

MINUTES

Special Meeting of the Lompoc City Council
Friday, May 8, 2009
City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza, Council Chambers

OPEN SESSION – 3:00 P.M. – Council Chambers

Councilmembers Present: Cecilia Martner, Ann Ruhge, Bob Lingl, Mike Siminski, and Mayor Dick DeWees.

Staff Present: City Administrator Laurel Barcelona, City Attorney Matt Granger, City Clerk Donna Terrones, Acting Management Services Director John Walk, Community Development Director Arleen Pelster, Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Director Dan McCaffrey, Police Chief Timothy Dabney, and Public Works Director Larry Bean.

Others Present: Denny Anderson, Lori Cordova, Lisa Renken, Mary Leach, John Lawrence, Ron Fink, and Corina Alrabadi.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Denny Anderson spoke in support of the City’s contribution to the Lompoc Chamber of Commerce remaining the same.
2. Lori Cordova supports Mr. Anderson’s comments and commented on the “America In Bloom” project.
3. Lisa Renken spoke in support of the City’s contribution to the Lompoc Museum.
4. Mary Leach suggested an Economic Development Committee be formed, opposed consolidating Economic Development with Community Development, and commented on labor negotiations, salary cuts, and the Aquatic Center’s expenditures.
5. John Lawrence suggested reduction in employee work hours, except Police and Fire and personnel who run the utilities.
6. Ron Fink commented on Budget discussions and acknowledged Council’s efforts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Review of FY 2009-2011 City Biennial Budget Consolidation and Cost Savings Concessions.**

City Administrator Laurel Barcelona announced that the discussion will continue from Thursday, May 7, 2009, with Council’s consideration of consolidating Parks and Urban Forestry with Public Works, and Recreation with the Police Department. She requested Council bring Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Director Dan McCaffrey, Police Chief Timothy Dabney, and Public Works Director Larry Bean to the table.

Councilmember Ruhge asked staff to clarify the spreadsheet that was distributed to Council. Staff stated the spreadsheet was an update to the Budget Projections, adding the column “Budget Deficit Reduction Status,” which included the current considerations taken by Council thus far.

Mayor DeWees questioned if the amount included the Economic Uncertainty Funds. Staff stated no, What is suggested is to use the AB702 Reserves (Non-General Fund Reserves). Mayor DeWees stated he supported using the Economic Uncertainty Funds.

Councilmember Martner commented on the proposed State “borrowing” from cities. Mr. Walk clarified the State would be required to pay the City back within three years and that the City could internally borrow from other City funds, putting monies into the General Fund, and, if the State does borrow, we could pay the State with the internally borrowed funds.

Consolidation of Parks and Urban Forestry with Public Works

Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Director Dan McCaffrey explained the creation of the Department and its functions. He explained both the negative and positive effects of the programs if this consolidation is approved, plus the added responsibilities to the Police and Public Works Departments.

Public Works Director Larry Bean noted the time Mr. McCaffrey spends towards Parks and Recreation and Urban Forestry would not allow himself to spend the same amount of time towards both. He explained the consolidation would decrease service, and that the vacant positions in the Parks & Recreation Department would need to be filled in order to provide the services to Public Works; therefore, there would be no cost savings.

Police Chief Timothy Dabney explained the effects on the Police Department if the consolidation is approved. He outlined the duties and responsibilities of the PAL Activities Coordinator, and explained that the program is a crime prevention program and not recreation. He feels if the Parks and Recreation Department is combined, the law enforcement aspect would be a priority. The administration aspect would be affected by increased responsibilities at a time when upper management already has a great deal of responsibility. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Department is more centered towards kids, and that the Police programs are more centered on crime prevention. Chief Dabney reiterated on a public comment made by Mr. Tullis the previous day, stating that the support won't be the same if the recreation programs are sponsored by the Police Department. Chief Dabney stated that the Police Department does not support the consolidation.

Councilmember Martner discussed the proposed eliminations of positions in the Parks and Recreation and Urban Forestry Departments vs. cost savings, and the consolidation of these departments into Police and Public Works. She does not support putting Parks and Recreation into the Police Department, and requested Staff look into another Department that might consolidate Parks and Recreation.

