

**CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS, CALIFORNIA
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
March 18, 2009
2:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ring called the 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
 ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Keane; City Attorney McEwen; Assistant City
 Manager Reilly; Deputy City Clerk Trippy

IV. PRESENTATIONS

None

V. CITY PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Ring introduced former Executive Director for the Office On Aging, Pamela Mokler, to speak in memory of Mayor Pro Tem Brenda Ross.

Ms. Mokler spoke in recognition of late Mayor Pro Tem Ross who served as Chairwoman for the Senior Citizen Advisory Council and worked closely with her at the local agency. She spoke highly of Councilmember Ross' many attributes and achievements both at the personal and professional levels. She stated this moment to be "a celebration of life to a woman who lived life fully to the end."

Moved by Councilmember Robbins, seconded by Councilmember Hack and carried unanimously to approve City Proclamation 5.1.

5.1 In Memory of Mayor Pro Tem Brenda Ross

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

Moved by Councilmember Robbins, seconded by Councilmember Rhodes, and carried unanimously to approve Consent Calendar Items 6.1 – 6.5.

6.1 City Council Minutes

Approved the minutes from the regular and special meetings of February 18 and February 26, 2009.

6.2 Approved the reading by title of all ordinances and resolutions. Said ordinances and resolutions that appear on the public agenda shall be determined to have been read by title only and further reading waived.

6.3 Treasurer's Report

Received and filed the February 2009 monthly Treasurer's Report.

6.4 Warrant Register

Approved the March 18, 2009 Warrant Register in the amount of \$606,028.49.

6.5 Limit on Animals in Residences

Adopt **Ordinance No. 09-02** establishing a limit on the number of cats and dogs which can be kept in a residence, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS, CALIFORNIA,
AMENDING TITLE 5: ESTABLISHING A LIMIT ON ANIMALS THAT MAY BE
KEPT IN A RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

VIII. CITY MANAGER

8.1 Go Local Step 1 Project Report and Transportation Needs Assessment

Assistant City Manager Reilly summarized an agreement approved by City Council in 2007 with Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) to provide \$100,000 grant funding to the City to conduct a Go Local Program Step 1 study of potential transportation services to nearby Metrolink rail stations. In 2008 the City received the funding to conduct such a study and hired two consultants: A-M-M-A Transit Planning and Transit Marketing, LLC. As a result of the study, recommendations for potential Step 2 implementation as well as implementation of recommendations from the report were presented to Council.

Assistant City Manager Reilly introduced Heather Meninger, Principal of the Consulting firm used by A-M-M-A explained the process and results of the survey from residents of Laguna Woods in detail.

Councilmember Hack expressed his support of the program but suggested that information be made available to the residents at a personal level rather than pamphlets and brochures.

Mayor Pro Tem Robbins is in support of the program but recommends to OCTA to establish a Metrolink station in Lake Forest accessible by way of Go Local Buses thus providing easier access to residents of Laguna Woods.

Councilmember Rhodes requested feedback within six to twelve months from inception of the program, if approved.

Resident Jack Isaacson stated city of Lake Forest recently voted to suspend activity on creating a new station in their city. He suggested that OCTA to facilitate information to residents traveling outside Orange County by coordinating transportation in those areas.

Resident Ruth May ask if coordinating with the DASH bus in downtown Los Angeles could be considered.

Assistant City Manager Reilly indicated the study had considered using the Dash service and may be included for different destinations.

Moved by Councilmember Hack, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Robbins, and carried unanimously to approved:

A. Recommendations from the Go Local Step 1 Project Report and Transportation Needs Assessment for submission to the Orange County Transportation Authority for Step 2 implementation:

1. Add a Laguna Woods extension and midday service to the proposed Laguna Hills/Lake Forest shuttle to the Irvine Transportation Center.
2. Establish enhanced way finding information and communications to assist potential riders in using Metrolink service.

B. Recommendations from the Report for implementation by the City:

1. Develop and implement a public transit vision that encourages use of transit as a Greening the Woods action.
2. Apply for federal funding to establish a Mobility Manager to assist residents and workers in the use of transit services.
3. Establish lower-denomination booklets of Taxi Bucks.

IX. CITY COUNCIL

9.1 City Council Meeting Schedule

City Manager Keane discussed the proposed meeting schedule for the balance of calendar year 2009 and suggested the April 15 meeting to commence one hour earlier at 1:00 p.m. to allow for ample time for a full agenda.

Moved by Councilmember Hack, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Robbins, and carried unanimously to approve the remainder of calendar year 2009 City Council Meeting Schedule as amended.

9.2 City Council Vacancy

Mayor Ring summarized the process of appointment with the first candidate to receive three votes may be nominated for Council then announced that each candidate may be asked to answer questions from Council after their presentation.

Councilmember Rhodes asked if the selection will be continued if no decision is made today.

City Manager Keane stated that Council may choose to vote today as often as they wish.

