

MINUTES
GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL
AND
AGENCY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A Special Meeting of the Garden Grove City Council and the Agency for Community Development was called to order in the Founders Room of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, on Tuesday, May 31, 2005, at 6:22 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: (5) MAYOR DALTON, COUNCIL MEMBERS KREBS, LEYES, NGUYEN, ROSEN

ABSENT: (0) NONE

AGENCY

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: (5) CHAIR NGUYEN, MEMBERS DALTON, KREBS, LEYES, ROSEN

ABSENT: (0) NONE

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager/Director, Matthew Fertal; Deputy City Manager/Deputy Director, Les Jones; Community Development Director, Susan Emery; Finance Director, Kingsley Okereke; Personnel Director, Steve Larson; Public Works Director, Keith Jones; City Attorney/Legal Counsel, John Shaw; and Deputy City Clerk/Deputy Secretary, Priscilla Stierstorfer.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - PUBLIC

Verla Lambert commented regarding election districts, noting that having six new districts would bring Garden Grove back together as a city. Financial interests would not find it feasible to donate to seven candidates. (F: 53.3) (XR: 58.1)

Gerry Newkirk commented regarding the proposed ordinance for the park usage fee, noting that all the proceeds from the Strawberry Festival go back to the community. Increased fees would mean less money to donate to city organizations. He noted that for some

organizations, the Festival is their primary fundraising event.
(F: 53.3) (XR: 42.1a)

Tony Flores commented regarding election districts, and disagreed with comments made that Council Members would only work for the district they represent. He questioned whether the City was proposing to hire a lobbyist, considering the City's financial situation. He questioned whether the increase in park fees would go toward the new gym. (F: 53.3) (XR: 58.1) (XR: 67.1) (XR: 42.1a)

Bob Kessler, President of the Strawberry Festival Association, commented regarding the proposed park usage fee. He questioned whether credit toward the amount of the fee could be given to the Festival that gives its proceeds to the community. (F: 53.3) (XR: 42.1a)

Benny Diaz commented regarding the altercation at the Women's Club last week, and thanked the Police Department for their assistance. He requested that the City investigate what happened at that meeting, noting that racism should not be tolerated. (F: 53.3) (XR: 82.1)

Sheldon Singer commented regarding the proposed park usage fee, noting that the Strawberry Festival is a community event that unites the west side of Garden Grove with the east side. The Festival allows 50 organizations to raise money they would have no other way of raising. (F: 53.3) (XR: 42.1a)

Greg Beard commented that the City still seems to be discussing casinos behind closed doors. More people might be in favor of casinos if more information were passed on to the community. There is already too much traffic on Harbor Boulevard, without adding a casino. He also questioned why so many intersections in the city have signs that say photo enforcement when there are no cameras at those intersections. (F: 53.3)

Douglas Hitchcock commented regarding his being mistreated by the Redevelopment staff and by the Police Department. He has been waiting for four years to hear whether he will be provided relocation assistance, and whether the City will be taking his property. (F: 53.3)

DISCUSSION CONCERNING SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT ORDINANCE
REGULATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RENTAL FEES FOR PARK USAGE
FOR SPECIAL EVENTS (F: 42.1a)

Staff reports dated May 31, 2005, were introduced.

Council Member Rosen inquired as to the fee that the Strawberry Festival Association was charged this year. The Community Services Director noted that they were charged one half of the Police Department's overtime cost, which is \$20,000. They pay a deposit for the damage to the field, and the cost of the Community Event Permit.

Council Member Rosen inquired what they would pay if the new fee were implemented. The Community Services Director commented that they would pay all direct costs of \$40,000 plus a park use fee. The City Manager commented that organizers of the Tet Festival pay all direct costs and they were told that there might be a park use fee.

Council Member Rosen questioned whether the \$40,000 includes the cost of resodding the grass. The Public Works Director commented that \$3,000 to \$5,000 is included in the indirect costs.

Council Member Rosen asked Mr. Kessler if that is the amount that the Strawberry Festival Association pays to the City. Mr. Kessler commented that they also pay \$20,000 for cadets.

In response to Council Member Nguyen, staff gave an explanation of the calendars provided that included the Police Department blackout dates when festivals would not be held.

Mayor Dalton commented that the Strawberry Festival Association gives back to the community 100% of their proceeds. He asked if a list of those donations was provided to the city. Mr. Kessler commented that the donations are part of a press release, and they provide a copy to the City.

Council Member Leyes asked Mr. Kessler what the timeline is for their donations. Mr. Kessler responded that the donations for this year's Festival will be made in January 2006.

Council Member Rosen inquired what the Arab American Festival organizers pay. Staff noted that they pay \$7,500, which is one half of the City's support staff, a damage deposit for the field, and the fee for the Community Event Permit. The Community Services

Director indicated that the organizers have stated that they do not make any money for this festival.

