

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

EL CERRITO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

Monday, December 6, 2010 – 7:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers

Janet Abelson – Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Ann Cheng
Councilmember Bill Jones
Councilmember Elect Rebecca Benassini

Councilmember Sandi Potter
Councilmember Greg Lyman

ROLL CALL

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

7:30 p.m. CONVENE CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

Mayor Abelson convened the concurrent City Council/Redevelopment Agency meeting at 7:34 p.m.

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** was led by Councilmember Lyman.
- 2. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS/COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS**

Councilmember Jones thanked city staff at the Senior Center and those working in the childcare programs for their extra efforts to go above and beyond their normal course of business, in displaying goodwill and sensitivity toward others who may be less celebratory during the holiday season.

Councilmember Potter stated that the Arts and Culture Commission has been in existence for eight years now and Councilmember Potter has been the Council liaison to the Commission since its formation. The Commission met on November 17th and reviewed icons for the San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Art Project and appointed a subcommittee to help the artists develop the final design. The City Council approved the art contract on February 16, 2010. The Commission anticipates complete installation by Summer 2011. It is anticipated that a final design proposal will be brought to the Commission on February 16 for consideration and to the City Council in March, 2011. Councilmember Potter stated that the process for the public art project would be greatly enhanced by more public participation. Additionally, the San Pablo Avenue Art Project is the first art project the city is undertaking under the ordinance. Councilmember Potter stated that as the city continues to recruit for Arts and Culture Commission members that the Council look toward individuals with experience in Request for Proposals (RFP), the RFP ranking process, and decision making in public art projects.

Councilmember Potter concluded by stating that it has been a pleasure to serve on the Arts and Culture Commission and that she looks forward to seeing the project in its final state when everyone else can enjoy it on San Pablo Avenue.

Councilmember Cheng reported that the Design Review Board (DRB) wrapped up comments on the proposed Safeway at the Del Norte BART station at its last meeting. The DRB has provided very detailed comments over five meetings. The designs are coming along very well and suits El Cerrito's character. A café space has been designed that will open up onto the Ohlone Greenway. The DRB also provided initial comments on the proposed Recycling Center.

Mayor Abelson announced that the Annual David Hunter Memorial Scholarship pancake breakfast will occur on December 11. Mayor Abelson also reported on her attendance at the Contra Costa Mayors Conference which included a presentation by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) on rising sea levels. This is a difficult topic. There are concerns as to whether BCDC will be taking control of land that will be flooded. Mayor Abelson also attended the California League of California Cities' recent legislative briefings, which included a discussion of state legislation passed within the last year that will affect cities.

3. **PRESENTATION**

4. **Fred Korematsu Day Proclamation**

Approve a proclamation honoring Fred Korematsu by proclaiming January 30, 2011 as Fred Korematsu Day in the City of El Cerrito and encouraging all residents to contemplate the courage displayed by Mr. Korematsu, his life story and circumstances and his tireless devotion to educating others about civil liberties.

Speakers: Karen Korematsu, San Rafael, thanked the Council for issuing the special proclamation in honor of her father. Ms. Korematsu stated that her father's mission was education. He felt that in order to prevent the 1942 Japanese incarceration from happening again in this country, that he needed to tell the story of his fight for justice and the story of injustice people of Japanese ancestry suffered just because they looked like the enemy. The significance of Fred Korematsu Day is how one person can make a difference and promote a discussion of civil liberties under our Constitution. Ms. Korematsu thanked Tom Panas for his work on the proclamation and for his work documenting and preserving Japanese-American heritage in El Cerrito. We need local historical societies to remind us of our past. In 2009, Ms. Korematsu founded the Fred Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education in San Francisco. The Institute has been very busy developing a curriculum for K-12 grades ever since the Governor signed legislation establishing January 30 as Fred Korematsu Day in perpetuity. The Institute hopes to have the project ready by January 2011 and will be reaching out to the local School District. Ms. Korematsu concluded with a quote from her father, "If you see something wrong, don't be afraid to speak up."

Action: Moved, seconded (Jones/Lyman) and carried unanimously to approve and present the proclamation.

5. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Richard Leigh, East Richmond Heights, asked the City Council to consider annexing East Richmond Heights into its sphere of influence and described financial benefits associated with annexation.

Nick Ronchetto, Benicia, introduced himself as the new Firefighters Local 1230 Vice President.

Jane Bartke, El Cerrito, announced that the Sundar Shadi Holiday Display will be erected on December 18 and will be taken down on December 27, 2010. Ms. Bartke said the display would not be possible without the help of Firefighters Local 1230 and invited community volunteers to donate funds, time and energy.

6. RECOGNITION OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER LEAVING OFFICE

Special Recognition of Councilmember Potter (2002–2010; Mayor 2005 and 2009).

Speakers: Al Miller, El Cerrito, acknowledged the eight years of service, sacrifice and responsibility displayed by Councilmember Potter. Mr. Miller thanked Councilmember Potter and acknowledged her consistent and knowledgeable comments over the years, particularly her reasoned approach.

Former Councilmember Jan Bridges, El Cerrito, acknowledged the work and dedication of Councilmember Potter and her legacy including construction of City Hall, the Cerrito Theater, adoption of a code of ethics in conjunction with the work of Mayor Abelson, work on San Pablo Avenue, passage of measures, and self sacrifice.

John Frankel, Aide to Senator DeSaulnier, extended sincere appreciation for the work of Councilmember Potter on behalf of the Senator and added that the Senator is looking forward to working with Councilmember Benassini in the coming months.

Mayor Abelson stated that among those on the Council, she has known Councilmember Potter the longest. Councilmember Potter served on the Redevelopment Advisory Commission in 1995 and was appointed to the Planning Commission in 1996. Mayor Abelson met Councilmember Potter in 1999 when she was appointed to the Planning Commission. Former Councilmember Letitia Moore also served on the Planning Commission at the same time. During that time the General Plan was written and the current El Cerrito Plaza was approved. Councilmember Potter started her service on the City Council in 2002 but has served the city since 1995. Mayor Abelson noted that Councilmember Potter has been a true team player on the Council, and has been the social director for the Council. Mayor Abelson stated that she will miss Councilmember Potter's knowledge about CEQA and water issues, noted that she always made a positive, significant difference and thanked Councilmember Potter for making El Cerrito a better place to live and work.

Councilmember Jones stated that he has served with Councilmember Potter on the City Council for six years and that it has been quite enjoyable. Councilmember Potter is a nice, genuine person, who is solid and strong at the core. Councilmember Jones conveyed his respect for Councilmember Potter for a number of things. She is really good at working to find solutions so the Council can move forward and has little tolerance for conflict. Her approach may have even protected the city from litigation and lawsuits. Councilmember Potter is very adept at summarizing core issues and ideas when discussing agenda items and always kept the City Council on track and focused on a solution. As liaison to the Arts and Culture Commission she provided assistance with the progress and growth of the Commission. Councilmember Potter has always kept the City Council informed on school district issues and how they relate to El Cerrito and is a great supporter of the public school system. Councilmember Jones expressed his great respect for Councilmember Potter's expertise in CEQA, environmental impact and land use issues. Councilmember Potter is always prepared and thoughtful on the issues, listens to people and is always promoting El Cerrito; she always presents what she feels is best for the community and residents. Councilmember Jones concluded by thanking Councilmember Potter for her

contributions and camaraderie on the Council.

Councilmember Cheng stated that everything Councilmember Jones said is true and that it has been an honor to serve with Councilmember Potter. Councilmember Potter set a great pace and tone on the Council and Councilmember Cheng will miss her very much. Councilmember Potter made Councilmember Cheng's first term on the Council challenging and rewarding and appreciated Councilmember Potter's ability to build relationships among Councilmembers. Councilmember Cheng thanked Councilmember Potter for her great clarity, presence and ability to articulate difficult issues.

Councilmember Lyman expressed his appreciation for Councilmember Potter's understated style, professionalism and clarification of issues. Councilmember Lyman also noted Councilmember Potter's geological knowledge, said he appreciated how she thinks through all of her arguments and stated that it has been a pleasure serving with her.

Councilmember Potter stated that it has been an honor and privilege to serve this community on the City Council. She has been fortunate to have the pleasure of meeting so many enthusiastic, talented and interesting people. Councilmember Potter thanked everyone for their support, commitment and volunteer service and said she was extremely grateful to the people of El Cerrito for electing her and for working with her on a shared vision. Public service in El Cerrito is rewarding because it is a community that is positive about local government. The recent passage of Measure R validates the residents' commitment to El Cerrito and the City's high level of service.

Councilmember Potter expressed her deep gratitude for City Manager Scott Hanin. His leadership transformed our city team. A great debt is owed to Mr. Hanin and his management team for their hard work and dedication in bringing the city into the 21st Century. Although managing a city is difficult, it has been done with great ethics and a lot of success. Councilmember Potter stated that she is so proud of the staff's leadership and innovation. This has put El Cerrito on the map in terms of fiscal responsibility and transparent government, street repair, crime prevention and environmental sustainability. Councilmember Potter thanked all department heads for their dedication to the city and collaboration with the Council and extended gratitude to every single staff person in the city. Creativity and perseverance has made El Cerrito an award winning city. Recent accomplishments include the new City Hall, Cerrito Theater, San Pablo Avenue Improvements, improved fire prevention and reduced crime rates. Councilmember Potter said it has been a pleasure to serve with her fellow councilmembers and thanked all the former councilmembers present this evening, including Rich and Jane Bartke, Letitia Moore and Jan Bridges. As Mayor, Councilmember Potter had the honor of serving El Cerrito in regional forums and expressed her appreciation for the support and work of officials at the local, county and state level including Supervisor Gioia, Senator DeSaulnier, Senator Hancock, and Assembly Member Skinner. Councilmember Potter said the City Council is known for its professionalism and ability to work together and with its neighbors. Special gratitude was extended to Councilmembers Abelson and Jones. Councilmember Potter concluded by stating that she owes a great debt to her friends and family, thanked them for their support, said that she is looking forward to spending more time with her art and youth sports at El Cerrito High School and extended her best wishes to newly elected Councilmember Rebecca Benassini.

6. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR – Items 6A through 6E

Moved, seconded (Lyman/Potter) and carried unanimously to adopt Consent Calendar Item Nos. 6A through 6E in one motion as indicated below.

A. Minutes for Approval

Approve the November 15, 2010 Special City Council and Concurrent City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting minutes.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. Declaring and Confirming the Results of the November 2, 2010 General Election

Adopt a resolution declaring and confirming the results of the November 2, 2010 election.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2010-74.

C. Confirm the Adoption of Sales Tax Ordinance No. 2010-10

Confirm the passage and adoption of Ordinance 2010-10 imposing a transactions and use tax to be administered by the State Board of Equalization by declaration of the vote at the November 2, 2010 General Election.

Action: Confirmed passage of Ordinance 2010-10 enacted by the voters on November 2, 2010.

D. Support for Funding the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program in the 2012 Presidential Budget Request to Congress

Authorize the Mayor and other interested City Council members to sign on to a collective letter to President Obama encouraging his Administration to provide \$2 billion to fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block (EECBG) program in the Presidential 2012 budget request.

Action: Approved recommendation.

E. 2010 Paving Projects Change Order Status Report

Receive and file the 2010 Paving Projects Change Order Status Report.

Action: Received and filed.

7. BRIEF RECESS

The City Council paused for a brief recess and resumed the meeting at 8:27 pm

8. SWEARING IN AND SEATING OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS**Administration of the Oath of Office and Presentation of Certificates of Election**

Janet Abelson, re-elected to a city council term ending November 2014.

Rebecca Benassini, elected to a city council term ending November 2014.

Mayor Abelson thanked her husband, Howard Abelson and her children for their support. Mayor Abelson also thanked her best friend Judy Rogers and spoke of her experiences, the economy and how El Cerrito has fared over the last year. The City of El Cerrito had a very successful year given the economy and continued to make progress in projects such as San Pablo Avenue Improvements and approval of a new recycling center which will be a model recycling center. The passage of Measure R in every single precinct in the city provides a future for the City. Mayor Abelson thanked the community for their support and stated that passage of Measure R will make a real difference in the community.

Councilmember Cheng expressed her appreciation for Mayor Abelson's leadership in the city and her contributions as Mayor. Councilmember Cheng noted that Mayor Abelson has raised five children and has served almost eleven years on the City Council and has been a beacon in

terms of pushing the envelope on environmental solutions and offering warmth and compassion to everyone in the community.

Councilmember Lyman thanked Mayor Abelson for running very efficient meetings over the last year and for her leadership on environmental issues and on the many ordinances adopted over the past year.

Councilmember Jones also thanked Mayor Abelson for her dedicated service on the Council.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

10. POLICY MATTERS

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk, administered the Oath of Office and presented Certificates of Election to Mayor Abelson and Councilmember Benassini.

City Council and Redevelopment Agency Reorganization

Election of City Council and Redevelopment Agency Officers.

CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk, declared the Offices of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore vacant and called for the Office of Mayor.

Councilmember Abelson nominated Mayor Pro Tempore Cheng to the Office of Mayor.

City Clerk Morse called for any additional nominations and there were none.

Moved, seconded (Abelson/Lyman) and carried unanimously to close nominations for Mayor.

Action: The City Council unanimously selected Mayor Pro Tempore Cheng as Mayor of the City of El Cerrito.

Mayor Cheng called for nominations for office of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Lyman nominated Councilmember Jones for the Office of Mayor Pro Tempore.

Mayor Cheng called for further nominations to which there were none.

Moved, seconded (Cheng/Benassini) and carried unanimously to close nominations.

Action: The City Council unanimously selected Councilmember Jones as Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Cheng thanked the City of El Cerrito for placing her in the position of Mayor and stated that it was a great honor. Mayor Cheng expressed her appreciation for the many people she has met in El Cerrito over the past few years, said she had lived in El Cerrito since was five years old and stated that it is a true honor to be involved in local government. Local government is the closest layer of government to the public from the streets one walks down, to police and fire protection, and all the other local services that residents are intimately involved with. Mayor Cheng thanked her husband, Wiley Osborn, for all of his support, optimism and enthusiasm, her mother, Susie Wong, for being a rock of stability and inspiration, her sister Kay Cheng, and her in-laws, friends and cousin Ginger for their constant support, humor and inspiration. Mayor Cheng also thanked City Manager Hanin and city staff for their passion, accomplishments and moving the work forward.

Councilmember Benassini promised to uphold the Oath of Office and conduct herself within community norms. She stated that one thing she learned from doing volunteer work and service on commissions is that El Cerrito is a community of strong beliefs that comes to consensus to decide on a policy that works best for everyone. Councilmember Benassini pledged to respectfully listen to all sides of issues, thoughtfully deliberate and then come to a decision that will be in the best interests of the community. Councilmember Benassini thanked her husband,

Scott Lyons, her mother Priscilla Benassini, her family, and friends. Councilmember Benassini noted that no job or achievement can be done alone or without the assistance of friends and family. Councilmember Benassini concluded by thanking each councilmember for their warm reception and stated that she is happy to join such great minds and such great team spirit and that she looks forward to working together the next four years.

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY REORGANIZATION

Mayor Cheng called for reorganization of the Redevelopment Agency.

City Clerk Morse declared the Office of Redevelopment Agency Chair and Vice-Chair vacant and called for nominations for the office of Chair.

Agency Member Lyman nominated and Agency Member Cheng seconded Agency Member Abelson for the Office of Redevelopment Agency Board Chair.

City Clerk Morse called for any additional nominations and there were none.

Action: The Redevelopment Agency voted unanimously in favor of selecting Redevelopment Agency Member Abelson as Chair.

Agency Chair Abelson called for nominations for the Office of Redevelopment Agency Vice-Chair.

Agency Member Benassini nominated Agency Member Lyman for the office of Vice-Chair.

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Benassini) and carried unanimously to close nominations and select Agency Member Lyman as Redevelopment Agency Vice-Chair.

11. INTRODUCTION AND BADGE PINNING OF POLICE DEPARTMENT K-9 OFFICER KING

Introduction and badge pinning ceremony for Police Department K-9 Officer King by Police Chief Sylvia Moir and K-9 Officer King's handler, Officer Aaron Leone.

Presenters: Police Chief Sylvia Moir and Police Officer Aaron Leone.

Speakers: Mindy Charlup, Richmond, thanked the El Cerrito Police Officers Association for hiring K-9 Officer King and stated that King will be a valuable asset to the Police Department and thanked the department for naming K-9 Officer King in honor of Bruce King.

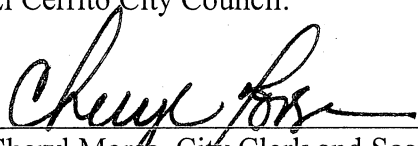
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Why El Cerrito Should Annex its East Richmond Heights Sphere of Influence into its City Boundaries Fact Sheet – *Submitted by Richard Leigh*.

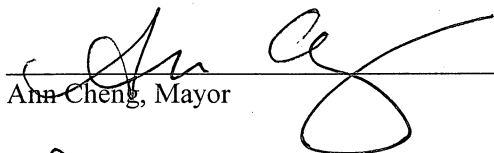
2. League of California Cities, 2010 Annual Legislative Briefing, (November 16, 2010) – *Submitted by Mayor Abelson*.

12. ADJOURNED CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING at 9:07 p.m.

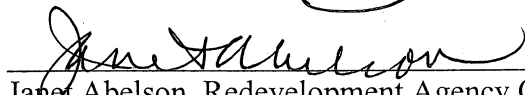
This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Concurrent City Council / Redevelopment Agency meeting of December 6, 2010 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.



Cheryl Morse, City Clerk and Secretary to the Redevelopment Agency



Ann Cheng, Mayor



Janet Abelson, Redevelopment Agency Chair