Councilmember Lingl questioned Mr. McCaffrey on the effects on the Department if the vacant positions are not filled. Staff stated that it would be difficult but that the Department is resourceful.

Councilmember Siminski noted various cities that have their Parks & Recreation Department under their Police Department. He mentioned looking at previous budgets for what was done then. He would like to see a streamlined organization. He suggested possibly doing a comparison, and the need to consider a reduction in some services the City offers. He is not ready to take action at this time and suggested Council consider other alternatives.

Councilmember Ruhge spoke in opposition to the consolidation.

Councilmember Lingl proposed to not combine Parks and Urban Forestry into Public Works; not to combine Recreation into Police Department; to keep the Parks, Recreation and Urban Forestry Director position; and to keep the Parks Maintenance positions vacant for at least the next two years.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Lingl/Ruhge. By a 3 to 2 roll call vote (*Councilmembers Martner and Siminski voted NO*), the City Council voted to not combine Parks and Urban Forestry with Public Works; not combine Recreation into Police Department; keep the Parks, Recreation and Urban Forestry Director position; and keep the Parks Maintenance positions vacant for at least the next two years

RECESS: At 4:40 P.M. Mayor DeWees announced a break.
At 4:55 P.M., the meeting reconvened with all Councilmembers present.

Mayor announced next order of business.

Elimination of Assistant Planner and Associate Planner Positions

ACTION: Motion/Second: Martner/Lingl. By a unanimous roll call vote, the City Council eliminated the Assistant Planner and Associate Planner positions.

Vacant Assistant City Attorney Position

City Attorney Matt Granger gave an overview of the position and stated that other cities have two attorney offices. Negative effects of not filling the Assistant City Attorney position include, reduction in service, increase in turn-around time for project completion, delay in nonessential projects, records retention project will be set aside, and labor-intense projects such as code enforcement, will not be undertaken. He stated a cost saving of \$8,000 with no benefit to the General Fund. He asked Council to come up with a contingency plan to hire a consultant if there is no Assistant City Attorney. He suggested a part-time assistant with no benefits paid out of Nonrestricted General Funds.

Mayor DeWees explained potential cost if there is no assistant in the City Attorney's office. He discussed an assistant vs. a consultant. Staff stated without an assistant it would have a heavy impact on the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Lingl questioned a full-time vs. part-time position, and if service provided by a part-time position would be the same as service being provided now. Staff stated it would be difficult to hire an Attorney part-time, and eventually a full-time Attorney would be needed. Councilmember Lingl asked, if we leave it status quo, would staff be ok with that. Staff stated yes.

Councilmember Martner acknowledged Staff and their support. She questioned if Ms. Stuart would be staying two more years. Staff stated arrangements were made for her to stay for one year, until October 2009 but that she is interested in continuing to work beyond that time.

Councilmember Siminski discussed what other cities do. He asked Staff to look into contracting, or using another City's Attorney. Staff stated at this time the position is being paid one-half of what the cost would be for a consultant.

Mayor DeWees supports maintaining the status quo at this time.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Mayor/Ruhge. By a unanimous roll call vote, the City Council voted to not eliminate the vacant Assistant City Attorney Position.

Vacant Assistant City Administrator Position

City Administrator Laurel Barcelona stated she is willing to work without filling the position. Her concern is being able to be responsive to Council, Staff, citizens, and colleagues. She asked Council to consider under-filling to an Administrative or Analyst position.

Councilmember Lingl asked Ms. Barcelona whether the position could be interviewed and approved by Council. While Staff stated she would not be opposed, Mayor DeWees and Councilmember Ruhge expressed they did not agree to having Council interview and approve for the selection.

Councilmember Siminski and Martner spoke in support of keeping the position.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Mayor/Ruhge. By a 4 to 1 roll call vote (*Councilmember Lingl voted NO*), the City Council moved to keep the Assistant City Administrator position and authorized the City Administrator to make adjustments if needed.

Defer Senior Center Subsidy

Acting Management Services Director John Walk presented Council with new information regarding the subsidy. He announced that, at this time, the City is working on the budget for the Assessment District for FY 2009-2010; approximately \$46,000 of these funds can be utilized, along with \$21,000 of rental income, for the first year funding for the New Senior Community Center. The second year, FY 2010-2011, would still require a \$65,000 General Fund contribution.

Council discussed the funds to be utilized and savings from closing the old Center and various funds.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Mayor/Siminski. By a unanimous roll call vote, the City Council moved to utilize the assessment to offset subsidy the first year.

Eliminate Council Salaries

City Attorney Matt Granger explained the legal ramifications that any action taken now would not take effect until the new Council was elected.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Lingl/Mayor. By a unanimous roll call vote, the City Council moved to not eliminate Council salaries.

Eliminate Travel and Training Excluding POST Training

Council discussion ensued regarding training in the various departments: required vs. not required.

Mayor DeWees suggested Staff report back on all non- required training and the corresponding saving amounts. Staff stated that training for the bargaining units is not included.

ACTION: *No action was taken*

RECESS: At 6:00 P.M. Mayor DeWees announced a dinner break. At 7:05 P.M., the meeting reconvened with all Councilmembers present.

Reduce Library Contributions by 10% from 08/09 amount

Council discussed at length the possible closure of the Library one to two days; the Library's shortfall; personnel and reduction in hours; the City's contribution; County contributions; Library service being critical to the community; and County fees vs. City/resident fees.

Staff informed Council that the Library has lost approximately \$30,000 annually in County funds and \$7,000 annually in recycle revenues. If the Library Board follows the same pattern as the City as far as proposed salary and benefit reductions, those savings will partially mitigate their shortfall. The Library Board is considering the need to close the Library for at least one day in order to make up for the shortfall. Staff also stated that the City's contribution goes directly to the Lompoc branch; the Buellton branch receives funds from Buellton, and the Village branch receives funds from the County and revenue that they earn.

Al Clark, Library Board of Trustees, spoke in support of the City's contribution to the Library.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Lingl/Siminski. By a 4 to 1 roll call vote (*Mayor DeWees voted NO*), the City Council reduced the Library contribution by 10%.

Eliminate All Chamber Contributions Entirely and Eliminate Chamber Services – Tourism, Advertising

Councilmember Martner acknowledged the efforts of the Chamber and requested more services and more efforts to promote local businesses. She asked that the contract be revised to state that the contribution will vary according to accomplished tasks, and with more effort toward economic development. She feels if contributions are being reduced for other services, the Chamber's contribution should be cut as well. She suggested the Chamber look into cost saving measures.

Councilmember Ruhge would like to see more emphasis on the economic aspect and is in favor of keeping the contract as is.

Councilmember Lingl also suggested a reduction in the contribution.

Councilmember Siminski supported a reduction, but recommended reducing the advertising contract to the amount they received from the last budget cycle, and a 10% cut from the rest of the contribution.

Mayor DeWees commented on an increase in home sales and tourism, and would like to see the City capitalize on both. He acknowledged the efforts of the Chamber, and emphasized that advertising is needed.

Denny Anderson of the Lompoc Chamber spoke in support of the City's contributions to the Chamber; acknowledged the volunteers that help support the Chamber; and stated that the Chamber has an interest in adding Economic Development to the Chamber contract at no additional cost.

Councilmember Lingl motioned to not eliminate tourism, but to reduce the contribution 15% annually, and to keep the advertising contribution the same. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Siminski/Martner. By a 3 to 2 roll call vote (*Mayor DeWees and Councilmember Ruhge voted NO*), the City Council reduced the Chamber contribution by 10%.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Siminski/Martner. By a 3 to 2 roll call vote (*Mayor DeWees and Councilmember Ruhge voted NO*), the City Council reduced the Tourism and Advertising contribution to the last FY Budget cycle amount.

