Waste will be transferred from the Public Works Department to the Utilities Department; and consolidation plans will be effective not later than the end of the 2011 Calendar Year.

**RECESS:**

At 12:20 P.M. Mayor/Chair Linn announced a break for lunch. At 1:23 P.M., the meeting reconvened with all Council/Agency Members present.

Mayor Linn distributed an unaudited cost savings analysis for his recommendation of consolidating the Street Maintenance Division with the Engineering Division. With a general consensus, Council requested Staff return at a later date with a presentation and report on the consolidation recommendation.

- **Library - Charlotte's Web Children's Library Project**

Council discussed the current Library budget, estimated short fall in State and Federal funding, the Library Board of Trustee's decisions to help balance the Library budget, proposed reductions in service hours and additional closure day(s), and the lack of available RDA/CDBG funds for general operations of the Library.

Public Comment: None

ACTION: Motion/Second: *Martner/Lingl.* By a 5-0 vote the City Council approved City contributions to Library general operations in the amount of \$796,414 as proposed.

Council discussed the list of funds allocated and contingently available to help fund the proposed Charlotte's Web Children's Library project; the ability of the Library Board of Trustees to secure the balance of funding needed to complete the construction of the proposed project; and the length of the Benton Trust funding for operational costs.

Public Comment:

1. Cecilia Hunter, Ann Ruhge, and Sachiko Yenokida spoke in favor of funding the proposed Charlotte's Web Children's Library project.

ACTION: Motion/Second: *Linn/Lingl.* By a 5-0 vote the City Council approved funding for the proposed Charlotte's Web Children's Library project in the amount of \$1,426,107 and directed Staff to prepare a plan for budgeting for future operating costs of the Charlotte's Web Children's Library to be presented to Council after the Library has been operational for two fiscal years.

- **Aquatic Center – YMCA Partnership**

Council Member Costa asked Staff to clarify if the current budgeted subsidy from the General Fund to the operating budget of the Lompoc Aquatic Center is \$489,285. Finance Director Brad Wilkie answered yes, stating that amount is for FY 2011/2013.

Mayor Linn asked Dan Powell from the Channel Islands YMCA to speak about the proposed partnership of the YMCA with the City of Lompoc to operate the Lompoc Aquatic Center.

Council discussed the YMCA proposed partnership, the length of the proposal from the YMCA, the estimated cost savings to the City's General Fund, estimated maintenance and operations costs, possible increased services to the public, and the necessity of continuous subsidy from the City for the operation of the Aquatic Center.

- **Aquatic Center – YMCA Partnership** (cont'd)

Public Comment:

1. Sachiko Yenokida and Jim Dixon spoke in favor of the proposed YMCA partnership.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Costa/Lingl. By a 5-0 vote the City Council directed Staff to continue negotiations with the Channel Islands YMCA for a partnership with the City to operate the Lompoc Aquatic Center.

Council discussed the requested total subsidy amount for the Lompoc Aquatic Center for FY 2011/13.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Costa/Martner. By a 5-0 vote the City Council approved a total subsidy amount of \$419,285 for FY 2011/13 for the Lompoc Aquatic Center.

Council Member Martner requested Council continue the workshop to May 9, 2011 at 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Linn requested Council Member Lingl speak about the proposed gift from the Rotary Club of Lompoc to the City of Lompoc. Council Member Lingl stated the Rotary Club of Lompoc has offered to give a four-face pedestal clock to the City of Lompoc to be installed in the Old Town District. Utilities Director Ron Stassi explained the City would be responsible for installation and maintenance of the clock.

Public Comment: None

ACTION: Motion/Second: Lingl/Martner. By a 5-0 vote the City Council requested Staff provide a report to Council at a later date detailing the proposed gift of the four-face clock from the Lompoc Rotary Club to the City; and the cost for installation and maintenance of the proposed gift.

- **Community Contributions**

(Public Comment)

- **Other Cost Savings Considerations**

(Public Comment)

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor Linn distributed copies of Thank You letters he received from Lompoc Honda, Pure Water Outlet and Fillmore Elementary School.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY REQUESTS, COMMENTS, AND MEETING REPORTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 4:07 P.M. Mayor Linn adjourned the Lompoc City Council to a Closed Session Meeting at 6:00 P.M. on May 3, 2011.

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John H. Linn, Mayor  
City of Lompoc

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Stacey Alvarez, City Clerk  
May 30, 2011