



City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave.
Pomona, CA 91766

Meeting Minutes - **Draft**

City Council

Mayor Tim Sandoval
Council Member Rubio R. Gonzalez
Council Member Adriana M. Robledo
Council Member Cristina Carrizosa
Council Member Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole
Council Member Ginna E. Escobar
Council Member Robert S. Torres

VISION STATEMENT

Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.

Saturday, May 6, 2017

9:00 AM 100 Red Cross Cir, Pomona, CA 91768 Room 305B

Study Session

9:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sandoval called the Study Session to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 – Cristina Carrizosa
 Rubio Gonzalez
 Elizabeth Ontiveros-Cole
 Adriana Robledo
 Tim Sandoval
 Robert Torres

Absent: 1 - Ginna E. Escobar

City Staff Present:

Linda Lowry, City Manager
Arnold Alvarez-Glasman, City Attorney
Andrew Jared, Assistant City Attorney
Eva Buice, City Clerk
Mark Gluba, Deputy City Manager
Kirk Pelser, Deputy City Manager
Mark Lazzaretto, Development Services Director
Onyx Jones, Finance Director
Linda Matthews, Human Resources Director
John DePolis, Information Technology Director

Benita DeFrank, Neighborhood Services Director
Paul Capraro, Police Chief
Meg McWade, Public Works Director
Darron Poulsen, Water/Wastewater Director

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Sandoval led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one requested to speak.

COUNCIL WORKSHOP

1. Introductions and Purpose

Facilitator Steve PonTell introduced the goal of the meeting was to build Council consensus around broad policy issues rather than specific projects and separate district issues.

Mayor Sandoval also spoke about how the Council might come together to address Pomona issues.

Mr. PonTell noted the goal of the meeting was to start a conversation to lay a foundation. Council Members were asked to introduce themselves; explain why they ran for City Council and share something most people do not know about them.

At the end of the Mayor and Council comments Mr. PonTell encouraged the Elected's to take time to build relationships to strengthen their capacity to be a team. He noted a Board of Directors of a Corporation has to have relationships, understand strengths and experiences to be successful. The success of the City requires the Council to work together. Cities are unique entities - municipal corporations. Counties are arms of the state, cities are whole in and of itself with their own authority and ability to make decisions. As a Municipal Corporation, understanding the dynamics of business, the business you are in is solving the issues. Bankruptcy for many cities is not too far out on the horizon. Mr. PonTell stressed the need to keep the goals in line with the capacity.

2. Discuss City strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT analysis), City capacity (financial, human, other), and identify strategic priorities

Mr. PonTell led the Council in building a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). Council discussed each component and came up with the following:

Strengths of the City as an Organization:

1. Diversity of the employees, 500+ employees;
2. Resilience of the City and staff to react to tough economic times, react and recover;
3. Communication between Department Heads, Managers and staff;
4. Connection of employees with the City, many employees grew up in the City, went to school here and are invested in the community;
5. Experience;
6. Technical expertise.

Weaknesses:

1. Understaffed;
2. Outdated building/infrastructure;
3. Underfunded;
4. Council does not give straight direction, sometimes gives mixed messages, not one voice;
5. Inconsistencies between the City Code and the City Charter, this needs to be cleaned up as it has an impact on commissions. This is a legal requirement we need to follow as it provides an element of dysfunction;
6. Need clear channels to communicate needs;
7. Weak promotion of things we are doing right;
8. Website is an area for improvement.

Opportunity:

1. We can use technology to communicate with residents;
2. Transparency and neglected concerns can be taken care of by the new Council;
3. New Council can establish clear standards and raise expectations;
4. New Council can initiate or re-initiate relationships with CalPoly, the Fairplex and other organizations in the City;
5. New Council can take advantage of economic rebound;
6. The City can be more business friendly and implement fast and clear processes;
7. New Council can change the public perception of what people think by marketing the City as new people, new attitude;
8. Measure H, Measure A, Measure M bring new revenue opportunity to bring street, parks and homeless improvements;
9. New Council may be open to using eminent domain to improve the City;
10. Great customer service can become a goal;
11. New Council may take more action to deal with absentee slumlords and blighted conditions due to property owner neglect;
12. There can be a fresh start setting aside past differences;
13. There can be a refreshed Commitment to Values and what can be demonstrated and promoted;
14. Small businesses can be valued and promoted and treated equally in regards to Code Compliance.

Threats:

1. There is a perception of racism by the City;
2. There is an image of the city being riddled with violent crime, trash, run-down buildings, neglect and blight;
3. Threat of bankruptcy, pension costs and infrastructure costs, deferred maintenance and labor negotiations are real challenges along with the fire contract.
4. Outside influences can threaten the City's fiscal status, like high demand for housing the homeless, AB109, Prop 47 and Prop 57;
5. The City inherits social burdens from neighboring cities;
6. Talent leaves the City;
7. The City does not have a policy where we hire from Pomona thereby keeping as many dollars in the City as possible in Pomona;
8. The City awards big contracts to non-Pomona businesses; (Council inquired if the City could require subcontracting so some of the money can stay in Pomona, Mr. Pont ell commented that there are laws with regard to local hire preference);
9. Pomona Unified School District owns a lot of property which may not be developed in ways that the City favors;
10. Home ownership is not increasing and the city needs to encourage more home ownership and pride;
11. Homelessness, prostitution, and gangs threaten Pomona's image and increase the public safety cost burden;
12. The location of Pomona is a threat and an opportunity. We are at the far-east end of Los Angeles County and also the far end of San Bernardino County, but we are also a gateway. There is no room west of Phillips Ranch for development, but there is to the east. Business can grow east of Phillips Ranch. Another opportunity is to rebrand the City and market it; take advantage of the medical corridor. The medical schools and activities can be marketed along with the arts.

Mayor Sandoval noted Pomona has a strategic location, historically pre-WWII Pomona was agriculture. Post WWII was General Dynamics. Now there is an economic vacuum without an identified economic engine. We are in a strategic situation with world class universities, 3 medical facilities (Casa Colina, Pomona Valley and Western University); there is the potential to identify our economic engine through our assets which are located close to two Metrolink stations and the Gold Line through North Pomona.

Mr. PonTell mentioned that development of Pomona's economy is an overriding theme. Council Member Carrizosa said there is one university, Northwest, which is not really recognized or mentioned. The school is pretty expensive and is producing medical assistants and Licensed Vocational Nurses.

Finishing the SWOT Analysis Mr. PonTell suggested focusing on the City's capacity, what is happening and how? What would be valuable information for you to know about the city as an organization?

Council Member Carrizosa asked for a flow chart of the departments, names of the directors in order to understand the organization structure.

Mr. PonTell asked "How do you know you are understaffed?" Council responded that a lot more people are experiencing property crimes, and that Patrol is not getting out to areas.

Council Member Robledo said that our budget shows we are underfunded. You can look at surrounding cities of equal size and compare staffing levels that we can gauge.

We can measure the number of calls for service, we need more manpower. People are realizing we are short staffed.

Mr. PonTell noted that at the December 2010 retreat the Council focused on the Mission Statement, Five Year Vision, Core Values and Three Year Goals. From today's study session the next steps are:

1. Council to schedule one on one meetings with the City Manager
2. City Manager will designate who the Council should call for specific issues
 - City staff will create a timely feedback loop for Council to understand action taken
 - This will be part of the City's customer service process
3. On Critical issues the City Staff will
 - Give clear alternatives
 - In a timely manner
 - With community impact
 - Facilitate workshops as necessary
4. City Council will review Corridor Specific Plan and the General Plan
5. City will review consistency between Commission rules and codes
6. Council will review with Staff available GIS and other data and discuss which the Council would like to review
 - i.e., crime stats
 - Street repair analysis
7. Review and promote City Values
8. Financials
 - City is on a trajectory of spending money, pension obligations, current deferred maintenance costs, always in a deficit
 - High Cost of Fire Services - consider getting a bid from Cal Fire or San Bernardino Fire
 - Consider passing a measure in the future to add a City tax;
 - Make a plea to the unions to not ask for salary increases for 3 years
9. Needs assessment for all the parks.
10. Provide organizational chart.
11. The issue and importance of Communication protocols was discussed and what ideal communication protocols for the city included. Discussion about requests for service and chain of command, responsiveness to complaints is very important to Elected Representatives who also need to know when issues have been resolved.

Mr. PonTell talked about Council Members who get themselves in trouble may not recognize there is a fiduciary responsibility to the City as a whole, not just their individual Districts.

Council Member Carrizosa disagreed, noting the most important consideration to her is the citizens.

Mr. PonTell asked if the City is well financed and well run, doing all the things that the City has said for the city to do that is in the best interest of the residents, how do you make sure the city is a well-run business?

City Manager Lowry stated to account for performance on a District basis would require a level of data that we do not prepare. We do need to develop more data and use the GIS system as a tool to provide information on what we are doing in your districts without it being just complaint driven. There is a need for more training but we are so busy running behind the daily needs.

Mr. PonTell inquired if a schedule of repairs; graffiti removal and district improvement schedules would be beneficial as the expectations on cities are completely unrealistic.

Council Member Carrizosa noted a monthly map of crime would be helpful.

City Manager Lowry said she was hoping to get a sense of each Council Member's expectations by having conversations individually with each Council Member. She noted she could get the information if she knew more about what you need and what your agenda is. She noted the opportunity for conversation needed to be worked on so she can be connected to the Council as she believes her most important task is to be available to the Council.

Mayor Sandoval noted that teamwork of the City Council, being clear about goals; objectives and outcomes, communication, trust and respect are essential to every team.

RECESS:

The Study Session recessed into Closed Session at 1:40 p.m.

CLOSED SESSIONS

Public Comment:

No one requested to speak.

A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6)

Part Time Unrepresented Employees

Unrepresented Group A and B Employees Unrepresented Mid-Management Group C-2 Employees

Pomona City Employees' Association, a Chapter of Teamsters Local 1932

Pomona Mid-Management Confidential Employees Association (PMMCEA)

Pomona Police Officers Association (PPOA)

Pomona Police Managers Association (PPMA)

Labor Negotiators: Linda Lowry and Linda Matthews

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSIONS

Assistant City Attorney Jared stated that the City Council convened into Closed Session at 1:50 p.m. and that the items listed on the agenda had been announced prior to recessing into Closed Session and reported the following:

Item A: A briefing was provided and direction was given; however, no final action was taken and there is nothing further to report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p. m.

The next Special Meeting will be held on Monday, May 8, 2017 in the City Council Chambers 505 S. Garey Avenue, Pomona, California. The Open Session will commence at 7:00 p.m.