

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, October 6, 2008 – 7:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW CITY HALL

Meeting Location

El Cerrito City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

William C. Jones, III – Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Sandi Potter
Councilmember Jan Bridges

Councilmember Janet Abelson
Councilmember Letitia D. Moore

MAYOR AND ALL COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT at 7:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m. GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW CITY HALL AND CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- 1. RAISING OF THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Councilmember Abelson in the City Hall Plaza.
- 2. WALL OF FAME RECOGNITION AND FORMAL CEREMONIAL RIBBON CUTTING**
- 3. CONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Jones convened the City Council meeting at 7:40 p.m.

- 4. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

Councilmember Abelson expressed appreciation for the dedication of all those who made the New City Hall possible particularly city staff, former councilmembers and mayors, the current council and all the residents who supported the city hall project.

Councilmember Moore thanked prior councils for taking down the old city hall and stated that she was proud to be among the first councilmembers to sit in the new city hall. Councilmember Moore thanked the former councilmembers, former staff, staff in the trailers, those who put this evening and the Mayors' Conference together and all those responsible who have taken steps in the past twenty years to make the new city hall a reality.

Mayor Pro Tem Potter expressed her delight with all those gathered to celebrate the evening, particularly the Fire Department for the special flag raising ceremony, acknowledged all of the police officers present, stated that there were too many people to thank individually and acknowledged City Manager Hanin who had the vision and leadership to bring the project

together. Mayor Pro Tem Pötter also said she was honored by the presence of Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia and Assemblywoman Loni Hancock on this auspicious day.

Councilmember Bridges recognized all the public and officials in the audience, particularly the former mayors and councilmembers. Councilmember Bridges thanked the staff for all of their hard work, particularly those involved with the building's financing and technology.

Mayor Jones noted that the Council Chambers also serves as the City's Emergency Operations Center and pointed out that all the monitors and other features are wired for emergency purposes. Mayor Jones introduced all the former mayors in attendance: Ken Berndt, Norma Jellison, Barbara Mespelt representing former mayor Roy Mespelt, Larry Damon, Jane Bartke, Rich Bartke, Gina Brusatori and Mark Friedman.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Ceremonial Proclamations and Commendations Celebrating the Inauguration of the New City Hall – *presentations by the Office of Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, Office of Senator Tom Torlakson, Assemblywoman Loni Hancock and Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia.*

Action: Erik Ridley, Field Representative, appearing on behalf of Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, expressed Congresswoman Tauscher's regret that she could not personally be present at tonight's inaugural event. Mr. Ridley presented the City Council with a statement of congratulations and commendations on behalf of Congresswoman Tauscher.

On behalf of California State Senator Tom Torlakson, Mayor Jones presented the City with a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Senate on the Occasion of the Grand Opening of the New City Hall, City Council Chambers and the Emergency Operations Center. Senator Torlakson extends his commendations and best wishes that the New City Hall provides many successful years to meet and serve public needs.

Assemblywoman Loni Hancock, California State Assembly, commented on the beautiful architecture and extended her congratulations. Assemblywoman Hancock presented a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the California Assembly, noted the many "green" features of City Hall and commended the City Council for its green leadership.

Supervisor John Gioia, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, presented the City Council with a resolution adopted by the entire Contra Costa Board of Supervisors and commented on the pleasure of being in an environmentally friendly and seismically safe building. Supervisor Gioia stated that the celebration of the construction of public buildings is symbolic of citizens participation in the democratic process and that the city had created a welcoming and enduring building for civic participation. Supervisor congratulated all, including prior city councils.

B. El Cerrito City Council Proclamation and Resolution Inaugurating the New City Hall and Invitation to Former Mayors and Councilmembers and All Present Wishing to Comment on the New City Hall

Adopt a resolution and approve a proclamation celebrating the inauguration of the New City Hall and proudly dedicating City Hall and its Plaza to the residents and businesses of El Cerrito.

Mayor Jones invited all public present to come to the speaker dais and offer public comment.

Speakers: Peter Loubal, El Cerrito, expressed concerns regarding the cost and financing of the New City Hall.

John Gioia expressed his support for the City Council resolution and the city hall project and stated that Mr. Loubal's comments reflect the Council's success in encouraging open debate.

Chris Conrad, El Cerrito, stated that he was proud of City Hall being housed in mobile offices but now supports the civic sense and pride of the building as well as the beautiful architecture and other improvements.

Action: Moved, seconded and carried unanimously (Abelson/Potter) to adopt Resolution No. 2008-75 and approve a proclamation celebrating the inauguration of the New City Hall and proudly dedicating City Hall and its Plaza, the New City Council Chambers and the Emergency Operations Center to the residents and businesses of El Cerrito.

C. Proclamation Commending and Congratulating Sayaka Matsumoto on her Participation in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in China

Adopt a proclamation commending and congratulating El Cerrito Resident Sayaka Matsumoto on her participation as a USA Olympic Judo Team Member in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China.

Action: Approved proclamation.

6. BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARDS – Presented by Dwayne Dalman, Economic Development Specialist and Ken Lerch, Economic Development Board.

Presentation of Awards to The Junket, Pastime Ace Hardware and Trader Joes.

Presenters: Dwayne Dalman, Economic Development Specialist, stated that each business recognized this evening contributed in a unique way to the economic development of El Cerrito, showed longevity with the city, contributed to community events, showed involvement with innovative products or ideas and displayed industry achievement.

Ken Lerch, Vice-Chair, Economic Development Board Member, introduced each business.

Speakers: Peter Loubal, El Cerrito, stated that the businesses deserve recognition and expressed concerns regarding Target and the Cerrito Theater.

Action: Mayor Jones presented an award to Bruno and Cindy Frisch of The Junket, Richard Pryde on behalf of Pastime Ace Hardware; and James Gibbons and Erin Sheehan, Trader Joes.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Jones invited public comment. No speakers.

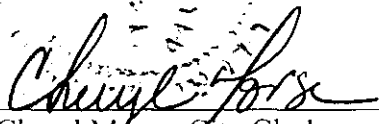
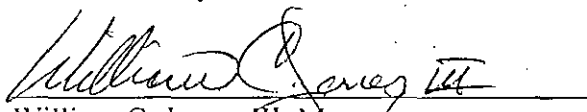
Mayor Jones announced the city's inauguration of live webcast and video on demand of City Council and Redevelopment Meetings over the world wide web at www.el-cerrito.org.

8. SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Hall Grand Opening – Peter Loubal

9. ADJOURNED CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 8:22 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 6, 2008 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.


Cheryl Morse, City Clerk
William C. Jones, III, Mayor