

October 1, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor Gayle McLaughlin
Members of the City Council

From: Finance, Administrative Services and Economic Development Committee

SUBJECT: SUMMARY
Finance, Administrative Services and Economic Development Committee
Friday, October 1, 2010, 9:10 a.m.

Attendance: Present: Chair Butt and Councilmember Lopez and Rogers

Absent: None

**FINANCE, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE**

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

A1) CONSIDER: The Finance Committee was asked to approve a contract with New Image Landscape Company for fire hazard vegetation control for the Pt. Molate facilities and beach area in an amount not to exceed \$11,700.00 – Public Works Department

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion on this item.

ACTION: The Finance Committee voted unanimously to move this item to the City Council Agenda.

B. ROUTINE ITEMS

B1) REVIEW: the City's check register - Finance Department

DISCUSSION: The Finance Committee had no questions about the City's check register.

ACTION: The item was moved.

B2) REVIEW: Review the City's Investment Report for the month of August 2010 – Finance Department

DISCUSSION: The Finance Committee received a report by Tracy Lovely from the Finance Department about the city's cash investment report for the month of August. There were no significant changes from the report given on September 17, 2010, at the last Finance Committee Meeting.

ACTION: Item moved.

C. CONTRACTS & PAYMENTS

C1) CONSIDER: The Finance Committee is asked to consider a contract with Oakland Private Industry Council to process Individual Training Accounts for program participants - Employment & Training Department

DISCUSSION: The Finance Committee received a staff report from the Employment & Training Department. City staff stated that this contract is to provide vocational training and on-the-job training to its program participants. Staff further states that the funding sources for this program are in part from existing funds and funds also came from a federal emergency grant to promote job training and hiring.

ACTION: Item moved to City Council Agenda.

C2) CONSIDER: The Finance Committee is asked to consider awarding five different consulting contracts to five different companies to work on specific projects based on the firm's specialties and qualifications and subject to budgetary approval - Engineering Services

DISCUSSION: The Finance Committee received a report by Edric Kwan and Andy Yeung from the Engineering Services Department. Staff explained the need to hire consultants when the City of Richmond staff lack the specific knowledge needed for a specific project. For example, carbon liners are a very specific topic and one where city staff lacks particular expertise so the advice of a consultant knowledgeable about carbon liners is need in that instance.

DIRECTION: Councilmember Lopez recommended that the project manager needs to be out on the street daily to make sure that nothing is missed because in the past even when minor details have been overlooked it's a reflection on the City of Richmond.

ACTION: Item moved to City Council Agenda

C3) CONSIDER: The Finance Committee is asked to approve a maintenance contract with Harris Corporation for the existing 800 MHZ public safety radio system - Police Department

DISCUSSION: The police department staff presented a report and asked the Finance Committee to approve a service contract with the Harris Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$688,399.36 from August 7, 2010 to September 30, 2011. Please see the attached Finance Committee Agenda for a break down of payments for fiscal years 2010 – 2011. The police department needs to replace its existing 800 MHZ radio system with a new lower 700 MHZ radio frequency which has been approved by the FDA. The system needs to be replaced so that the Richmond Police department can communicate with other police agencies such as Concord, Alameda and San Francisco. Also the new radio system allows for communication with jurisdictions such as BART.

Councilmember Butt was concerned that the radio system has to be replaced after the City Council had previously spent a lot of time and money discussing the purchase of the 800 MHZ radio system and now it has to be changed. Councilmember Lopez reminded the Finance Committee that the City Council did vote to upgrade the police communication system even though they knew it would be costly. But it is imperative that the police department achieve interoperability with other agencies.

DIRECTION: Councilmember Butt directed the Police Department staff to come back to the Finance Committee in two or three months with an overview of the current status of the police radio system.

ACTION: Item moved to the City Council Agenda.

D. ADMINISTRATION, FISCAL POLICY & COUNCIL DIRECTED POLICY

D1) DISCUSSION: The Finance Committee discussed ways to increase service through new revenue sources. Councilmember Rogers discussed a proposal to have the city divided into six districts and each district decides its own priority needs, for example, street paving. Essentially each district will then be asked to tax them selves for needed services. Councilmember Rogers explained that the voting can be done in a low cost way which is a vote by mail parcel tax. This tax needs the approval of 50% of property owners. Councilmember Lopez stated that she is not willing to pose that question to the voters now in light of the current economic climate. Councilmember Butt agreed with Councilmember Rogers that it was good to keep the idea of special districts to improve streets. Councilmember Butt stated that he wants to keep this idea on the agenda and he feels that the Finance Committee can take the lead on developing a checklist of maintenance and capital improvement projects.

DIRECTION: Councilmember Rogers asked Finance Director James Goins to come back to the Finance Committee with more information on whether or not pot holes are an appropriate repair for this type of measure.

Open Forum/Public Comment

There was no open forum or public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 A.M.