

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL EL CERRITO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

SPECIAL CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

Tuesday, February 16, 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 7:36 p.m.

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** was led by Councilmember Jones.
- 2. COUNCIL / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Jones commented that healthcare affects everyone in the community and noted increased pressures on individuals and institutions. Last week Blue Cross announced a 39% increase in single-payer premiums. Councilmember Jones noted that Kaiser had increased his medicine co-pay from \$10.00 to \$13.95. The insurance industry has spent over a half billion dollars to promote their views on healthcare. Councilmember Jones said the insurance industry needs true competition, that many countries are able to provide healthcare and the United States should be able to do it too.

Councilmember Jones also noted the Police Department's initiative in coordinating with other police departments to raise money for Special Olympics on June 6 and commended the police department for doing something special for the community.

Councilmember Lyman announced that *First 5 Family-Friendly Community Grants* are available for local projects that benefit children age five and younger and their families. For more information www.firstfivecc.org or call 925-771-7343.

Mayor Abelson reported on her and Councilmember Jones attendance at the Richmond Elks Lodge Law Enforcement Night. Officer John Molica was honored for his service as Officer of the Year. It was enlightening and rewarding to hear of all the good things happening in the community. Mayor Abelson also attended the Contra Costa Civic Theatre production *Over the Tavern* on February 5, 2010 and noted that the Theater has been in operation for 50 years. On February 20, 2010 the Berkeley Opera will begin its first season in El Cerrito at the Performing Arts Theater. More information is located at berkeleyopera.org. Mayor Abelson announced that a majority of the City Council will convene a Town Hall Meeting with Contra Costa County Supervisor Gioia and Congressman Garamendi on February 19 from 6-7:30 in the City Hall Chambers.

STAFF COMMENTS

California Society of Municipal Finance Officers Excellence in Budgeting Award and Introduction of New Employee Services Manager, Sukari Beshears

Mary Dodge, Administrative Services Director, presented the award to the Council and stated that the City scores consistently higher each year. Ms. Dodge also introduced the city's new Employee Services Manager, Sukari Beshears.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Al Miller, El Cerrito, expressed his appreciation for Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst, for her work in bringing \$500,000 in federal grant money to the city to do its own environmental work and also act as lead to the cities of San Pablo, Piedmont and Albany to deliver a product that small cities everywhere can use. Mr. Miller also expressed his agreement with Councilmember Jones comments on healthcare.

Tom Panas, El Cerrito Representative to the Contra Costa Library Commission, stated that visitation and circulation at all libraries are up, that he recently attended the grand opening of the Lafayette Library and that a new library is scheduled to open in Walnut Creek on July 17, 2010. Mr. Panas commented on possible cuts in hours at El Cerrito and other County Libraries. The County Librarian has been warned that cuts may be necessary. Mr. Panas also commented on the arrangements for cities to provide maintenance of the libraries and said that he and Mr. Poulos would be pleased to provide a presentation to Council at some point in the future should the Council so desire.

Millie Cleveland, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), asked the Council, in relation to Consent Calendar Item No. 5(B), to reconsider the concept of hiring private contractors to do work that furloughed public workers could do.

Michael DeWitt, El Cerrito, explained that his car with expired tags had been towed resulting in more than \$300 in fees and asked for the city's attention to look at punitive fees and the costs and benefits of such actions.

4. PRESENTATIONS – None

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

Moved, seconded (Potter/Lyman) and carried unanimously to approve Consent Calendar Item No. 5A. Consent Calendar Item No. 5B was removed from the Consent Calendar by Councilmember Potter and voted on separately by the City Council as indicated below.

A. Minutes for Approval

Approve the February 1, 2010 Special City Council and Special Concurrent City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Minutes.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. Green Curb Markings Fronting 6921, 6923 and 6925 Stockton Avenue

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Public Works Director/City Engineer to install approximately 40 feet of green curb markings and corresponding signage fronting 6921, 6923 and 6925 Stockton Avenue.

Presenter: Yvetteh Ortiz, Senior Engineer, described the scope of work and stated that work on this project will be done by public works maintenance crew.

Action: Removed from the Consent Calendar by Councilmember Potter. Moved, seconded (Jones/Potter) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2010-05.

6. PUBLIC HEARING – None

7. POLICY MATTERS

CITY COUNCIL ITEM

A. San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Project: Art in Public Places Program

Approval of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for artist services in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 with Jonathan Russell and Saori Ide for a San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Public Art Project.

Presenters: Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison to the Arts and Culture Commission and Dyana Bhandari, Chair, Arts and Culture Commission.

Johnathan Russell and Saore Ide, artists.

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Cheng) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2010-06 providing that at the conclusion of the planning cycle there is a presentation to the City Council on what the remaining contract will purchase.

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ITEMS

B. Expenditure of Bond Funds to Repay Low and Moderate Income Housing Funds Previously Expended for Property Acquisition

Adopt a Redevelopment Agency resolution authorizing the appropriation of \$1,820,000 of proceeds from the 2004 Agency Tax Exempt Bonds previously reserved for the purchase of land for construction of a library and senior center in order to apply the proceeds towards a portion of the cost of a prior land purchase made using an expenditure of Low and Moderate Income Housing Fund monies.

Presenter: Hilde Mvall, Senior Project Manager.

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Jones) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 595.

C. Agency Contribution to the Supplemental Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF)

Adopt a Redevelopment Agency resolution authorizing the Redevelopment Agency to borrow needed Low and Moderate Income Housing Funds and to pay the Agency's required contribution of \$1,767,418 to the 2009–2010 Supplemental Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund when due to the County on May 10, 2010, as well as to make the necessary related appropriations.

Action: Moved, seconded (Abelson/Jones) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 596.

JOINT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ITEM

D. Fiscal Year 2009–10 Mid Year Budget Review and Reserve Policy

Discussion and possible direction on the FY 2009-10 and FY 2010-11 budget priorities and reserve policy.

Presenter: Scott Hanin, City Manager.

Speakers: Rich Bartke, Chair, Financial Advisory Board (FAB), reported that the FAB had met last week and looked at the options presented for addressing the budget shortfall and felt it was inappropriate to choose or rank any of the options as this decision is within the purview of the City Council. However, as an assist to the Council, the FAB found that the use of reserves to address all or part of the budget shortfall would comply with existing policy. Mr. Bartke also explained the FAB's analysis and recommendation of the proposed revised reserve policy.

Lani Puzey, SEIU 1021 member, expressed her support for City Manager Hanin, stated that union members had done their part in an effort to keep the budget balanced but do not wish to carry the burden of the budget shortfall by themselves and asked that police and fire also share the burden.

Millie Cleveland, SEIU, stated that while members had compromised on raises and furlough days the council had negotiated raises for other bargaining units and asked the Council to develop a more equitable approach toward compensation in which the pain is shared across the city.

Action: Discussion held with consensus that staff use reserves for the budget shortfall this year and return the reserve balance policy to the Council for discussion and possible action on March 15, 2010.

8. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

A. Mayor Abelson reported on her attendance at the Contra Costa Mayors Conference with Councilmembers Jones and Cheng. The featured speaker was Annie Henderson of Renewable Funding who discussed the California First program, particularly how to fund energy efficiency improvements by using a mechanism for funding projects by borrowing money against one's property. The loan and the benefits of improvement stay with the property upon sale of the home. This is a new program based on Berkeley's solar program.

Mayor Abelson also announced the Environmental Quality Committee's (EQC) development of a workplan for programs they wish to complete in the coming year. The EQC has divided into various subcommittees to complete projects identified in the workplan.

- B. Councilmember Cheng reported that the Design Review Board approved a gateway design for Camp Herms. The Economic Development Board has eleven people enrolled in business apprenticeship program offered at City Hall. The Home Expo is scheduled for May 2, 2010.
- C. Councilmember Jones reported that the Gilman Fields JPA is moving along with funding for the final phase to include parking and an additional ball field. The West County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) contract for recycling fees is up for review and scheduled for possible approval at the March 2010 meeting. This is a four year agreement that will end in 2013. The Food Scrap Recycling Program was approved by the Board for all member cities using El Cerrito as the pilot city. El Cerrito's Garth Schultz has done a great job working on this. The IWMA Board will provide each city with funds to educate residents about the new service. The IWMA JPA (*Recycle More*) is set to expire in 2013. The IWMA Board directed staff to implement a process of evaluation with member cities with the goal of determining whether member cities should continue past 2013. The Board also directed staff to develop possible plans, goals and roles to consider should member cities wish to continue the IWMA past 2013. City Councils will decide the future of the IWMA past 2013. The Board hopes to have a decision made by member cities in late 2012 or early 2013.
- D. Councilmember Lyman reported that there will be a Neighborhood Watch information meeting on March 22, 2010 from 6-7:30 p.m. at City Hall. The Bicycle Safety Rodeo will take place on May 22, 2010 at St John's School Kearney Street Yard from 11:00 to 3:00 p.m. The FAB met on February 11 and discussed the mid year report.
- E. Councilmember Potter attended the Human Relation Commission meeting on February 3. The Commission discussed recruitment of new members.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

Item No. 7(A) San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Project: Art in Public Places Program

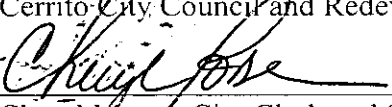
1. Presentation by Dyana Bhandari, Chair, Arts and Culture Commission.

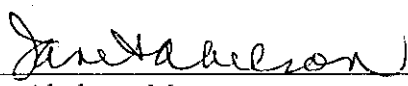
Other

2. Billy Budd and the Federal Sentencing Mandates – *Submitted by Michael DeWitt.*

9. **ADJOURNED CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING** at 10:25 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the concurrent City Council and Redevelopment Agency meeting of February 16, 2010 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council and Redevelopment Agency.


Cheryl Morse, City Clerk and Secretary to the Redevelopment Agency


Janet Abelson, Mayor


Sandi Potter, Redevelopment Agency Chair