

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

ADJOURNED MEETING - MAY 28, 1986

An adjourned regular meeting of the City Council of the City of San Clemente conducted in the Council Chambers, Civic Center Building, 100 Avenida Presidio, was called to order by Mayor pro tem G. Scott Diehl.

PRESENT: Council Members - CARR (arrived at 7:35 p.m.)
DIEHL, KOESTER, LIMBERG, AND
MECHAM (arrived at 7:45 p.m.)

ABSENT: Council Members - NONE

Also Present: James B. Hendrickson, City Manager; Myrna Erway, City Clerk; Dean Porter; Finance Director; and certain other Staff members present in the audience.

BUDGET OVERVIEW BY CITY MANAGER

The City Manager presented the fiscal year 1986-87 budget in the amount of \$28,433,240 and reviewed the budget message, highlighting the three major themes for the coming fiscal year: (1) The need to begin addressing the City's long and short-term space needs; (2) The need to provide additional supervision in mid-management support throughout the organization; and (3) The need for a modest rate adjustment to the water fund.

Councilman Carr arrived at 7:35 p.m.

The City Manager also reviewed the recommendations as outlined in the budget message.

Mayor Mecham arrived at 7:45 p.m.

Police Department

The Police Chief reviewed the Police Department's \$3-1/2 million budget and outlined the department's goals for the coming year. Advised the major budget requests for the coming year are 4 sergeants, a new patrol car, a new service weapon, and a fingerprint system. Displayed the service weapon requested and described its advantages over the weapon currently used by the department. Responded to questions by Council.

Recessed at 8:10 p.m. and reconvened at 8:25 p.m. with all members present.

Fire Department

The Fire Chief described the life support program and the time constraints involved. Highlighted the major budget requests in the areas of emergency operations, paramedics, fire prevention, C.A.R.E.S. and emergency planning, indicating comparisons to the 1985-86 budget. Advised an additional Fire Inspector position is proposed due to increased development activity. The budget reflects a decrease in the SONGS, a grant for direct funding of the two emergency planning positions, and proposes the elimination of one of the positions, since funding for two positions can no longer be justified to the State. Responded to questions by Council.

Mayor Mecham stated he thought the growth and re-study of the evacuation plans should provide sufficient basis to justify two positions in emergency planning. Recommended with Councilwoman Koester concurring, a re-study of the evacuation plans based on current situations.

Public Services Department

The Public Services Director recommended reducing the number of divisions in that department from five to four by consolidating Parks and the Recreation Divisions into one Parks and Recreation Division. Reviewed the major budget requests for each division and the comparisons to the 1985-86 budget. Advised the Municipal Golf Course Curb & Gutter Improvements, Project No. 6-85, will be rebid and requested that \$54,700 be carried over from FY 1985-86 to FY 1986-87 for the Golf Division. Reviewed the capital outlay requests and justifications, and responded to questions by Council.

Community Development Department

The Community Development Director reviewed the budgets for the Planning, Building and Engineering Divisions, noting the increased costs due to the accelerated level of development activity. Stated the budget proposes moving the department to new facilities, two replacement vehicles, and the addition of a building inspector position.

The Community Development Director advised the Sewer Fund has absorbed major cost increases in the areas of maintenance, supplies, treatment materials, property and liability insurance, and electricity. Proposed eliminating 2-1/2 positions to avoid a 10.5% rate increase and to offset the past increases. Stated the sewer lines can no longer be cleaned once a year.

Reviewed the Water Fund, stating water, maintenance, and property and liability costs have increased significantly and have not been passed through to the consumer. Proposed a 4.5% water rate increase, and eliminating 3-1/2 positions, one of which is vacant, due to increased costs and to avoid a larger rate increase.

Council questioned the lab testing response time if done by contract and voiced concern for the potential decrease in personnel affecting the efficient operation of the sewer plant. The City Manager advised the reinstatement of the positions would require rate increases of 8-1/2% in the water fund and 3-1/2% in the sewer fund.

Esther Shillman opposed the elimination of the positions, supporting a rate increase to provide a good maintenance program, and recommended gradual annual rate increases in the future.

Don Colucci, representing the San Clemente City Employees Association, voiced concern for eliminating the positions, stating the system is already substandard due to lack of maintenance.

MOTION BY MAYOR MECHAM, SECOND BY COUNCILWOMAN KOESTER, CARRIED 5-0 to direct Staff to provide at the next budget session the budget impact of retaining the employees and any other cuts related to their retention, and the impact to the sewer fund or to a sewer increase. Council stated the report is to include information: (1) that will allow maintaining the same level of service that has been provided the last three years, the costs of which have been absorbed rather than passed on to the ultimate users; and (2) the amount of additional revenue proposed to be realized next year from the monthly sewer charge.

Council questioned how the reduced personnel will impact the water system. Was advised two operator positions to be eliminated tend to wells currently inoperational, but still in need of maintenance; also do quality testing. The personnel decrease will affect the distribution operators.

Don Colucci opposed the elimination of the positions, citing concern for personnel safety, liability, water quality and dry reservoirs.

Councilman Diehl, with Councilwoman Koester concurring, requested that Staff be directed to provide at the next budget session the budget impact of retaining the employees and any other cuts related to their retention and what that impact would be to the water fund or to a water increase.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN CARR, SECOND BY MAYOR MECHAM, CARRIED 5-0 to adjourn at 10:45 P.M.

CITY CLERK and ex-officio
Clerk of the City Council

MAYOR and President
of the City Council