

MINUTES

GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL

GARDEN GROVE AGENCY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

GARDEN GROVE SANITARY DISTRICT

An adjourned regular meeting of the City Council, Agency for Community Development, and Garden Grove Sanitary District was called to order in the Founders Room of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, on Tuesday, February 4, 2003, at 6:36 p.m.

COUNCIL

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: (5) MAYOR BROADWATER, COUNCILMEMBERS DALTON, LEYES, ROSEN, TRAN

ABSENT: (0) NONE

AGENCY

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: (5) CHAIRMAN ROSEN, MEMBERS BROADWATER, DALTON, LEYES, TRAN

ABSENT: (0) NONE

SANITARY DISTRICT

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: (5) PRESIDENT BROADWATER, MEMBERS DALTON, LEYES, ROSEN, TRAN

ABSENT: (0) NONE

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager/Director/General Manager, George Tindall; Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director, Matthew Fertal; Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director, Les Jones; Community Services Director, Cal Rietzel; City Attorney/Legal Counsel, John Shaw; Finance Director, Anthony Andrade; Fire Chief, Cameron Phillips; Personnel Services Director, Steve Larson; Police Chief, Joe Polisar; Assistant to the City Manager, George Skelton; and Deputy City Clerk/Deputy Secretary, Priscilla Stierstorfer.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - PUBLIC

There were no oral communications from the public.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING BY THE MAIN STREET MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION
(F: 88.1) (XR: A-122.5)

Staff report dated December 10, 2002, was reviewed.

Gary Brown, representing the Main Street Association, addressed the Agency. He commented that he received a letter from the California Main Street Program advising him that they may lose their funding from the State. They may not get their funding back for two years, and they will not add any new members until they do. He indicated that the Main Street Association would still like to proceed with its proposal, noting that if they had a director on board, they would be ready for certification when the funding is available. He commented that if the Agency's funds were not available, they would like to start a newsletter and request the City's assistance with the printing. Member Broadwater advised Mr. Brown that there will not be a discussion on this matter tonight considering the current budget situation; however, his request will be taken into consideration.

MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW (F: 34.1)

The City Manager/Director/General Manager commented that staff will be providing an overview of where the City started with the Fiscal Year 2002/2003 budget with a mid year review of the current budget status.

The Finance Director provided an overview of the 2001/02 budget, noting that the City ended the year with \$9,301.5 million in savings.

The Assistant to the City Manager provided an overview of the State budget and the Governor's recent proposals to deal with the estimated \$34.6 billion deficit.

Councilman/Member Leyes commented that the Governor has backed off on shifting the Vehicle License Fee backfill this budget year, noting that the Governor has announced that he will veto what the legislature has already passed. He inquired whether the City could spend the grant money slated for a new facility on other capital expenses in other parks. The City Manager/Director/General Manager responded yes.

The City Manager/Director/General Manager provided a scenario on eliminating non-public safety employees to reduce the General Fund. He also commented that the City could contract for police and fire services. He noted that of the 34 cities in the County, Garden Grove is one of the leanest, being second to the bottom. He continued by reviewing the reductions to the General Fund that can be made in the City Manager's office, with a total savings of \$356,000.

The Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director reviewed the proposed reductions in the Community Development Department, which amounted to a savings of \$231,000.

The Police Chief reviewed the reductions in the Police Department for a total of \$2,926,000 in savings. He noted that positions could be eliminated through attrition over the next 18 months. However, if the cuts have to be made by July 1, they would have to lay off 19 officers, and the Police Department would be on a "call for service" only.

In response to Councilman/Members Leyes and Councilman/ Chairman/ Member Rosen, the Police Chief commented that there are currently 20 reserve officers, 20 cadets, and 50 of the 83 part time positions are filled.

The Personnel Services Director reviewed the reductions noting that of the 54 positions, 46 are grant funded with the remaining staff paid from the General Fund. The proposed reductions in the Personnel Services Department would be \$91,000.

