

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 6, 2007

The Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Butt, Lopez, Sandhu, Thurmond, Rogers, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** Councilmember Marquez.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The city clerk announced that the purpose of the Morning Open Session was for the City Council to hear public comment on the following items to be discussed in Closed Session: **CITY COUNCIL - CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54956.8) Property: 1145 Harbour Way South, City's Negotiator: Jim Matzorkis, Cal Oils' Negotiator: Dan MacLean, Under Negotiation: Price and Terms.** There were no speakers.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:41 p.m. The Closed Session adjourned at 5:54 p.m. and the Evening Open Session reconvened at 7:09 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

EveningOpenSession06March 2007.minutes

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 6, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 7:09 p.m., by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Butt, Lopez, Marquez, Rogers, Sandhu, Thurmond, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Bates and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** None.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councilmember Lopez recused herself from participating on Item G-1.

AGENDA REVIEW

Items G-1, G-2, and G-4 were removed from the Consent Calendar.

REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY OF FINAL DECISIONS MADE AND NON-CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS HELD DURING CLOSED SESSION

John Eastman, City Attorney, made the following report:

(Councilmember Thurmond was not present during the closed session).

A-1. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54956.8)

Property: **1145 Harbour Way South, Richmond** City's
Negotiator: Jim Matzorkis, Cal Oils Negotiator: Dan MacLean,
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms: A confidential briefing was given to the City Council.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Mahoney gave comments on pre-apprenticeship training. Mr. Mahoney stated that through the West Contra Costa Unified School District Adult Education in conjunction with the Contra Costa County Building Trades Council, classes are available for pre-apprenticeship training. He stated his concern and disappointment with the lack of enrollment of Richmond residents in the classes. The classes are given at Serra School at 6028 Ralston on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Corky Booze wished Bobby Brown a happy birthday. Mr. Booze also stated that the Richmond High School basketball team went to Santa Rosa and beat Monterrey High 71-57. Mr. Booze also asked Councilmember Rogers to disclose which councilmembers are not in agreement with allowing the use of redevelopment funds for fixing potholes throughout the City.

Naomi Williams gave comments about graffiti and suggested that those who are caught should clean it up.

Cochise Potts gave comments about the stipend to be paid to the members of the proposed merged Planning Commissioner and Design Review Board, the Planning Design Commission. He

asked for an explanation why the other commissions are being excluded.

Charles Evans stated that under the Brown Act, there is no limitation that says that a person who speaks under public forum cannot be questioned or have dialogue with a councilmember. Mr. Evans also stated that the Council does not have the right to change the order on the agenda in which Open Forum is heard.

Marilyn Langlois spoke about the '5% Local Coalition' group, that works to plan how West County can produce more of our own food and to expand existing community gardens to create more spaces for healthy food growing. There is a kick-off event scheduled for March 22, 2007, at the Richmond Main Library Community Room.

Kathy Robinson stated that there are no longer signs throughout the City that tells people to place their trash in the trash receptacles. Ms. Robinson also stated that the billboards in the parks and message boards in the libraries are not being utilized for advertising events that take place in the City.

William Acevedo gave comments regarding the proposal to amend the Charter to appoint councilmembers. (*On motion of Councilmember Marquez, seconded by Councilmember Rogers, allowed Mr. Acevedo to speak to this matter, which is J-1 on the agenda*). Mr. Acevedo stated that any person interested in a council position should be allowed to apply and speak in an open setting.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Mayor McLaughlin read the following **Annual Mayoral Address**:

Good evening.

It is my honor to deliver this State of the City address.

I want to share with you my impressions of how I found this City when I took office as Mayor two months ago. I will describe what I see as the City's main challenges and resources, and I will put forward some ideas that are part of a plan to move us forward. This plan must be developed by all of us.

First the bad news:

- *Although showing improvement, the state of the City of Richmond remains one of **ill health***
- *Richmond is a city in a lot of pain with serious endemic violent crime;*
- *Our streets and infrastructure are "tired" and old and are known to be among the worst in the Bay Area.*
- *Our air is heavily burdened with pollutants, and we are often assaulted by industrial surges of toxins.*
- *Our minds and bodies are thirsty for learning, culture, sports and recreation but the venues for*

these opportunities are scarce or difficult to access.

- *Our City often seems disjointed with special interests often slowing movement of the whole body*
- *And our City is still recovering from the 2004 \$35 million budget debacle, which forced us to cut services and to sell some of our public resources.*

However, even though these conditions exist:

- ***The prognosis for our City is good.***
- ***The challenges are immense but not insurmountable.***
- ***Our City is focused on recovery.***
- ***Our potential is incredibly strong.***

- *Fortunately, our city is now working under many new and qualified management staff.*

- *Our city's grassroots capacity to respond to crises, to self-protect, and to heal is strong, as exemplified in the Tent Cities Movement, the recent mobilization of the Latino community against raids and abuses, the environmental justice movement, and our new small business expansion.*

- *Our City, at the Council level and at community meetings, is starting to have a **more participatory** and a **more civil process** of providing input, analyzing policies and receiving feedback.*

- *Today I will put forward for your consideration some ideas and plans to achieve "A Better Richmond" in the coming years.*

- *Before I do that, however, I want to remind us all that the improvements we seek and deserve will not emerge purely, essentially, from the policies generated by the current City Council or any future city council. Progress will come only from the will and participation of Richmond residents. Ultimately, the State of the City depends upon you.*

I was elected as Mayor to preside over the Richmond City Council. However, first and foremost, I consider myself the Mayor of the people of Richmond and as your Mayor my focus this year will be on violence prevention, environmental health and justice, and economic development. These three priorities will overlap greatly. Every part of the work ahead must be integrated with other parts. Building a better Richmond is an organic process and must be cultivated as such.

This will not be easy but as any gardener will tell you, there is joy in the cultivation process. As we work hard to solve our problems, we will also reap the benefits of a new culture of

cares for ourselves, others and the environment that surrounds us.

Violent Crime

Our first and highest priority remains violent crime.

Crime and violence must be understood as a social construct and must be addressed at the roots. In the next two years, as we bolster our police force, and continue to support the reorganization and community policing commitment on the part of the police department, I will also be working hard to advance the following efforts:

- 1. I will work on expanding and building on the Tent Cities Movement. As mayor, I am committed to providing a catalyst to the momentum started by this great effort. Impacted youth within our high-crime neighborhoods must be made aware that we want to nurture this space that tent cities have opened up. I am currently working with the tent cities committee and other community groups to develop an exciting project to bring mini-farmers market events to the parks that were the birthplace of the Tent Cities movement. In conjunction with offering farm fresh produce to residents on these Saturday afternoons in the park, these events will also offer an opportunity for community groups and city and county service providers to set up tables and bring their efforts to those most in need. We can not afford to conduct city business exclusively within the walls of city hall. We have seen a reduction in violence this year. The truce advanced last year by Tent Cities has had a lingering effect. This effect must be allowed to continue and expand. Long-term violence prevention will only be achieved when the solutions, the opportunities, and the programs are brought to the neighborhoods that are craving them.*

And while we make helping-programs visible, and reach out with services, we must also simultaneously bring forward peacekeeping teams to quell violence that we know continues to brew apart from our service efforts. I see the Richmond Improvement Association (RIA) program "Zero Homicides" as one such peacekeeping team; this is networking with incarcerated individuals and helping prepare them for a positive re-entry into our community. New opportunities must replace recidivism, and guidance must replace neglect.

- 2. Our partnership with Richmond schools must be strengthened. I am making it a point to visit our schools throughout this year to have hands-on opportunities to engage with our teachers and students. In addition to this, in the coming months, my office will be holding a breakfast meeting with Richmond principals and our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Bruce Harter, to sit down and explore ideas on how we can work to better advance after school programs, youth academies and summer sessions. In addition to our partnership with the school district it is important that the City advance independent efforts to help bring about a well-rounded education for our youth. It is exciting that the City Manager will be hiring a recreation director, someone to focus specifically on recreation. I believe this summer will*

be the summer that our community centers begin to flourish as never before.

Another upcoming effort will be an education forum that my office will be co-sponsoring, along with Progressive Teachers of Richmond and March4Education, to provide analysis and information about the problems with the No Child Left Behind policy. We need to take a good hard look at what can be done on the local level to help with systemic problems we are facing based on ill-conceived policies made at the federal level.

- 3. And of course while we work to prevent violence with education efforts, we must move forward with job opportunities. I am committed to creating youth jobs every year for the next 4 years. In reviewing the mid-year budget, the Council made a commitment to increase funding for the Summer Youth Program. Having talked with our finance director about this, I will soon be bringing a request to the City Council to bring forward an additional \$100,000 for the youth program, bringing the City's allocation to \$300,000, up from the \$200,000 in 2006. This will allow the City to lead by example by increasing by 50% our last year's contribution with the hope and expectation that the business community will follow suit. Our Employment and Training Department has set a goal of providing 350 jobs this summer (50 jobs more than last year). But even more jobs can be created if we partner with non-profits to help provide work readiness training and case manage the youth.*

While quantity of jobs is extremely important to meet the large number of applicants, so too is quality of jobs. I look forward to working with City Departments like Public Works and Parks and Recreation to help identify areas that our youth can work to help beautify our parks, streets and public spaces, and make our community centers more productive. I will also seek ways to advance young people into year-round City jobs that arise out of the Summer Youth Program.

We have the opportunity to nurture future city managers, recreation directors, public works directors, and yes even a future department of the environment director. These, among other things, are the aspirations that we must nurture and cultivate in our youth.

- 4. I am also researching another program that offers jobs and education opportunities for at-risk youth. We have an opportunity to partner with the East Bay Conservation Corps to establish a Richmond satellite program. Giving our youth a chance to advance our environmental conservation efforts here in Richmond and to advance themselves at the same time is a win-win situation.*

Let me add that although we are building a new culture of financial and fiscal responsibility here at City Hall, we must also remember the fiscal responsibility that we as officials hold so as not to overspend or over commit to spending beyond our means.

While our needs run deep in Richmond, our budget will only stretch so far, which means regional funding must be accessed to fully and effectively keep violence prevention programs and job efforts up and running. I have met with Berkeley's Mayor Bates and Oakland's Mayor Dellums and we have committed to working together to develop and expand successful tools that will reduce crime in our region and to collectively seek funds for anti-violence measures. The major obstacle to regional work is hard dollars to fund our efforts. I will be meeting with Senator Perata, who has outlined a peacekeeping team project for both Oakland and Richmond. This project has already begun in Oakland. I will let Senator Perata know that we stand ready and willing to put funds to good use in Richmond to advance his project here.

Environment

*And while we address street violence, we must be clear that any definition of violence foisted upon our community must also include the toxic pollution and chemical industrial legacy that our population is exposed to more than other communities. This is also a type of violence to our health; a burden on Richmond's children and future generations. With that in mind, we must address the **environment**.*

In terms of environmental health and pollution reduction, I'm working on several policies to bring to the City Council for consideration. For example, I'm working with our Planning Department on a recommendation to lower our solar permit fees from \$800 to \$200 or below, which will move us along to becoming a leading solar city in the Bay Area.

I will also be bringing forward a resolution to declare Richmond a Green Economy Development Area. In the last 8 weeks we have talked to 5 green businesses that want to locate in Richmond. This means jobs, leadership and increased money for City services. The City must vote to expand this development area and direct its energies accordingly.

Other initiatives that I will be asking the Council to consider include:

- 1. An environmentally-preferable purchasing ordinance that will phase out the use of toxic chemicals in our parks, community spaces and neighborhood;*
- 2. A policy requiring restaurants to eliminate Styrofoam take-out containers, such as Oakland, Berkeley and San Francisco have enacted – requiring a move away from products that litter our streets and storm drains and a move toward more environmentally-safe products; and*
- 3. The establishment of an Environmental Health and Environmental Justice Commission to focus on improving public health and a healthier environment in Richmond.*

Let me also add that the Green Building Ordinance that some of us have been patiently waiting for is currently being developed by the City Attorney based on similar ordinances in the region.

On a final note regarding restoration of our natural environment, Richmond is taking the lead in pursuing emissions-free vehicles in its City operations. We have initiated an electric vehicle pilot project through our Public Works Department, using emissions-free vehicles to do short-run transportation and park maintenance on the Bay Trail.

And when speaking of the environment, it is essential that we also speak of the conditions that continue to degrade our neighborhoods and surroundings. Improving our environment must include the clean-up of our streets, trash-filled lots, and removal of blight.

In terms of neighborhood revitalization efforts, we will be seeing 12 neighborhood clean-ups paid for by the City in the next year, expanding on previous efforts and continuing to work with the Neighborhood Councils.

In terms of our bigger engineering efforts, projects are moving along to improve our surroundings. For example: 1) our street paving program is in operation and on schedule; 2) work has been completed to close the Bay Trail gaps providing us currently with 17 miles of continuous bay trail along our City's shoreline; 3) the Safe Route to School Program has installed grade flashing lights at 8 crosswalk locations; and 4) Phase One of our very exciting Richmond Greenway Bicycle Trail should be completed by the end of March of this year.

Economic development

*Okay....We need to reduce violence, and we need to enhance to enhance our environment. The last need I want to address today is **economic development**.*

It is imperative to examine economic development in the context of social equity and environmental protection

And in moving that effort forward, I have met with the Council of Industries and Chamber of Commerce and they have agreed to do more than they have ever done to making business practice in Richmond greener, cleaner and safer. I am looking forward to regular visits to Richmond businesses throughout the year to learn about their services, products and good practices underway.

I have also been engaged in discussion with the Richmond Economic Development Initiative (REDI), a coalition focusing on economic development with social equity. We must support REDI and other efforts to increase truly affordable housing, encourage healthy walkable development, preserve open space and create public gathering spaces within our City to meet real needs of Richmond residents.

And when we look at our big development projects like the Civic Center project and the MacDonald Avenue project, it is absolutely necessary to continuously examine and reexamine what is in the best interest of our City and our residents.

--Healthy buildings and responsible design must define our Civic Center project, as this project will define our City in many ways.

--In revitalizing downtown, we must constantly go back to community visioning efforts to seek out what specifics will take shape. Retaining current local businesses and creating opportunities for prospective Richmond business start-ups, will be key to promoting a Richmond local economy and a distinct local character, in contrast to a franchise-dominated downtown.

And as we plan our downtown in terms of bricks and mortar, we must simultaneously begin to culturally frame this revitalization effort. And who better than our Arts and Culture Division and Arts and Culture Commissioners. We need to work hand in hand with artists and cultural workers to bring forward a permanent artist community for our downtown to build a thriving and exciting downtown area.

As mayor, for two months now I have invested, and I will continue throughout the year to invest, all my hours and all my capacity in working for that Better Richmond that is peaceful, healthy and prosperous.

Yet it remains to be said that none of our hopes for a better Richmond can come about without promoting strong community leadership. As mayor, I will continue to be a staunch advocate for further community connections coming from City Hall and City Government.

Community groups like the General Plan Advisory Committee, the Zeneca Community Advisory Group, Solar Richmond, and the North Richmond Shoreline Open Space Alliance are the heart and soul of our city. These great community efforts will allow for Richmond's destiny to be defined of, by and for its residents.

And to engage and enhance citizen involvement in reviewing our 100 year old city charter, I will be asking the Council to approve a citizens committee and process to examine and advise us on preparations for a revised 2008 charter.

*It is clear to me that **community collaborative efforts** are the greatest engine the city has to enact change. I will work with the City Manager on a new idea for Richmond of creating a collaboration of businesses, residents, and government to improve neighborhoods, strengthen families, and support youth development creating a safe, healthy, and thriving community. This collaboration has been effective in Vallejo and other cities across the nation.*

And last but not least, when speaking about community, our Neighborhood Councils are integral agents for change. As mayor, I will make my regular visits to the Neighborhood Councils a high priority, and facilitate their great work however I can.

I invite our Richmond residents to come to my first "Meet with the Mayor," on Thursday evening, March 29th, from 5:30 to

7:30 in the Whittlesey Community Room next to the library. This is an open invitation to residents to talk with me and share concerns. My hope is that these meetings will be avenues for both problem-solving and community suggestions for furthering progress in the city. I will ask various department heads to join me at different meetings to allow for department updates and presentations.

In conclusion:

- ***The state of the City of Richmond is still one of ill health but signs of improvement are on the horizon***
- ***The challenges are immense but not insurmountable***
- ***Our City is focused on recovery***
- ***Our potential is incredibly strong***

- *The solutions to our problems will only come from the will and participation of Richmond residents.*

- *Our lives, our families, our children require each of us to go the extra mile, invest the extra time, and put forward the next community initiative: Talk to your neighbors, discuss the issues and ask yourselves and your neighbors: “What can we do (with or without the support of the City) to make Richmond better?”*

- *Whatever the answer may be, whatever idea or initiative you and your neighbors come up with to improve your lives, let me know. I want the City, as an organization and service provider, to help and I want to help.*

A Better Richmond is Possible...and with your commitment, it is already in the making!

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Councilmember Lopez, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes, all items marked with an asterisk (*-) were approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Butt, Rogers, Sandhu, Thurmond, Viramontes and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** None. **Abstentions:** Councilmember Lopez abstained on Item G-1 and Councilmember Marquez abstained on Item G-5. **Absent:** Vice Mayor Bates.

In the matter to adopt a resolution upholding the Planning Commission's denial of variances from side and front yard setbacks for 759 Wilson Avenue. Councilmember Butt noted a discrepancy in the vote taken by the City Council on January 16, 2007. The vote on January 16, 2007 was as follows: *On motion of Vice Mayor Viramontes, seconded by Councilmember Thurmond, denied the appeal without prejudice by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Marquez, Thurmond, Vice Mayor Viramontes, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** Councilmember Rogers. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** Councilmember Lopez.* On motion of Councilmember Butt, seconded by Councilmember Marquez adopted **Resolution No. 20-07** by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Butt, Marquez, Rogers, Sandhu, Viramontes, and Mayor McLaughlin.

Noes: None. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** Vice Mayor Bates and Councilmembers Lopez and Thurmond.

In the matter to acknowledge receipt of the City of Richmond's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2006. Councilmember Viramontes requested that this matter be discussed at the Finance Standing Committee. On motion of Councilmember Marquez, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes, referred the matter to a Special Finance Standing Committee meeting to be held on March 8, 2007, by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Butt, Lopez, Marquez, Rogers, Thurmond, Sandhu, Viramontes, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** None. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** Vice Mayor Bates.

* - Adopted **Ordinance No. 7-07 N.S.** establishing wages, salary, and compensation for the new classification of **Financial Analyst (salary range: \$5,328 - \$6,441/month).**

In the matter to a contract with Bovo-Tighe, LLC for organizational development consulting and employee training services for an amount not to exceed \$35,000 and for a term of one year. Bill Lindsay, City Manager, stated that this firm provides organizational development consulting and employee training services, which will be used to facilitate strategic planning efforts of the senior management group and for training and process improvement facilitation for individual departments. Sims Thompson gave comments and questioned the necessity of hiring the consulting firm. On motion of Councilmember Marquez, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes, approved the contract by the unanimous vote of the Council.

* - Approved an appointment to the **Richmond Police Commission**: Robert W. Ham, term expiring November 1, 2010.

* - Approved the minutes of the Evening Open Session held on February 20, 2007.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

RESOLUTIONS

In the matter to adopt a resolution in support of AB 1654 to provide the opportunity for the governing body of a city, district, or county to conduct any election by mail. Councilmember Butt stated that AB 1654 provides an opportunity for cities to reduce the costs of special elections by as much as 30% and provides an opportunity to increase voter participation. Vice Mayor Bates stated that if the City were to go to mail-only voting, there would be a significant increase in cost to the City. He also stated that many senior citizen voters prefer going to a polling place site to cast their vote. Councilmembers Marquez and Viramontes stated their belief that many voters do not prefer the vote-by-mail option and this would not increase voter participation. A motion by Councilmember Butt, seconded by Councilmember Thurmond, to adopt the resolution failed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Butt, Thurmond, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** Vice Mayor Bates and Councilmember Rogers. **Abstentions:** Councilmembers Lopez, Marquez, Sandhu, and Viramontes. **Absent:** None.

In the matter to adopt a resolution in support of SEIU Local 790 in their transition to SEIU Local 1021. Councilmember Thurmond stated that the City of Richmond members of SEIU Local 790 participated in a statewide election to restructure SEIU locals in the State of California and voted to transfer those represented by SEIU Local 790 to representation by SEIU Local 1021. Corky Booze gave comments in favor of the resolution. On motion of Councilmember Bates, seconded by Councilmember Marquez, adopted **Resolution No. 21-06**, by the unanimous vote of the Council.

ORDINANCES

An ordinance to amend Chapter 2.16 of the Municipal Code of the City of Richmond to establish a procedure for filling vacancies on the City Council was introduced for first reading. Councilmember Marquez stated that during the last council appointment, there were many issues that arose and in order to try to make the selection process more transparent in the future, the proposed amendment would begin by announcing that a vacancy exists and that the City Council shall hold a public meeting to fill the vacancy and shall be required to file a statement of interest. The City Clerk would distribute the candidates' statements to the City Council and make the statements available to the public. At the designated meeting, each candidate would give a five-minute statement, and then each Councilmember would be allowed to publicly interview and question the candidate. After all of the candidates have been allowed to make their statements and have been interviewed by the City Council, the public shall be allowed to make comments. After the Councilmembers have been given an opportunity to speak, the Mayor would entertain motions for the appointment of individual candidates for the vacancy until one candidate receives five votes in his or her favor. Corky Booze and Juan Reardon spoke in opposition of the proposed ordinance amendment because it still leaves the final decision in the hands of the Council. Discussion ensued. On motion of Councilmember Marquez, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes, said ordinance received first reading and was laid over two weeks for second reading, with the following amendments: that candidates obtain nomination papers with 20 signatures and be given to the City Clerk, give candidates eight minutes to speak with a two-minute rebuttal, and delete the terminology of five votes and change it to a majority vote of the Council. Councilmember Rogers made a friendly amendment to delete the language in the proposed ordinance in Item J that reads: "or until each has failed to obtain five votes in favor of each appointment". The first reading of the ordinance was approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Butt, Lopez, Marquez, Rogers, Sandhu, and Viramontes. **Noes:** Mayor McLaughlin. **Abstentions:** Councilmember Thurmond and Vice Mayor Bates. **Absent:** None.

COUNCIL AS WHOLE

In the matter to approve the usage of the City of Richmond stage, at no cost, and allocate \$17,000 toward the coordination for the May 5, 2007, Cinco de Mayo celebration. Councilmember Marquez stated that the Cinco de Mayo committee, the 23rd Street Merchants Association, and Opportunity West, Incorporated, is proposing a parade on Saturday, May 5, 2007, from 24th Street at Barrett Avenue to Civic Center Plaza for a joint celebration between the cities of

Richmond and San Pablo followed by festivities on 23rd Street. The Committee will fund festival costs not absorbed by the \$17,000 contribution. The total budget amount is \$32,200. The following individuals spoke on the matter: Corky Booze, Maria Moura, Adolfo Porrás, Sergio Rios, and Mario Paucer. Councilmember Butt asked if the Juneteenth Festival and the Home Front Festival will also receive funding. Bill Lindsay, City Manager, stated that there was money placed in the Recreation Department budget for special events in the amount of \$50,000 to help fund Cinco de Mayo, Juneteenth, and Festival by the Bay. Discussion ensued. On motion of Councilmember Marquez, seconded by Councilmember Lopez, approved the allocation of \$17,000 and the use of the City's stage for the Cinco de Mayo celebration, by the unanimous vote of the Council.

In the matter to adopt a resolution approving FY 2006-07 midyear budget adjustments. James Goins, Finance Director, stated that the mid-year budget adjustments are recommended based on projected budget revenues to reflect the first six-month actual revenues, proposed expenditures to reflect first six-month actual expense variance reports, and to approve Council policy directed additions to the FY 2006-07 budget. Vice Mayor Bates asked when recruiting will begin for a Recreation Director. City Manager, Bill Lindsay, stated that recruiting will begin immediately, and hopefully, have a person hired by June 2007. Juan Reardon gave comments about the importance of the Finance Standing Committee and its role in analyzing the City's financial information. Councilmember Thurmond asked that money be allocated in the midyear budget to include future requests for support of community, education, sports events and other activities. Vice Mayor Bates recommended that staff research this matter and return to the Council at a later date with the information that Councilmember Thurmond requested. On motion of Vice Mayor Bates, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes, adopted **Resolution No. 22-07**, by the unanimous vote of the Council.

In the matter to appoint Vice Mayor Nathaniel Bates as Chair, Councilmembers Maria T. Viramontes, John E. Marquez, and Harpreet S. Sandhu as members of a Port Committee of the City Council. Vice Mayor Bates stated that the Port is one of the City's most precious resources as a revenue generator and direction and support is required from the City Council. Vice Mayor Bates asked that this matter be withdrawn from the agenda and referred to the Mayor and City Manager, and an ordinance be submitted in two weeks creating the Port Committee as a standing committee. John Eastman, City Attorney, replied that the port committee is already a standing committee but is currently inactive. Mayor McLaughlin stated that she will bring this matter back to the City Council at a later date with recommendations for appointments. Jayne Williams, Attorney for Myers-Nave Law Firm, stated that the port committee should be established as a standing committee of the Council, irrespective of what has happened in the past. Furthermore, the meetings would need to be noticed and agenda'd and members of the public be allowed to attend.

In the matter to amend bylaws of the Historic Preservation Committee to increase membership, discuss pending appointment of applicant Ethel Dotson and discuss potential funding options for the rehabilitation of the historic International Hotel. Councilmember Butt stated that this item is to approve the

expansion of the historic preservation committee from seven members to eight members to allow for the appointment of one more member, institute a program where tax exempt municipal bonds can be used to provide low-interest loans for performing building rehabilitations, and to direct City staff to look for funding options for the rehabilitation of the International Hotel. Councilmember Rogers suggested that the additional appointment to the Historic Preservation committee be temporary until the matter of the International Hotel is resolved. Simms Thompson and Ethel Dotson gave comments in support of the appointment and the pursuit of funding sources for the rehabilitation of the International Hotel. Councilmember Marquez stated that appointing Ms. Dotson to the Historic Preservation committee may be a conflict of interest when the matter is before the committee. Councilmember Viramontes suggested that staff be directed to return to the City Council with an implementation plan for funding for the rehabilitation of historic buildings, which the Council agreed to. Mr. Eastman will return to the City Council with a draft of the amended ordinance reflecting the increase of an additional member. Mayor McLaughlin clarified that as a member of the historic preservation committee, Ms. Dotson will have to recuse herself from the discussion of the possible rehabilitation of the International Hotel. Councilmember Marquez suggested that a possible source of funding should be the Rosie the Riveter WWII National Historic Park Fund. Councilmember Viramontes stated that a policy should be established to stipulate at what point the City assists in rehabilitation of historical buildings that are privately owned and are not available for public access. A motion by Councilmember Butt, seconded by Mayor McLaughlin, directed staff to work with Ms. Dotson to develop a funding source for the rehabilitation of the International Hotel and return with recommendations to the City Council, was approved by the unanimous vote of the Council.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

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

Councilmember Marquez

Councilmember Marquez reported that there will not be a Public Safety Committee meeting this week and requested staff to notify Chevron to come to the April 5, 2007, Public Safety Committee meeting to report on their safety procedures. He also asked staff to develop procedures for the possibility of other unbiased agencies to conduct background checks for Police Commission members. Councilmember Marquez announced that he will attend the Congressional League of Cities in Washington, D.C.

Councilmember Rogers

Councilmember Rogers announced that he attended the Smart Growth Conference in Los Angeles. Councilmember Rogers announced that there will be a Finance Standing Committee on Thursday, March 8, 2007, at 8:30 a.m.

Vice Mayor Bates

Vice Mayor Bates announced that on Friday, March 9, 2007, 9:00 a.m., in the City Council Chambers, there will be a business meeting in order to gather input on how the City can improve the quality of service available to business owners. Vice Mayor Bates asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Audrey Davis and Willie May Hamp. Announced that he and Doug Harris, along with Rev. Andre Shumake taped a program in honor of black history month, which will be aired on Friday, March 9, 2007 at 7 p.m. on Channel 26.

Councilmember Lopez

Councilmember Lopez urged persons to apply for classes in the building and trades field. Councilmember Lopez announced that last month RichmondWorks had a workshop with the Building and Trades Council of Contra Costa County. The location is West Contra Costa Adult Education- Serra Campus 6028 Ralston Avenue. The phone number is (510) 215-4666.

Councilmember Viramontes

Councilmember Viramontes announced that she attended the Contra Costa Transportation Authority Meeting last Wednesday and cities are now applying for their local roads funding. Councilmember Viramontes asked that a resolution be drafted indicating that the City upholds the Contra Costa County voted urban limit line and be placed on the March 20, 2007 City Council agenda.

Mayor McLaughlin

Mayor McLaughlin thanked the Richmond community for their support thus far and asked for their continued assistance to make Richmond a better place.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m., in memory of Audrey Davis, Willie May Hamp, Art Hatchett’s mother, and Rodolfo Flores, to meet again on Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor