

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, May 26, 2009.

The Special Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Lopez, Rogers, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** Councilmember Ritterman and Viramontes (Councilmember Viramontes arrived after adjourning to Closed Session. Councilmember Ritterman arrived at 5:40 p.m.).

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 - EXISTING LITIGATION (Subdivision [a] of Government Code Section 54956.9): Tanzel vs. City of Richmond; Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) vs. City of Richmond

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Initiation of litigation pursuant to Subdivision © of Section 54956.9): One case

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54957.6):

City Designated Representative(s): Bill Lindsay, Leslie Knight, Jack Hughes, Lisa Stephenson, Michael Banks, and Bruce Soublet
Employee Organization or unrepresented employee(s): Firefighters Local 188 and Richmond Firefighters management Association (RFMA)

There were no public speakers.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:06 p.m. The Closed Session adjourned at 7:19 p.m. The Special Meeting of the City Council was reconvened at 7:26 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Lopez, Ritterman, Rogers, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** Councilmember Viramontes (Councilmember Viramontes arrived at 7:27 p.m.).

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

None.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

The Fire Department gave a presentation to the first and second place winners of the 2009 Fifth Grade Junior Fire Chief Program. Fire Chief Michael Banks introduced Inspector Robin Poindexter who gave an overview of the program and introduced the first and second place winners. The winners greeted the Council and Staff.

Vice Mayor Lopez presented Certificates of Recognition to the Salesian Boys' Basketball Team for winning the State Championship. The Coach of Salesian Boys' Basketball Team gave comments and thanked the Council for the recognition. Jovanka Beckles spoke on this item.

Mayor McLaughlin presented certificates honoring Raphael Madrigal Insurance Company and Catahoula Coffee as Richmond small business of the month for May 2009. Raphael Madrigal thanked Mr. Genser for his nomination and he also thanked Mayor McLaughlin and the City Council for the certificate. Tim Manhart also thanked the Council for the certificate. Jovanka Beckles spoke on this item.

Mayor McLaughlin read a proclamation honoring Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and was joined by Vice Mayor Lopez and Councilmember Viramontes who recognized and presented certificates to: Mr. Saelee from the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, the Shimada Commission, students from the Deanza High School Asian Pacific Islander Student Club, students from Deanza High School Shimada Student Club, and Zachari Divonza from Richmond High School. Harpreet Sandhu and Corky Booze spoke on this item.

Mayor McLaughlin read and presented a proclamation to Chief Chris Magnus to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of the Richmond Police Department. Chief Magnus gave comments and acknowledged and thanked his staff for their hard work and efforts for organizing the Centennial Anniversary. Mayor McLaughlin gave comments. Corky Booze spoke on this item.

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

City Attorney, Scott Dickey, reported the following:

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL
COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION
(Subdivision [a] of Government Code Section
54956.9):** Tanzel vs. City of Richmond – *The City Council approved a settlement in the amount of \$45,862.19*; Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) vs. City of Richmond – *No reportable action.*

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL
COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
(Initiation of litigation pursuant to Subdivision of
Section 54956.9):** One case – *No reportable action.*

**CONFERENCE WITH LABOR
NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section
54957.6):**

City Designated Representative(s): Bill Lindsay, Leslie Knight, Jack Hughes, Lisa Stephenson, Michael Banks, and Bruce Soublet
Employee Organization or unrepresented employee(s): Firefighters Local 188 and Richmond Firefighters management Association (RFMA) – *No reportable action.*

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Simms Thompson expressed his disappointment with the graffiti throughout the City of Richmond.

Naomi Williams addressed the Council regarding the dry grass field located on Carlson between the Tradeway Carpet and Pullman Point Apartments. She also stated that the signal lights are needed at 37th Street and Center Avenue, 37th Street and Wall Avenue, and Cutting Boulevard and Carlson Avenue.

Harpreet Sandhu announced that on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Civic Center, the West Contra Costa County Unified School District was holding a re-designation and re-class of students that speak another language that are now fluent in English. He also announced that the Conrad Ing Conference would be held on Sunday, May 31, 2009; from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Anyone interested should contact Harpreet Sandhu at (510) 504-3374.

Corky Booze thanked the city manager for acknowledging the City employees. He also stated that the Office of Neighborhood Safety is absent when needed in the community.

Jackie Thompson called to speak thanked the Richmond Police Department for their assistance in finding her grandson and thanked security at the mall. She also thanked Engineering for coming to check on the side walks in her community.