Council Member Krebs inquired how much money the Tet Festival contributed to the community. Mr. Phu Nguyen stated that they will contribute \$70,000. They are still going through the list of potential recipients. Their profit was not as much this year because they lost a lot of money because of the rain.

Council Member Nguyen inquired as to which organizations have received donations in the past. Mr. Nguyen commented that he did not have a list available of who received the donations; however, they are organizations in Orange County that provide a direct benefit to the community. Any money that is given to organizations outside of Orange County comes from the Students' portion. The list for this year's donations has not been prepared.

Council Member Leyes inquired how many events have parades. Staff noted that there are parades with the Strawberry Festival, the Korean Festival, and the Little League opening day ceremonies.

Mayor Dalton commented that the Strawberry Festival Association gives to organizations in Garden Grove, and nobody on staff gets paid. He indicated that the festivals should be placed in different categories and charged different fees.

Council Member Krebs commented that the Strawberry Festival is a big part of the community. It is a unique organization and everything they do is for the community.

Council Member Nguyen commented that high school clubs and organizations have booths and get their fundraising money from the Strawberry Festival. She also was in favor of categories to charge fees, commenting that the Arab American Festival and the Korean Festival cannot pay more money if they don't make any money.

Council Member Rosen commented that he could justify charging the Strawberry Festival Association one half of the cost because everything they make goes back to the community. He had a concern with having three categories, noting that they are using City resources and the City is subsidizing the Festivals. The Tet Festival does make a lot of money, but it does return money to charitable organizations.

Council Member Leyes commented that the festivals should not be treated differently. The money from the Strawberry Festival is

great, but you cannot ignore the \$20,000 that is a direct cost which would be a benefit to the taxpayers. He commented that it is not unreasonable to consider and implement a fee system to try and recover costs. The park fee can be charged as long as it has a direct nexus to using the park. You can put the Strawberry Festival and the Tet Festival in one category because they are doing a big business and making a lot of money. He questioned whether the taxpayers should be subsidizing a festival that makes a lot of money. He indicated that direct costs should be negotiated when the festival agreements are renewed.

Council Member Rosen commented that the City Council gets requests for use of the Showmobile at no charge, and maybe there could be a policy to pay a portion of the direct costs. He has opposed organizations using the Show Mobile when they are outside the city and do not have an exclusive benefit for Garden Grove residents.

Mayor Dalton requested that staff provide the City Council with copies of all the festival contracts.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING CHANGING THE ALLOTTED TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS AT CITY COUNCIL/AGENCY MEETINGS (F: 127.1) (XR: A-127.1)

The City Manager/Director commented that a survey was conducted of Orange County cities regarding their policy on the allotted time for public comments at City Council meetings. He noted that 60% of the cities only allow three minutes to speak. He suggested that in the interest of those people who are there for the City Council meetings, the time be modified from five minutes to three minutes.

Mayor Dalton commented that he has always been a proponent of "Oral Communications," which allows people to speak to the City Council. He was not in favor of reducing the time.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the City Council that the public continue to be allowed to speak five minutes under Oral Communications.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF A LEGISLATIVE BODY COMPRISED OF COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECTED BY DISTRICTS, AS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEYES (F: 58.1)

Council Member Leyes commented that the concept of City Council districts is something that the City Council should consider. He noted that it will not be the cure that people think it might be. It

would increase the number of legislators on the City Council. He noted that the only cure for what ails this democracy is more democracy. He commented that it would increase public representation. He indicated that it would be a good idea to put it on the ballot and save people the work of gathering signatures. He requested that this item be continued for further consideration.

LOBBYIST SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE (F: 67.1)

Council Member Rosen commented that he and Council Member Nguyen were appointed to this subcommittee and they are not prepared to provide a report at this time. He requested that this item be continued.

MATTERS FROM THE MAYOR, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS

Council Member Rosen requested that the repeal of Municipal Section 2.44.440 regarding the nepotism policy be added to an agenda. He also requested that a discussion of the Sister City Program be added to an agenda. And that a discussion and a report regarding parking fees be added to the same agenda when the City Manager's Community Financial Working Group gives its report. And finally, he requested that the pension issue also be listed on an agenda. (F: 53.1)

Council Member Krebs commented that he attended the last Planning Commission meeting and commended Community Development Director Susan Emery and her staff for a job well done. (F: 53.1) (XR: 122.10) (XR: 57.1)

Mayor Dalton commented that nobody told the Community Financial Working Group what to do. They were given direction to come up with ideas that could help the City and present those ideas to the City Council. He requested that the City Attorney review the current ordinance regarding chiropractic offices and massage parlors to see if it is adequate to address the problem of chiropractic offices fronting for massage parlors, and list it for the next agenda. (F: 53.1) (XR: 122.76)

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:43 p.m., the meeting was declared adjourned.

PRISCILLA STIERSTORFER
DEPUTY CITY CLERK/SECRETARY