

## **RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, June 24, 2014**

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Bates, Booze, Butt, Rogers, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** Vice Mayor Beckles arrived at 5:09 p.m. Councilmember Myrick 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**

#### **A-1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54957.6):**

Agency designated representatives: Bill Lindsay, Lisa Stephenson, and Bruce Soublet  
Employee organizations: Service Employees International Union (SEIU, Local 1021); International Federation of Professional and Technical Employees (Local 21); Richmond Police Officers Association (RPOA); Richmond Police Management Association (RPMA); Richmond International Association of Firefighters (IAFF, Local 188); and Richmond Fire Management Association (RFMA).

There were no public speakers.

The Evening Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:08 p.m. The Closed Session adjourned at 6:31p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Mayor McLaughlin, who led the Pledge to the Flag.

**STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Item H-2 was removed from the Consent Calendar.

**PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS**

Mayor McLaughlin presented a proclamation honoring Richmond Recreation Department staff member for years of extraordinary service to Peter DeFabio. Jackie Thompson and Eli Williams gave comments.

Mayor McLaughlin and Councilmembers Bates and Boozé presented a Certificate of Recognition to Ms. Ida May Johnson in honor of her 97th birthday

CONTINUED the presentation of the Certificate of Recognition to Ms. Irene Patterson, who will celebrate her Centennial Birthday on June 27, 2014.

**REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY OF FINAL DECISIONS MADE DURING CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Leonard Taylor informed that there is a detour on El Portal Drive in San Pablo.

Mark Wassburg gave comments regarding persons not being able to express their opinions during open forum.

Montoya Crayton, Ivory Woods, LaVonda Phillips, Gloria Wright, Pam Bilbo, and Eleanor Thompson, gave comments in support of the volunteers of the Men and Women of Valor regarding positive changes they have made in North Richmond.

Luella Dudley invited everyone to an event showcasing artists from all over the bay area at the Richmond Auditorium on July 12, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Kevin McDonald of Allied Vocational Training Center, stated that the Men and Women of Valor have greatly assisted him in starting his school.

Mike Ali gave comments regarding possible political oppression if the City Council passes an ordinance to attempt to violate citizen's civil rights by not allowing them to speak.

Bea Roberson stated that the Brotherhood Alliance Group and Gerrold Hatchett have been the main ones behind the success of the Juneteenth Celebration. No one notified Mr. Hatchett of the proclamation and instead it was given to Najari Smith and Melvin Willis.

Jackie Thompson gave comments regarding the need for bus benches in the Southside area of the city.

Amy Anderson and Israel gave Vice Mayor Beckles, Capt. Gagan, and Chief Magnus a certificate of recognition for assisting the community.

Millie Cleveland provided an article that indicated that there was a \$35 million deficit in the city in 2004.

Sharon Sanders thanked the city for the response she received regarding some street lights she reported that were needed.

Ed Paasch spoke in support of not laying off any members of the abatement team in the Code Enforcement Department.

Myrtle Braxton encouraged people to register to vote and to go and vote.

Jerrold Hatchett invited everyone to the Juneteenth celebration.

*Vice Mayor Beckles began to clarify a comment that a speaker made. The Council recessed at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 7:42 p.m.*

*The Council recessed at 7:44 p.m. and reconvened at 7:47 p.m. The Council recessed at 7:50 p.m. and reconvened at 7:52 p.m.*

### **CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR**

A motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Butt, approved the Port Executive Director's request for travel to China with a cost of approximately \$5,000 to meet with Zhoushan's Mayor and government officials.