Juan Reardon called to speak regarding Troy Anthony Davis who is set to be executed by the State of Georgia. He requests that everyone contact the NAACP and messages to the governor of Georgia.

STUDY SESSION

The City Council received a presentation by the Richmond High School Urban Agriculture and Food Systems class on the results of the Richmond Food System Study. Antonio Medrano of the School Board spoke on this item.

The Council received a report on the 2009 Cinco de Mayo Festivities. Vice Mayor Lopez gave an overview of the item. The 23rd Street Merchants Association gave a presentation on the 2009 Cinco de Mayor Festivities which included a PowerPoint presentation. Lutenant Mark Gagen received an award for his support with the Cinco de Mayo festival. John Marquez spoke on this item.

The Council reviewed proposals by City staff and community organizations to address the foreclosure crisis, including keeping families in their homes, neighborhood revitalization, renter protections, long-term affordable housing, and increased local employment. Housing and Community Development Director Patrick Lynch gave an overview of the item. City Attorney Trish Aljoe spoke on this item regarding ordinances that relate to this item. Vernell Crittenton of Richmond Equitable Development Initiative (READI) a collaboration of amnesty, research, and grass roots community based organizations working together in Richmond on environmental and social justice issues, spoke regarding the Community Land Trust. He stated that READI would like to see the following next steps to revitalize neighbors include: (1) continue with the community stake holders in establishing a Community Land Trust; (2) continue the efforts to aggressively fine unsecured properties not in compliance with the State Senate Bill 11-37; (3) would like the City's assistance in working with banks to bundle foreclosed properties to sell them at a reduced rate to the City, to non-profit housing developers, and to the Community Land Trust; and

(4) establishment of the Richmond Community Land Trust Ordinance. Other speakers were: Anthony Allen, Maria Alagria, Ana Cortez, Eliron Hamburger, and Sal Vaca, Simms Thompson, Theresa Kar, Jackie Thompson, Corky Booze, Jovanka Beckles, Tom Nompraseurt, Sabina Crocette, and Antonio Medrano. Councilmember Viramontes suggested supporting: (1) developing a Land trust, (2) staff on code enforcement issue and \$1,000 fines, (3) the City of Richmond currently has a conservatorship program - would like to see if there is anything in receivership, (4) divestment of any bank that won't sign on to the program, (5) ideas of just cause: (a) notice of default should go to the renter also, (b) do ordinance to extend renter for 90 days if owner-occupied; (c) make sure there is a requirement that housing deposit be returned, and (6) once 20 days notice of sale is given to the renter, the renter gets 60 days of notice to quit - supports extending utilities. Steve Duran spoke on this item. Councilmember Butt requested a table that includes: (1) initiatives that READI, staff, and Council have suggested, (2) for each initiative, explanation of progress, (3) who is the responsible party for the initiative, (4) what the end game is for implementing, (5) add an additional column indicating the City's capacity to implement these programs and to what extent it is anticipated. Mayor McLaughlin suggested that the table requested by Councilmember Butt also include all the action items suggested by READI. She also requested the agenda language be general enough for the Council to make motions. This item will continue on June 16, 2009.

STUDY AND DIRECTION TO STAFF SESSION

The City Council received a presentation and report from the National Research Center on the City's 2009 Community Survey results, and provided direction to staff as appropriate. Management Analyst LaShonda Wilson gave an overview of the item. Thomas Miller, Founder of the National Research Center in Bolder, Colorado gave a presentation which included a PowerPoint presentation. Speakers were: Simms Thompson, Jackie Thompson, and Corky Booze. Discussion began. The survey was done through systematic sampling; 3,000 households received the survey. Discussion continued. ***The city clerk announced that the time was 12:02 a.m. A motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Mayor McLaughlin to extend the meeting. A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Bates, seconded by Councilmember Butt to accept Item G-3 and adjourn the meeting in honor of Mr. Fred Moore. Councilmember Bates modified his motion to extend the meeting for five minutes. The substitute motion passed by the unanimous vote of the Council.*** Mayor McLaughlin stated that community empowerment is the key to improving the community's views of the City of Richmond.

The city manager stated that the information will be used to development policies, program, etc. to address the concerns and issued of the community.

Continued to June 2, 2009, an update on the progress of the City of Richmond in applying for and receiving American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project funding.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m. in memory of Fred Moore, to meet again on Tuesday, June 2, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor