

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, July 21, 2009**

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**CITY COUNCIL**

**LIABILITY CLAIMS - PENDING LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9):** MetLife Insurance vs. City of Richmond

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (Subdivision [a] of Government Code Section 54956.9):** Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) vs. City of Richmond

**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, Richmond Fire Management Association

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

There were no public speakers.

The Evening Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:03 p.m. The Closed Session adjourned at 6:58 p.m. The Regular Joint Meeting of the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency and the Richmond City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

## **STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Councilmember Ritterman stated a conflict of interest with Item H-38. City Attorney Randy Riddle stated a conflict of interest with Item H-23.

## **OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Assembly Member Nancy Skinner spoke in support of continuing negotiations with Chevron to support getting people back to work.

State Senator Mark DeSaulnier encouraged Chevron to get back to negotiations to put citizens back to work.

Nathan Rupp read a letter from Senator Loni Hancock urging everyone to work together to resolve the Chevron issue.

Heliodoro Perez stated that Chevron alone is not responsible for all the pollutants in the air.

Charles Owens spoke in support of saving jobs and saving the City of Richmond.

Bobby Lux urged the City of Richmond to negotiate with Chevron to resolve the issues.

Mike Daley spoke in support of a clean project and clean good union jobs.

Michael Parker stated that the key to a decent environment is to provide decent jobs to residents. He urged residents to look at Chevron.

Attorney General Jerry Brown stated the issued with chevron can be resolved and offered to be the mediator between the City of Richmond and Chevron to resolve the issues in order for the community and Chevron to be happy.

Henry Brown asked the City of Richmond and Chevron to resolve the issues.

Antown Clويد stated that the City of Richmond and Chevron should sit down and resolve the issued.

Greg Feeve spoke in support of jobs in Richmond.

Leonard Taylor asked the Council for a draft report regarding the fatality and traffic jams which occurred on Monday, July 6, and Tuesday, July 14, 2009.

Tom Baca stated that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Richmond need to take a role in the negotiations to reach a settlement with Chevron.

Darrell Branch questioned that the information presented to the City Council regarding the Chevron project was flawed. He also requested that the Council play a part in getting people back to work.

Gary Flood spoke in support of getting people back to work.

Kimberley Graham urged the Council to play a part in getting people back to work on the Chevron project.

Michael Hernandez requested that the Council play a part in getting people back to work.

Ray Trujillo urged the council to take a leadership role in negotiations with Chevron and demand that Chevron put people back to work.

Lou Thomas spoke in support of getting people back to work.

Rick Alcaraz spoke in support of getting people back to work.

Janet Springer spoke in support of continuing negotiations with Chevron.

Ernest Carrington spoke in support of getting people back to work.

Rhonda Harris urged the Council to settle differences and get Richmond residents back to work.

Jack Hunter spoke in support of getting people back to work.

Juan Thymiakos spoke in support of getting people back to work.

Simms Thompson urged the Council to settle differences and get Richmond residents back to work.

Charles Smith stated that Chevron should be the target.

Loren English spoke in support of negotiations with Chevron.

Juan Reardon stated that Chevron is responsible and urged workers to aim their frustrations at Chevron and urged everyone to participate in a march on Chevron on August 15, 2009, that will begin at the Richmond BART Station.

Lorraine Gardner urged the Council to resolve issues in order to save the community.

Jovanka Beckles stated the energy needs to be devoted and focused in front of the Chevron Refinery and demanded that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be done correctly.

John Marquez urged the community to remember the Councilmembers that voted against the Chevron Project.

Robert Schoevaars urged the Council to resolve issues in order to save the community.

Tina Van Arsdale urged the Council to settle differences and get Richmond residents back to work.

Johnny Holmes requested monetary supports from the Council and residents of Richmond to help the Half Steppers go to the Nationals. Anyone interested in helping, please call Mr. Holmes at (510) 478-6783.

Eric Avery introduced the Half Steppers that were qualified for the Nationals.

Richard Drury urged the City of Richmond to accept Jerry Brown's offer to mediate negotiations with Chevron and the City of Richmond in order to put people back to work and also improve our environment.

Tony Thurmond urged the City Council to settle differences and get Richmond residents back to work.

Kevin Hampton stated that it is the Mayor's responsibility to accept Jerry Brown's offer and put people back to work.

Jackie Thompson spoke regarding her church member Aaron Seals who was presented with a Willie Mayes Scholarship for \$3,000 by the One Hundred Men in Black. She will bring Aaron to a future Council meeting to meet the Council.

## **AGENDA REVIEW**

Removed Item G-3 from the Redevelopment Agency Board Consent Calendar. Removed Items H-3, H-18, and H-26 from the City Council Consent Calendar. Councilmember Bates abstained on Item H-33. Withdrew Item K-2 from the agenda. Continued Item I-3 to July 28, 2009.

A motion was made by Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez, to reopen Executive Session after the Regular Joint Meeting of the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency and the Richmond City Council to discuss issues that were raised during Open Forum. *The motion passed with Councilmember Butt and Mayor McLaughlin abstaining.*

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

City Attorney, Randy Riddle, reported the following:

**LIABILITY CLAIMS - PENDING LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9):** MetLife Insurance vs. City of Richmond (*No reportable action*)

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (Subdivision [a] of Government Code Section 54956.9):** Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) vs. City of Richmond (*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, Richmond Fire Management Association (*No reportable action*)

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Government Code Section 54957.6):** City Attorney. (*No reportable action*)

## **REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion of Councilmember/Boardmember Ritterman, seconded by Councilmember/Boardmember Viramontes, all items marked with an asterisk (\*) were approved by the unanimous vote of the Board.

\*-Adopted joint **Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency Resolution No. 29-09** and

the **Richmond City Council Resolution No. 70-09** approving a \$5,580,539 loan with Mechanics Bank to enable the Agency to repay an advance from the City's General Fund for deposit with the Agency's bond trustee.

\*-Received a report containing a matrix of foreclosure prevention and mitigation activities and their status and provide direction to staff as the City Council may deem appropriate.

A proposed resolution of the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency authorizing the executive director to execute a contract with Vallier Design Associates, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$596,723 for the design and engineering of pedestrian safety improvements along Nevin Avenue between 19th Street and 27th Street was presented. Vice Mayor Lopez asked staff to address the limitations of the street improvements. Deputy Director of Redevelopment and Economic Development Alan Wolken stated the improvements would consist of design work within the public right of way, pedestrian improvements, enhanced side-walks, lighting, street scape work, and landscaping. He also stated a citizen's advisory committee would be established to provide input on the street scape improvements. Following discussion, on motion of Vice Chair/Vice Mayor Lopez, seconded by Councilmember/Boardmember Viramontes, adopted **Resolution No. 30-09** by the unanimous vote of the Board.

\*-Approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Special Joint Meeting held on June 16, 2009.

### **CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion of Councilmember Viramontes seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez, all items marked with an asterisk (\*-) were approved by the unanimous vote of the Council.

\*-Approved a one-year contract with Maze & Associates Accountancy Group for all audit work and other requisite financial reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. The total amount of the contract will not to exceed \$456,470.

\*-Approved procurement contracts for equipment and vehicle rentals from Hertz Equipment Rental Corporation to support Public Works equipment and vehicle needs in an amount not to exceed \$360,000 for a period of three to five years.

A proposed contract with Design, Community and Environment, Inc. (DC&E) to provide design services for the Wendell Neighborhood Park Improvement Project in an amount not to exceed \$149,282.00 and for a term from July 22, 2009, to June 30, 2010, was presented. Vice Mayor Lopez gave an overview of the concerns raised at the

Finance Committee Meeting. She stated that community input for the design was a concern. Park Superintendent Anthony Norris stated the contractor will provide outreach meetings for public input. Corky Booze spoke on this item. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Bates, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez to approve the contract. A friendly amendment was offered by Councilmember Viramontes to direct staff to have DC&E attend a formal meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission to gather input on the design and ensure members of the Park and Recreation Commission are invited to public notices to have continued input on the process. The amendment was accepted. The motion passed by the unanimous vote of the Council.

\*-Approved a contract with Morgan Fence & Iron, Inc. for demolition and installation of chain link fence system at the Parks Yard at 3201 Leona Avenue in an amount not to exceed \$95,700.00. The contract term will be from July 22, 2009, to June 30, 2010.

\*-Approved the purchase of two aerial trucks from Altec Industries, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$335,000 for replacement of existing aged and worn vehicles presently used in the Electrical and Parks and Landscape Divisions.

\*-Approved a three-year contract with OC Jones & Sons, Inc. for rental of street paving equipment in an amount not to exceed \$175,000 per year.

\*-Approved a three-year contract with Delta Grinding, Inc., dba Diablo Grinding, Inc., for rental of street paving grinding equipment in an amount not to exceed \$175,000 per year.

\*- Introduced an ordinance establishing the wages, salary, and compensation for the new classification of Construction Inspector I (Salary Range No. 49: \$4,939 - \$5,951/month) and compensation for the new classification of Construction Inspector II (Salary Range No. 52C: \$5,492 - \$6,652/month).

\*- Adopted **Resolution No. 71-09** amending the City of Richmond's Position Classification Plan to add the new classification of Construction Inspector I/II and delete the classifications of Assistant Public Works Inspector and Senior Public Works Inspector.

\*-Approved the purchase of 10 dirt bikes from Powersports to replace existing aged and worn vehicles in Richmond's Police Department fleet, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

\*-Approved a contract with Mark Holmes, dba Holmes Construction, for the electrical, utility, and data services hook-up to the new modular building at the Fire Training Center in an amount not to exceed \$32,000.

\*-Adopted **Ordinance No. 20-09 N.S.** establishing the wages, salary, and compensation for the new classification of Business License Field Investigator (Salary Range No. 34: \$3,923 – \$4,559/month).

\*- Introduced an ordinance establishing the wages, salary, and compensation for the new classification of Technology Application Specialist (Salary Range No. 054C: \$5,933 – \$7,212/month).

\*-Adopted **Resolution No. 72-09** amending the City of Richmond's Position Classification Plan to add the new classification of Technology Application Specialist.

\*-Approved a contract amendment with Matrix Consulting for an additional \$50,945 for a total of \$63,145 and renew the contract and extend the term to December 31, 2009. *Workers comp will be added to the scope of work.*

\*-Approved Contract Amendment No. 1 with First Serve Production, Inc. to resurface the basketball courts at Martin Luther King Jr. Park (MLK) and repair vandalism to the recently resurfaced basketball courts at Nevin Park in an amount not to exceed \$13,970 with a total contract amount not to exceed \$32,340.00 for the term of July 22, 2009, to December 31, 2009.

\*-Adopted **Ordinance No. 21-09 N.S.** establishing wages, salary, and compensation for the new classification of Finance Manager I/II (Salary Range 55D: \$5,993 - \$7,245/month and 60D: \$6,747 - \$8,160/month).

A proposed resolution of project compliance to submit a Regional Measure 2 Allocation Request to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for Environmental Studies and Preliminary Engineering of the Ohlone/Richmond Greenway Gap Closure Project was presented. Rich Davidson gave an overview of this item. Corky Booze spoke on this item. Councilmember Bates stated that there needs to be a study to monitor the traffic that is generated on the trails. Mayor McLaughlin stated that there is a group called SPOKES that works with City staff to map out trails and traffic on the bike trails. On motion of Councilmember Bates, seconded by Councilmember Ritterman adopted **Resolution No. 73-09** by the unanimous vote of the Council.

