EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

El CERRITO CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, September 20, 2010 – 7:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

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

Janet Abelson – Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Ann Cheng
Councilmember William C. Jones, III
Councilmember/Agency Chair Sandi Potter
Councilmember/Agency Vice-Chair Greg Lyman

ROLL CALL

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

7:30 p.m. **CONVENE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Abelson convened the regular City Council meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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

2. **COUNCIL / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilmember Lyman acknowledged and thanked public safety and the Crime Prevention Committee for showing up at Tri-City Safety Day on September 18. There were many visits from young families. Councilmember Lyman also acknowledged the City's partners in safety – Albany, Kensington and Richmond. The East Bay Park District, County Animal Control and the Army were also present. The event was a wonderful success.

Councilmember Jones stated that the Integrated Waste Management Board received a report on the new green waste program and reported that the program is a success. Councilmember Jones stated that Garth Schultz, the unofficial coordinator of the food scrap program with Richmond and some of the other cities, delivered an excellent presentation and report. Additionally, Councilmember Jones offered a reminder that *Taste of El Cerrito* is September 25. Tickets can be purchased at the El Cerrito Chamber office and at the door.

Mayor Pro Tem Cheng announced that ElCerrito.patch.com is live and running and encouraged all residents to take a look at the new website.

Mayor Abelson stated that the community should be proud of the success of the green waste program, particularly for segregating the green waste so well. Mayor Abelson reported on her attendance at the Annual League of California Cities Conference in San Diego. One of the more significant issues before the group was a request from the "high desert cities" to ask Governor Schwarzenegger to suspend AB 32 environmental legislation. Mayor Abelson reported that the League came out in a clear way in favor of not asking the Governor to suspend AB 32.

Melanie Mintz, Environmental Services Manager, announced that the green waste that has been collected in the city has turned into compost that will be given away on October 10 from 9-5 at the Recycling Center. Ms. Mintz reported that the quality of the compost is excellent.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Al Miller, El Cerrito, asked the Council to remove Item 5E from the Consent Calendar to announce the City Council positions on the items.

Duane Wong, Music Works, expressed his concerns with the streetscape work and tree plantings that have been installed in front of his business on San Pablo Avenue. Mr. Wong asked that the city consider moving the tree.

Peter Loubal, El Cerrito, expressed concerns with natural gas lines in El Cerrito in light of the gas explosion in San Bruno. Mr. Loubal informed the Council about a map application available to local governments from the Pipeline Integrity Management Mapping Authority Application that will make maps available to local government. Mr. Loubal reported that there is an eight inch pipeline running near San Pablo Avenue that should be looked into due to its proximity to the Public Safety Building, St. John's School and Del Norte BART Station.

Joanne Wong, Music Works, expressed concerns with the recent tree plantings in front of her business, particularly the tree debris and impacts on bike and pedestrian safety. Ms. Wong invited Councilmembers to her store.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Falls Prevention Awareness Week – *Presented to the Falls Prevention Coalition of Contra Costa County. Presentation by Laurel Zien, Care Coach and JoAnn Leiby, American Medical Response.*

Approve a proclamation proclaiming the week of September 19-25, 2010, as "Falls Prevention Awareness Week" in the City of El Cerrito and calling upon all residents and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate activities that promote awareness of fall prevention.

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Jones) and carried unanimously to approve the proclamation. Proclamation presented to representatives of the Falls Prevention Coalition of Contra Costa County.

B. Climate Action Plan Progress Update – *presented by Melanie Mintz and Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst.*

Action: Presentation heard.

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

Moved, seconded (Potter/Jones) and carried unanimously to adopt Consent Calendar Item Nos. 5A through 5D and 5F as indicated below. Item No. 5E was removed from the Consent Calendar by Councilmember Potter.

A. Minutes for Approval

Approve the August 20, 2010 Special City Council, Regular City Council and Special City Council Closed Session meeting minutes.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. California Arts Day Proclamation

Approve a proclamation recognizing and supporting the missions of the California Arts Council and Americans for Arts, to advance California through the arts and creativity by declaring October 1, 2010 California Arts Day in El Cerrito, and by celebrating National Arts and Humanities Month by declaring October, 2010 as Arts Month in El Cerrito.

Action: Approved proclamation.

C. Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Approve a proclamation proclaiming October 2010 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of El Cerrito and urging all residents to actively participate in the efforts to eliminate violence in our homes, in our schools, and in our communities.

Action: Approved proclamation.

D. Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

(Held over from the August 16, 2010 City Council meeting.)

Adopt a resolution adopting the El Cerrito Neighborhood Traffic Management Program, attached as Exhibit A to the proposed resolution and supersede Resolution No. 95–98.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2010–59.

E. City Council Position on November Ballot Initiatives

At the request of Mayor Abelson, approve a motion authorizing the City Council to take a position on certain ballot initiatives including State Propositions 21, 22, 25, 26 and Contra Costa County Measures M and O.

Action: Removed from the Consent Calendar by Councilmember Potter. Moved, seconded (Lyman/Cheng) and carried unanimously to support State Proposition Nos. 21, 22, 25 and Oppose State Proposition 26, support Contra Costa County Measure M – West Contra Costa Unified School District and Contra Costa County Measure O Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

F. Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Application

Adopt a resolution approving the application for grant funds from the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program for the Del Norte Transit Oriented Development and Transportation Demand Management Strategic Plan.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2010–60.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

Abatement of Fire Hazard Nuisances on One Property Pursuant to El Cerrito Municipal Code Chapter 16.26

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion adopt a resolution confirming the cost of abatement of public nuisance conditions resulting from the presence of weeds, rubbish, litter or other flammable material on private property designated on Exhibit A to the resolution as authorized by El Cerrito Municipal Code Chapter 16.26.

Presenter: Michael Bond, Battalion Chief/Fire Marshall.

Mayor Abelson opened the public hearing. No speakers.

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

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Potter) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2010–61.

7. POLICY MATTERS

East Bay Regional Communications System Authority (EBRCSA) Operating Agreement

Adopt a resolution approving a Project Operating agreement with the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority (EBRCSA) and authorizing the execution and implementation of same.

Action: Moved, seconded (Jones/Potter) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2010–62.

8. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

A. Mayor Abelson reported that she attended an AB 1234 ethics training at the Annual League Conference. Additionally, a number of resolutions were passed including a resolution supporting the "Lets Move Program" to combat childhood obesity though physical activity; and the AB 32/SB 375 resolution discussed earlier. Mayor Abelson also reported on her attendance at a Public Records Act training and learned the types of data to place on the website for public review.

B. Mayor Pro Tem Cheng reported that the Economic Development Board met to receive a report on the focus for the economic development division in the coming year and restructuring and reorganization within the department. Additionally, Mayor Pro Tem Cheng reported on her attendance at the Green Corridor Meeting of Principals, ebgreencorridor.org, which is essentially Mayors of eight cities along the East Bay corridor that promote green tech jobs and use a regional collaboration to share resources and knowledge and bring federal dollars to the area. The discussion was expanded to include green transportation along the corridor.

C. Councilmember Jones reported that the Planning Commission did not meet in September and is waiting patiently for Safeway to make a presentation. Councilmember Jones also noted that Milk Cartons may be taken of out the green waste composting program as the cartons are taking a longer time to break down. Integrated waste is experimenting with how long the cartons take to break down and will develop a strategy for managing this waste. Council member Jones stated that there is much enthusiasm for the program.

D. Councilmember Lyman – No report.

E. Councilmember Potter reminded all that October 1st is California Arts Day in El Cerrito and that the City Council has declared the entire month of October as Arts Month in El Cerrito. The El Cerrito Art Association Annual show will start on October 1 and will run through the weekend. Additionally, there are many great events planned throughout the month so please check the city website for more information. Last Wednesday the Arts an Culture Commission met and discussed the historic paver project and continued planning efforts for California Arts Day.

9. SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

Item No. 4(A) Falls Prevention Awareness Week

1. Fall Prevention Program Informational Materials – *Submitted by Laurel Zien, Care Coach.*

Other

2. Photograph of Tree Planting in front of Music Works Store – *Submitted by Duane Wong, Music Works.*

3. *Could a San Bruno-type Disaster Happen in El Cerrito?,* El Cerrito Patch, Table 2-Projected additional Sanitary Sewer Flows and Collection System Improvement – Appendix E, MIG San Pablo Avenue Report and National Pipeline Mapping System Pipeline Integrity Management Mapping Application – *Submitted by Peter Loubal*

10. ADJOURNED REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 9:38 p.m. in memory of former Mayor and Councilmember Donald West.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of September 20, 2010 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk

Janet Abelson, Mayor