

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, October 3, 2017**

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:06 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Ben Choi, Eduardo Martinez, Ada Recinos, Melvin Willis, Vice Mayor Jovanka Beckles, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Councilmember Jael Myrick arrived after the roll was called.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The city clerk announced that the purpose of the Open Session was for the City Council to hear public comments on the following items to be discussed in Closed Session:

**CITY COUNCIL**

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Initiation of litigation pursuant to Subdivision (c) of Government Code Section 54956.9):**

One case

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (Subdivision [a] of Government Code Section 54956.9):**

Upstream Point Molate vs. City of Richmond

**CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54956.8):**

Property: Richmond Main Post Office  
Negotiators: Bill Lindsay  
Negotiating party: US Postal Service  
Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

Cordell Hindler gave comments and Bea Roberson requested information on decisions made regarding the Richmond Main Post Office real property negotiation.

Jim Hanson and David Helvarg gave comments regarding the Upstream Point Molate vs. City of Richmond existing litigation case.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:12 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 7:04 p.m., by Mayor Butt.

## **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Choi, Martinez, Recinos, Willis, Vice Mayor Beckles, and Mayor Butt.  
**Absent:** Councilmember Myrick arrived at approximately 7:06 p.m.

## **STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

## **AGENDA REVIEW**

None.

## **PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS**

D-1. Councilmember Martinez, Vice Mayor Beckles, and Mayor Butt presented a proclamation to West Coast Chess Alliance Outreach Coordinator T.C. Ball designating October as Chess Month in Richmond, and encouraging Richmond residents to attend the Richmond Chess Festival on October 21, 2017. Amanda Elliott gave comments.

## **REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY OF FINAL DECISIONS MADE DURING CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney Bruce Goodmiller reported that the Council authorized and directed staff to file a complaint against several fossil fuel and petroleum companies for damages caused by their products. Six councilmembers voted in favor and Mayor Butt abstained.

## **REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Bill Lindsay reported that the Richmond Promise scholarship program was honored by the University of California, Berkeley (UCB) at its recent Chancellor's Community Leaders Breakfast. Mr. Lindsay reported that this was the third City of Richmond program honored by the university, and that there were twenty-eight Richmond Promise scholars that attended UCB.

## **OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Naomi Williams announced that the Commission on Aging's Senior Winter Ball event was on Saturday, December 16, 2017, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium. Tickets were on sale for \$30.00 each at the Richmond Recreation Complex. In reference to Chess Month in Richmond, Ms. Williams recommended taking a class to learn the importance of chess game pieces to improve skills.

Rick Perez requested that future City Council meetings commence on time. Mr. Perez gave comments regarding the presence of multiple Richmond police officers at the City Council meeting on September 26, 2017. Mr. Perez gave comments regarding the recent police shooting on Interstate-80 in Emeryville.

Patricia Perez gave comments regarding police shootings and the Pedie Perez case.

Mark Wassberg gave comments regarding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals American immigration policy and immigration enforcement within sanctuary states.

Antwon Cloird reminded the Council that Richmond resident Texanita Bluit's funeral service was on Saturday, October 7, 2017. Mr. Cloird distributed flyers regarding the "Breaking Barriers to Employment" event on October 14, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Independent Community Church in Richmond. Mr. Cloird expressed concerns regarding the lack of Richmond residents employed by the Chevron Richmond Refinery.

Elóra Henderson gave comments regarding the loss of her residence last week by fire damage. Ms. Henderson requested the Council to address illegal activities at a neighboring property.

Ruscal Cayangyang announced that the date and time of the rally scheduled on Sunday, October 8, 2017, at the University California, Berkeley was changed to Sunday, October 22, 2017, at 12:00 p.m. Mr. Cayangyang expressed his support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals American immigration policy.

Kathy Robinson suggested that the City of Richmond needed a regime change. Ms. Robinson expressed her disappointment with the City Council's thirty minute delayed meeting start time and requested that future meetings commence on time. Ms. Robinson requested more help for the homeless, water in Richmond Police Officer's cars for homeless people, and more neighborhood policing. Ms. Robinson expressed concerns regarding recent police shootings and mass murders.

Eleanor Thompson requested justice for the Perez family. Ms. Thompson gave comments regarding the Richmond Progressive Alliance.

Cesar Zepeda announced the following community events in Richmond: Alleyway cleanup behind the Portumex restaurant at 721 23<sup>rd</sup> Street on October 7, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; "Uncover Discover Richmond" haunted houses tour in Point Richmond on Saturday, October 21, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.; and the Food Emporium at the Richmond History Museum on Sunday, October 29, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., preceded by the Nevin Park community cleanup from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Richard Stollings inquired about the status of towing fee waivers for Richmond residents. Mr. Stollings expressed concerns regarding the presence of multiple Richmond police officers at the City Council meeting on September 26, 2017, and inquired about pamphlets distributed to the Council by the Richmond Police Department's Public Information Officer.

Amanda Elliott distributed flyers regarding the "Vote Your Main Street" competition and announced that the Richmond Main Street Initiative had been selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of twenty-five communities eligible for \$150,000 for the Richmond Market Square Mall Marquee beautification project. Mrs. Elliott encouraged everyone to vote for Richmond at [www.VoteYourMainStreet.org](http://www.VoteYourMainStreet.org). Mrs. Elliott invited everyone to an open house and pop-up event on Saturday, October 7, 2017, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in front of the Market Square Mall.

Bea Roberson gave comments regarding the Council's Closed Session decision to file complaints against fossil fuel and petroleum companies. Ms. Roberson expressed that she was not in favor of the City of Richmond filing a complaint against the Chevron Richmond Refinery.

#### **CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion of Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Willis, the item(s) marked with an (\*) were approved by the unanimous vote of the City Council:

\*H-1. Received the City's Investment and Cash Balance Report for the month of August 2017.

\*H-2. Introduced an ordinance (first reading) establishing the wages, salary, and compensation for the new classification of Office of Neighborhood Safety Program Manager (Salary Range No. 064G: \$7,832 - \$9,520/month).

\*H-3. Adopted **Resolution No. 114-17** amending the City of Richmond's Position Classification Plan to add the new classification of Office of Neighborhood Safety Program Manager.

\*H-4. Adopted **Resolution No. 115-17** authorizing contracts with three firms (Minute by Minute, Anita L. Tucci-Smith, and Cybertary.com) for On-Call Professional Transcription Services for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 per firm over a three-year period.

\*H-5. Approved the minutes of the September 12 and 19, 2017, regular meetings of the Richmond City Council.

\*H-6. Adopted **Resolution No. 116-17** authorizing the city manager to execute agreements with the California Department of Transportation for the Yellow Brick Road Project.

\*H-7. Adopted **Resolution No. 117-17** renewing and continuing the local emergency on Via Verdi due to landslide damage, which was first adopted by the City Council on February 28, 2017.

\*H-8. Adopted **Resolution No. 118-17** renewing and continuing the local emergency on Rifle Range Road due to landslide damage, which was first adopted by the City Council on March 7, 2017.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

I-1. The city clerk announced that it was time, pursuant to public notice, to hold a public hearing to adopt (1) a resolution to vacate an old, unusable storm drain easement owned by the City of Richmond within the property addresses of 3000-3050 Hilltop Mall Road, authorize quitclaim of the abandoned easement, and accept the grant of a new storm drain easement, and (2) adopt a resolution accepting a public access easement to be recorded for the City of Richmond's acceptance. Engineering and Capital Improvement Projects Director Yader Bermudez provided an oral report. Discussion ensued. Mayor Butt declared the public hearing open. There were no public speakers. Mayor Butt declared the public hearing closed. On motion of Councilmember Willis, seconded by Councilmember Choi, adopted said **Resolution No. 119-17** and **Resolution No. 120-17** respectively, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

### **COUNCIL AS A WHOLE**

J-1. The matter to discuss and consider donating funds to the City of Oakland to conduct a study on the feasibility of a public bank, was presented by Councilmember Martinez. Councilmember Martinez recommended that the Council considered making a \$5,000 donation. The following speakers gave comments: Don Gosney, Bea Roberson, Kathy Robinson, Marilyn Langlois, Craig Brandt, and Doug Ricketson. Discussion ensued. On motion of Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Vice Mayor Beckles, approved the City of Richmond to make a \$5,000 investment into the process of said feasibility study, by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Martinez, Recinos, Willis, and Vice Mayor Beckles. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstentions:** Councilmember Myrick.

J-2. The matter to review, comment, and provide direction to staff regarding updates to the City Council Expense and Expenditure Policy which relates to travel and reimbursements for the mayor and councilmembers, was presented by Mayor Butt. Mayor Butt requested feedback from councilmembers on the draft policy included in their agenda packets for consideration of a revised policy in two weeks. Discussion ensued. Bea Roberson and Kathy Robinson gave comments.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS: REFERRALS TO STAFF,  
AND GENERAL REPORTS (INCLUDING AB 1234  
REPORTS)**

Councilmember Willis provided a preliminary report on the establishment of Richmond's Homeless Taskforce, and its mission and accomplishments to-date. Councilmember Willis announced that a study session concerning homelessness in Richmond would be placed on a future meeting agenda.

Councilmember Martinez announced that he would provide a full report and slide presentation on his recent trip to China at the City Council meeting scheduled on October 24, 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m., in memory of City of Richmond Community Services employee Jonathan Nuss and the fifty-nine people that lost their lives in the Las Vegas mass shooting, to meet again on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

Pamela Christian  
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Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

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Tom Butt  
Mayor