

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL EL CERRITO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 1, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

Hillside Conference Room

SPECIAL CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

Monday, February 1, 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

7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Abelson convened the Special City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – No speakers.

COMMISSION INTERVIEWS, STATUS AND APPOINTMENTS

Conduct interviews of candidates for city boards and commissions. Interviews may result in an announcement of appointment at the meeting. The Council may also discuss scheduling of future interviews.

Action: Interview conducted.

ADJOURNED SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 7:22 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers/Agency Members Cheng, Jones, Lyman, Potter (Agency Chair) 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 7:34 p.m.

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

Councilmember Lyman reported that he attended a performance by the Berkeley Opera on January 31 with Councilmember Potter and Mayor Abelson and encouraged all to attend the Opera's upcoming performances.

Councilmember Jones commented on the innovation of the Police Department in organizing a crab feed fund raiser in support of a potential police canine program.

Mayor Abelson in accordance with AB1234 requirements, reported on her attendance at a January 26 Association of Bay Area Government's (ABAG) seminar, *Rebuilding the American Dream*. Mayor Abelson stated that the seminar was informative and focused on the state of the Bay Area economy. It is expected that the recession is over but the toll has been horrific; unemployment continues to grow and the recovery will likely be very slow as the unemployed attempt to find jobs and consumers attempt to get their finances in order. El Cerrito was on a list of bay area communities with low foreclosure rates. El Cerrito had 24 foreclosures which equates to 3.2 foreclosures per 1000 homes. Mayor Abelson also announced that the Environmental Services Division will have a free recycle center event for fluorescent tubes, medicines, needles and thermometers at the Recycle Center on February 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Additionally, there will be an eWaste and Clothing collection event in June. More information can be obtained from the City's website <http://www.el-cerrito.org/esd/>.

Mayor Abelson announced the reappointment of Nancy Donovan to the Arts and Culture Commission for a term ending January 1, 2014.

Maria Sanders, Environmental Services Division Analyst, announced the Division's receipt of official notification from the Environmental Protection Agency of a Climate Showcase Grant. El Cerrito will provide a leadership role in the program. The grant will provide \$120,000 to pursue the City's climate action, planning and energy efficiency projects and another \$380,000 to provide leadership in regional collaboration with other small cities in the area such as Albany, Piedmont and San Pablo to reduce greenhouse gases. The grant was very competitive. Only 25 communities out of 450 received the grant.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Philip Zimmerman, Kensington, stated that he is a long time El Cerrito property owner. Mr. Zimmerman expressed his opposition to the proposed cell phone tower at Camp Herms and asked the Council to protect the trees at Camp Herms.

Alan Stanek, El Cerrito, stated that he is an IT architect and frequent visitor of Camp Herms and expressed his opposition to the proposed cell tower at Camp Herms. Mr. Stanek noted that the only experts and solution offered are by T-Mobile and requested that an independent consultant be hired, a multi-year comprehensive plan to address future needs for more capacity be developed and a twelve month moratorium on the construction of the tower be considered.

Pam Bennet, El Cerrito, expressed her opposition to the proposed cell tower at Camp Herms and stated that the tower is too close to residents and children and expressed concern about adverse health effects and negative impacts on property values.

Rochelle Silberman, El Cerrito, stated her opposition to the proposed cell tower at Camp Herms.

Kathryn Fletcher, El Cerrito, stated her opposition to the proposed cell tower at Camp Herms, and reported on her research showing a reduction in property values resulting from the placement of cell towers in New Zealand.

Michael DeMay, El Cerrito, stated that he is the closest house to the proposed cell tower and will be the most impacted by a cell tower and expressed opposition to the cell tower and the fake tree.

Denise Sangster, El Cerrito, commented on the ownership structure of T-Mobile as it relates to liability and European safety standards. Ms. Sangster also stated that she is distressed that the Council is considering the potential of declaring a fiscal emergency and a ½ to ¼ cent sales tax on the June ballot. Ms. Sangster said this will result in a negative image of the city and will discourage people from shopping in El Cerrito. Ms. Sangster said that spending and employee compensation need to be addressed.

4. PRESENTATIONS

El Cerrito Citizen's Street Oversight Committee Annual Report to City Council

Presented by Al Miller, Chair, Citizen's Street Oversight Committee.

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

Moved, seconded (Potter/Jones) and carried unanimously to adopt Consent Calendar Items 5A through 5D in one motion as indicated below.

A. Minutes for Approval

Approve the January 19, 2010 Special City Council Meeting and Special Concurrent City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Minutes.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. Repeal and Re-Enacting the Curfew Ordinance

First reading January 19, 2010. Vote – Unanimous

Approve by title, waive any further reading and adopt Ordinance 2010-02, repealing and reenacting Chapter 10.70 of the El Cerrito Municipal Code (Minors – Activities or Places Prohibited).

Action: Adopted Ordinance No. 2010-02.

C. Federal Stimulus II Paving Project – Design Phase

Adopt a resolution that:

1. Amends the 2009-10 Capital Improvement Program to include the Stim-II Federal Paving Project (Project #C3062);
2. Appropriates \$155,000 of Measure A Street Improvement Program funding for the design phase of the project;

3. Authorizes the City Manager to execute an agreement with Nichols Consulting Engineers for an amount not to exceed \$36,900 to provide engineering testing services for the project and award change orders in an amount not to exceed \$4,000; and
4. Authorizes the City Manager to execute a contract amendment with Avila Project Management for an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for design services for the project and award change orders in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2010-03.

D. Proclamation Recognizing Officer John Molica, Jr.

Approve a proclamation congratulating Motor Officer John Molica, Jr., for his recognition by the Richmond Elks Lodge No. 1251 Police Officer Appreciation Program.

Action: Approved proclamation.

6. PUBLIC HEARING – None

7. POLICY MATTERS

CITY COUNCIL ITEM

A. Design Build Delivery Method for the Recycling Center

Adopt a resolution approving use of the Design-Build project delivery method authorized by California Public Contract Code Section 20175.2 for the Recycling Center – Environmental Services Division construction project.

Presenter: Melanie Mintz, Environmental Services Division Manager.

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Jones) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2010-04.

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ITEM

B. Del Norte Transit Oriented Development Strategy

Receive a presentation and provide direction to staff to initiate a Transit Oriented Development Strategy for the Del Norte area and pursue grant funds available for that purpose.

Presenters: Lori Treviño, Redevelopment Agency Manager; Nadine Fogarty, Strategic Economics; and Jeffrey Tumlin, Nelson/Nygaard.

Action: Received presentation. Discussion held. The Council, by unanimous agreement, directed staff to explore grant funding and initiate phase 1 of a Del Norte Transit Oriented Development Strategy to include a market and economic analysis, analysis of parking and circulation and development of a developer solicitation.

8. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Mayor Abelson reported that she attended a Mayors Conference workshop in Orinda and attended two League of California Cities Policy Committees in which she heard a lot about the state budget. The League is working on a ballot measure to protect local revenues. The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed uses at Huber Park at its last meeting. The West Contra Costa County Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC) met January 29. Mayor Abelson was re-elected as the WCCTAC representative to the Contra Costa Transit Authority. At their last meeting, the West County Mayors and Supervisors Association

discussed air quality, specifically, the air quality concept of remaining below 350 ppm to prevent global warming. Each Mayor was asked to bring the concept back to their respective cities for inclusion into their climate action plans.

- B. Councilmember Cheng – No report.
- C. Councilmember Jones reported that the Planning Commission conducted a three hour meeting on the proposed cell tower at Camp Herms. The Commission delayed its decision to study the issues further. Neither the Sportsfield JPA or Integrated Waste Management Authority met last month.
- D. Councilmember Lyman – No report.
- E. Councilmember Potter reported on the Arts and Culture Commission's last meeting. The Commission met with the artists who were selected for the public arts project. The project will be presented to the Council at its next meeting to discuss a contract for the public art work. Councilmember Potter asked the Council to think about providing direction on the banner program and the extent to which the Council wants the Public Art Program to be at a pedestrian scale or street level presence. The Commission also discussed concerns about graffiti and vandalism of public art. The artist concept is one of symbols and the relation of symbols to the type of activity in a particular district.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

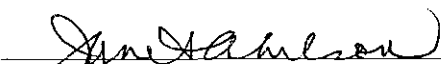
Proposed Cell Tower at Camp Herms

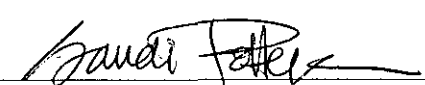
Comments submitted by Philip Zimmerman.

8. ADJOURNED SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING at 10:18 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 1, 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