

**MINUTES OF THE  
LAWNDALE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
October 21, 2019**

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Pullen-Miles called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in the City Hall council chamber, 14717 Burin Avenue, Lawndale, California.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor Pro Tem James H. Osborne, Councilmember Pat Kearney, Councilmember Daniel Reid, Councilmember Bernadette Suarez

Other Participants: City Clerk Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, City Attorney Tiffany J. Israel, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Lieutenant Christopher Lio, Community Services Director Mike Estes, Assistant to the City Manager/Human Resources Director Raylette Felton, Municipal Services Director Michael Reyes, Finance Director Marla Pendleton, Community Development Director Sean Moore, Assistant City Clerk Matthew Ceballos and approximately 15 audience members.

**B. CEREMONIALS**

Councilmember Suarez led the flag salute and Pastor Bob Dobranski, Way to God Church, provided the inspiration.

**C. PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Senator Bradford's Office – Legislative Update**

Senator Steven Bradford, 35<sup>th</sup> State Senate District, provided a legislative update for the year 2018-2019.

City Council made various comments about the Senator's Legislative Update relating to homelessness and cannabis industry equity. They also thanked the Senator for attending the City Council meeting and providing the update.

**D. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT**

Lieutenant Lio summarized recent law enforcement activities.

**E. ITEMS FROM CITY CLERK**

City Clerk Rhonda Hofmann Gorman made the following announcements: the West Basin Municipal Water Districts 24th Annual Water Festival; the Annual Lawndale Halloween Haunt Event; 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Field of Honor; that the City was accepting applications for the Media and Technology Advisory Committee; and the Centinela Valley Union High School District was accepting applications for its Citizens Oversight Board.

**F. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

- Edgar Murillo, Resident, spoke about public safety and the need for the City to become a 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment sanctuary City.
- Johnny Castro, Resident, requested to receive a Metro Rail Green Line update.
- Regina Brown, Resident, requested to receive a Metro Rail Green Line update, noted that she had witnessed drug use and homelessness on the metro system, and inquired about rent control in L.A. County.
- Jessica Romero, Library Manger, spoke about various Library programs.
- Pam London, Resident, thanked the Sheriff's Department for assisting a stalled vehicle, she then spoke about parking and permitting issues throughout the City and in her neighborhood.

**G. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL**

The City Council responded generally to the comments, but did not request placement of any issues on a future meeting agenda.

**H. CONSENT CALENDAR**

2. **Motion to read by title only and waive further reading of all ordinances listed on the agenda**  
Recommendation: that the City Council approve.
3. **Service Order with Spectrum (formerly Time Warner) to upgrade the Dedicated Internet Access and Ethernet Private Line Service (Transport Line) between City Hall and Public Works/City Yard**  
Recommendation: that the City Council approve the service order with Spectrum for upgraded bandwidth on Dedicated Internet Access and Ethernet Private Line Service (Transport Line) between City Hall and Public Works/City Yard, for a five year term for an amount not to exceed \$17,700.00 annually.
4. **Accounts Payable Register**  
Recommendation: that the City Council adopts Resolution No. CC-1910-049, authorizing the payment of certain claims and demands in the amount of \$1,006,581.96.
5. **Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Special Meeting – October 1, 2019**  
Recommendation: that the City Council approve.
6. **Minutes of the Lawndale City Council Regular Meeting – October 7, 2019**  
Recommendation: that the City Council approve.

**A motion by Councilmember Suarez to approve the consent calendar was seconded by Councilmember Reid and carried by a vote of 5-0.**

**I. ADMINISTRATION**

**7. Budget Update for the Quarter/Year Ended June 30, 2019**

Recommendation: that the City Council (a) receive and file the Quarterly Budget Report for the quarter ended June 30, 2019; and (b) approve and direct the Finance Department to make the recommended FY 2018-2019 year-end adjustments including:

- General Fund net increase in estimated revenue \$566,000.00  
(Page 2 of the Staff Report)
- Operating Fund Transfer from the General Fund to Gas Tax Fund \$86,543.00  
(Page 9 of the Staff Report)
- Use of Unrestricted Fund Balance – General Fund for prior year negative fund balances (Page 9 of the Staff Report) \$186,647.00

Finance Director Marla Pendleton reported on the proposed Budget Update for the Quarter/Year Ended June 30, 2019.

Mayor Pro-Tem Osborne, inquired about the how the prior methodology worked when analyzing fund reserves. City Attorney Tiffany Israel explained how the prior reporting and analysis was incorrect.

Mayor Pullen-Miles, inquired about the various accounts that had budget over-runs. Finance Director Pendleton went over the funds/accounts that had over-run their budgets, noted that she brought forward the imbalances to ensure that future budgeted accounts were balanced.

**A motion by Councilmember Suarez to a receive and file the Quarterly Budget Report for the quarter ended June 30, 2019 and approve and direct the Finance Department to make the recommended FY 2018-2019 year-end adjustments was seconded by Councilmember Kearney and carried by a vote of 5-0.**

**8. Amending Lawndale Municipal Code Chapter 8.80, Residential Property Report Requirements in the City of Lawndale – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and Adoption**

Recommendation: that the City Council approve the second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 1164-19, amending Chapter 8.80 of the Municipal Code, modifying the Residential Property Report requirements from mandatory to voluntary, with the exception of garage inspections.

