

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

**SPECIAL MEETING – February 23, 2015**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The City Council met in Special Session at 5:03 p.m., Monday, February 23, 2015, in the Council Chamber, 3191 Katella Avenue, Mayor Murphy presiding.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Council Members: Grose, Hasselbrink, Kusumoto,  
Mayor Pro Tem Edgar, Mayor Murphy

**Absent:** Council Members: None

**Present:** Staff: Bret M. Plumlee, City Manager  
Cary Reisman, City Attorney  
Jason Al-Imam, Admin. Services Director  
Dave Hunt, City Engineer  
Corey Lakin, Community Services Director  
Steven Mendoza, Community Development Director  
Cassandra Palmer, Support Services Manager  
Windmera Quintanar, CMC, City Clerk

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Mayor Murphy pulled item 4A forward for public comment.

**4. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**A. Los Alamitos Boulevard Beautification**

Mayor Murphy opened the item for public comment.

Randy Hill, resident, thanked Council Member Hasselbrink for being a candidate for Queen.

Sherry Kropp, Superintendent Los Alamitos Unified School District, spoke regarding the adult transition program.

Josh Wilson, Chamber Board Member, spoke in support of the item, indicated he had concerns regarding traffic, and encouraged continued partnership as the project moves forward.

Mayor Murphy closed the item for public comment.

Mayor Murphy closed item 4A at this time and continued to Item 3A.

### 3. PUBLIC HEARING

#### A. **Extension of Urgency Ordinance Adopting a Citywide Moratorium on the Establishment, Expansion, Intensification or Relocation of New and Existing Massage Establishments and Massage Practitioners**

Staff recommended extending the 45 day moratorium on Massage Establishments that was originally adopted January 20, 2015. A Moratorium provides the necessary "time out" wherein the City can draft appropriate codes to address the newest laws without new applicants filing applications. This extension would be for 10 months, 15 days or until the new ordinance takes effect.

Community Development Director Mendoza summarized the Staff report, referring to the information contained therein, and answered questions from the City Council.

Mayor Murphy opened the Public Hearing. There was no one present wishing to speak.

City Attorney Reisman read the title of Ordinance No. 2015-02 aloud.

Motion/Second: Edgar/Hasselbrink

Unanimously Carried: The City Council: Adopted Ordinance No. 2015-02, entitled, "AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS, CALIFORNIA, EXTENDING URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2015-01, ADOPTING A CITYWIDE MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT, EXPANSION, INTENSIFICATION OR RELOCATION OF NEW AND EXISTING MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS AND MASSAGE PRACTITIONERS."

### 4. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### A. **Los Alamitos Boulevard Beautification**

Since 2009, the City of Los Alamitos has worked on improving the Los Alamitos Boulevard Commercial Corridor. Toward that end, the Draft General Plan will solidify that vision into Goals and Policies which have been through Stakeholder interviews, Focus Group Meetings, Community Open Houses, and over 28 study sessions including those of Commissions meeting jointly. Support for beautifying Los Alamitos Boulevard is clearly documented. The next step is to decide what public improvements are necessary to implement that vision.

City Manager Plumlee introduced the item. Community Development Director Mendoza gave a PowerPoint presentation, summarized the Staff report referring to the information contained therein, and answered questions from the City Council.

Mayor Murphy opened the item for public comment.

JM Ivler, resident, spoke in opposition to the project and stated concerns for the lack of parking and funding.

Mayor Murphy closed the item for public comment.

Mayor Pro Tem Edgar spoke in support of the project and the opportunity to positively change the future revenue of the City. He gave a brief history of the project's last introduction and the lack of support. He indicated the City had fallen behind neighboring cities and advised the traffic study had indicated this project would improve traffic circulation. He indicated the timing for the project was important as it would take 3-5 years to complete the process. He reiterated support for the project and moving forward.

Council Member Kusumoto questioned the funding and what the \$40,000 was allocated for this year.

Community Development Director Mendoza indicated the outreach was to gain public input on the created documents.

