

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 17, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location

El Cerrito City Hall
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

Bill Jones – Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Greg Lyman
Councilmember Rebecca Benassini

Councilmember Ann Cheng
Councilmember Janet Abelson

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Abelson, Benassini, Lyman and Mayor Jones.

Absent: Councilmember Cheng

7:00 p.m. CONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Jones convened the regular City Council meeting at 7:03 p.m.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** was led by Councilmember Abelson

2. COUNCIL / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Abelson announced the environmental Green Team's Baxter Creek Work Parties on May 5 and June 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the intersection of the Ohlone Greenway and Conlon Avenue, just south of where BART crosses San Pablo. More information can be obtained by calling 215-4350 or emailing green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. Additionally, the celebration of Earth Day will occur in two parts this year. On April 21, 2012 there will be work parties. Volunteers who have not signed up can come to the Community Center at 9:00 a.m. for an assignment or sign up ahead of time online at earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. There will be a free volunteer lunch at noon at the Community Center with lots of activities for kids.

On Sunday, April 22 there will be a celebration and ribbon cutting for the City's new Recycling Center. The Recycling Center is platinum level LEED certified, the highest green building standard. The new recycling center will be a very special place that will offer an opportunity to see innovative green building design and will also incorporate new ideas for recycling and reuse.

Mayor Jones noted that the City Council recently received petitions from several residents regarding a plastic bag ban. Mayor Jones explained that El Cerrito is doing something about the issue in association with RecycleMore.

Mayor Pro Tem Lyman stated that RecycleMore is in the process of completing the

environmental review for the plastic bag ban. RecycleMore hired a consultant to conduct an environmental review of the process and craft legislation that five cities can adopt. The consultant has completed the initial checklist and is in the process of completing a draft mitigating negative declaration for consideration which will hopefully be adopted at the Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) Board level. Draft legislation will then be provided to cities to consider in the near future.

Mayor Jones stated that the City is joining up with the Integrated Waste Management Authority so the expense to each city is minimized.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Al Miller, El Cerrito, reported that the El Cerrito Patch is celebrating its first birthday. Mr. Miller thanked editor Charles Burress for the amount of energy and time that has been put into creating the Patch and noted that the Patch is very valuable to the community because the Patch reaches out and contacts a large part of the community that are not normally involved in civic government news and events. Mr. Miller also expressed his support for Consent Calendar Item No. 5(D), the resolution in support of West Contra Costa Unified School Measure K.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. HEAL Cities Campaign – Presentation of certificate designating El Cerrito is an Active City.

Presenter: Suzanne Lindheim, M.D., Kaiser Permanente, presented the City Council with the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Cities Campaign Certificate of Recognition designating the City of El Cerrito as an Active HEAL City and for joining HEAL and adopting policies to fight the obesity epidemic.

Action: Received certificate

B. San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Public Art Project Update

Receive an informational presentation by artists Jonathan Russell and Saori Ide about the San Pablo Avenue Public Art Project.

Presenters: Suzanne Iarla, Community Outreach Specialist; Nancy Donovan, Vice Chair, Arts & Culture Commission, Jonathan Russell and Saori Ide, Artists.

Action: Received presentation

5. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR – Item Nos. 5A through 5E

Moved, seconded (Lyman/Abelson; Ayes – Councilmembers Abelson, Benassini, Lyman and Mayor Jones; Noes – None; Absent – Councilmember Cheng) and carried to approve Consent Calendar Item No. 5A through 5B in one motion as indicated below. Item Nos. 5C and 5E were removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of Councilmember Lyman. Item No. 5D was removed from the Consent Calendar by Mayor Jones. Item Nos. 5C, 5D and 5E were approved in one motion (Lyman/Abelson; Ayes – Councilmembers Abelson, Benassini, Lyman and Mayor Jones; Noes – None; Absent – Councilmember Cheng) and voted on together as indicated below.

A. Minutes for Approval

Approve the following: 1) April 3, 2012 Special Joint City Council – West Contra Costa County Unified School District Board of Education meeting minutes; and 2) April 3, 2012 Special City Council meeting minutes.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. Earth Day Proclamation

Approve a proclamation proclaiming April 21, 2012 as Earth Day in the City of El Cerrito and encouraging all residents and businesses to help make El Cerrito a greener, healthier, more sustainable place for all.

Action: Approved proclamation.

C. Proclamation Recognizing Cynthia LeBlanc

Approve a proclamation commending Cynthia LeBlanc, EdD. on her appointment as Chair of the National American Cancer Society Board of Directors and on her designation as a St. George National Award recipient, the American Cancer Society's highest national honor, for her dedicated and outstanding volunteer work and significant contributions in working to achieve the American Cancer Society's mission to save lives.

Action: Removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of Mayor Pro Tem Lyman. Moved, seconded (Lyman/Abelson; Ayes – Abelson, Benassini, Lyman and Mayor Jones; Noes – None; Absent – Councilmember Cheng) to approve the proclamation as amended by Mayor Pro Tem Lyman as follows:

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of El Cerrito, does hereby recognize and commend Dr. LeBlanc on her appointment as Chair of the National American Cancer Society Board of Directors and on her designation as a St. George National Award recipient, the American Cancer Society's highest national honor, for her dedicated and outstanding volunteer work and significant contributions in working to achieve the American Cancer Society's mission to save lives.

D. Support for West Contra Costa Unified School District Measure K

Adopt a resolution encouraging the El Cerrito electorate to review the language and arguments concerning the WCCUSD parcel tax measure and thereafter support the measure on June 5, 2012 because this parcel tax renewal/extension measure is not only beneficial, but is essential to the quality of life of El Cerrito residents.

Speaker: Bruce Harter, Ph.D., Superintendent, West Contra Costa Unified School District, thanked the City Council for considering the item on this evening's agenda. Dr. Harter stated that the measure is very important to children and will help fill the gap from state budget cuts that have occurred over the past four years. The measure will also help the school district sustain programs that have been in place in West Contra Costa, particularly in El Cerrito.

Action: Removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of Mayor Jones to allow Superintendent Harter and Councilmember Benassini an opportunity to comment on the item. Moved, seconded (Lyman/Abelson; Ayes – Abelson, Benassini, Lyman and Mayor Jones; Noes – None; Absent – Councilmember Cheng) to adopt Resolution No. 2012-23 as amended by Mayor Pro Tem Lyman to change the word "addition" to "additional."

E. Choose Civility Initiative

At the request of Mayor Jones and Councilmember Abelson adopt a resolution recognizing and supporting the “Choose Civility” initiative and encouraging others to participate in this campaign through activities that demonstrate to the public the importance of civility.

Action: Removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of Mayor Pro Tem Lyman and Councilmember Abelson. Moved, seconded (Lyman/Abelson: Ayes – Abelson, Benassini, Lyman and Mayor Jones; Noes – None; Absent – Councilmember Cheng) to adopt Resolution No. 2012–24 as amended by Mayor Pro Tem Lyman to modify the fifth recital of the resolution as follows:

~~WHEREAS, the American people strongly believe that every citizen is responsible for improving such behavior; and the majority of Americans understand each of us is responsible for improving such behavior~~

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

7. POLICY MATTERS

A. City Council Matters

1) Ohlone Gardens Affordable Housing Project

The City Council, acting as housing successor, will consider adoption of a resolution: a) Authorizing the execution of an amendment to the existing loan agreement with the Ohlone Gardens, L.P. for the Ohlone Gardens Affordable Housing Project, 6431 and 6495 Portola Drive; and b) Approving the proposed replacement plan for special needs units and supportive services plan.

Presenters: Hilde Myall, Senior Housing Programs Manager with comments by Lisa Motoyama, Director of Development and Matt Lewis, Project Manager, Resources for Community Development.

Action: Moved, seconded (Abelson/Benassini; Ayes – Councilmembers Abelson, Benassini, Lyman and Mayor Jones; Noes – None; Absent – Councilmember Cheng) and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2012–25.

2) Selection of El Cerrito Wall of Fame Council Subcommittee

Confirm two City Council appointments to the El Cerrito Wall of Fame Subcommittee for the purposes of reviewing nominations and returning to the City Council with a recommendation to consider at an upcoming meeting.

Action: Mayor Jones confirmed the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem Lyman and Councilmember Abelson to the City Council Wall of Fame Subcommittee.

B. City Acting as Successor Agency to the Former El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency

Authorize Submission of a Draft Second Recognized Obligations Payment Schedule and Approve the Successor Agency Fiscal Year 2012–13 Budget

Adopt two Successor Agency resolutions reviewing and authorizing submittal of the draft Second Recognized Obligations Payment Schedule required under AB1x26, and approving the Successor Agency’s Administrative Budget for Fiscal Year 2012–13.

Presenter: Lori Treviño, Economic Development Manager.

Actions: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Abelson; Ayes – Councilmembers Abelson, Benassini, Lyman and Mayor Jones; Noes – None; Absent – Councilmember Cheng) to adopt Successor Agency Resolution No. 2012–02SA approving the Successor Agency’s Administrative Budget for Fiscal Year 2012–13.

Moved, seconded (Lyman/Abelson; Ayes – Councilmembers Abelson, Benassini, Lyman and

Mayor Jones; Noes – None; Absent – Councilmember Cheng) to adopt Successor Agency Resolution No. 2012–03SA authorizing submittal of the Draft Second Recognized Obligations Payment Schedule.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Item No. 4(A) HEAL Cities Campaign

1. Healthy Eating Active Living Cities Campaign Certificate of Recognition designating the City of El Cerrito as an Active HEAL City for joining HEAL and adopting policies to fight the obesity epidemic – *Submitted by Suzanne Lindheim, M.D., Kaiser Permanente.*

Item No. 7(B) Successor Agency – Authorize Submission of a Draft Second Recognized Obligations Payment Schedule and Approve the Successor Agency Fiscal Year 2012–13 Budget

2. Revised Resolution – *Submitted by Lori Treviño, Economic Development Manager.*

Other

3. El Cerrito Green Community Baxter Creek Work Party – *Submitted by Councilmember Abelson.*

8. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

A. Mayor Jones reported that the Design Review Board met and considered Chipotle which will be located on the corner of Carlson and San Pablo Boulevards. Chipotle will appear on the Planning Commission agenda tomorrow night. Chipotle is a very successful business nationwide. The Oversight Board to the Successor Agency to the former El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency met April 4, 2012. There are seven members. Some of the members are former Councilmembers who represent different groups. Mayor Jones said the Board is a good group who looked at the information very seriously.

B. Mayor Pro Tem Lyman reported that the Planning Commission did not meet last month but will be meeting April 18, 2012 to consider three different applications. The West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority Board met and received updates on the plastic bag ban and also on the requests for statements of interest for post January 2014 waste processing. Everything seems to be going smoothly. Mayor Pro Tem Lyman said he will keep everyone posted.

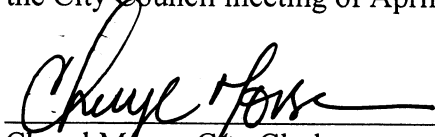
C. Councilmember Abelson reported that the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) sponsored a Friday evening showing of the film “Mad City Chickens” at City Hall. The film was well attended and offered an opportunity for an interesting exploration and discussion regarding the keeping of urban chickens including dialog with a local veterinarian who provides care for birds. The EQC also discussed Earth Day Green Team updates. The Committee on Aging met and received a presentation on BEST, a senior care provision that offers a model currently operating in Berkeley where people work together to share resources and abilities in a bartering arrangement. Some members of the El Cerrito community are already participating in this program in Berkeley.

D. Councilmember Benassini stated that none of her groups met and that she will have an update at the next meeting.

E. Councilmember Cheng – *Absent*

9. **ADJOURNED CITY COUNCIL MEETING** at 8:53 p.m. in memory of former El Cerrito Mayor Larry Damon.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the City Council meeting of April 17, 2012 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.



Cheryl Morse, City Clerk



William C. Jones III, Mayor