

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS**

**SPECIAL MEETING – February 18, 2014**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The City Council met in Special Session at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 18, 2014, in the Council Chamber, 3191 Katella Avenue, Mayor Graham-Mejia presiding.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Council Members: Edgar, Grose, Kusumoto,  
Mayor Pro Tem Murphy, Mayor Graham-Mejia

**Absent:** Council Members: None

**Present:** Staff: Bret M. Plumlee, City Manager  
Cary Reisman, City Attorney  
Tony Brandyberry, Public Works Superintendent  
Dave Hunt, City Engineer  
Corey Lakin, Community Services Director  
Todd Mattern, Police Chief  
Linda Magnuson, Interim Finance Director  
Steven Mendoza, Community Development Director  
Cassandra Palmer, Support Services Manager  
Windmera Quintanar, CMC, City Clerk

**3. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**A. Mid-Year Budget Review for Fiscal Year 2013-14 (Finance)**

This report provided the City Council a Mid-Year budget and financial update for the Fiscal Year 2013-14. The report also made recommendations for budget amendments, both to estimated revenues and to expenditures.

City Manager Plumlee and Interim Finance Director Magnuson summarized the Staff report, referring to the information contained therein, gave a PowerPoint presentation, and answered questions from the City Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Murphy congratulated Staff for staying within 1% of the budget. He stated the change to the Utility Users Tax (UUT) indicated the preliminary numbers were revenue neutral.

Council Member Edgar stated the main point was the budget remains balanced and even though there are minor revenue adjustments, the

reserves remain untouched. He indicated the Budget Subcommittee planned to bring forward policy issues including the Garage Fund, Police Department Budget, UUT, projections, and reserves. He stated he was interested in the Council's input on the Subcommittee's scope and objective.

Council Member Kusumoto stated his belief was sales tax were increasing which was not reflected.

City Manager Plumlee stated sales tax peaked in 2012/13. He pointed out the budget for 2013/14 only included one quarter of the budget so a comparison was difficult at this time. He added the Sales Tax Consultant stated the City was on schedule, the estimate was not lowered, and it was possible to end the year better than expected.

Council Member Kusumoto referred to fiscal year 2012/13 and inquired if the increase was an aberration of its own.

City Manager Plumlee stated he would advise Council once he met with the Sales Tax Consultant. He stated as much information as possible would be provided moving forward and it was important to focus on one quarter at a time.

Council Member Kusumoto inquired if the same kind of trend could be expected with property tax.

City Manager Plumlee believed the year would end better than anticipated and he would provide additional information once received from the consultants.

Council Member Kusumoto stated he would wait to see the year by year comparison.

City Manager Plumlee added property taxes depend on the assessed evaluation.

Council Member Kusumoto requested additional information regarding the requested police citation equipment.

Police Chief Mattern gave a brief description and indicated there was a push from the Court system to fast track the project. Due to budget cuts, data processors at the Courts were going to be cut back and if electronic citations weren't adopted, citations would be drastically back logged and might threaten prosecution.

Council Member Kusumoto inquired if there was additional technology the City should be planning for.

Chief Mattern indicated other upcoming projects were the 800Mhz system and records management system.

Council Member Grose asked for an explanation between the 800 and 700 Mhz systems.

Support Services Manager Palmer indicated the migration was designed to go from 800 to 700 Mhz. She stated agencies were looking for ways to save money and now believed the project will remain in the 800 Mhz range. She clarified the project has always been referred to as 800 Mhz.

Council Member Kusumoto inquired if additional equipment would be needed for the migration.

Support Services Manager Palmer indicated additional parts could be added later if needed.

Council Member Kusumoto stated his understanding the current equipment is not compatible with the new 800 Mhz.

Support Services Manager Palmer stated it was a Federal requirement to go to P25 compatibility and the current equipment is past its life expectancy.

Council Member Kusumoto indicated he understood. He inquired if the trailer was for use with the knife aerator and inquired if the option to rent versus own was looked into.

Public Works Superintendent Brandyberry answered in the affirmative and indicated it was ideal to own the equipment.

Council Member Grose inquired if a new trailer was necessary.

Public Works Superintendent Brandyberry indicated it was necessary to meet the new standards and speed up productivity of the crew. He explained it was time consuming to send the crew back and forth for equipment.

Council Member Grose stated concern the Los Alamitos Unified School District (LAUSD) was also buying equipment and hiring personnel. He gave a brief history on the participant fee to be used for ongoing maintenance. He expressed concern LAUSD and the Staff plan to spend the money independently and felt the process should be collaborative.

Recreation and Community Services Director Lakin indicated discussion with LAUSD was occurring and further details would be reached after meeting with LAUSD Public Works and Maintenance crew. He stated LAUSD indicated they use their equipment and personnel to maintain their nine fields almost every day of the week and the ability for the City to utilize the equipment would be difficult. He reiterated discussions were still being had.

Council Member Grose reiterated his concern that efforts were being duplicated. He was hopeful further discussions with LAUSD would produce a more efficient maintenance plan.

Recreation and Community Services Director Lakin indicated maintenance details and optional use of resources were being worked out with LAUSD in the individual joint use agreements. He pointed out the expected standard for field maintenance was McAullife Field which was maintained by the City and LAUSD had acquired the crew and equipment to bring its fields to that level. He added dialogue with LAUSD was still open.

Council Member Grose stated concern new user fees were implemented before a maintenance process was in place. He was hopeful negative feedback would not be received and the City would be able to perform.

Recreation and Community Services Director Lakin stated Public Works needed new equipment to meet the standards recommended in the PRZ report. He reiterated upgrading the fields would not be immediate, but the process had begun.

Mayor Pro Tem Murphy requested a report that would address Council Member Grose's concerns, best use of equipment, and utilization of resources as a whole.

Recreation and Community Services Director Lakin answered in the affirmative.

Mayor Graham-Mejia reported the LAUSD/City Working Group had been discussing these items in great detail. She indicated Recreation and Community Services Director Lakin was doing an excellent job working with LAUSD through this process.

Motion/Second: Edgar/Graham-Mejia  
Unanimously Carried: The City Council:

1. Received and filed the mid-year budget report; and,

2. Approved the budget amendments to Fiscal Year 2013-14 Operating and Capital Budget as discussed and recommended.

City Manager Plumlee gave a brief summary of future items.

Mayor Graham-Mejia referred to the I-405 Working Group and its retention of Townsend for public relations. She indicated Council had declined to participate in the \$5,000 donation towards public relations last year. She stated Townsend had continued to represent the group and was instrumental in the process. She requested Council consider contributing the City's share.

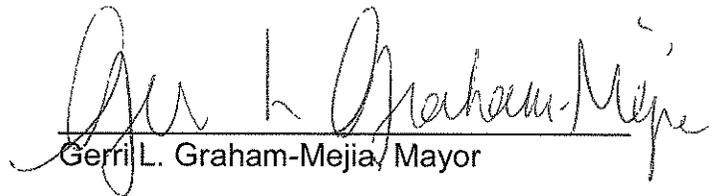
Council Member Edgar indicated support for paying the City's fair share. He requested Council allow the Budget Subcommittee to consider it during budget preparation. He stated the Subcommittee had a great deal of work ahead of itself including understanding the details and funding. He pointed out the budget was positive now, but urged Council to be mindful of upcoming expenses including labor negotiations.

Mayor Pro Tem Murphy stated Interim Finance Director Magnuson would be finishing her tenure with the City and thanked her for all her work and dedication. He wished her luck in her next job.

Council Member Grose echoed the same.

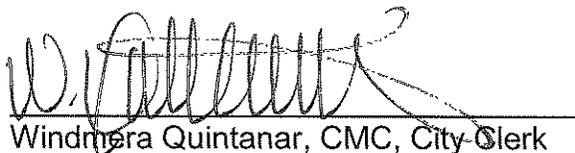
#### 4. **ADJOURNMENT**

The City Council adjourned at 5:51 p.m.



Gerri L. Graham-Mejia, Mayor

Attest:



Windnera Quintanar, CMC, City Clerk