City Engineer Hunt added outreach would be based on the traffic study and conceptual design. He advised the intersections at Katella and Cerritos on Los Alamitos Blvd. both needed improvements to help with traffic. He indicated the traffic study had many options including double turn lanes and increasing to six lanes. Traffic would improve by adding more straight through traffic; however, in 2008 the businesses rejected the idea of a third lane right next to the curb and gutter.

Council Member Kusumoto recalled being on the Traffic Commission at that time, questioned the Measure M funding received, and the reason the project wasn't completed.

City Engineer Hunt indicated the City had received roughly \$500,000 to install median islands and restripe, but the project was rejected. To his knowledge, businesses did not want the traffic restriction of no left turns into their businesses. He clarified the City had applied for a Special Fund for the grant money. When the striping was canceled, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) approved a revised plan, but the project was canceled when the businesses rejected the center medians.

Council Member Kusumoto expressed frustration the median project had been delayed since 2008 and was surprised the business rejected plans approved by the Traffic Commission to improve traffic flow. He asked how traffic would be affected.

City Engineer Hunt stated traffic flow would improve with medians because they prevent left turns and allow traffic to flow smoothly.

Council Member Grose stated support for moving the project forward and agreed the City should begin to look at assisting with the improvement of businesses in the City. He stated concern there was not enough information to take to the public at this time and preferred having a plan in place to present to the public for input and direction. He hoped that the traffic study data would still be reasonably

usable and the study around the High School would dovetail into this project. He pointed out that developers and landowners were beginning to invest in their properties and felt Council needed to move forward to create an identity for the City since it would take several years to complete. He was appreciative of the Chamber's support and felt improvements may attract a new restaurant or theater in the vacant lots. He reiterated support for moving forward.

Council Member Hasselbrink stated concern for the current traffic flow and stated support for moving forward. She agreed the project would take several years and wanted to ensure bike-ability was addressed sooner rather than later. She stated opposition to increasing the speed of traffic and wanted to ensure businesses and residents weren't negatively affected. She stated support for attracting businesses and residents to Los Alamitos.

Mayor Murphy believed Los Alamitos was falling behind neighboring cities and any project would take several years. He questioned if outreach would be necessary for medians only as a starting point.

Community Development Director Mendoza indicated outreach would not be needed for medians only as there was documented evidence of support in the General Plan and Compass Blueprint. He suggested saving the outreach money to inform citizens when construction would be coming.

Mayor Murphy reiterated his concern Los Alamitos was falling behind. He stated if the City made improvements, it would attract interested parties to Los Alamitos. He suggested an incentive program to encourage property owners to reinvigorate their buildings.

City Engineer Hunt indicated the two options for medians were curvilinear or straight. Curvilinear medians allowed for expanded sidewalks in front of some businesses, but outreach was never done to see which businesses would get additional sidewalk space. He advised it would be visually unappealing to install curvilinear medians without redoing the sidewalks. Either type of median would help improve traffic.

Mayor Murphy did not see the need for curvilinear medians. He suggested two phases; phase 1 would include the medians and planters and phase 2 would be the sidewalks and bike-ability. He questioned if sidewalks could be done with the straight medians and questioned if there was a benefit to another study.

Community Development Director Mendoza indicated it would be ideal to include lighting on the medians and clarified sidewalks were not being discussed as of yet. He stated the project would be added to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) spreadsheet so Council would be aware of all the necessary steps and timeline. Community Development Director Mendoza advised he did not see an advantage for doing an additional study for the center median project and suggested using the \$40,000 outreach funding for the sidewalk phase.

Mayor Murphy asked if medians would negatively impact parking and questioned what the process would be to move forward with medians.

Community Development Director Mendoza answered in the negative and indicated medians helped with the flow of traffic.

City Manager Plumlee stated if Council chose to do the medians, the \$40,000 for outreach would be held until the next phase and Council would need to decide on straight or curvilinear medians.

Community Development Director Mendoza advised a CIP worksheet for straight center medians would be compiled to show year 1 of design, year 2 of construction, and where funding would come from. Staff would also begin working with OCTA for funding.

Mayor Murphy asked for an approximate cost and where the funding would come from.

City Engineer Hunt stated basic median islands with restriping would be approximately \$500,000 and the entire Boulevard Design with all the upgrades would be approximately \$4 million. He indicated OCTA had special project funding the City could apply for and that OCTA would approve of improving the traffic flow through the City. He advised Council to commit to a project before Staff was directed to negotiate with OCTA for funding.

Council Member Kusumoto questioned the speed limit from Katella to Cerritos, if double turn lanes were part of the study, challenged Staff to consider using medians for parking versus green space, and indicated expanded sidewalks would be beneficial to businesses.

City Engineer Hunt advised it was 35 mph and would not change. He indicated double turn lanes were part of the traffic study that went to the Downtown Subcommittee but had not gone before the Traffic Commission. Currently, the Traffic Commission was studying the high school traffic and double left turn lanes were being recommended.

Community Development Director Mendoza indicated parallel parking on the medians was not recommended for Los Alamitos Blvd. He indicated straight medians provided equality for all businesses by providing the same opportunity to all.

Mayor Pro Tem Edgar believed the project would qualify through OCTA because of the improved arterial flow. He stated concern for dividing the project and questioned if cities apply for bonds for major capital improvement projects.

City Engineer Hunt answered in the affirmative.

Mayor Pro Tem Edgar recalled issuing a bond for the purchase of Laurel Park and suggested combining the relocation of City Hall with the second phase of the

project into a bond. He stated he was supportive of making improvements and gave a brief overview of the past design ideas. He pointed out the challenge would be to educate the community on what the project really is. He stated support for doing the medians first and saving the outreach for future phases.

Council Member Grose stated concern regarding the curvilinear sidewalks and how much sidewalk each business would have; however, he did not want to eliminate the City's ability to do curvilinear sidewalks later on by installing straight medians. He questioned parking and the opportunity to partner with the Plaza to create a parking structure. He stated support for the medians and reiterated he did not want to limit future opportunities.

Council and Staff discussed the possibilities for sidewalks, medians, and bike lanes.

Mayor Murphy questioned if anyone favored curvilinear medians. Council consensus was not in favor of curvilinear.

Community Development Director Mendoza stated it was a stakeholder issue. City Engineer Hunt advised the project was simplified with straight medians.

Council Member Hasselbrink stated support for focusing on medians only for Phase 1. She stated focusing on the project as a whole would stop the project from moving forward. She believed this was a great start and gave Council and Staff time to coordinate the next phases.

Mayor Pro Tem Edgar agreed. He stated the messaging for the project was critical and Council should decide on talking points before moving forward so the wrong message is not sent. It was important to convey how each step connected to the bigger picture.

Council Member Kusumoto stated support for researching available funding for medians as a first step. He believed the challenge would be to find funding. Staff could then research stakeholder concerns, parking, and the impacts of curvilinear medians. He challenged Staff to come up with innovative ways to improve traffic at peak times.

City Manager Plumlee suggested addressing the project during the budget process. Staff could bring forward a design idea and timeline to receive Council feedback and direction for moving forward.

City Engineer Hunt summarized the process for OCTA's yearly call for projects and advised an approved concept was all that was needed to submit for project funding. He indicated it could take several years to receive funding as it was competitive.

Mayor Pro Tem Edgar pointed out there was \$200,000 assigned, but not appropriated, funds in the budget should matching be required.

**5. CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney Reisman read item 5A aloud.

**A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

Pending litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(4) of Section 54956.9. One potential case.

**RECESS**

The City Council recessed into Closed Session at 6:26 p.m.

**RECONVENE**

The City Council reconvened in Special Session at 7:40 p.m.

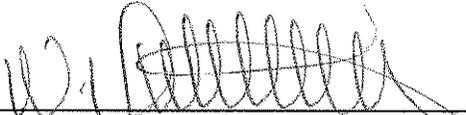
City Attorney Reisman advised no formal votes were taken or requested.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The City Council adjourned at 7:40 p.m. to March 23, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., for the purpose of holding an Adjourned Regular meeting.

  
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Richard D. Murphy, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Windmera Quintanar, CMC, City Clerk