Noel Hatch, the first candidate to speak, stated in detail what he considers a candidate shall possess to fulfill the vacancy and categorized it into three areas: leadership by way of experience, experience serving on a public body, and a persona to work well with others.

Councilmember Rhodes asked Mr. Hatch if his current commitments would affect his duties and availability if selected as Councilmember.

Mr. Hatch indicated it would not.

Councilmember Robbins asked what attributes he possessed that would contribute with the budget process during these turbulent economic times possibly eliminating or adding programs.

Mr. Hatch stated that consideration to use reserves, such as unrestricted funds, could help maintain services vital to the community such as the Taxi Voucher Program, the Orange County Sheriff and Orange County Fire Authority. He also addressed the importance of maintaining stature, integrity and voice of the City at the regional and State levels.

Cynthia Connors, the second candidate to speak, summarized her qualifications and addressed any concerns that Council may have had with her commitments as Board Member of Third Mutual, if she were selected.

There were no questions from Council as they agreed all their issues had been addressed.

Ruth May, the last candidate, spoke of her involvement in politics and familiarity with the City by volunteering and serving as Board Member through various organizations and committees.

Mayor Ring asked Ms. May if her other activities would be impacted if she were chosen as Councilmember?

Ms. May stated there would be no impact on her other commitments if selected.

Mayor Ring asked for public comment before proceeding with the nomination for appointment.

Resident Karen Wood announced her support to appoint a woman as Councilmember.

Jim Juhan, resident and spouse of Candidate Connors, expressed his thoughts on Ms. Connors' attributes.

Resident Frankie Henry stated concerns residents of Laguna Woods have with the City's Land Use and would like to see Council appoint a well informed candidate on this issue.

Resident Libby Marks favored in support of appointing a woman to Council but feels the residents of Laguna Woods would be better represented if Ms. Connors remained as Board Member of Third Mutual.

Deputy City Clerk Trippy announced each Councilmember's top candidate selection with Ms. Connors acquiring three votes from Councilmembers Robbins, Ring and Rhodes; while Mr. Hatch was selected by Councilmember Hack.

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Robbins to appoint Ms. Connors as new Councilmember for Laguna Woods to serve for the remainder of the vacant term and voted unanimously.

Mayor Ring congratulated Ms. Connors and announced a five minute break at 3:30 p.m..

Mayor Ring concluded the recess and resumed the meeting at 3:35 p.m. and stated Ms. Connors will be sworn to Council prior to the 30-day deadline of March 23rd.

X. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Transportation Corridor Agencies (Councilmember Hack)

Councilmember Hack stated that finances are a critical issue with the Agency due to the state's economy and announced the construction of Toll road 73 toward the Toll Plaza should be completed by the end of this year.

11.2 Southern California Water Committee (Councilmember Hack)

Councilmember Hack stated the committee is looking into approaching a state-funded bill to address issues on water shortage throughout the state.

11.3 Orange County Library Board (Councilmember Robbins)

Mayor Pro Tem Robbins announced the new consultant is working out well and there was no meeting this month.

11.4 Orange County Fire Authority (Councilmember Rhodes)

Councilmember Rhodes stated he will attend his first meeting on Thursday and currently there is nothing to report.

11.5 Laguna Canyon Foundation (Councilmember Rhodes)

Councilmember Rhodes indicated the tremendous benefits volunteers provide to the Foundation who grow the plants which are planted along the trails, minimizing labor costs during the move to its new location, as well as providing new equipment. He announced the fire season is approaching and to take precautionary measures when hiking along the trails.

Councilmember Rhodes spoke of Sunday's Legacy Meeting, an event recognizing contributors to the Foundation that provide funding for the various programs. Current total contributions are \$550,000 nearly approaching the Foundation's goal of \$750,00.

Mayor Ring added that all food and beverages were provided by volunteers as well.

11.6 Coastal Greenbelt Authority (Mayor Ring)

Mayor Ring advised there would be a meeting on Thursday.

11.7 Vector Control District Board (Board Member Bouer)

Boardmember Bouer stated the West Nile Virus season has currently ended and reported no problem in the City.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Teddi Alves, Huntington Beach resident, spoke in opposition of the Spay/Neuter issues.

XIII. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Ring shared the only photograph available depicting the first location of the City's offices obtained from Councilmember Hack. He'll be sure it's included in the City's upcoming Tenth Birthday Celebration as well as the Historical Society's archives.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION

The City Council met in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8, to give direction with respect to the acquisition of Real Property:

Located adjacent to Moulton Parkway between Campo Verde and Santa Maria Avenue in Laguna Woods

Agency Negotiator:	Leslie A. Keane and Douglas C. Reilly
Negotiating Party:	Golden Rain Foundation
Under Negotiation:	Instruction to negotiator regarding price

The City Council reconvened in open session at 4:33p.m. and City Attorney McEwen advised there was no reportable action.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m. The next meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. on April 15, 2009 at the Laguna Woods City Hall, 24264 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, California 92637.

YOLIE TRIPPY, Deputy City Clerk

Adopted: April 15, 2009

ROBERT RING, Mayor