Change City Hall Hours to 9-6 P.M., M-TH, Closed Fridays (Switch Staff to 4/10 Schedule)

Council discussion followed regarding Friday closures; effects on customer service; cost savings from energy savings; 4/10 schedules; and the benefit to commuters.

Staff explained the impact to the Treasury Department and the Police Dispatch Center regarding shut-off notices, if City Hall is closed on Fridays. Staff also stated that there would be a significant impact to the Solid Waste and Landfill operations if all City services were shut down.

Councilmember Siminski asked Staff to study whether it is feasible to close City Hall on one or two days; and if the majority of the employees approve such closing; and to bring it back to Council at a future date.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Mayor DeWees/Ruhge. By a 4 to 1 roll call vote (*Councilmember Martner voted NO*), the City Council voted to keep the current schedule.

Eliminate All Museum Contributions

Lisa Rinken of the Lompoc Museum spoke in support of the City's contribution to the Museum.

Councilmember Lingl questioned if contributions were eliminated, how would that affect the Museum. Ms. Rinken stated that it would impact the current level of service they provide, but that it would be the Board's determination. She stated that adjustments would need to be made if there was a 20% decrease in the contributions.

Ted Cecheky, President of the Board of Trustees, Lompoc Museum Association, stated that this would have to go before the Board. He went on to comment on the artifacts in the Museum and the importance of the Museum staying open. He stated that if 100% of the contributions were eliminated, the Museum would not be able to operate. He acknowledged Ms. Rinken and the volunteers for their support.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Martner/Siminski. By a unanimous roll call vote, the City Council reduced the Museum contribution by 10%.

Eliminate City Sponsored Fourth of July Event

Mayor DeWees spoke in support of keeping the funding.

Council discussed sponsors, and overtime for Firefighters, employees and the Police Department.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Lingl/Martner. By a 3 to 2 roll call vote (*Mayor DeWees and Councilmember Ruhge voted NO*), the City Council eliminated the City Sponsored Fourth of July Event.

Fill Parks Maintenance Specialist in Utilities with General Fund Parks Maintenance Worker

City Administrator Laurel Barcelona stated that the request is to fill the vacant Parks Maintenance Specialist Position in the Wastewater Fund shifting one Parks Maintenance Specialist from the General Fund to perform the grounds maintenance for Wastewater.

After lengthy discussion, Council moved to put the Park Maintenance Specialist under the Parks and Recreation/Parks Division, with services performed at the Wastewater Plant charged to the Utility Department.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Mayor DeWees/Lingl. By a unanimous roll call vote, the City Council voted to move the vacant Park Maintenance Specialist position from the Wastewater Fund to the Parks and Recreation/Parks Division, with services performed at the Wastewater Plant charged to the Utility Department.

Flower Festival Luncheon

Mayor DeWees suggested canceling the luncheon.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Mayor DeWees/Lingl. By a 4 to 1 roll call vote (*Councilmember Ruhge voted NO*), the City Council cancelled the Flower Festival Luncheon.

Councilmember Ruhge suggested the public be notified of the cancellation.

Public Works Director Larry Bean presented information on fees for street closures. He recommended Council continue to support the Cruise Run, Old Towne Market, and Flower Festival street closures, using 10% from the General Fund.

Councilmembers Siminski, Martner, and Ruhge spoke in support of staff's recommendation.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Mayor DeWees/Martner. By a unanimous roll call vote, the City Council agreed to keep the existing contract in place with the Flower Festival Association for the Flower Festival Parade street closure.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Ruhge/Mayor DeWees. By a unanimous roll call vote, the City Council agreed to support the Old Town Market street closure.

ACTION: Motion/Second: Mayor DeWees/Ruhge. By a unanimous roll call vote, the City Council agreed to support the Alumni Cruise Run and the Special Olympic Cruise Night street closures.

Public Comment: None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:20 P.M. Mayor DeWees adjourned the Lompoc City Council Meeting to a "Special Meeting" at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 12, 2009.

Dick DeWees, Mayor
City of Lompoc

ATTEST:

Donna N. Terrones, CMC
City Clerk
Date: June 26, 2009