

CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS, CALIFORNIA
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING
May 1, 2013
2:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ring 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

Mike Straziuso led the flag salute.

III. ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS: PRESENT: Hack, Hatch, Robbins, Ring
 ABSENT: Connors

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

IV. CITY MANAGER

City Manager Keane requested that an item related to the City Attorney's contract be added to the agenda as an urgency item. This item arose after the agenda was published and requires immediate City Council action.

Moved by Councilmember Hack, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Robbins, and carried unanimously to add the item to the agenda following the budget discussion.

4.1 Fiscal Year 2013-14 Annual Budget

City Manager Keane reviewed the Fiscal Year 2012-13 General Fund revenue, expenditure budgets, work plan, and accomplishments. She noted that it is anticipated that revenues will exceed expenditures by \$821,956 and that the projected General Fund Balance would be close to \$8.3 million. This number could change if the Council approves additional current year allocations. She then discussed the projected FY 2013-14 General Fund revenues, expenditures, work plan, budget options and the base budget proposal.

City Manager Keane noted that according to a preliminary report from the OC Register, the City has the largest uncommitted fund balance percentage of the 34 Orange County cities.

Councilmember Hatch asked if the majority of buildings permits are for major renovations.

City Manager Keane stated that the majority of buildings permits are for small improvements, such as replacing dishwashers or water heaters, but that there are a growing number of major internal renovations.

Councilmember Hatch asked if the City's notarization service is well publicized.

City Manager Keane stated that she believes it is since sometimes on Monday mornings there is a line for notary services. She noted Deputy City Clerk Donohue recently received his notary certification, so there will be 3 members of staff who can provide the service in the future.

Councilmember Hatch asked if a grant fund reduction was the reason Council decided to cut John Wayne Airport vouchers last fiscal year.

City Manager Keane stated the City did receive less grant fund money for this project and may receive less in subsequent years; more cities are applying for a limited amount of funding. General Fund money will be required to continue the program at current service levels.

Councilmember Hack stated that this taxi voucher program started as a way to provide seniors with an alternative to driving. He inquired about the airport vouchers.

City Manager Keane noted that the taxi cab company that the City contracts with is currently offering the same price for John Wayne Airport vouchers that the City used to offer.

Councilmember Hack thanked City staff for making the Laguna Woods Good Exchange event successful.

City Manager Keane stated the City will hold the event again in September, 2013.

City Manager Keane noted that there will be a 50% reduction in bus shelter franchise fees in FY 2013-14. The current franchise has expired and the shelter company is unwilling to commit to the current rate.

Councilmember Hatch asked if the City owns the shelters and how many shelters are in the City.

City Manager Keane stated the City does not own the 24 shelters located in the City.

City Manager Keane noted that the Orange County Sheriff's contract will increase by 4%.

Councilmember Hatch asked how the City arrived at that percentage.

City Manager Keane stated that the City does not get to negotiate the contract. The City is

provided with the cost of services and has few options other than reducing service levels. She noted an alternative is for the City to go somewhere else for police services which is something that no one is recommending that at this time.

Councilmember Hack noted when Cities start to feel a huge financial burden, different public safety alternatives are raised.

Councilmember Hatch asked if there are any statistics on how much time Sheriff's deputies spend in the Village.

City Manager Keane replied that the City has statistics on how many calls originate from or concern the Village, but not the exact amount of time spent.

City Manager Keane noted that the City has been discussing the possibility of a passive park and trailhead into the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park at Santa Maria and the proposed budget has identified that as a FY 2013-14 project. She noted that staff is seeking planning grant funding.

Councilmember Hatch asked if that is where the garden storage is located.

City Manager Keane replied that GRF leases the end of Santa Maria for a nursery on a month to month lease.

Councilmember Hatch asked if the City has resolved the storm drain issues within the Village.

City Manager Keane replied that the City and the Village have mapped each agency's ownership of storm drains; the majority of the facilities in the Village are not owned or maintained by the City.

City Manager Keane discussed budget options for the current and next fiscal year.

Councilmember Hatch asked if some of the functions related to the proposed digital records management system could be handled by volunteers or interns.

City Manager Keane replied that the City has been using Regional Occupational Program (ROP) students for minor clerical tasks; however they may not be consistently available. She noted that scanning documents like building permits will require someone with more experience.

Councilmember Hatch asked if the CJPIA retrospective deposit has anything to do with pensions.

City Manager Keane stated it does not have anything to do with pensions or employee compensation; the deposit relates to claims and lawsuits filed against the City in past years, which were handled by the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority. If the deposit is paid in a lump sum rather than financed, there will be a savings in interest cost.

Councilmember Hatch asked that an information update of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) be added to the work plan.

City Manager Keane noted that staff does monitor that situation and can provide that information to Councilmembers.

Councilmember Hack stated that the SONGS issue has been discussed many times. He noted there are several issues that nobody wants to take up. He stated that false rumors of radiation escaping from the generators have surfaced and they are simply not true.

City Manager Keane stated that information regarding the SONGS is sent to Councilmember Hack and Councilmember Connors and noted that she is happy to send the same information to any other Councilmember who requests it.

City Manager Keane noted that the City has sufficient projected current year revenue to fund the City Hall generator and elevator valve.

Mayor Ring asked if the generator and panel are two separate things.

City Manager Keane noted that the generator has already been funded, but that there is insufficient funding to relocate the electric panel. She asked Public Safety Director Macon to explain the requirement for the additional work.

Public Safety Director Macon noted that an Electrical Engineer inspected the City's current electrical main and found it to be undersized to accommodate a generator being connected to it and that there is no room at the electric panel's current location for an upgrade. He noted that there will be sufficient space in the new trash building to relocate panel.

Mayor Ring asked if there is a way to update the electrical panel without moving it.

Public Safety Director Macon stated the most cost effective solution is to move the generator to the enclosure building.

Councilmember Hatch asked what the downside would be if the City did not add the panel.

Public Safety Director Macon stated that the City will not be able to connect a generator that could power the building for a significant amount of time in case of an emergency.

Councilmember Hack stated that this pertains to emergency situations and he supports the proposed expenditure.

City Manager Keane noted that FY 2012-13 revenue/expenditure projections indicate that there is sufficient funding for this project.

City Manager Keane asked if there was anything else on the list that Council wanted to discuss, add or remove.

Councilmember Hatch stated that updating the City map is not an emergency but it is a good to do since it's inexpensive and it will fix the errors in the current map.

City Manager Keane stated that the City does not currently have any more maps to give to the public.

Councilmember Hack stated that he does not see the necessity of updating the general plan at this time and suggested waiting until after the Village Activity Center Specific Plan is complete.

City Manager Keane replied that the general plan update would be completed after the Council considers and takes action of the specific plan.

Councilmember Hack asked if it's an advantage to have the specific plan completed when the City is working on the general plan.

City Manager Keane stated it would. She noted that the specific plan will be completed by the end of this year and the bulk of the work on the general plan will be done in the second half of the FY 2013-14. Staff believes that the current proposal is more cost effective for the City and the specific plan applicant.

4.2 Resolution pertaining to the contract of the City Attorney

City Attorney Cosgrove stated that a recent local court ruling found that the City's contracted special counsel did not have the authority to prosecute red-light camera infractions because the City Attorney has concurrent authority to prosecute such cases. He recommends that the City modify the City Attorney's contract by resolution to remove this authority.

Councilmember Hatch asked if the City has the authority to select whichever attorney to prosecute the red-light infractions.

City Attorney Cosgrove stated the City does maintain that right and this resolution outlines what the City has been doing for well over a year.

City Manager Keane noted that when the City was in the process of contracting with Rutan & Tucker, City Attorney Cosgrove had made it clear that his firm did not want to prosecute the red-light infractions, but that was not memorialized in the contract.

Moved by Councilmember Hack, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Robbins, and carried unanimously to approve a Resolution entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA WOODS DIVESTING THE CONTRACT CITY ATTORNEY OF PROSECUTORIAL AUTHORITY FOR ENFORCEMENT OF RED LIGHT PHOTO INFRACTIONS.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Straziuso, Third Laguna Hills Mutual, stated the withdrawal of the City's payment for Southern California Edison owned streetlights (\$53,000) in Third Mutual is objectionable.

VI. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Hack reported on a Southern California Water Committee meeting. He stated there were several well informed presentations pertaining to water policy. He noted that there will be a bond issue on the ballot in 2014.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m. The next regular meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday May 15, 2013 at Laguna Woods City Hall, 24264 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637.

MARC DONOHUE, Deputy City Clerk

Adopted: June 19, 2013

ROBERT RING, Mayor