The matter to approve the 2014/2015 North Richmond Waste and Recovery Mitigation Fee Expenditure Plan that specifies the activities and the revenue to support those activities from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, as recommended by the North Richmond Waste and Recovery Mitigation Fee Joint Expenditure Planning Committee was presented by Lori Reese-Brown. Of the eight non-profits selected for funding, the mitigation committee recommended approximately \$94,000 to be allocated to Community-Based Project Strategy 9, to fund projects that serve the North Richmond funding area. Five (5) of the eight (8) projects have been recommended to receive funding under this strategy. The mitigation committee is recommending that the remaining \$40,000 be allocated to create a new Neighborhood Community Gardens Project Strategy (Strategy 12), to fund on-going maintenance, and to maintain existing Community Gardens in the funding area (to be allocated among three Neighborhood Garden Projects). The following individuals gave comments: Pam Bilbo, Mike Ali, Kevin McDonald, Montoya Crayton, Luella Dudley, and Eleanor Thompson. (11:00 p.m. – A motion by Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember

*Rogers, extended the meeting to 11:30 p.m. by the unanimous vote of the City Council). Discussion ensued.*

*11:30 p.m. - A motion by Vice Mayor Beckles, seconded by Councilmember Butt, made a substitute motion to suspend the rules and extend the meeting only to vote on the current item, failed by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmembers Beckles, Butt, Myrick, and Mayor McLaughlin. Noes: Councilmember Bates, Boozé, and Rogers. Absent: None. Abstain: None.*

*A substitute motion by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Bates to suspend the rules and complete the current item, failed by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmembers Bates, Boozé, Myrick, and Rogers. Noes: Councilmember Beckles and Mayor McLaughlin. Absent: Councilmember Butt. Abstain: None.*

*The current item will be continued to the July 1, 2014, City Council meeting without any public comment.*

## **STUDY AND ACTION SESSION**

The matter to review and discuss the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Operating Budget and provide direction to staff was presented by City Manager, Bill Lindsay. At the City Council's Special Meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, staff presented the overall status of the operating budget, revenue estimates, and preliminary expenditures for the fiscal year (FY) 2014-15. As it currently stands, the operating budget is not yet balanced for FY 2014-15, with a \$7.6 million deficit yet to be reduced. The preliminary budget shows an ending cash reserve (as of June 30, 2015) at \$10.3 million, which is approximately \$1.2 million above the minimum amount required per the City Council's reserve policy. City Council members asked questions regarding the proposed FY 2014-15 budget, with responses provided by the City Manager, Finance Director and other City staff. The City Manager informed the City Council that staff would continue to examine the following items in an effort to reduce the

FY 2014-15 budget deficit and to maintain the reserve level to at least the minimum required amount: Continue to analyze the structural integrity of all funds, which includes funds subsidized by the General Fund; Implement organizational restructuring and possible personnel reductions; Work with bargaining units to discuss the City's budget constraints and possible solutions; Consider strategic reductions and/or elimination of projects or programs; Research future revenue opportunities for new and existing projects and programs; Continue looking for grant funds; Take steps to eliminate General Fund subsidies for revenue-based programs; and work with departments to identify additional reductions and efficiencies. Councilmember Rogers asked the City Manager to look into the Successor Agency to the Community Redevelopment Agency to determine if the current staff is needed. Councilmember Butt asked how much money is being saved by not funding NIAD, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts and the Richmond Art Center. The amount saved would be \$495,000. There will be no library closures or reduction in staff. A motion by Councilmember Beckles, seconded by Councilmember Butt, to end discussion of the question portion, hear from the public, and then return for comments, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Butt, Myrick, Rogers, Vice Mayor Beckles, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** Councilmembers Bates, and Boozé. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** None. The following individuals gave comments: Anthony Torres, Yolanda Holley, Susan Wittenberg, Andrea Ambrose, Andrea Biren, Ric Ambrose, Steven Hopkins, Holly Carter, Adrian Spucces, Susan Wehrle, Fletcher Oakes, Lea Roberts, John Wehrle, Ashley Payne, Jordan Simmons, Don Gosney, Bernadette Jones, Bea Roberson, Deb Dyer, Rachel Hamilton, Brenda Quintanilla, Loch Sekona, Millie Cleveland. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, directed the City Manager to determine if there are any CDBG funds available in the Capital Improvement Project budget that can be used to fund art programs, excluding ones that have already been allocated to specific non-profit organizations, to be discussed at the next City Council meeting, or as soon

as possible, passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:36 p.m., in memory of Sara Louise Aaron, to meet again on Tuesday, July 1, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

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City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

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Mayor