

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE,  
CALIFORNIA HELD MARCH 24, 2009.**

Mayor/Chairman Guidi called the City Council, Community Redevelopment Agency, Parking Authority and Housing Authority meeting to order jointly and concurrently at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 4455 West 126th Street, Hawthorne, California.

ROLL CALL-Present: Councilmembers Catano, Juarez, Lambert, Parsons, Mayor Guidi.  
Absent: None.

Father Perry Leiker from St. Joseph's Church gave the evening's invocation. Mark Hardison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Lambert presented a Proclamation to Alex Monteiro and Kelly Carroll in recognition of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and Paint the Town Purple events.

Teresa Acosta, Regional Public Affairs Manager, from the League of California Cities introduced herself to the City Council and to the community. She represents 25 cities in LA County including all of the South Bay, the West Side and the Las Virgines/Malibu area. Education, Advocacy and Service are the three main things that the League does.

1.

Mayor Guidi recessed the City Council meeting to conduct a **Closed Session**: Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency Negotiator: Jag Pathirana - Employee Organization: Hawthorne Municipal Employees' Association. (HMEA)

Mayor Guidi called the City Council meeting back to order following recess with all Councilmembers present. He announced that the closed session was to discuss a closed session Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency Negotiator: Jag Pathirana - Employee Organization: Hawthorne Municipal Employees' Association and announced that the Agency Negotiator has been directed.

2.

Under oral communications **Darlene Love** asked if anyone could paint the curbs white for loading and unloading passengers in front of her church. **Allen Richards**, 13828 Ramona Ave., speaking for the American Legion Post #314, thanked the Council for allowing them first priority for selling fireworks in July. It helps in part to maintain their facility. This year they will be sending three boys and three girls to Boy's and Girl's State in Sacramento. Anyone interest in donating for this event and donate through the American Legion Post #314. **Alex Monteiro**, 12413 Ramona Ave., thanked everyone who participated in last night's fundraiser dinner at Il Forneio. Some of the proceeds will go towards Relay for Life. The last meeting for Relay for Life will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Opening ceremonies for Relay for Life will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 9am and the Luminaria event will be held at 9pm. The nomination period for the Presidents Council Volunteer Appreciation Day has been extended for two weeks. The event will take place on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Memorial Center. The Hawthorne Presidents Council will also be holding the K9 Community Dinner on May 21st at the Memorial Center. Announced that the building that was bought for the low and moderate income closed on March 16<sup>th</sup> and renovation on some of the units has already begun. **Mayor Guidi requested Mr. Lawson and Mr. Hamlin's comments for the record:** Thank you Mayor and City Council. My name is **Layne Lawson**, 19320 Harbor Gate Way, Los Angeles. I'm the Director of Public Affairs for Clear Channel Outdoor and I'm here to speak on an item that is on your consent calendar this evening. It's item number seven and we'd like to respectfully request that this item be taken off the consent calendar and be continued and the public hearing be reopened. We were not given written notice that the meeting was happening on the 10<sup>th</sup> and we actually had thought that it was on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We were prepared to bring evidence and backup to the story regarding this appeal and we weren't able to do so and we think that we have some things that the City Council needs to consider and our legal council be up here shortly to give you a brief explanation of what we feel that the city council needs to consider before proceeding with this resolution. We believe it sets a bad precedence for the city and you really need to think carefully before voting on this resolution tonight. Thank you for your time. (**Richard Hamlin**) Good evening Mayor and City Council. Speaking for Clear Channel Outdoors as legal council, we'd like to echo Mr. Lawson's request that you remove item seven from the consent calendar, that you continue the item and reopen the matter for public hearing. As he said, we received oral notice only of the hearing on the 17<sup>th</sup> and, excuse me, on the 10th except we heard it as the 17<sup>th</sup>

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somehow. We were prepared to address this on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There's good reason to reconsider and reopen the public hearing. Specifically, we, Clear Channel, voluntarily demolished the sign. The lease expired on April 30<sup>th</sup> of 2008. We told Mr. Jamgotchian that we would remove the sign and he said no, that's my sign. He said if you leave it up there beyond April 30<sup>th</sup>, it's my sign. You've abandoned it. And we said no, we'll take it down. We attempted to pull a demolition permit and Mr. Jamgotchian objected to the planning department or one of the city departments and said no, not without my permission. So catch 22, you can't take it down without my permission, I won't give my permission, therefore you've abandoned the sign. It is in that context that the president's deposition was read where the president said, I understand it was read at the hearing on the 10<sup>th</sup>, we didn't abandon the sign. And that's correct. We took the sign down. Or we intended to take the sign down and ultimately we did. We did abandon and abate the non conforming use and we sent a letter to the planning director in October stating exactly that. It's also ah the facts on which the resolution are based are not true. According to the resolution, it stated that the replacement sign can be built for \$11,000. That's off by an order of magnitude. Probably closer to a hundred or a hundred and ten thousand to replace that sign. The value of the remaining portion of the sign is nowhere near \$11,000. The only things left of the sign are two I-beams about 40 feet apart, going I guess about 15 feet underground. They aren't worth the cost of hauling them away as junk. The items that are identified as ancillary are not. It was a fence on the property. Had nothing to do with the sign and there may have been an electrical connection that's part that's whoever your electrical utility is. It's got nothing to do with the sign. Also, as described, I understand they intend to connect these to these old I-beams. That does not satisfy the international building code. Typically, one builds a sign like this by digging a hole roughly as deep as the sign is going to go into the air. Roughly five feet in diameter, you put a four foot pole in there and you fill it with concrete all around. There's no point in tying it to I-beams that are 40 feet apart and if you only tie them to I-beams that are 40 feet apart, you have something that is not going to withstand the wind load so we would not do that. Why are we here? Basically we want equal treatment under the ordinance. Clear Channel Outdoors supports fair and reasonable regulation of these signs and that's fine. We have no problem with that, but the ordinance would not allow Clear Channel to rebuild the sign at this location under these circumstances or anywhere else. So we ask for the same treatment. We ask again that you take us off the consent calendar that you reopen the public hearing and set it at a future date and we would request written notice at that time. Thank you. **Philip Jones**, 11549 Turon Ave., asked for an update on a request to get a turn lane at Target as you head west instead of going all the way down to the light. Inquired on a permit he read about in the Daily Breeze for a type of fight at the airport gym. **Francis Stiglich**, 11534 Gale Ave., supports the police department and did not like the article that appeared on the front page of the newspaper regarding the police department. Asked if her neighborhood was going to have any say so on who is going to move into the senior housing near her area. **Alex Vargas**, 11974 York Ave., thanked Councilmember Lambert for bringing up the topic of notifying residents of development at 1,000 feet. Is happy to hear that there is talk to revitalize Imperial Highway as it is an entrance point into Hawthorne. Feels priority should be given to hearing citizen's concerns instead of holding closed sessions and taking birthday breaks, thereby prolonging the time that citizens have to wait to be heard by the Council.

3.

#### Under Elected Officials Reports and Recommendations:

Councilmember Catano and City Clerk English were excused from elected officials reports and recommendations.

Mayor **Guidi** thanked Alex Monteiro for his drive and his committee for the Relay for Life. They are hoping to hit the goal of 60,000. Thanked everyone who participated in the Costco grand opening. 65% of the hiring is composed of Hawthorne residents. Announced that Hawthorne was the only city in the South Bay that received the Gold Level Status for energy efficiency and saving energy. Jersey Mike's Sub Shop is now open. Commended City Manager Jag Pathirana and Public Works Director Arnie Shadbehr and his staff for the new Gale Ave. parking area and mini park which really looks nice. Asked that a power point presentation be put together to show what is going to be put on Imperial.

Councilmember **Lambert** inquired if we are going to receive the stimulus money that is in a memo she received. Recommended that you tour the new Costco Store as it is quite different from the other store.

Councilmember **Parsons** announced that the Wiseburn School District will be holding the Rock Around the Block event, a fund raiser for the Wiseburn Education Foundation, on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Anza School. On March 28<sup>th</sup> the CERT training will be held at the Memorial Center. There will be a presentation at the next Council meeting on the beautification of Imperial Hwy between Inglewood and Prairie. Inquired on the status of an emergency preparation plan. Would like to see more Hawthorne based groups hold their fundraising events in Hawthorne restaurants as opposed to holding them in restaurants outside the city.

Asked if the Chamber could provide a list of Hawthorne restaurants willing to work with Hawthorne groups. Requested that it be looked into on how to ease the restraints regarding the placement of banners across the Blvd. for advertising community events. Would like to hold public comments before closed sessions begin so residents don't have to wait to speak.

Councilmember **Juarez** announced that the Bunny Breakfast will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 11am at the Hawthorne Memorial Center. Is concerned that people may not be using the tennis and racquetball courts because parking at the Memorial Center is being used by Costco customers. Asked if there is any way that we can get Costco to advertise that they have parking behind the Costco building. Would like to see the railroad carts on Northrop Avenue cleaned up as they are covered with graffiti and cause a deterrent to the promotion of the area. Asked that the Lee Homes property in Hollypark be cleaned as it is being overrun by weeds. The SBWIB will be holding a youth job fair on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8 am to 2 pm at the Memorial Center. Attended the CHAT meeting on Saturday and is concerned with complaints that were made there regarding the smell of tap water in Moneta Gardens and North Hawthorne. Inquired on the price that Relay for Life is costing the city. Inquired if the SBWIB can donate \$2500 to the El Camino Small Business Center. Asked if the audit report on the jail had been forwarded to the County of Los Angeles Public Health and if we had received a response yet. It was forwarded, but we are still waiting for a response. Would like to nominate Olivia Valentine for the Older American Recognition Award.

**Discussion/Action:**

- Change mailing notification for public hearings from 300 to 1000 feet of the subject property (Lambert)

Councilmember Lambert would like to notify people with 1000 feet when something is going to be built near them. Notification would not go to the residents of an apartment house, but it would go to the owner of the apartment house; they have the obligation to let you know if you live in an apartment. Councilmember Parsons suggested sending a letter that clearly explains what is happening instead of a postcard full of legalese and to also notify the tenants of the building.

- Adding Farmers Market as an Allowable Use in Selected Zoning District (Parsons)

Councilmember Parsons spoke on moving the farmer's market in the county area of Del Aire to the City of Hawthorne. Unfortunately, a farmer's market is not zoned for Hawthorne. Councilmember Parsons asked that an ordinance be written very narrowly so it does not include swap meets or flea markets, only fresh produce with a conditional use permit with the approval of the planning commission.

Mayor/Chairman Guidi recessed the Community Redevelopment Agency, Parking Authority and Housing Authority meetings to conduct the meeting of the City Council.

5.

Councilmember Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Parsons, to waive full readings of resolutions and ordinances on March 24, 2009's agenda.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Catano, Juarez, Lambert, Parsons, Mayor Guidi.  
NOES: None.

6.

The City Treasurer submitted a financial statement regarding warrants.

Councilmember Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Parsons, that the following warrants, properly audited and signed, be paid.

Warrants Nos.:        189872-189877 : 396334-397080

Warrant Totals:        \$ 757,576.19 ; \$ 2,514,015.34

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Catano, Juarez, Lambert, Parsons, Mayor Guidi  
NOES: None.

7.

**RESOLUTION NO. 7245**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA APPROVING APPEAL APPLICATION NO. 2008AA03CC, AN APPEAL OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION’S DENIAL OF PLAN CHECK APPLICATION NO. 08-0518 (FORMERLY 08-0116), APPROVING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF AN ADVERTISING SIGN (BILLBOARD) AT 5117 EL SEGUNDO BOULEVARD IN THE C-3 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL) ZONE, AND MAKING FINDINGS IN SUPPORT THEREOF.

Councilmember Lambert moved to pull this item.

**MOTION DIES FOR A LACK OF A SECOND**

Councilmember Parsons moved, seconded by Councilmember Juarez, to pull this item, re-advertise and re-open the public hearing regarding this appeal.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Catano, Juarez, Lambert, Parsons, Mayor Guidi.  
NOES: None.

The City Manager, Jag Pathirana, presented the following agenda and requested approval of the indicated recommendations:

8.

Approve to authorize the City Manager to issue Purchase Order to purchase a citywide telephone system maintenance contract.

9.

Approve to authorize the City Manager to issue Purchase Order to carry out repairs and maintenance to the police helicopter.

10

Approve Progress Payment No. 12 and Final due to Martinez Landscape Company, 12337 San Fernando Road, Sylmar, Ca 91342 for Landscaping and General Maintenance (Project #06-06) in the amount of \$131,233.00.

11.

Approve to authorize the Director of Public Works to advertise for bids with a return date of April 28, 2009 for 135<sup>th</sup> Street and Aviation Blvd. Improvement (Project # 08-02) Federal # STPL - 5253013

Councilmember Juarez moved, seconded by Councilmember Lambert, that items 8 through 11 of the City Manager’s consent calendar be approved.

ROLL CALL-AYES: Councilmembers Catano, Juarez, Lambert, Parsons, Mayor Guidi  
NOES: None.

12.

Mayor Guidi adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

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Angie Reyes English  
City Clerk