\*- Approved a contract with Liebert CassidyWhitmore MP in an amount not to exceed \$95,000 for contract negotiations, legal consultation and employee training for the period of July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2011.

\*-Authorized payment to Bentley Systems, Inc, for the purchase of two licenses for SewerGEMS® in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

\*-Authorized payment not to exceed \$12,000 for membership fees for participation in the California Association of Sanitation Agencies for 2009.

\*- Approved the purchase of 10 police Crown Victoria's from Wondries Fleet Group to replace existing aged and worn vehicles in the City's fleet, in an amount not to exceed \$245,000.

\*- Approved a two-year contract with the law firm of Renne, Sloan, Holtzman & Sakai, LLP, for services as city attorney for the period of January 10, 2010, through January 10, 2012, in an amount not to exceed \$985,925.

\*- Approved a contract with Belfor Property Restoration in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 for initial remediation efforts at the Martin Luther King Community Center.

\*- Approved a contract with C&W Environmental Consulting, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for ongoing environmental testing in conjunction with the remediation repairs at the Martin Luther King Community Center.

A proposal to approve the city manager's response to the Grand Jury Report 0909 recommendations regarding City Travel and Expenditure Policies and submittal of a letter to the Contra Costa County Grand Jury was presented. Councilmember Bates asked for clarification regarding the per diem. The city manager suggested that the policy should be reviewed to address issues such as the per diem and brought back to the Council for further discussion. On motion of Mayor McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Butt, approved the city manager's response to the Grand Jury Report 0909 recommendations regarding City Travel and Expenditure Policies and submittal of a letter to the Contra Costa County Grand Jury and directed staff to refer the current policy to the Finance Committee for further alterations by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Ritterman, Rogers, Viramontes, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** None. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** Vice Mayor Lopez.

\*-Appointed Mayor McLaughlin to replace Councilmember Rogers as one of the City's members of the North Richmond Mitigation Fee Joint Committee and appoint Councilmember Butt as alternate.

\*- Approved a contract with Psomas in an amount not to exceed \$210,525 to provide Geographical Information System (GIS) services to the City in connection with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP).

\*- Approved a contract with Larry Walker Associates to assist with the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance schedule in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

\*- Approved a contract with Questa Engineering Corporation for the preparation of both the project study report and the construction documents related to the Castro Street to the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Bay Trail Project in an amount not to exceed \$1,578,862.

\*-Adopted **Resolution No. 74-09** authorizing the finance director to execute a Financial Assistance Application with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB); **Resolution No. 75-09** that dedicates a portion of the sanitary sewer rate fees and proceeds of the sanitary sewer revenue bonds as sources of revenue for wastewater improvement projects listed in the application; and **Resolution No. 76-09** that confirms the City's intention to reimburse the SWRCB for project expenditures that are part of the funding agreement.

\*- Approved a contract in the amount of \$215,000 for helicopter services between the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office and the Richmond Police Department for the past (2008-09) fiscal year.

\*- Approved the following re-appointments and appointments: **Historic Preservation Advisory Committee:** Christopher Bowen, Incumbent, term expiring July 31, 2011; Kimberly Butt, Incumbent, term expiring July 31, 2011; Rosemary M. Corbin, Incumbent, term expiring July 31, 2011; Sandi Genser-Maack, Incumbent, term expiring July 31, 2011; Samaneh Nili, Incumbent, term expiring July 31, 2011; **Community Development Commission:** Jamar Anthony Dossman, term expiring March 21, 2012 (representing Hilltop area); Guillermo Martinez, term expiring March 21, 2012 (one of three representatives for the Iron Triangle); Jackie Thompson, term expiring March 21, 2012 (Public Housing representative); **Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission:** Antonio Marcus Russell, term expiring December 31, 2012. *Councilmember Bates abstained on this item.*

\*-Adopted **Ordinance No. 22-09 N.S.** adding Chapter 9.62 to the Richmond Municipal Code instituting a commuter benefit program within the City of Richmond for employers who have 10 or more employees working within the City.

\*-Adopted **Ordinance No. 23-09 N.S.** adding Chapter 9.57 to the Richmond Municipal Code regarding the prohibition of smoking in and around multi-unit residences within the City of Richmond. *Councilmember Bates voted Noe on this item.*

\*-Adopted **Ordinance No. 24-09 N.S.** establishing regulations for land use related to biodiesel facilities in the City of Richmond.

\*-Adopted **Resolution No. 77-09** making certain findings and approving and establishing an Economic Recovery Zone in order to make the City and its affiliated agencies eligible to issue Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds (RZEDB) and Recovery Zone Facility Bonds (RCFB).

\*-Adopted **Resolution No. 78-09** in support of continuing cardiovascular surgery for Kaiser patients in the East Bay.

\*-Approved the minutes for the Regular Meeting held on June 2, 2009, and the Special Meeting held on June 9, 2009.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The city clerk announced it was time pursuant to public notice to hold a public hearing to adopt a resolution approving the levy and collection of assessments in the Hilltop Landscape Maintenance Assessment District for the fiscal year 2009-2010. Parks and Landscape Superintendent Tony Norris gave an overview of the item. Mayor McLaughlin declared the public hearing open. There were no public speakers. On motion of Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Councilmember Ritterman, closed the public hearing by the unanimous vote of the Council. On motion of Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Councilmember Ritterman, adopted **Resolution No. 79-09** and requested staff send a thank you letter to the community group that worked on the Hilltop Landscape Maintenance Assessment District by the unanimous vote of the Council.

The city clerk announced it was time pursuant to public notice to hold a public hearing to accept the report of the City Engineer and adopt a resolution allowing the sanitary and storm sewer fees to be collected on the annual 2009-2010 tax rolls. City Engineer Rich Davidson gave an overview of the item. Mayor McLaughlin declared the public hearing open. Bob Sloat spoke on this item. On motion of Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Councilmember Ritterman, closed the public hearing by the unanimous vote of the Council. On motion of Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez accepted the report and adopted **Resolution No. 88-09** by the unanimous vote of the Council.

**Continued to July 28, 2009**, a proposal to affirm with modifications the Planning Commission's conditional approval of a Design Review Permit and Variance (V/DR 1103662) to construct a single family residence on a substandard lot located on the corner of Vine and Terrace Avenues (public hearing opened and closed on July 22, 2008).

## ORDINANCES

A proposed ordinance was introduced to amend Richmond Municipal Code Section 15.04.020 (Definitions), repealing Sections 15.04.820.030 through 15.04.820.035 (Wireless Communications Facilities), and adding Section 15.04.890 (Wireless Communications Facilities); and a proposal to adopt a resolution to adopt the Draft Negative Declaration prepared for the proposed RMC amendments. Planning and Building Services Director Richard Mitchell and Planner Lina Velasco gave an overview of the item. City Attorney Randy Riddle recommended minor changes that would consist of renumbering sections and cleaning up some language. He also recommended adding the following language to Section 5: “all applications filed after or pending upon the date of final passage and adoption of this ordinance shall be subject to this ordinance.” Speakers were: Will Rigney, Charnel James, and Tony Sustack. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Bates, to continue this matter to allow the parties to resolve differences and come back to the Council with a program that the Council can support. The motion failed for lack of a second. On motion of Councilmember Butt, seconded by Mayor McLaughlin, said ordinance, with recommended changes, received first reading and was laid over two weeks for second reading and Council adopted **Resolution No. 88-09A** by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmember Butt, Ritterman, Rogers, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Lopez, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** Councilmember Bates. **Abstention:** None. **Absent:** None.

A proposed ordinance amending Richmond Municipal Code Chapter 3.25 to create a more inclusive and effective City-wide Youth Commission was presented. Mayor McLaughlin gave an overview of the item. Corky Booze spoke on this item. Councilmember Viramontes suggested the Council think about paying a stipend for youth that serve on the Youth Commission. On motion of Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Vice Mayor Lopez, said ordinance received first reading and was laid over two weeks for the second reading by the unanimous vote of the Council.

## COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

In the matter to discuss and direct staff on applying for an Environmental Justice Grant through the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Vice Mayor Lopez gave an overview of the item. She stated the correct name of the grant was the Climate Showcase Communities Grant, which is part of the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Local Climate Energy Program. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Lopez, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes to approve the item and direct staff to apply for the Climate Showcase Communities Grant. City Manager Bill Lindsay spoke on this item. He stated that the Council of Industries provided a letter to participate in this program and partner with the business community and make as a showcase the City’s partnership with businesses in looking at achieving greenhouse gases and other environmental actions.

Following discussion, the motion was approved by the unanimous vote of the Council.

**Withdrew from the agenda** a proposal to direct the City Manager to provide a detailed written and verbal report regarding the manner in which the Richmond Police Department will handle the City Council's June 16, 2009, adoption of the resolution relating to Police Department traffic safety checkpoints.

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

Councilmember Viramontes reported that in January 2009 she attended an Economic Stimulus Workshop. She also reported attending in 2009 an ABAG meeting on Greenhouse Gas Emissions; the California Association of Sanitary Districts; Local Agency Investment Fund Meeting; Municipal Bankruptcies; and a Pension Bridge Funding in San Francisco.

Councilmember Butt reported he attended an SB375 Workshop in Oakland the week of July 12, 2009.

Councilmember Rogers reported he met with Jeff Carpenter of the Los Angeles Redevelopment Agency to discuss different ideas for redevelopment in Richmond. He also met in Pasadena with Fred Silver and David Cantor regarding free electric vehicles, and lastly, Rob Fredericks and Steven Faulstich in Santa Barbara and toured two innovative housing projects.

Councilmember Bates announced that there would be a Public Safety Meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2009, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. He also gave highlights on the 95th birthday celebration held for Nancy Crutchfield at her home where he read letters of best wishes from Congressman George Miller and President Barack Obama. He also presented Ms. Crutchfield with a certificate on behalf of Mayor McLaughlin. Councilmember Bates stated that Ms. Crutchfield sent words of thanks to Mayor McLaughlin for the certificate.

Vice Mayor Lopez reported that she attended the East Bay Division of the League of Cities Monthly Meeting in San Leandro. She also extended her condolences to Reverend George Brown and family for their loss and requested the meeting be adjourned in memory of George Roderick Brown.

Mayor McLaughlin thanked the neighbor councils and all involved with making the Iron Triangle's Annual Picnic a great success. She also announced that the City of Richmond received two solar awards; one from Environment California for becoming one of the top cities in California for having roof tops installed and overall wattages per capita; and a second award from NORCAL Solar Association for being among the top three cities in the Bay Area for solar. She also extended her condolences to Reverend George Brown and family for their loss. She

announced that she would also adjourn the meeting in memory of Adele Green Johnson and Ilde Salvador Vargas.

*The City Council recessed to Closed Session at 9:46 p.m. to discuss the Chevron Lawsuit and issues brought up during Open Forum and reconvened at 10:12 p.m. The city attorney reported that the City Council voted unanimously to accept the offer of California Attorney General Jerry Brown to assist in settlement discussions regarding Communities for a Better Environment vs. the City of Richmond and also directed the city manager and city attorney to urge the other parties to this litigation to accept this offer of assistance.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m. in memory of George Roderick Brown, Jr., Adele Green Johnson, and Ilde Salvador Vargas, to meet again on Tuesday, July 28, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.

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City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

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Mayor