

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 16, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Meeting Location
El Cerrito City Hall
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

Ann Cheng – Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Bill Jones
Councilmember Rebecca Benassini

Councilmember Janet Abelson
Councilmember Greg Lyman

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Abelson, Benassini, Jones, Lyman and Mayor Cheng all present.

7:30 p.m.

CONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Cheng convened the Regular City Council meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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

2. COUNCIL / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Scott Hanin, City Manager, stated that the budget for the next fiscal year will be presented at the June 6 City Council meeting. Mr. Hanin informed the Council that Governor Brown's May Revise was distributed today and includes a proposal to eliminate redevelopment. There is also significant exposure to public safety in the area of booking fee reimbursement and law enforcement grants amounting to an estimated \$450,000 of exposure to the El Cerrito Police Department if the Governor's proposal is accepted. The State budget may have a significant effect on the city's budget and the fight to protect local government revenues continues.

Councilmember Abelson reported on her attendance at the City's May 4th Open House Senior Center Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. This event which expresses appreciation for the City's many volunteers was well attended. Councilmember Abelson reminded all that the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee is hosting community workshops to discuss ways to improve access to public transit in West County on May 24 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The workshop will include discussion of West County BART Stations, transit hubs, bicycle needs, parking, employer shuttles, signage and other ways to promote alternatives to driving. The City will be offering an Un-waste Recycling Event on June 4-5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Department of Motor Vehicles on Kearney Street. Items that can be recycled at this event include electronics, clothes, textiles, mattresses and more. Information is available on the city's

website.

Councilmember Lyman reported that the Crime Prevention Committee (CPC) is planning its August 2, 2011 National Night Out event. The CPC is seeking people to host parties that evening. Interested residents can sign up on the City's website or at the CPC's booth at the July 4th Fair. Councilmember Lyman also acknowledged the May 9th Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Recycling Center. Construction has started and everyone can look forward to using the new facility in the New Year. Additionally, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) will be conducting a public hearing on rate increases on June 14, 2011 at 1:15 p.m. at its offices located at 325 11th Street in Oakland. EBMUD is scheduling a 6 % increase in FY 2012 and another 6% increase in FY 2013. Councilmember Lyman concluded by commenting on the City's May 14 Spring Fling event along San Pablo Avenue. It was exciting to see all the improvements along the Avenue and listen to the oral history related to the new historic pavers. Councilmember Lyman strongly recommended that everyone walk the Avenue, visit area merchants and begin to embrace the place that is San Pablo Avenue.

Mayor Cheng echoed the success of the Spring Fling which she hopes will be an annual event. Over thirty businesses participated. There were musical events and free giveaways. It was beautiful to watch family reunions of multiple generations including families with a long history in El Cerrito and see the Avenue become an outdoor community living room. Mayor Cheng thanked all staff and Councilmembers past and present for their efforts including the restoration of creeks and historic theater, improved store fronts, and for transportation and street improvements. Mayor Cheng also highlighted the new historic pavers. MP3 files featuring oral histories that tie to the pavers can be downloaded from the city's website.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Lori Berry, San Pablo, representing *Unity in the Community*, stated that the organization is having an event on October 8, 2011 at the Richmond Civic Center Auditorium. Ms. Berry explained that she is trying to unify communities together to address varying needs within West County and showcase local non-profits and resources such as senior resources, disabled resources and educational funding and resources. This event will showcase one-hundred non-profit organizations and will be a free all day fun family event with activities for families, food, entertainment and breakout areas to discuss community issues and provide access to services. Ms. Berry stated that her organization is looking for assistance and partnership with El Cerrito.

Gene Berry, San Pablo, explained that the idea of the event is to bring all non-profit organizations together in one central place for the community. Mr. Berry stated that he is not looking for financial assistance necessarily but for corporate sponsorship, brain power, event planning experience and recommendations so that the event works best. This will be the first of an annual event and he would like each city to have a table.

Al Miller, El Cerrito, commented on the proclamation congratulating Officer Chalk on his recognition by the Exchange Club of Albany-El Cerrito as Officer of the Year. Mr. Miller thanked Officer Chalk for his efforts in reducing drunk driving incidents and making the city's streets safer.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Portola Middle School Academic Program – *Presentation by Denise VanHook, Principal and Matthew Burnham, Vice Principal, Portola Middle School.*

Speakers: Nakayla Mejia and Manja Mopehthomas discussed their positive experiences at Portola Middle School and expressed their appreciation for the educators and all the opportunities and programs provided by the school.

Action: Presentation heard.

5. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR – Item Nos. 5A and 5B

Moved, seconded (Jones/Lyman) and carried unanimously to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 5A and 5B in one motion as indicated below.

A. Minutes for Approval

Approve the minutes of the May 2, 2011 City Council meeting.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. Proclamation Congratulating Officer Chalk on his Recognition by Exchange Club of Albany–El Cerrito as “Officer of the Year”

Approve a proclamation congratulating Officer Robert J. Chalk, Jr. upon the occasion of his recognition by the Exchange Club of Albany–El Cerrito as Officer of the Year on June 1, 2011. The City Council extends sincere appreciation to Officer Chalk for his devotion to the mission, vision, and values of the Police Department. He truly epitomizes community-based policing in the City of El Cerrito.

Action: Approved proclamation.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Confirm the Diagram and Levy the Assessment for Fiscal Year 2011–12 Landscape and Lighting Assessment District No. 1988–1

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt a resolution setting the annual Landscape and Lighting Assessment for Fiscal Year 2011–12 as \$72 per residential parcel and as noted in the Engineer’s Report for other classes of properties.

Presenter: Mary Dodge, Administrative Services Director.

Mayor Cheng opened the public hearing. No speakers.

Moved, seconded (Lyman/ Benassini) and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/ Benassini) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2011–32.

B. Confirm the Method of Collecting the Storm Drain Reconstruction Fees

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt a resolution approving the Storm Drain Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2011–12 and directing that Storm Drain Fees be collected on the property tax rolls.

Presenter: Mary Dodge, Administrative Services Director.

Mayor Cheng opened the public hearing. No speakers.

Moved, seconded (Lyman/Jones) and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

Action: Moved, seconded (Jones/Abelson) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2011–33.

7. POLICY MATTERS

A. Ohlone Greenway Arterial Crossings and Arlington Boulevard Safety Improvement Projects

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with BKF Engineers in an amount not to exceed \$49,902 for the Ohlone Greenway Arterial Crossings Safety Improvements Project and \$24,266 for the Arlington Boulevard at Madera and Brewster Drives Safety Improvements Project to provide engineering and design services, and to approve potential change orders in an amount not to exceed \$7,000 and \$3,500 respectively.

Presenter: Yvetteh Ortiz, Engineering Services Manager.

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Benassini) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2011-34.

B. Purchase of Light Emitting Diode Light Fixtures for Ohlone Greenway

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Omega Pacific Electrical Supply for the purchase of 140 Light Emitting Diode (LED) light fixtures in an amount not to exceed \$104,000 for replacement lighting on the Ohlone Greenway.

Presenter: Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst.

Action: Moved, seconded (Abelson/Lyman) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2011-35.

8. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

A. Mayor Cheng thanked city staff for their work on the wonderful *Bike to Work Day*. There were 370 bikers from 6:30-9:00 a.m., an increase of seventy bikers from last year. Almost thirty students visited the Energizer Station at El Cerrito High School. Bicycle-friendly businesses donated coupons worth approximately \$70. A drawing will take place at the biking movie at the Cerrito Theater on May 24. Winners will be chosen from a random drawing of those who completed a survey related to bicycle use in El Cerrito. Mayor Cheng commented that *Bike to Work Day* was a great event, that she met many community members including the editor of Bicycle Times who just moved into town and that she looks forward to seeing the bicycle community grow. Mayor Cheng also reported on her attendance at the Contra Costa Mayors Conference in Oakley which featured Amy Worth, Mayors Conference representative for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Julie Peirce, the Conference's Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) representative. The Conference received a presentation on the initial stages of the sustainable communities strategy process. Mayor Cheng encouraged all to take a look at onebayarea.org to see what is being proposed for a county wide concept that was built off of the Shaping our Futures Smart Growth Visioning Scenarios from the early 2000s as well as all nineteen city's priority development areas to see where there will be growth in the region. Mayor Cheng attended a community kick-off meeting in Concord. Unfortunately there were only 2-3 West Contra Costa County representatives out of the sixty people in attendance. It was an interesting dialog to match all the varying perspectives of a diverse County. Mayor Cheng encouraged all to pay attention to the process and stated that the West Contra Costa County voice is muted and is not well represented. Mayor Cheng concluded by thanking organizers for their work on the Chung Mei Orphanage History Event. Two hundred people attended a tour of the Chung Mei Orphanage Site which included talks by two alumni.

B. Councilmember Abelson – No report

C. Councilmember Benassini reported that the Financial Advisory Board (FAB) met on May

2 and May 10. The FAB engaged in spirited discussions about the budget. Councilmember Benassini expects the FAB to make recommendations and comments on the budget at its May 31 meeting.

D. Mayor Pro Tem Jones – No report.

E. Councilmember Lyman reported that the CPC is continuing its work on National Night Out as previously reported. On April 26, 2011, the Park and Recreation Commission took action to support Proposition 84 which staff will be bringing to Council in the future. The Design Review Board looked at signage for the new recycling center at its last meeting.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Item #4 **Portola Middle School Academic Program** – *Presentation by Denise VanHook, Principal, Portola Middle School.*

1. Powerpoint Presentation – *Submitted by Denise VanHook.*

Item #7(B) **Purchase of Light Emitting Diode Light Fixtures for Ohlone Greenway**

2. Powerpoint Presentation – *Submitted by Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst*

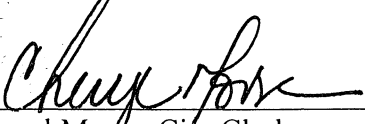
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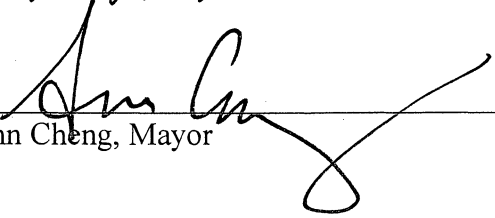
Unity in Community Project – One Love

3. Introduction, information and documentation packet – *Submitted by Lori and Gene Berry.*

9. ADJOURNED CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 8:58 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the City Council meeting of May 16, 2011 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.


Cheryl Morse, City Clerk


Ann Cheng, Mayor