

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, September 23, 2008

The Special Meeting of the City Council was called to order at 5:46 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Butt, Sandhu, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Marquez, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** Councilmember Bates, Lopez, Rogers, and Thurmond (Councilmember Rogers arrived after adjourning to Closed Session).

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 LABOR
NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54957.6):**

City Designated Representative(s): Bill Lindsay, Leslie Knight, Lisa Stephenson, and Bruce Soublet

Employee Organization or unrepresented employee(s): Local 21 and Local 1021 Retiree Medical Negotiations

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE
EVALUATION (Government Code Section 54957.6):**

City Clerk
City Manager

There were no public speakers.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:47 p.m. The Closed Session adjourned at 7:12 p.m. The Special Meeting of the City Council reconvened at 7:14 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Rogers, Sandhu, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Marquez, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** Councilmembers Lopez and Thurmond (Councilmember Thurmond arrived at 7:16 p.m.).

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

Item I-1 was moved to be heard immediately after Agenda Review.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Vice Mayor Marquez and Mayor McLaughlin presented certificates of appreciation to James Bottoms of Mountain Hardwear and to Diane Griffin President of Radston Office Supplies for the work each company had done in the community. James Bottoms and Diane Griffin each gave comments of appreciation for the recognition. Jay Leonhardy spoke on this item.

Mayor McLaughlin and Vice Mayor Marquez presented a proclamation in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Mayor McLaughlin and Vice Mayor Marquez presented a proclamation recognizing the 10th anniversary of the SS Red Oak Victory returning to the City of Richmond. Vice Mayor Marquez accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Richmond Museum.

Mayor McLaughlin presented a proclamation recognizing October 2008 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Mayor McLaughlin stated the proclamation will be given to STAND Against Domestic Violence Organization. Corky Booze spoke on this item.

Mayor McLaughlin presented a proclamation recognizing September 21-27, 2008, as Falls Prevention Awareness Week. Bill Weidinger accepted the proclamation and thanked the City Council for the proclamation.

Mayor McLaughlin presented a proclamation recognizing October 8, 2008, as Emergency Nurses' Day and October 5-11, 2008, as Emergency Nurses' Week. Emergency Room Nurses from Richmond Kaiser were introduced and gave comments of appreciation.

Mayor McLaughlin presented a proclamation recognizing October 2008 as Richmond Arts and Humanities Month and presented the proclamation to the Arts and Culture Commission. Michele Seville and Jason Jong of the Arts and Culture Commission gave comments of appreciation for the proclamation. She announced that the Arts & Humanities Annual Celebration & Event would be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008, at Richmond High School Theater, 1108 Bissell Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

Interim City Attorney, Scott Dickey, reported the following:

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54957.6):

City Designated Representative(s): Bill Lindsay, Leslie Knight, Lisa Stephenson, and Bruce Soublet

Employee Organization or unrepresented employee(s): Local 21 and Local 1021 Retiree Medical Negotiations. *The City Council approved both the tentative agreements on the retiree medical issues.*

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE
EVALUATION (Government Code Section 54957.6):**

City Clerk – *To be considered at a later date*
City Manager - *considered*

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Councilmember Thurmond directed staff to amend the current conflict-of-interest code by the unanimous vote of the Council.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Naomi Williams spoke about the success of the driver's license check points.

Tom Waller spoke regarding Measure T.

Chris Tallerico spoke regarding the drivers license checkpoint. He has never seen anything that stood out as remotely wrong i.e., officers being racist. He stated every single person was stopped. He stated that everyone needs to be treated equally.

Corky Booze spoke in support of the driver's license checkpoints. He stated that the Hispanic Community is questioning why Vice Mayor Marquez does not show up to speak in their community and help work out the driver's license checkpoint issue. He also stated that citizens are unclear of where Vice Mayor Marquez stands on the issue. Mr. Booze stated that Vice Mayor Marquez should represent all citizens of Richmond.

