

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, November 16, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

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

Sandi Potter – Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Janet Abelson
Councilmember Greg Lyman

Councilmember/Agency Chair William C. Jones, III
Councilmember/Agency Vice-Chair Ann Cheng

ROLL CALL

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

7:30 p.m. CONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Potter convened the City Council meeting at 7:36 p.m.

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

Jerry Bradshaw, Director of Public Works, provided the City Council with an update on the street repair and maintenance program.

Councilmember Lyman extended an invitation to the public to join the Crime Prevention Committee and reported on his attendance at the Contra Costa Mayors Conference in Moraga in which Joan Buchanan delivered a presentation on water issues and a staff person reported on the safety, ease and importance of being counted in the 2010 Census.

Mayor Pro Tem Abelson reported that she was a featured speaker at the Rail-Volution Conference in Boston. The topic of Mayor Pro Tem Abelson's presentation was transit-oriented development for people with disabilities. Mayor Pro Tem Abelson also reported on her attendance at the Urban Land Institute's (ULI) Conference and Expo in San Francisco. Mayor Pro Tem attended a session on the Del Norte Plaza area and found it to be very informative, as it offered the perspective from a developer's point of view.

Mayor Potter acknowledged the excellent work of the El Cerrito Fire Department, particularly Battalion Chief Bond and staff, in responding to a major structural fire at 500 Cleveland in Albany in concert with the cities of Albany and Richmond. It was a multi-property, high hazard fire at a lumberyard, which included hazardous materials and a propane tank. Collectively, the three fire departments contained the fire in one hour and protected the community from a potential disaster. Mayor Potter thanked the firefighters for their professionalism and exceptional efforts in protecting our community.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Al Miller, El Cerrito, reported on the last meeting of the Citizens Street Oversight Committee. The Committee established rules on how it will operate and obtained a better understanding of how the state documents the transfer of funds to the city and how the city pays off the bonds and the contractors that are doing the work. Mr. Miller commended the staff support provided by Mr. Bradshaw.

4. PRESENTATIONS – None

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

Moved, seconded (Jones/Cheng) and carried unanimously to adopt Consent Calendar Item Nos. 5A, 5B, 5C, 5E and 5F in one motion. Consent Calendar Item No. 5D was removed from the consent calendar by Councilmember Jones and voted on separately as indicated below.

A. Minutes for Approval

Approve the November 2, 2009 Special Concurrent City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Minutes.

Action: Approved November 2, 2009 Concurrent City Council/Redevelopment Agency meeting minutes.

B. Refurbishing of Street Light Poles Along San Pablo Avenue

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Republic Intelligent Transportation Services, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$259,695 to refurbish up to 261 electrical poles along San Pablo Avenue and execute change orders up to \$26,000.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2009-74.

C. Capital Improvement Program Consulting Contract Amendments

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the following consultant service contracts: 1) Increase the Ninyo & Moore contract for on-call services in the amount of \$50,000 for geotechnical and materials testing services related to the Street Improvement Program and other miscellaneous projects; 2) Increase the Engeo Inc. contract for 2009 Asphalt Rubber Cape Seal projects in the amount of \$17,000 for materials testing; and 3) Increase the Glass Associates contract for Community Center Spray Park project in the amount of \$9,400 for additional design services.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2009-75.

D. Community Development Block Grant Fund Application for Access Ramps and Accessibility Improvements at the Senior Center

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Public Works Director to submit an application and execute

all agreements pertaining to the Contra Costa County Community Development Block Grant program to provide access ramps and other accessibility improvements on the exterior grounds of the Senior Center located at 6500 Stockton Avenue.

Action: Removed from the Consent Calendar by Councilmember Jones. Moved, seconded (Abelson/Cheng) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2009-76 as amended by Councilmember Jones to modify the second recital of the resolution to emphasize that the Senior Center is a high priority facility under the City's ADA Transition Plan.

E. Committee on Aging Appointment

Approve a recommendation appointing Mark Guthrie to the Committee on Aging.

Action: Approved recommendation to appoint Mark Guthrie to the Committee on Aging effective November 17, 2009.

F. September 30, 2009 Quarterly Investment Report

Receive and file the City's September 30, 2009 Quarterly Investment Report.

Action: Received and Filed.

6. PUBLIC HEARING – None

7. POLICY MATTERS

A. Bruce King Memorial Park

Adopt a resolution amending the 2009 – 2010 Capital Improvement Program to add a dog park project, appropriating \$40,000 to be funded through donations and Measure WW proceeds, and officially designate the name of the new facility to be the "Bruce King Memorial Dog Park."

Presenter: Jerry Bradshaw, Director of Public Works.

Speakers: Mindy Charlup, Richmond, expressed her appreciation toward the City Council, Ms. Kortz and Mr. Bradshaw for their efforts toward establishing a Bruce King Memorial Dog Park.

Lara Weisiger, Alameda, expressed support for the Bruce King Memorial Dog Park and stated that the dog park was an appropriate way to honor Mr. King.

Mae Ritz, El Cerrito, representing the El Cerrito Garden Club, reported that the Garden Club had collected funds to plant a re-forestation plantation in the Shasta Trinity Forest in Mr. King's memory as a way of honoring his friendship and work in the community.

Action: Moved, seconded (Abelson/Lyman) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2009-77 as amended by Councilmember Jones to limit the expenditure of Measure WW proceeds to \$25,000.

B. San Pablo Avenue Area Specific Plan Study Session

This item is a study session and requests no action by the City Council. MIG will present the Draft San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan and the process to date.

Presenters: Mitch Oshinsky, Community Development Director ; Chris Beynon, Project Director, MIG; and Brian Soland, Project Associate, MIG.

Speakers: Grace MacNeill, El Cerrito, on behalf of the El Cerrito Historical Society, complemented the work of all Plan contributors. The Historical Society proposed that the goal of the Plan be to identify all the specific historic resources that exist in the Plan area, as this

would be an extremely valuable addition to the plan, the community and individual property owners. The Historical Society asked that inaccuracies in the Plan be corrected and that the final outcome reflect the historic nature of San Pablo Avenue. The Historical Society also requested that the City Council direct staff to have an historic context study and survey of historic resources completed for the Plan before the environmental review process is completed.

Rebecca Benassini, El Cerrito, spoke in favor of high density development and low parking ratios. Ms. Benassini said she supported the Urban Land Institute report and noted that if the Plan results in moving residents and jobs closer to BART this will encourage compact development and household budgets. Ms. Benassini also expressed her support for the implementation plan.

Vu Bang Nguyen, Urban Habitat, expressed support for the Specific Plan and stated that it offered opportunities for affordable housing with its parking ratios and densities that take advantage of transit offered in the area.

Wiley Osborn, El Cerrito, said he was pleased to see that parking ratios had been reduced and that they should be reduced to standards similar to those adopted by Redwood City and Oakland. Mr. Osborn spoke about parking options.

John Dalrymple, Berkeley, stated that he was a consultant for plumbers, electrical workers and sheet metal workers union in the Contra Costa County. Mr. Dalrymple asked that local union contractors and workers be given opportunities and asked the City Council to encourage career paths in the construction trade, encourage PLAs with fair wages and benefits, and think about how the specific plan will affect the economy.

Action: Discussion held.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Urban Habitat Comments, October 9, 2009 – *Submitted by Vu Bang Nguyen.*
2. San Pablo Avenue Housing Needs Assessment by Center for Community Innovation – *Submitted by Vu Bang Nguyen.*
3. El Cerrito Historical Society Comments dated November 13 and 16, 2009 – *Submitted by Grace MacNeill.*

8. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Mayor Potter reported that the next Mayors Conference will be in Lafayette and announced that the City Council will reorganize and select a new mayor at its December 7, 2009 meeting.
- B. Mayor Pro Tem Abelson stated that the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) considered amendment of the animal ordinance regarding chickens, bees and goats at its last meeting and expressed conflicting opinions regarding roosters. The EQC asked planning staff to develop a proposed ordinance regarding hens.
- C. Councilmember Cheng – No report.
- D. Councilmember Jones reported that the Integrated Waste Management Authority is considering its two year budget which has to be passed by December 31. Certain cities are trying to get green waste and food waste service for El Cerrito with the best price as a standard service with a standard price.

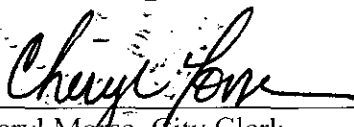
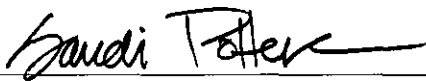
E. Councilmember Lyman reported that the Financial Advisory Board (FAB) is continuing to work on a reserve fund policy that will come to the City Council in January 2010.

Moved, seconded (Abelson/Jones; Ayes – Abelson, Jones, Lyman and Potter; Noes – None; Absent – Cheng) and carried to suspend Council rules and extend the meeting to 11:00 p.m.

Moved, seconded (Jones/Lyman) and carried unanimously to suspend Council rules and extend the meeting to 11:10 p.m.

9. **ADJOURNED CITY COUNCIL MEETING** at 11:13 p.m. in memory of Miriam Wilkins, El Cerrito Wall of Fame recipient and founder of the Heritage Rose Group.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 16, 2009 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.


Cheryl Morse, City Clerk
Sandi Potter, Mayor