

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL EL CERRITO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MINUTES

SPECIAL CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

Monday, April 19, 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 SPECIAL CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

Mayor Abelson convened the Special Concurrent City Council/Redevelopment Agency meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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

2. COUNCIL / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Lyman reported that the Bicycle Safety Rodeo will take place on May 22 at the Saint John School Kearny Street Yard from 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. Additionally, Councilmember Lyman announced an opportunity to attend a Contra Costa County Program, *Take Control of Your Finances-Your Future*, featuring free one-on-one financial planning, foreclosure counseling, financial education workshops and other resources on April 24 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Richmond Library, 326 Civic Center Plaza in Richmond. On June 6, 2010 the El Cerrito Police Department Bicycle Team is joining other police departments in hosting *Bike the Bridges for Special Olympics*. Call Sgt. Maples at 215-4414 #26 for more information. Councilmember Lyman encouraged everyone to complete their Census forms.

Councilmember Cheng announced that the grand opening of the Bruce King Memorial Dog Park was a very successful event attended by a majority of the Council and over 200 people and their dogs. The community raised \$52,000.

Councilmember Potter also stated that the celebration of the Bruce King Memorial Park was a memorable event. Earlier in the day there was a showing of the City sponsored film, *Loma Prieta - 15 Seconds* at the Cerrito Theater. Anyone interested in viewing the film or obtaining a DVD copy of the film can contact Suzanne Iarla at 215-4318 or the Fire Department at 215-4450. Councilmember Potter encouraged all residents to take advantage of the City's free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program and view the film.

Councilmember Jones also expressed his enthusiasm for the Bruce King Memorial Dog Park grand opening.

Mayor Abelson reminded all that next Saturday, April 24, is Earth Day in El Cerrito and invited all members of the public to join the city in celebrating Earth Day. Work parties will take place from 9 a.m. to noon. Interested volunteers should convene at the Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, to be assigned a work location. Projects range from trash pickup to weeding and clean up. Lunch will be served at noon at the Community Center. Mayor Abelson also attended reported on her recent attendance at the League of California Cities Community Services Policy Committee and the Administrative Services Policy Committee Meetings. The Committees discussed significant issues regarding suspension of AB 32 and possibly SB 375 due to the state of the economy. The meeting included a presentation by a representative from the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Today, Mayor Abelson learned that the full board of the League of California Cities is considering whether to take a position on whether to suspend AB 32 and SB 375. Mayor Abelson asked the City Attorney Woodruff if the Council could add an emergency item to the agenda this evening to consider taking a position regarding the League.

City Attorney Woodruff explained the requirements for adding an emergency item to the agenda and advised the Council that it could add such an item to this evening's agenda.

Action: Moved, seconded (Jones/Potter) and carried unanimously to declare that an emergency item be added to the agenda as the issue regarding the League's consideration of whether to take a position on the suspension of AB 32 and SB 375 came up after the El Cerrito City Council agenda was posted and that comment and resolution on the issue is needed prior to the next Council meeting. Additionally, the emergency item shall be placed on the agenda as item 7C.

Mayor Abelson reported that the Environmental Quality Committee discussed Earth Day events, the bi-weekly food scrap composting pilot program which will begin on July 1 and formed a subcommittee to look at developing an environmentally friendly campaign practices pledge.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Michael De May, El Cerrito, expressed his opposition to the proposed cell tower at Camp Herms, asked the City to place a moratorium on cell tower placement and encouraged the Council to conduct research and update policies.

Pam Bennett, El Cerrito, expressed her opposition to the proposed cell tower at Camp Herms, asked the council to support a moratorium, and read a letter written by Martin Blank PhD, Columbia University, regarding safety concerns and health impacts relating to cell towers.

Dianne Brenner, El Cerrito, expressed concerns with health impacts associated with cell towers and impacts on the real estate market. Ms. Brenner expressed her support for updating rules on cell towers and a moratorium on new towers.

David Gray, El Cerrito, spoke about Proposition 16, a measure placed on the November ballot by PG&E, which Mr. Gray believes, if passed, would codify PG&E's monopoly. Mr. Gray asked the City Council to consider adopting a resolution opposing Proposition 16.

James Vaughn, El Cerrito, thanked the Council for the Dog Park and spoke about the benefits of becoming a Charter City.

Florence Brown, El Cerrito, spoke in support of senior programs and services, expressed the value of Senior Centers in El Cerrito to the community and encouraged the Council to keep the Senior Center open.

Joan Aiken, Richmond, expressed concerns with diminished funding from the West Contra Costa School District for senior programs and asked the City Council to keep the Senior Centers open.

Reverend Sharon Lubkeman, Richmond, expressed her support for senior services and programs, particularly Christ Lutheran.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. California State Senator Mark DeSaulnier

Senator DeSaulnier will present the City Council with an update on the legislative session and state budget.

Action: Received presentation.

B. Bruce Harter, Ph.D, Superintendent, West Contra Costa Unified School District

Dr. Harter will present the City Council with information and seek the City Council's support for Measure D, a local construction bond ballot measure that will allow West Contra Unified School District to raise additional funds to continue repair and rebuild its schools throughout the community.

Action: Received presentation.

5. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR – Items 5A through 5I

Moved, seconded (Potter/Lyman) and carried unanimously to adopt Consent Calendar Item Nos. 5A through 5I in one motion as indicated below, including a revised Item No. 5C.

A. Minutes for Approval

Approve the April 5, 2010 Special Concurrent City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Minutes.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. Ordinance Establishing the Measure A Swim Center Parcel Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2010–2011

First Reading April 5, 2010. Vote: Ayes – Councilmembers Jones, Lyman, Potter, and Mayor Abelson; Noes – None; Absent – Councilmember Cheng

Waive second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 2010–04 setting a reduced tax rate only for

Fiscal Year 2010–11 for the special tax imposed pursuant to Chapter 4.56 of the El Cerrito Municipal Code.

Action: Adopted Ordinance No. 2010–04.

C. Ordinance Amending El Cerrito Municipal Code Chapter 19.24

First Reading April 5, 2010. Vote: Ayes – Councilmembers Jones, Lyman, Potter, and Mayor Abelson; Noes – None; Absent – Councilmember Cheng

Waive second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 2010–05 amending Chapter 19.24 (Off Street Parking and Loading) contained in Title 19 (“Zoning”) of the El Cerrito Municipal Code.

Action: Adopted Ordinance No. 2010–05 as revised.

D. Earth Day Proclamation

Approve a proclamation proclaiming April 24, 2010 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.

E. Hepatitis B Awareness Week Proclamation

Approve a proclamation proclaiming the week of May 16–22, 2010 as “Hepatitis B Awareness Week” in the City of El Cerrito and encouraging all residents to join in the fight against Hepatitis B and liver cancer.

Action: Approved proclamation.

F. Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation

Approve a proclamation proclaiming the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City of El Cerrito and commending those who go above and beyond the call of duty to end sexual violence in our community.

Action: Approved proclamation.

G. American Cancer Society Relay for Life

Adopt a resolution approving City co-sponsorship of American Cancer Society Relay for Life El Cerrito and waiving all fees associated with use of Cerrito Vista Park July 24–25, 2010.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2010–21.

H. Support West Contra Costa Unified School District Measure D

Adopt a resolution in support of West Contra Costa Unified School District Measure D on the June 8, 2010 election ballot.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2010–22.

I. Paving Contract Change Order Status Report

Receive and file a change order status report for two paving contract projects. On April 6, 2009 the City Council awarded two major contracts for street paving. Those actions included approving contract contingency funding at higher than normal levels, and the Council conditioned the awards on having staff report back to the Council on any change orders totaling more than \$75,000.

Action: Received and filed.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None**7. POLICY MATTERS****A. Fiscal Year 2010–11 Budget Priority Study Session**

Receive staff presentation, hold discussion on program priorities and provide direction to staff on items for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2010–11 budget document.

Presenters: Scott Hanin, City Manager, Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager, Mary Dodge, Administrative Services Director, Mitch Oshinsky, Community Development Director, Lance Maples, Fire Chief, Michael Regan, Police Captain, Jerry Bradshaw, Public Works Director, and Monica Kortz, Recreation Director.

Speakers: Jamie Jakubczak, Code Enforcement Officer, stated that employees work very hard to provide services to the community and are working harder as a result of the effects of decreased city revenue. Mr. Jakubczak stated that a lot of employees may be under strain and expressed his hope that the Council will look at ways to help employees.

Sean Moss, Associate Planner and Vice-Chair Service Employee International Union (SEIU) El Cerrito Chapter Local 1021, commended his fellow employees for maintaining a high level of customer services despite staff reductions and cuts. Mr. Moss said it will become increasingly difficult if not impossible to maintain a high level of customer service with any additional reductions in staff and asked that any future actions, such as furloughs, affect all employees equally.

Jamie Vaughn, El Cerrito, commented on cost reimbursement and suggested that the Council look at how to grow revenue.

Action: Received presentation. Discussion held.

B. City Council Wall of Fame Subcommittee Appointment

Appoint two members of the City Council to evaluate a Wall of Fame application.

Action: The City Council appointed Councilmembers Potter and Cheng to the Wall of Fame Subcommittee.

C. Support California Senate Bill 375 and Assembly Bill 32

Added to this agenda as an emergency item by majority vote of the Council.

Action: Moved, seconded (Cheng/Lyman) and carried unanimously to write a letter to the Board of the League of California Cities recommending that the League refrain from supporting a move to suspend AB 32 and SB 375.

8. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

Moved, seconded (Lyman/Potter) and carried unanimously to continue Council assignment and liaison reports to the May 3, 2010 meeting.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**Item No. 4(A) Presentation by California State Senator Mark DeSaulnier**

1. Legislative Update, April 2010 – *Submitted by Senator DeSaulnier.*

Item No. 4(B) Presentation by Bruce Harter, Ph.D, Superintendent, West Contra Costa Unified School District

2. Powerpoint presentation – *Submitted by Dr. Harter.*

Item No. 5(C) Ordinance Amending El Cerrito Municipal Code Chapter 19.24

3. Revised ordinance

Other

4. No on Prop 16, Stop the PG&E Powergrab Endorsement Form – *Submitted by David Gray.*

Moved, seconded (Potter/Jones) and carried unanimously to extend the meeting to 11:00 p.m.

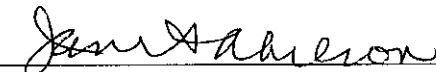
Moved, seconded (Potter/Lyman) and carried unanimously to extend the meeting to 11:35 p.m.

9. ADJOURNED SPECIAL CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING at 11:37 p.m.

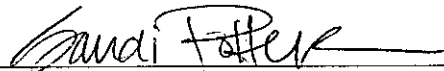
This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Concurrent City Council and Redevelopment Agency meeting of April 19, 2010 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.



Cheryl Morse, City Clerk and Secretary to the Redevelopment Agency



Janet Abelson, Mayor



Sandi Potter, Redevelopment Agency Chair