

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 24, 2009

The Special Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Vice Mayor Lopez. The Evening Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:07 p.m. The Closed Session adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Ritterman, Rogers, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Lopez. **Absent:** Mayor McLaughlin.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no speakers.

Presentation of Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2009-2014

City Manager, Bill Lindsay, gave an overview of the item and stated that the Five-Year Strategic Business Plan Goals are intended to link with the General Plan, the Capital Improvement Plan, and the operating budget by maintaining and enhancing the physical environment, promoting a safe and secure environment, promoting economic vitality, promoting sustainable communities, and promoting effective government. Michael Iacofano, Moore, Iacofano, & Goltsman (MIG), stated that the General Plan Elements include components pertaining to economic environment, physical environment, social environment, and cultural environment. Janet Schneider, Administrative Chief, gave comments regarding maintaining and enhancing the physical environment. Ms. Schneider stated that the key objectives were to increase the existing paving condition index (CPI), improve Richmond street lighting system, make Richmond pedestrian and bicycle friendly, improve the appearance of parks and landscape areas, improve the interior and exterior appearance and functionality of public facilities, upgrade waste water treatment plant and aging collection infrastructure system, expand the tree canopy, improve accessibility to City facilities and modes of transportation, reduce City facility energy consumption by 10%, increase renewable energy supply for City facility use to meet 10% of the City's peak

electric load, and prepare for the temporary Hall of Justices' lease expiration. Police Chief Chris Magnus gave an overview of promoting a safe and secure environment by reducing crime, reducing blight, connecting with youth, improving Fire service, improving community disaster preparedness and awareness, increasing human service activity for vulnerable/high risk populations, enhancing recreational facilities, programs and activities, and increasing quality educational and cultural activities. Steve Duran gave an overview about promoting economic vitality by building out the General Plan, revitalizing and enhancing key commercial areas, attracting and retaining business, attracting tourism, meetings and events, growing the City's tax base, increasing grant revenues, increasing job training for Richmond residents, increasing the number of jobs in Richmond, expanding Port Operations, supporting legislation that protects City revenues. Planning and Building Director, Richard Mitchell, gave an overview of promoting sustainable communities by increasing the diversity of affordable housing opportunities that recognize and promote smart growth principles, creating and enhancing healthy, vibrant town center and neighborhoods, implementing environmentally sensitive energy resource management, promoting and improving the image of Richmond, increasing the capacity and productivity of local non-profits and community-based organizations, promoting green and sustainable buildings, preserving open space and sensitive habitat areas, and implementing the Urban Environmental Accords. Human Resources Director, Leslie Knight gave an overview of promoting effective government by measuring community satisfaction, streamlining internal systems by Enterprise Resource Planning, creating comprehensive training programs to increase customer service, increasing ease of public and private access to government documents, and implementing a strategic technology plan. Sherry Padgett gave comments. Councilmember Butt stated that there should be a database of City buildings developed and that the City should reduce its facility energy consumption by more than 10%. Councilmember Bates stated that the goals need to be prioritized in order of importance and that the Chamber of Commerce and Council of Industries should be included in the process. Councilmember Ritterman requested that a street paving

schedule be included. Councilmember Rogers stated that the tree canopy program be converted to the Urban Agriculture Program and that the City assist organizations in forming their non-profit status. Councilmember Viramontes suggested that the City should subcontract with PG&E for street light repairs and that a Master Agreement be prepared to include development from Garrard Avenue to Civic Center and implement the new assessment district in Marina Bay. Vice Mayor Lopez stated that emphasis should be placed on promoting small businesses. City Manager Lindsay stated that comments from the City Council will be included in the final version of the strategic plan and return to the City Council for approval.

The Special City Council meeting reconvened at 7:11 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Ritterman, Rogers, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Lopez. **Absent:** Mayor McLaughlin.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councilmember Butt stated he had a conflict of interest and will recuse himself from discussion on G-4.

AGENDA REVIEW

None.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Vice Mayor Lopez and Councilmember Bates presented a proclamation to Mr. Alberto Mendez of Wells Fargo bank to recognize Wells Fargo's contribution of more than \$150,000 to various nonprofit organizations that provide services to the residents of Richmond and West Contra Costa County. Mr. Alberto Mendez thanked the Council for the proclamation.

Vice Mayor Lopez presented a proclamation declaring 2009 as the "Year of the Richmond Plunge

Restoration and Renovation" to David Vincent, Rosemary Corbin and Myrtle Braxton, members of the Save the Plunge Committee. The members thanked the Council for the proclamation. There will be a fundraiser titled 'Classic Cars, Classic Pool', on Saturday, March 28, 2009, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 2801 Giant Road, Building F. More information can be obtained by calling 235-4850.

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

Deputy Chief City Attorney, Scott Dickey, stated that there was a revised settlement agreement made in the case of Arm vs. City of Richmond in the amount of \$130,000, by a vote of 6-0, with Mayor McLaughlin absent. The full agreement will be made available to the public once it is executed. The agreement provides that Mr. Arm will dismiss the lawsuit against the City. The City will prepare a Port-wide clean air action plan within two years and a local advisory board will be established to help implement the plan and third party experts will be hired. The City will also prepare a project-specific clean air action plan. The Port executive director will consult with the advisory board and air experts on implementation of the plan.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

David Vincent asked everyone to support the fundraising efforts of the Richmond Plunge.

