

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 24,
2015**

The Special Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:34 p.m. Councilmember Pimplé led the Pledge to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, Martinez, McLaughlin, Pimplé, Vice Mayor Myrick, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

Item F-1 was removed from the Consent Calendar.

**PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND
COMMENDATIONS**

Mayor Butt presented a proclamation declaring Saturday, March 28, 2015, as Dr. Emma Jean Clark Day in the City of Richmond. Dr. Clark thanked the mayor and city council for the recognition. The following individuals gave comments: Jackie Thompson, Corky Booze, and Eleanor Thompson.

Vice Mayor Myrick presented a proclamation declaring April 2015 as Alcohol Awareness Month in the City of Richmond. The following individuals gave comments: Antwon Cloird, Jackie Thompson, Naomi Williams, and Raymond Landry.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

The matter to approve the following appointments and re-appointments: Arts and Culture Commission: Rosalle Fay Barnes, new appointment, term expiring January 31, 2019; Design Review Board: Michael Woldemar, re-appointment, term expiring

March 17, 2017; Jonathan Livingston, new appointment, term expiring March 17, 2017; Eileen Whitty, re-appointment, term expiring March 17, 2017; Brant Fetter, re-appointment, term expiring March 17, 2017; Housing Advisory Commission: Barbara Sutton, new appointment, term expiring November 1, 2016; Dolores Johnson, re-appointment, term expiring November 1, 2016; John M Thorp Jr., new appointment, term expiring November 1, 2016; Police Commission: David A Brown, new appointment, term expiring November 1, 2017; Therese Barquet, re-appointment, term expiring November 1, 2017; Public Art Advisory Committee: Fletcher Oakes, re-appointment, term expiring January 31, 2017; Dayna Holz, re-appointment, term expiring January 31, 2017; Recreation and Parks Commission: Christa 'Sequoia' Erasmus, new appointment term expiring October 26, 2017; Otheree Christian, new appointment, term expiring October 26, 2017 was presented. Jackie Thompson and Corky Boozé gave comments. A motion by Mayor Butt, seconded by Councilmember Beckles, approved the appointments and re-appointments, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

STUDY SESSION

The matter to receive a presentation summarizing the status of crude-by-rail shipment activity in Richmond and providing policy recommendations for Council consideration was presented by Chief Adrian Sheppard, Fire Marshall, Terry Harris, Battalion Chief, Marcus Rayon, and Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration Ernie Saratig, and Gary Flores. The number of tank car “unit” trains that transport a volatile form of crude oil from remote fields to refineries has increased. The Richmond Pacific Railroad operates six miles of leased track and provides local switching and transfer services. All three railroads haul tank cars that contain a variety of bulk materials related to the petrochemical and food industries. During 2014 BNSF increased the number and frequency of tank car “unit” trains carrying domestic crude oil to the Richmond rail terminal. Andres Soto gave comments. Mayor Butt requested that staff contact the Contra Costa Health Services Hazardous Materials Program to ensure that the

city is using all of its power under the Industrial Safety Ordinance. Mayor Butt also directed to research and determine for a future City Council meeting, if the city can exercise land use authority over Kinder Morgan's unloading operations. Councilmember McLaughlin stated there is an Industrial Safety Ordinance meeting with Contra Costa County on April 17, 2015, and requested that a member of the Fire Department attend also.

STUDY AND ACTION SESSION

The matter to receive a status report and provide direction to staff regarding the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center was presented by Councilmember Beckles and City Manager, Bill Lindsay. The community center project is moving forward and will be completed as part of the Nystrom revitalization project. The cost of the center is estimated to be \$14 million. The design portion of the contract will be on a future City Council meeting agenda. The tentative schedule will be determined when the architectural contract is brought forward. The following individuals gave comments: Raymond Landry, Antwon Cloird, Eleanor Thompson, Richard Stollings, Corky Booze, Jackie Thompson, and Pam Bilbo. This matter will be discussed further at the upcoming joint city council/ school board meeting.

The matter to receive a presentation and direct staff to continue to research available federal and state funding sources that supports the development and infrastructure of an ultra-light rail transportation system was presented by Councilmember Beckles, Lori Reese-Brown, City Manager's Office, and Dexter Vizinol, President of Cybertran International. The following individuals gave comments: Texanita Bluitt, Jackie Thompson, Corky Booze, Naomi Williams, Rhonda Harris, Raymond Landry, Mike Parker, Joe Fisher, Jeff Ritterman, and Jerry Feagley. CyberTran possibly may receive funding for a demonstration track. Language has been inserted in the Transportation Re-Authorization bill that received passage in the House, the Senate and then was signed by the President. Following discussion, a motion by Councilmember Beckles, seconded by

Councilmember McLaughlin, approved the item, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

The matter to discuss and consider directing staff to research the feasibility of district-based elections was presented by Vice Mayor Myrick Nick Delgado, City Council Intern, gave a presentation. The following individuals gave comments: Corky Boozé, Richard Stollings, Don Gosney, Joseph Puleo, Mike Parker, and Raymond Landry. Councilmember Bates stated that councilmembers should represent all areas of the city. District elections would isolate and divide certain areas that could not get needed projects and improvements passed by the majority of the city council solely based on the popularity of their representative. Following discussion, a motion by Councilmember Bates, seconded by Councilmember Pimplé to table this item, passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Beckles, Martinez, McLaughlin, Pimplé, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** None. **Abstain:** Vice Mayor Myrick.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:51 p.m., in memory of Robert “RJ” Griffin, to meet again on Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor