

**WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2009
7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
P-12 BUILDING**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lunceford called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. OPENING CEREMONY

Mayor Lunceford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

A. Council Members Present: Jerry Vandergriff, Lester Lunceford, Juan Cardenas, Mary Brenneman, Shannon Tolman, Becky Cotner

B. Administration Present: Brenda Krol, City Clerk; Mark Earnest, City Manager

4. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Jerry Vandergriff made a motion to approve the special meeting agenda as written.

SECONDED: Becky Cotner seconded the motion.

VOTE: Jerry Vandergriff: Yes, Becky Cotner: Yes, Shannon Tolman: Yes, Mary Brenneman: Yes, Juan Cardenas: Yes, Lester Lunceford: Yes.

Motion passed 6-0.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS THE SUBJECT OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

A. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Jerry Vandergriff made a motion to go into executive session at 7:05 pm for matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the City.

SECONDED: Becky Cotner seconded the motion.

VOTE: Jerry Vandergriff: Yes, Becky Cotner: Yes, Shannon Tolman: Yes, Juan Cardenas: Yes, Mary Brenneman: Yes, Lester Lunceford: Yes.

Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION: Jerry Vandergriff made a motion to go back into regular session at 7:23 pm.

SECONDED: Becky Cotner seconded the motion.

VOTE: Jerry Vandergriff: Yes, Becky Cotner: Yes, Juan Cardenas: Yes, Shannon Tolman: Yes, Mary Brenneman: Yes, Lester Lunceford: Yes

Motion passed 6-0.

Juan Cardenas asked Mayor Lunceford what his title was with the Alaska Railroad.

Mayor Lunceford replied “Dock Manager.”

MOTION: Juan Cardenas made a motion to vote on whether Lester Lunceford has a possible conflict of interest.

SECONDED: Shannon Tolman seconded the motion.

VOTE: Juan Cardenas: Yes, Shannon Tolman: Yes, Becky Cotner: No, Mary Brenneman: Yes, Lester Lunceford: No, Jerry Vandergriff: No.

Motion failed 3-3.

Juan Cardenas said “we’re in an ugly spot Lester, I’m not going to give up the Whittier Manor for this deal, I’m not going to sacrifice those people and I’ll go on record and say it that way.”

Mayor Lunceford said “I’m not sacrificing anything either.

Juan Cardenas said “you’re sacrificing their quality of life by pushing this deal through with the Alaska Railroad and Lynden.”

Mayor Lunceford said “why don’t we tell the Alaska Railroad to dig up all of the railroad tracks just beyond the Whittier Manor.”

Juan Cardenas stated that he would like the Alaska Railroad and Lynden to give the City an alternative to their plan or put it to the people to vote on it since it will be impacting them to begin with.

Juan Cardenas asked Mayor Lunceford “what alternatives do you see for this issue?”

Mayor Lunceford replied “you should be asking Administration, the City Manager is the one that runs the City.”

Juan Cardenas said “I’m asking you, I want your input.”

Mayor Lunceford told Juan “I don’t know any more than you do.”

Juan Cardenas asked Mayor Lunceford “well how do you feel about this.”

Mayor Lunceford replied “I feel that sooner or later we are going to have to deal with the residents of Whittier Manor, one way or the other and I see this as an opportunity to light a fire under city administration’s ass to start building some housing out here so then we could accommodate any future problems.”

Mayor Lunceford stated that the lease runs out on Whittier Manor in 2019 and it is up to the Alaska Railroad on whether they want to renew that lease or not and they have been asking the City to look for alternative housing, that was the whole idea for Glacier Avenue development.

Juan Cardenas asked what the City would gain from this.

Vice Mayor Vandergriff stated that the City would start getting some property tax that we haven’t been getting before because Lynden never had to pay for anything but once they are on private property they will have to start paying property tax just like everyone else.

MOTION: Juan Cardenas made a motion to direct Administration to draft an ordinance to present at the next regular meeting for the Lynden and Alaska Railroad development plan to be put on the ballot for a special election.

SECONDED: Shannon Tolman seconded the motion.

VOTE: Juan Cardenas: Yes, Shannon Tolman: Yes, Becky Cotner: No, Mary Brenneman: Yes, Lester Lunceford: No, Jerry Vandergriff: No.

Motion failed 3-3.

Vice Mayor Vandergriff state that the problem he has with it is the fact that the whole sale that we have been going through for the last two and a half years, we are setting ourselves out legally liable for throwing a monkey wrench into this after Jim Jansen had already made commitments to buy Larry Gilman's property and the only way that the City Council would let Larry sell the property to him was if the road was relocated behind Larry's property.

Mayor Lunceford wanted to make it clear that his reason he voted no on opening this for public hearing is because the City has held countless public hearings and countless public meeting regarding this and no one ever shows up.

MOTION: Shannon Tolman made a motion to direct Administration to invite the head of Alaska Railroad property management to the next regular council meeting as well as the head of railroad management for Whittier to discuss transfers of property and any negotiations regarding parcels between the City and the Railroad.

SECONDED: Jerry Vandergriff seconded the motion.

VOTE: Shannon Tolman: Yes, Jerry Vandergriff: Yes, Lester Lunceford: Yes, Juan Cardenas: Yes, Becky Cotner: Yes, Mary Brenneman: Yes.

Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION: Shannon Tolman made a motion to direct Administration to invite Lynden to the next regular meeting to discuss this plan and to see if there are any alternatives to this plan.

SECONDED: Juan Cardenas seconded the motion.

VOTE: Shannon Tolman: Yes, Juan Cardenas: Yes, Lester Lunceford: Yes, Jerry Vandergriff: Yes, Mary Brenneman: Yes, Becky Cotner: Yes.

Motion passed 6-0.

6. CITIZENS' DISCUSSION (agenda items only)

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Juan Cardenas moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm.

SECONDED: Jerry Vandergriff seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Attest:

Krol
City Clerk

Lester Lunceford
Mayor

Brenda