Community Development Director Sean Moore reported on the proposed amendment to Lawndale Municipal Code Chapter 8.80, Residential Property Report Requirements in the City of Lawndale.

Municipal Services Department Director Michael Reyes clarified the enforcement and inspection component of the Residential Property Report inspection, he noted that visible violations during the inspection would still be enforced.

Councilmember Suarez, spoke about the need for inspection reports to be voluntary, listed the various State laws that were recently passed to support Accessory Dwelling Units, and the history of the inspection reports.

A dialogue ensued between staff and Council regarding the Accessory Dwelling Units process, the future of that process, and the continued enforcement of building and safety codes.

#### Public Comment

Pam London, Resident, spoke about illegal construction and conversions in the City and stated that these issues would never be caught if not for the residential property report.

Randal Abram, Resident, spoke about this ordinance being a good compromise rather than making the entire Residential Property Report optional.

**A motion by Councilmember Reid to approve the consent calendar was seconded by Councilmember Kearney and carried by a vote of 4-1, Councilmember Suarez voting No, following City Attorney Israel's reading of the title of Ordinance No. 1164-19.**

9. **Review of City Council Policy 102-19, "Parkway Design Policy Guidelines"**  
Recommendation: that the City Council review and discuss City Council Policy 102-19, "Parkway Design Policy Guidelines" and provide direction to staff accordingly.

Community Development Director Sean Moore reported on the review of City Council Policy 102-19, "Parkway Design Policy Guidelines" and provided a PowerPoint presentation.

A lengthy dialogue ensued between Council and staff regarding the percentage of landscape to hardscape, feedback from residents, enforcement of illegal parkways, the height requirements of certain plants, taking into account plant growth, and contractor verses home owner permitting requirements.

#### Public Comment

Pam London, Resident, spoke about her prior parkway construction and the permitting process of that parkway.

**A motion by Mayor Pro Tem Osborne to direct staff to include a ratio of 75% landscape to 25% hardscape, a 12 inch maximum height on certain landscape while preserving walkways, and to eliminate the requirement of a contractor to perform any work to the parkway, was seconded by Councilmember Kearney and carried by a vote of 5-0.**

#### **J. ITEMS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS**

10. **Renaming of the City's Annual Music Festival** – requested by Councilmember Kearney.  
Recommendation: that the City Council discuss the request to agendize the re-naming of the annual Music Festival at a future City Council meeting and provide direction to staff.

Assistant to the City Manager/Human Resources Director Raylette Felton reported on the proposed renaming of the City's Annual Music Festival.

Councilmember Kearney spoke about his reasons for wanting to change the current festival to a diverse music selection.

Mayor Pro Tem Osborne provided a background of the Lawndale Blues Festival and its current form.

A lengthy dialogue ensued between the Council and staff regarding the continuation of the Lawndale Blues Festival, potential for multiple or alternative events, attendance and engagement of the Blues Festival.

Community Services Director Mike Estes briefly overviewed events that have been suggested in the past.

The dialogue continued between the Council and staff regarding exploring other events, a possible survey of the resident's preference, costs of additional events, music selection, and sponsorships.

**City Council reached a general consensus to direct staff to conduct a survey of the community to identify event and music preferences.**

**11. Mayor/Councilmember Report of Attendance at Meetings and/or Events**

Councilmember Reid had nothing to report.

Councilmember Kearney attended South Bay Workforce Investment Board Annual Awards Dinner, Beacon Awards Dinner, League of California Cities Annual Conference, and the Fort MacArthur Centennial event.

Councilmember Suarez had nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Osborne attended League of California Cities Annual Conference and the Fort MacArthur Centennial event.

Mayor Pullen-Miles attended L.A. County Sanitation District Meeting, League of California Cities Annual Conference, Beacon Awards Dinner, a Housing Seminar, a Municipal Finance Seminar, and the South Bay Workforce Investment Board Annual Awards Dinner.

**K. CLOSED SESSION**

**Mayor Pullen-Miles removed item 12 from the agenda.**

At 8:24 p.m. the City Council entered into closed session.

**12. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**

~~The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(4), because the City is considering whether to initiate litigation in one (1) case.~~

**13. Public Employee Performance Evaluation and Compensation**

The City Council will hold a closed session with the City's Personnel Officer, the Interim City Manager, pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957 and 54957.6(a), to conduct an employee performance evaluation of the City Attorney and to discuss the compensation provided to the City Attorney.

At 8:44 p.m. the City Council entered back into open session.

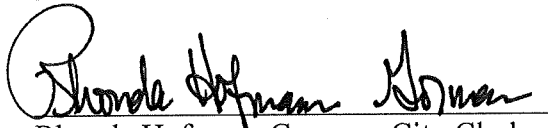
**City Attorney Tiffany Israel reported the City Council met in Closed Session to discuss the one item listed on the Closed Session agenda. The City Council was updated on item number 13 and there was no reportable action taken.**

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, the mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

  
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Robert Pullen-Miles, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Rhonda Hofmann Gorman, City Clerk

Approved: 11/4/2019