Johnny Holmes thanked the City Council for sending the Richmond Half Steppers to the Nationals where they came in ninth place. He invited the Council to come and see what the group is doing. He also thanked the following individuals for their support this season: Diane Holmes, Katrinka Ruk, Gerald Hatchett, Mel Brooks, Late former Councilmember Richard Griffin, Late Reverend Charles Belcher, Reverend Sam Van Hook, Reverend Ray Spearman and the Pilgrim Rest Family, Corky Booze, Richmond Sanitary, Supervisor John Gioia, Neighborhood House, and Bob Lee. He also gave a special thanks to Councilmember Bates for his many years of support for the Richmond Half Steppers and the many other athletic programs in Richmond.

Jovanka Beckles spoke in support of Tent City Peace Movement and Measure T.

Gary Bell spoke against Measure T.

Jackie Thompson applauded the Richmond Police Department for patrolling at Lucretia Edwards Park. She

observed the license checkpoint and they did a wonderful job. She also expressed her disappointment with some of the Hispanic community for speaking so negatively about the Police Department at the license checkpoint and holding printed signs to detour traffic in Spanish only. She stated she hoped that the City would stand behind the Police Department.

Vice Mayor Marquez stated that Corky Booze cannot blame him for what happens in any segment of the community; his community is all of Richmond. He also stated he represents all citizens of Richmond. Vice Mayor Marquez stated that he objects to Mayor McLaughlin allowing people to speak at the podium for their own candidacies and campaigns at the expense of the tax payers. He also stated he expects the city attorney to put a stop to this type of behavior.

Mayor McLaughlin stated that people can speak, but they should not speak about their campaigns. She also stated she supports the Police Department addressing traffic issues in other ways besides checkpoints.

STUDY AND DIRECTION TO STAFF SESSION

The purpose of the Study and Direction to Staff Session was as follows:

The City Council accepted the Annual Report from the Richmond Convention and Visitors Bureau (RCVB). Representatives Becky Ross, Gary Bell, and Michelle Itagaki gave the report. Councilmember Bates requested staff meet with the RCVB to brainstorm possibilities and opportunities. Councilmember Rogers suggested RCVB look into the possibility of new signs that would be visible from I-80 for advertising stores located at Hill Top. RCVB representatives stated that The Hill Top Advisory Committee is working on the sign project. *Councilmember Bates left the meeting at 9:04 p.m.*

A discussion to provide direction to staff regarding initiating a process to consider ideas for a new motto and logo for the City of Richmond, e.g. "We Can Do It, Again. Si Se Puede, Otra Vez." and rebranding and remarketing the City to attract a new "Solar Valley" cluster of green businesses was presented. Councilmember Rogers and Butt gave an overview of the item. Management Analyst LaShonda Wilson spoke on this item. Speakers were: Tom Waller, Corky Booze, and Michelle Itagaki. Councilmember Butt requested that the city clerk check her records to see if the current logo was ever adopted. Vice Mayor Marquez stated that the current logo was adopted by formal action of the Council in 1988. Councilmember Sandhu stated that staff should look into using the City of Richmond Seal as the logo. Mayor McLaughlin stated that the community should have input. A motion was made by Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Councilmember Rogers to direct staff to define the bid process, community process, schedule, and the cost. Cost should be based on what will be city budgeted and privately funded. The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmember Butt, Rogers, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Marquez, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** None. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:**

Councilmembers Bates, Lopez, and Thurmond.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

This item was heard immediately after Agenda Review. In the matter to consider providing emergency funding to the Tri-City Ravens Pop Warner Youth Football and Cheer Program. Councilmember Bates gave an overview and introduced Derick Calhoun and Masa Miyashiro who gave a brief report on the program. City Manager Bill Lindsay requested this item be returned to staff to address the needs of the organization. Speakers were: Corky Booze, Fermin Loza, Tony Revis, Santino Revis, Richard. A motion was made by Councilmember Bates, seconded by Councilmember Thurmond to immediately approve \$8,100 in a check paid directly to the organization and work with city manager and committee to work out other details. The motion was approved by the unanimous vote of the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McLaughlin announced that The Tent City Peace Movement was currently set up in the following parks: Lucas, Martin Luther King Jr., and Shields-Reid standing for peace. She also announced that on Sunday, September 28, 2008, there would be an ending event at Lucas Park.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, October 7, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor