EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL
EL CERRITO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 2, 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

Agency Chair/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 City Council Meeting at 7:33 p.m.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** was led by Mayor Pro Tem Jones.

2. **COUNCIL / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Abelson thanked everyone for their participation in the Earth Day Events including community gardening and removal of invasive scotch broom. The Recycling Center was closed all day today and will open tomorrow in preparation of the rebuilding of a new Recycling Center. The public can still continue to drop off recyclables and is invited to the May 9 Groundbreaking Ceremony at 8:00 a.m. An orientation for the interim drop off site is at 9:00 a.m. Councilmember Abelson expressed her appreciation for everyone's cooperation as the city works through the building of a new Recycling Center. On May 24th the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) will be hosting a showing of the film *Bejing Bicycle* at the Cerrito Theater at 7 p.m. in recognition of Bike to Work Month.

Councilmember Abelson also reported on her attendance at a luncheon in which State Controller John Chiang spoke. Mr. Chiang said the state is having a problem paying its bills and stated that there is an unclaimed property website http://www.sco.ca.gov, that can be searched by individual or organization name to see if the state is holding any money that may belong to you. Additionally, Councilmember Abelson attended the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Spring Assembly on ABAG's 50th Anniversary with Mayor Cheng. The Assembly

received a presentation entitled, *Why the Bay Area Needs to Act as a City State* – a united organization rather than separate organizations. Mayors Lee (San Francisco), Reed (San Jose), Quan (Oakland), and Peirce (Redwood City) spoke on providing solutions to local challenges.

Councilmember Abelson also attended California League of California Cities Policy Committee meetings in Ontario, CA. She reported on discussions that occurred at the Community Services, Administrative Services and Joint Policy Committee meetings. Cities are concerned that unresolved budget issues will impact city operations and redevelopment. The May Revise of the state budget should be out in another week and the belief is that the budget is in worse shape than initially thought. Pension reform was also discussed. The Community Services Policy Committee discussed AB438 which involves privatizing library services however this legislation has since been withdrawn. The Administrative Services Policy Committee discussed pending governance transparency legislation, particularly whether cities could implement pending legislation, impacts on City Clerks and offered recommendations for changes. The Committee also discussed recent Fair Political Practices Commission activities and positions that the League had prepared for the National League of Cities Conference. Position papers have been prepared on protecting local revenues, transportation reauthorization, full funding for critical federal programs and creating sustainable communities.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones reported on his attendance at BART's Seat Lab. BART is in great need of turning over its fleet and is designing trains for the future. New cars are scheduled to be replaced by 2017. The public is encouraged to attend future BART events and comment if additional opportunities arise. Mayor Pro Tem Jones highlighted recent activities of city staff by reporting that the El Cerrito street rehabilitation program has been recognized on the cover of a national trade publication and features an article by Public Works Director Jerry Bradshaw. Dwayne Dalman, Economic Development Specialist, recently spoke at a statewide Local Economic Development Conference. Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager, is presenting in San Jose at the Annual Women's Leadership Summit as part of the Municipal Management Association of Northern California. These individuals are doing a very good job for the city, are recognized for their expertise regionally and nationally and are congratulated for their professional advancement. Mayor Pro Tem Jones also reported that the City Clerk will be expanding services to include processing of passport applications this summer.

Councilmember Lyman announced that National Night Out is on August 2, 2011. Hosts are invited to attend an informational barbeque on July 16. Please check the city's website www.el-cerrito.org for more information.

Councilmember Benassini reminded all about the citywide garage sale this Saturday, May 7, from 9-3. This event provides a great opportunity for deals on re-used and recycled items. On May 10 from 7-9 p.m. in the Council Chambers, the public is encouraged to attend a workshop and provide input on the Draft Climate Action Plan. Additionally, Councilmember Benassini stated that she and Mayor Cheng attended a session on building relationships for a strong community that was put on St. Peter American Methodist Episcopal Church. Police Chief Moir gave a fabulous speech on leadership, participation and building strong leaders in our community.

Mayor Cheng reported that she attended the ABAG Spring Assembly and the League of California Cities Transportation, Public Works and Communications Committee. The Committee discussed CEQA exemption for purple pipes [recycled water] over one mile and up to eight miles however support was denied. The Committee also considered AB 1245 regarding traffic control devices but support failed. Consideration of AB 441 for state planning to get

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to consider health impacts in regional transportation plans also failed. At the West County Mayors Conference the group received a presentation by Cleo Goodwin from AC Transit on the Easy Pass Program. The program offers massive discounts for bulk purchases of transit passes. On May 4 there will be an event at Windrush School to honor the original use of the site as the Chung Mei Home for Boys. On May 7 the Metropolitan Transportation Commission is hosting a meeting regarding regional planning for the Bay Area at the Concord Senior Center to consider values and trade-offs in shaping the future. May 12 is *Bike to Work Day*, the City will be sponsoring a station at El Cerrito Plaza, from 7-9 a.m. On May 14, everyone is invited to attend the Spring Fling which will celebrate completion of the San Pablo Avenue Streetscape projects and offer an opportunity for community members to learn about streetscape grants, improvements and installations.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager, invited all to the Spring Fling welcoming ceremony at 10:00 a.m. in front of the Rialto Cerrito Theater. The City will be dedicating sidewalk stars and historical pavers. AC Transit has generously donated 100 clipper cards which can be used as a bus pass to travel up and down the Avenue the day of the event. The public is invited to walk, bike or take public transit. There will be podcasts on the new historical and cultural sidewalk pavers. More information can be found on the city's website. Additionally, newsletters were recently mailed to residents, however, unfortunately, there was a problem with the post office and as many as 800 newsletters might not have been delivered. If you would like a newsletter but have not received one, the newsletter is posted on-line at el-cerrito.org or you can contact Suzanne Iarla at 215-4318 for a copy.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Al Miller, El Cerrito, complemented recycling center staff for their enthusiastic well planned and staffed compost giveaway. Approximately fifteen volunteers and supporters of the city's environmental programs helped make the event a success. Residents were enthusiastic and there was plenty of compost to give away with extra left over for the parks. Mr. Miller said he hopes there will be more compost giveaway events in the future.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation Recognizing Darryl Murray Upon his Retirement

Approve and present a proclamation to Darryl Murray, in recognition of his record of service to and concern for the protection of life and property in the local community, and extending sincere best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

Action: Approved and presented proclamation.

B. California Parks and Recreation Society Awards – *Presentation by Monica Kortz*

The Recreation Department recently received the following two awards from the California Parks and Recreation Society, District 3: 1) Award of Excellence – Outstanding Parks and Recreation Facility for the Splash Park; and 2) Award of Excellence – Outstanding Parks and Recreation Special Event for the Fourth of July Celebration.

Action: Received presentation.

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

Moved, seconded (Abelson/Benassini) and carried unanimously to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 5A through 5F in one motion as indicated below.

A. Minutes for Approval

Approve the following meeting minutes: 1) March 21, 2011 Concurrent City Council/Redevelopment Agency and Municipal Services Corporation; 2) April 4, 2011 Concurrent City Council/Municipal Services Corporation; and 3) April 9, 2011 Special City Council.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. Proclamation Recognizing the Historic Significance of Chung Mei Orphanage

Approve a proclamation proclaiming May 4, 2011 as "Chung Mei Home for Boys Day" in the City of El Cerrito and encouraging all residents to participate in ceremonies and events to commemorate and recognize the historic heritage of the Chung Mei Home for Boys and the diverse communities that have contributed to the City's heritage.

Action: Approved proclamation.

C. Every 15 Minute Anti-Drunk Driving Program Grant Agreement

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to enter into an Every 15 Minute, anti-drunk driving program agreement to be administered at El Cerrito High School. The grant is funded by the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the California Highway Patrol.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2011–27.

D. Award of External Financial Auditor Contract

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Maze & Associates to provide external financial auditor services for a three year period, with an option for two additional years, at a first year cost of $48,995.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2011–28.

E. Landscape and Lighting Assessment District No. 1988–1

Accept the Engineer's Report specifying assessments for the Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District and adopt a Resolution of Intention to Order Improvements pursuant to the Landscape and Lighting Act of 1972, and setting the time, date, and place of the public hearing as May 16, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2011–29.

F. Confirm a Reduced City Council Summer 2011 Meeting Schedule

Approve the City Manager's recommendation to adopt a reduced City Council Meeting Schedule in July, August and September consistent with the past ten years. Meeting dates in July, August and September would be July 18, August 15, and September 19, 2011 with an added request to keep the first Monday in each month reserved for special meetings as needed.

Action: Approved recommendation.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Revised Master Fee Schedule

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt a resolution approving a revised Master Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2011–12.

Presenter: Mary Dodge, Administrative Services Director.

Mayor Cheng opened the public hearing. No speakers.

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

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Abelson) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2011–30.

B. Extension of Moratorium on the Approval and Issuance of Conditional Use Permits for Wireless Telecommunications Facilities

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion approve by title, waive any further reading and adopt an urgency ordinance extending a citywide moratorium on the issuance of conditional use permits for wireless telecommunications facilities for an additional period of one year pending a review of existing regulations of such facilities and study of opportunities to encourage the use of new technology that would eliminate or reduce the need for such facilities. Under Government Code Section 65858, a four-fifths vote is required to adopt the ordinance.

Presenter: Jennifer Carman, Development Services Manager.

Mayor Cheng opened the public hearing. No speakers.

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

Action: Moved, seconded (Benassini/Lyman) and carried unanimously to approve by title, waive any further reading and adopt an urgency ordinance No. 2011–03.

7. POLICY MATTERS

Mission Statement for the City of El Cerrito

Adopt a resolution approving a mission statement for the City of El Cerrito.

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Jones) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2011–31 approving the following mission statement for the City of El Cerrito:

The City of El Cerrito serves, leads and supports our diverse community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future.

8. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

A. Mayor Cheng reported that the Human Relations Commission, in conjunction with the EQC, is hosting a showing of the film, *Beijing Bicycle*, at the Cerrito Theater on May 24 in celebration of Asian History Month and Bike to Work Month. *Beijing Bicycle* is a very beautiful and interesting film that is PG-13 and translated with subtitles. Mayor Cheng also announced a raffle for a free bicycle for those who fill out a bicycle activity survey. The survey will be in the *Bike to Work Day* bags offered on May 12th and on the city's website. The winner of the raffle will be announced May 24th at the Cerrito Theater.

B. Councilmember Abelson reported that the EQC voted to support the City's submission of an application for a Proposition 84 Urban Greening Grant which would help guide El Cerrito's efforts toward achieving a sustainable green city through the Climate Action Plan and San Pablo Specific Plan and will help guide the development of a future general plan. The recommendation to submit a grant application will come before the city council for consideration in the near

future. Additionally, Councilmember Abelson stated that a future goal of the EQC is to have a film series on an environmental topic with regularity to educate and entertain businesses and residents and help promote areas the city needs to work on as part of the Climate Action plan. West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC) activities included a tour of express lanes aka Hot Lanes on I-680 between San Ramon and San Jose. The idea behind Hot Lanes is to sell capacity on High Occupancy Vehicle/Express Lanes to single occupant vehicles using a congestion pricing methodology. There is a possibility that it could be implemented on I-80 however this is unlikely due to a variety of technical reasons. Councilmember Abelson also reported that she ran a hearing for WCCTAC on the Regional Transportation Plan in San Pablo on April 13. On May 24 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers, there will be a hearing to receive ideas for significant transportation projects and input on major regional projects such as hot lanes.

C. Councilmember Benassini reported that the Economic Development Board met on April 13 to discuss several upcoming events which include: 1) A small business training day which would include a local keynote speaker; 2) Restaurant Week in the fall which would provide El Cerrito Restaurants an opportunity to partner with the city to promote food businesses and offer incentives to encourage more people to eat out; and 3) A possible scavenger hunt in the summer. On April 12 the Financial Advisory Board (FAB) discussed options for short term borrowing and reviewed the Auditor's memos on internal controls. The FAB is happy with how the city is controlling its funds and will be meeting more frequently to discuss the budget.

D. Mayor Pro Tem Jones reported on a meeting of the High School Facilities Committee of which Mayor Pro Tem Jones is the representative for El Cerrito. Phase I, formerly known as the practice fields where the portables were located, is half way done and will feature synthetic turf and will handle baseball, softball, soccer, football and other activities. Additionally, five tennis courts will be relocated as part of a new design. Phase 1 is scheduled to be completed by the end of August in time for the new school year. This recreation area will also be open for community use. There will be lights on the field for security but not for participation. The stadium on the main field has been moved up on the School District's priority list. The plans are currently in the State Architect's Department for review. It is anticipated that work on the stadium will start after the practice fields are completed. The stadium project will include a bleacher section, new press box, locker rooms, new light fixtures, concession stands and state of the art public address system. Mayor Pro Tem Jones stated that the District has done a great job in bringing the project to completion within the next year. Additionally, Mayor Pro Tem Jones advised that Fairmont School design concepts are posted on the District's website for public review. The proposed school has a bigger footprint. A two story facility is being designed – possibly in anticipation of more students.

E. Councilmember Lyman reported that the Park and Recreation Commission passed a motion to support the Master Fee Schedule and also passed a motion in support of encouraging the City Council to negotiate a use agreement for the use of the Portola Middle School gymnasium.

9. ADJOURNED CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 9:27 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 2, 2011 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk

Ann Cheng, Mayor