RECESS

At 7:45 p.m., the Mayor/Sanitary District President and the Agency Chairman declared a recess for their respective bodies.

RECONVENE

At 7:55 p.m., the meeting was reconvened with Mayor/President/Member Broadwater, Councilman/Chairman/Member Rosen, and all members in attendance.

MID-YEAR BUDGET REVIEW (CONTINUED)

The Fire Chief reviewed the proposed reductions in the Fire Department Budget, which would amount to \$1,315,000.

Mayor/President/Member Broadwater inquired whether these reductions would be the same if the City contracted with the County for fire services. The Fire Chief noted that the Fire Study was never completed; therefore, it is unknown what the savings would be.

Councilman/Chairman/Member Rosen inquired whether the City could provide fire services to neighboring cities. The City Manager/Director/General Manager commented that would be revenue to the City; however, there are a lot of political ramifications.

Councilman/Chairman/Member Rosen inquired which department funded the Orange County Regional Authority (OCRA). The City Manager/Director/ General Manager noted that the money is included in the City Manager's Office budget, as well as the money for the League of California Cities.

Councilman/Member Leyes commented that the City should look at all the City's memberships.

The Community Services Director reviewed the proposed reductions in the Community Services Department, which amount to \$110,000.

The Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director reviewed the proposed reductions in the Public Works Department, which amount to \$630,000.

In response to Councilman/Member Leyes, the Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director commented that if the City does not meet the Maintenance of Effort (MOE), the money would be divided among the other cities that have complied.

Councilman/Member Leyes questioned how the City can pay for hardscape if the grass is eliminated. The Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director commented that hardscape is a one-time expense with little to no maintenance.

Councilman/Chairman/Member Rosen inquired whether the \$39,000 savings in eliminating the use of the showmobile is because the Council waives the fee. The Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director commented that even when fees are charged, the fees do not cover the cost of overtime paid for staff to set it up.

The City Manager/Director/General Manager commented that the proposals would eliminate 49 full-time and 17 part-time positions. The reductions to the budget come to two-thirds of what the City could lose from the Vehicle License Fees. With time, positions could be phased out by attrition. However, if the cuts are required immediately, the vacant positions would be eliminated and people will be laid off.

Councilman/Member Tran commented that eliminating the positions would affect morale. The Police Chief noted that the positions could be eliminated over several years. However, if pink slips were handed out by eliminating the most junior positions, morale would be devastated.

Councilman/Member Tran commented that he would like to hear other scenarios that have been considered to reduce the budget. The City Manager/Director/General Manager indicated that what was presented this evening are the recommendations that were prepared to show a 10% cut to the budget. Without knowing what the State will do, it is difficult to be exact on the figures.

Councilman/Member Tran commented that when it is time to make decisions, he would like to see different scenarios.

Mayor/Member/President Broadwater commented that this is just a beginning to educate the Council. The City will be going through some trying times. The County had to declare bankruptcy, and they now have with more employees

than they had before the bankruptcy. There are more alternatives than what have been presented this evening.

The City Manager/Director/General Manager commented that everything is being done to protect the full time employees. The City only had to lay off five employees the last time there was a lay off.

In response to Councilman/Member Dalton, the City Manager/Director commented that the City Attorney bills hourly, depending on the workload.

Councilman/Member Dalton inquired whether there would be a savings to having a full time City Attorney versus one on contract. The City Manager/Director/General Manager commented that some of the attorney services would still have to be contracted out.

Councilman/Member Tran commented that there is interest on the part of the City Council to meet with legislators in Sacramento to discuss how the budget will affect Garden Grove. He requested that staff prepare a packet of information and set up as many meetings as possible. He indicated that he will pay his own expenses, and he invited other Councilmembers to join him. Mayor/President/Member Broadwater and Councilman/Chairman/Member Rosen and Councilman/Member Dalton, and the City Manager/ Director/ General Manager will accompany Councilman/Member Tran and meet with legislators in Sacramento.

Councilman/Chairman/Member Rosen commented that there are five months until the end of the fiscal year. He recommended that some of the recommendations be implemented now. Some of the items in Public Works can be frozen, and the payments to OCRA and the League of California Cities can be reduced.

The City Manager/Director/General Manager commented that it would not be his recommendation to defer maintenance. He noted that staff could come up with a list to save as much money as possible, but deferring maintenance costs more in the long run.

Councilman/Chairman/Member Rosen recommended that any Council Members attending the International Conference of Shopping Centers should pay their own way.

RECESS

At 9:10 p.m., the Mayor/Sanitary District President and the Agency Chairman declared a recess for their respective bodies.

RECONVENE

At 9:25 p.m., the meeting was reconvened with Mayor/President Broadwater, Councilman/Chairman Rosen, and all members in attendance.

DISCUSSION REGARDING REQUEST FROM HOTEL OPERATORS TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESORT MARKETING PROGRAM (F: 88.1)

This item was continued to a later date.

DISCUSSION REGARDING RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATIVE TO THE SALE OF SAFE AND SANE FIREWORKS (F: 61.6)

The City Manager commented that the city has been inundated with fireworks. The Council has previously seen the video showing the amount of fireworks on July 4th at the southwest corner of Euclid and Katella. Staff is not proposing to ban them; however, staff would like to reduce the number of booth sites. The proposal is to reduce them from 68 to 25 sites. One way to accomplish this would be to move them within ½mile of the city's boundaries. A fee could be charged to help recover the cost of the cleanup in our parks and streets. Staff is requesting direction from the Council.

The Fire Chief noted that staff met with the fireworks vendors two weeks ago. The goal was to explore ideas to get a handle on the problem.

The Fire Division Chief commented that complaints of illegal fireworks were received from City staff and from residents. Enforcement was stepped up in 2002, and they worked closely with the Police Department. The City's ordinance does not allow the use of fireworks in city parks. Fireworks can only be used on private property. Some mitigating measures by other Cities include: closing the booths earlier; establishing a cap on the number of booths; increasing the permit fee; moving the booths ½mile from the city limits; having pre-wired electrical booths to eliminate the requirement for an electrical inspector; reducing the number of booths for each group; and requiring non-profit groups to spend 75% of their profits in Garden Grove.

The Fire Chief commented that there should be significant fines for selling fireworks to minors.

Mayor Broadwater commented that he was in favor of reducing the number of booths and an ordinance change moving the booths ½mile from the city limits.

The Fire Chief commented that another recommendation is to require that each school have only three booths. Changing the booths to ½mile from the city limits would reduce the number of booths by 10 the first year.

Councilman Tran commented that he would like staff to meet with the vendors again and come up with definite recommendations for this year, including changing the Ordinance.

Councilman Leyes commented that he was in favor of reducing the number of booths per school for this year.

Councilman Rosen questioned where the biggest problems are. The City Manager commented that the biggest problems occur at Garden Grove Park and the southwest corner of Euclid and Katella.

Councilman Rosen commented that he is in favor of reducing the number of booths, moving the sites to within ½mile of the city limits, and increasing signage.

Councilman Leyes would like staff to prepare a map of the booth sites for the next meeting when fireworks are discussed.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CITY COUNCIL
TAKING A POSITION RELATIVE TO THE STATE RAISING VEHICLE LICENSE FEES
(F: 67.5)

This item was continued from the Council meeting of January 28, 2003, and was placed on the agenda at the request of Councilman Leyes. Discussion took place during the budget presentation, with no action taken on the issue of vehicle license fees.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE IMPACT OF THE STATE BUDGET DEFICIT ON
THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE AND A STRATEGY FOR APPROACHING STATE
LEGISLATORS. (67.5)

Staff will be working with Council Members to set up meetings with State Legislators.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:50 p.m., the meeting was declared adjourned.

PRISCILLA STIERSTORFER
DEPUTY CITY CLERK/
DEPUTY SECRETARY