

Lawndale Tribune

AND LAWNDALE NEWS

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Inside This Issue

Certified & Licensed Professionals	5
Classifieds	3
Food	5
Hawthorne Happenings ...	3
Legals	2, 6-7
Looking Up	4
Pets	8
Police Reports	7
Seniors	3
Sports	4

Culture Night Celebrates Family



William Anderson Elementary School hosted their annual Culture Night on Wednesday, April 20. Over 400 students and families, many wearing cultural attire, came together to celebrate and learn about the different cultures that make up the school. In addition to family run tables, families were treated to performances by the Lawndale Community Center Folklorico dance group and Aztec dancers. Photo by Anne Schmitt.

City Council to Review Proposed Budget from the Lawndale Finance Committee

By Haleemon Anderson

The Lawndale Finance Committee delivered on its mandate to bring a balanced budget to the City Council, presenting a special interactive workshop at Monday's meeting. The \$13.3 million proposed budget for 2016-17 is under review by the council, and will be brought forth for action no later than June 30.

City Manager Stephen Mandoki began the briefing, pointing out an operating surplus of \$50,000 not currently obligated. "We have taken many measures," Mandoki said. "To fund reductions and present you a balanced budget, and we have."

Mandoki said savings were realized from a tech position in the sheriff's office being absorbed into a single post. He also pointed out the need to reconsider funding staff, with Rudolph Park and the new teen center coming on line this fiscal year.

Finance Director Kenneth Louie presented the budget overview, noting the city's major revenues remain solid, with general fund revenues at a pace with projected expenditures. Lawndale continues to hold in reserve more than 100 percent of its total budget, as mandated. The city's hefty general fund holds an estimated balance of \$17.7 million, generated through property taxes, sales tax, UUT and motor vehicles fees.

Louie cited a report from the California Policy Center, ranking Lawndale in the 95th percentile of healthiest cities, from a financial standpoint. Other highlights included \$171,000 in storm drain expenditures; an anticipated update of building fees to match county funds; and a significant increase to the sheriff's budget. The total increase to the sheriff's department represents \$309,000, including a base contract increase of 3.7 percent and an increase to 9.5 percent, up from 6 percent last year, to the liability trust fund.

Other detailed reports from city departments followed. Debbie Holland, municipal services manager, pointed out a line item request to purchase a replacement staff vehicle. The \$30,000 purchase of a hybrid vehicle will come from Air Quality Management (AQDM) grant funds.

Tom Strickfadden, cable television supervisor, was excited to report reductions in Lawndale's cable budget. "This year, we're gonna save a lot of money," Strickfadden said.

Lawndale operates two cable stations (channels 3 and 22). Last year's budget support for the department included a one-time \$600,000 contribution for capital upgrades, which won't be needed in this budget.

Reporting on the Community Services department, Manager Mike Estes noted a \$13,000 budget reduction, "with no reduction in services." Estes said his office achieved the savings by adjusting staffing at the three city-owned parks according to community flow on varying days. The council responded, saying that coverage at the parks needs to be assured from 10 a.m. until dusk, to guard against undesirable activity.

"We'll have more activity, if there's no personnel," Councilman Dan Reid said. Staff hours might be diverted from the community centers to provide additional coverage at the parks, Councilman James Osborne said.

Mandoki said the committee could look at the surplus funds and bring a recommendation back to the council.

Estes also reported community services will purchase two new vehicles, using grant monies from Proposition A. "Prop A is strictly for transportation," Estes said. Citing that costs for a multi-use staff vehicle, and an 18-person transit van will not come out of general funds.

Public Works Director Frank Senteno presented a "wish list," a spate of unfunded

projects including a \$10,000 concrete grinder and \$100,000 to replace the marquee over Hawthorne with a new LED system. Senteno noted that the annual street maintenance program is on pace to achieve an 80 percent pavement condition index by 2021. "That's better than most cities," Senteno said. Mentioning several Lawndale neighbors.

Other unfunded public works projects include the City Facilities Assistance Master Plan and ADA transfer plan; railroad storm drain culvert repairs; and replacement of the community centers' HVAC controls. Senteno said he particularly favored funding an additional project--the CNG fueling station replacement, which has a price tag of \$540,000 over 15 years.

Assistant City Clerk Pam Giamario gladly reported a savings of \$55,000. "There's no election," Giamario said. "There's a few changes, but otherwise everything is completely status quo." Reports from the Finance and Information Technology (IT) were reviewed without further comment.

Mandoki recapped the comments, noting the council's requests to discontinue sidewalk sales and associated promotional costs; revisit funding for staffing at the parks; and consider allocations for the four unfunded projects. The council thanked Finance for its work, with Osborne noting how often members hear that Lawndale is the subject of envy for its fiscal responsibility. Mayor Pullen agreed, saying, "Our task is to look at and under every penny. The money is there to serve the people, not just to sit in our coffers."

In other business, the council recessed for a brief closed session regarding labor relations pursuant to government code 54957.6, after which there was no reportable action.

The next meeting of the City Council will be Monday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lawndale City Hall council chambers. •

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Sunny
70°/57°



Saturday
Partly
Cloudy
70°/61°



Sunday
Partly
Cloudy
70°/61°



PETSPETS **Pets** PETSPETS

Purrrfect Companions



Scout

Share springtime with a wonderful feline friend and adopt your purr-fect match.

Scout is a classic Tortie - confident, affectionate, devoted, somewhat silly, and vocal. She loves being cuddled and doing things with you such as sitting on your lap while you are working or napping next to you or watching television. Still a kitten, Scout is a super-duper purrer. She loves her sisters, Marvel and Linden, and could sleep with them in your sock drawer for hours. She loves socks and will gladly take them all over your house for you. This curious kitten would be a great sister to another kitten or young adult cat. Of course, her preference would be to be adopted with one of her own sisters, Marvel or Linden, as they look to each other for most things

Marvel is a goofy, fun girl who loves cuddles! Her favorite game is to pounce on your feet under a blanket. Her second favorite thing to do is to lick your hands and fingers and toes. She gets along with everyone: her sisters Linden and Scout, the resident adult cats, and her foster humans. Happy to run and play and cuddle like most kittens do, Marvel does them more! Black cats are harder to find homes for, so please consider adopting little Marvel.

Linden is polite, affectionate, charming, and sometimes a bit shy. She likes to be up high in her cat tree looking out at the world. Like her sisters Scout and Marvel, she is a champion purrer. They are her best friends and if the house is quiet that means they are sleeping together in your sock drawer. Linden would be a great sister cat to a social, easy-going kitten or young adult who could be my mentor. Her preference, of course, would be to go with her siblings, but she is realistic about someone adopting three kittens at once!



Linden



Anabel

Anabel was living on the street, thin and scared. But after a few weeks in a loving foster care, she regained her weight, the glossiness of her beautiful coat, and her trust in people. Anabel is very affectionate and friendly, enjoys playing with people or by herself, wants to play with other cats, and loves to cuddle and sleep with her person. The markings of her fur, her length, and her intelligence suggest she is a Bengal mix. She will stand up, wrap her front paws around a door knob, and open an interior door! Anabel is a friend to everyone...other cats, people and even small dogs if they are a friend to her.

Anita is a very sweet little girl who loves to play and run. Her favorite toys are laser lights and tiny crumpled balls of paper or tinfoil; she'll chase them around the house and even carry them in her mouth. Anita is a very curious little kitty, but knows not to jump up on most tables or the kitchen counters. With a gentle spray from a squirt gun, she'll learn where she is not wanted. She can be a little shy with new people, and a bit skittish if she feels she's being chased or yelled at, but with a bit of gentle lovingness, she'll warm right up and really does love attention and affection. Anita would love another female kitty friend to play with, and she does get along with most dogs (provided they won't chase her!). She would fit right into a home with another cat or dog friend, but no young children please. (She was severely traumatized by young children at her first forever-home.)

Goldie was an abandoned kitten, just appearing one day in her foster's garden. She is very cute and quite affectionate. As a kitten teenager, Anabel is very playful. Her ideal new home for her would be with a kitty playmate, preferably not with small children or a dog.



Goldie

These kitties are available for adoption through Kitten Rescue, one of the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All of our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, dewormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see these or our other kittens and cats, please check our website www.kittenrescue.org or email us at mail@kittenrescue.org. Your tax deductible donations for the rescue and care of our cats and kittens can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to Kitten Rescue, 914 Westwood Blvd. #583, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

On Saturdays, we have adoptions from

noon to 3:30 p.m. in Westchester at 8655 Lincoln Blvd. just south of Manchester Ave. and also in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela Ave, just south of Venice Boulevard. Our website lists additional adoption sites and directions to each location. Be kind. Save a life. Support animal rescue. •

*Pets can get loose
or lost through mishaps
and travel quickly.
Microchip: it works!*



Anita



Marvel

THE YELLOW DOG PROJECT.com

If you see a dog with a **YELLOW RIBBON** or something yellow on the leash, **this is a dog who needs some space.** Please do not approach this dog with your dog. Please maintain distance or give this dog and his/her person time to move out of your way.



There are many reasons why a dog may need space:
HEALTH ISSUES
IN TRAINING
BEING REHABILITATED
SCARED OR REACTIVE AROUND OTHER DOGS

THANK YOU!
Those of us who own these dogs
appreciate your help and respect!
Illustrated by Lili Chin www.doggiedrawings.net