Corky Booze stated that there are water problems on Castro Ranch Road near Olinda School. Mr. Booze also stated that there was an article in the newspaper that Office Depot was overcharging cities for supplies. He thanked Councilmember Viramontes for asking that the Office of Neighborhood Safety be accountable for their activities.

Jackie Thompson stated that there are serious loitering issues at fast food establishments, especially at McDonald's on 23rd Street. Ms. Thompson stated that she spoke with the corporate manager of McDonald's

who stated that the Richmond Police Department does not respond to their requests for assistance. She also encouraged residents to get involved in matters that concern their communities.

Jovanka Beckles gave comments regarding the loss of four officers in Oakland and encouraged the City to participate in ways to curtail violence.

Sims Thompson stated that there are many areas in the City that need improvement.

Andrea Lopez, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) gave comments regarding the health survey and invited the community to attend a meeting that will discuss the Health Forum Survey results on Saturday, March 28, 2009, at 10 a.m. at the Atchison Village Auditorium.

STUDY & DIRECTION TO STAFF SESSION

The Council heard a presentation from Discovering the Reality of Our Community (DROC) addressing alcohol and tobacco advertisement and discussed the implementation and enforcement of the City of Richmond's advertisement ordinance. Councilmember Lopez gave an overview of the item and stated that DROC is a nonprofit organization that works with high school students at El Cerrito, Kennedy, and De Anza High Schools. DROC youth reported on the results of their research and are requested that the City Council re-evaluate the Richmond Signage Ordinance and reduce the allowable coverage of windows from 25% to 10%. Jackie Thompson and Corky Booze gave comments. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Lopez, seconded by Councilmember Rogers, to reduce the amount of allowable signage from 25% to 10% and directed staff to research revenue streams that will focus on enforcement of the signage ordinance and Alcohol Beverage Control regulations. Councilmember Bates made a friendly amendment that a revenue and expenditure plan he submitted to the City Council for final approval. The motion including the amendment for a revenue and expenditure plan, was approved by the unanimous vote of the Council.

The Council heard a presentation from Eulate Design on the feasibility of building a Velodrome in Richmond. Andres Eulate gave the presentation and stated that a velodrome is an arena for track racing and features steeply banked oval tracks, consisting of two 180 degree circular bends connected by two straights. Velodromes are typically made of wood and may be built as outdoor or indoor tracks. Councilmember Bates requested that the Community Redevelopment Director, Steve Duran, meet with the proponents of the project and stated that the Point Pinole area would be a feasible location. Councilmember Viramontes requested that a committee of Councilmembers be formed to discuss this in more detail and report back to the City Council at a later time. Vice Mayor Lopez requested that both Councilmember Viramontes and Councilmember Butt meet with the Eulate Design group and visit the San Jose Velodrome. This matter will also be referred to the next East Bay Regional Park District meeting.

The City Council received an update on the Closed Circuit Television Program. (The Public Safety Committee toured the Police Department's Regatta Street camera viewing room at its March 19, 2009, meeting. Chief Chris Magnus gave an overview of the item and provided a map of where the cameras are located and presented actual videos of crimes in progress. There are currently 37 cameras installed throughout the City. Corky Booze gave comments. Councilmember Rogers suggested that perhaps maybe some of the cameras can be used as decoy cameras. Vice Mayor Lopez requested that a funding plan be developed in order to enable staff to monitor all the cameras and that the funds be placed in the budget.

The City Council received an update on the work program to save Richmond schools through debt forgiveness and the request of technical legislation as approved by the City Council at the January 20, 2009, Regular Meeting. Councilmember Viramontes gave an overview of the item. She stated that the city manager was authorized to hire consultants as needed to seek debt forgiveness of the \$3.7 million Federal Voluntary Integration Debt with the school district by requesting technical legislation for offsetting forgiveness. A local

funding match was secured with the passage of Contra Costa County's Transportation Measure J, and the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC) and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority approved funds to subsidize busing vouchers for West Contra Costa School District children. WCCTAC adopted Resolution No. 09-03 in support of using Measure J Program 21b funds to offset forgiveness of West Contra Costa Unified School District's \$3.7 million voluntary integration program debt.

The City Council received an update on the progress of the City of Richmond for either applying and/or receiving American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project funding. Administrative Chief Janet Schneider gave an overview of the item and stated that she will come to the City Council on a monthly basis to report on the status of applications or funding criteria. The Housing Authority will receive \$1.5 million; \$366,000 will be given to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for blight abatement activities; \$559,735 will be given for the New Starts Program; \$1,550,000 will be given to the Engineering Department; \$329,483 will be given to the Workforce Investment Adult Program; \$748,438 will be given to the Workforce Investment Act Youth Program; and \$309,003 will be given to the Workforce Investment Act Disabled Worker Program. All applications have been filed for the wastewater treatment plant. Councilmember Rogers requested that the Urban Agriculture component be included with the Urban Tilth and more money be requested. Councilmember Bates stated that the legislators should be involved in assisting the City in this process to be able to secure funding. John Marquez gave comments. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Lopez, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes, that projects be prioritized by staff in order of category in preparation to meet with representatives from the legislator's office and asked that the city manager schedule a meeting with Congressman George Miller. Councilmember Rogers made a friendly amendment that staff identify which lobbyists should be met with in Washington D.C. John Marquez gave comments. The amendment was accepted. Vice Mayor Lopez called for the question. The motion passed by the unanimous vote of the Council.

Vice Mayor Lopez reported that there will be a Foreclosure Meeting from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Richmond Recreation Center at 3230 Macdonald Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m. in memory of the four slain Oakland Police Officers, to meet again on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor