

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, February 24,
2009**

The Special Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Ritterman, Rogers, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Lopez, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** Councilmembers Bates and Vice Mayor Lopez (Vice Mayor Lopez arrived at 7:08 and Councilmember Bates arrived at 7:12 p.m.).

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

None.

**PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS,
AND COMMENDATIONS**

Chief Michael Banks gave an overview of the City's Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Training Program and introduced the Council to staff that made the training program possible and also candidates for the firefighter trainee positions who participated and graduated from the City's EMT Training Program. Fire Engineer Mayo and Captain Terry Harris spoke on this item. Jackie Thompson also spoke on this item. Mayor McLaughlin congratulated all the candidates and the Black Firefighter's Association for all the work put into this program.

Mayor McLaughlin read a proclamation celebrating February as Black History Month, honoring and recognizing the life and contributions of Mr. George Livingston, first directly elected African American mayor of the City of Richmond. Mrs. Livingston and many family members joined Mr. Livingston as he received his proclamation. Mr. Livingston thanked the Council for the proclamation and gave words of encouragement. Councilmembers Viramontes, Rogers, Butt, and Bates gave comments. Corky Booze, Jackie Thompson, and John Marquez spoke on this item.

The Council received a presentation from the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) concerning the City of Richmond's historic flower growing industry. Don Delcollo, a member of the Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission, introduced members of the JACL. James Oshima

and Chizu Iiyama gave a presentation which included a PowerPoint presentation. Councilmembers Viramontes, Bates, Vice Mayor Lopez, and Mayor McLaughlin gave comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Councilmember Ritterman, all items marked with an asterisk (*-) were approved by the unanimous vote of the Council.

*-Approved the following appointment:
Library Commission: Maude DeVictor, term expiring July 1, 2012.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Jackie Thompson requested the City sponsor a job fair for the homeless.

Corky Booze stated the trash is still located at Bissell Avenue and Esprit Street. He also suggested that something should be added to the Homefront Festival involving the Hispanic community. He also stated that the City's phone system needs to be addressed.

Mike Ali spoke regarding the school closures in Richmond.

Jovanka Beckles spoke regarding the mortgage crisis and asked anyone interested in working with her to address the issue may contact her through her website at www.javonkabeckles.org.

Kevin Hampton spoke regarding the proposed green business incentives plan. He stated that other businesses in Richmond should also be included in the incentive plan. He stated that Mayor McLaughlin should continue to support businesses in Richmond that hire citizens of Richmond.

STUDY SESSION

This item was heard before Open Forum. Steve Weir, Contra Costa County Clerk, gave a presentation on the process used to post the 2008 local election results on the Contra Costa County Election Department's website. Corky Booze and Mike Ali spoke on this item.

The Council heard a review of the Richmond Public Library Needs Assessment, Plan of Service, and Building Program, which was completed by Stantec (formerly Chong Partners) and consultants Linda Demmers and Leslie Nordby, in preparation for future construction of a new Main Library. The review included presentations from Library Director

Monique Le Conge, Emma Clark of the Richmond Public Library Foundation Board Member, and Friends of the Richmond Public Library Ellen Libert.

STUDY AND DIRECTION TO STAFF SESSION

The Council received for review the preliminary list of projects that have been identified for potential funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and provided direction to staff regarding this project list. Administrative Chief Janet Schneider gave an overview of the item which included a PowerPoint Presentation. Harpreet Sandhu spoke on this item. Councilmember Viramontes suggested adding the possibility of hiring additional staff to work on grants and Brookside Health Clinic to the list of projects. Councilmember Ritterman suggested including on the list something for homeless services, urban agriculture funding, and greening of the Port. Councilmember Bates stated that projects that require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should not be included on the list. He stated that the focus should be on projects that create jobs. He also stated that high priority should be placed on the purchasing, renovation, selling, or renting of homes that have gone into foreclosure and have become a nuisance in the community. Councilmember Rogers suggested adding Skate Parks to the list of projects. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes to grant City Manager Bill Lindsay expressed authority to go over his \$10,000 contract authority to a maximum of \$100,000 using the City of Richmond's Emergency Procurement Program, and to be able to, at his discretion within the Charter limits, react to the ARRA, and also any policy area that he believe the City Council would agree with. A friendly amendment was offered by Vice Mayor Lopez to extend the authority for six months only. The amendment was accepted. The motion was approved by the unanimous vote of the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m. in memory of Freddie McDonald, Frank Marasco, and in honor of Mardi Grau, to meet again on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor