

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 25, 2008

The Special Meeting of the City Council was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Sandhu, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Marquez, and Mayor McLaughlin.
Absent: Councilmembers Butt, Lopez, and Thurmond (Councilmember Butt arrived at 7:10 p.m., Councilmember Lopez arrived at 7:35 p.m., and Councilmember Thurmond arrived at 9:13 p.m.).

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

None.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Mayor McLaughlin announced that the proclamation honoring the 101st Birthday of Mr. Al Grammer of the Richmond Annex Senior Center will take place on May 14, 2008, at the Annex Senior Center.

Mayor McLaughlin invited Kathy Haug, Administrative Librarian, and Luis Perez, Chair of the Library Commission, to the podium as she read a proclamation recognizing National Library Week, April 13 through 19, 2008. Mr. Perez translated the proclamation in Spanish. Mayor McLaughlin thanked all library workers and commissioners for their hard work. Ms. Haug thanked the Council for recognizing the library. She announced that the grand opening of the branch libraries will be held during National Library Week and a variety of activities have been scheduled. There will also be a one-time-only book amnesty program National Library Week where fines will be reduced if you come into the library. Corky Booze spoke on this item.

Officer Larry Lewis introduced Dr. John Tysell, Vice President of the Richmond Little League Program, who gave a presentation of the program. Dr. Tysell reported that Richmond PAL, the Recreation Department, Parks Department, YMCA, and many other stakeholders are working hard to bring youth baseball back to Richmond. He stated the Youth Baseball Commission meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Coronado YMCA located at 260 South 20th Street and the meetings are opened to the public. All of the players that were present representing different teams were introduced. Dr. Tysell reported that the program has about 150 youth have signed up for little league and more are signing up each day. He stated that an opening-day parade and ceremony will be held on Saturday, March 29th, at 9:00 a.m. The parade will begin at 23rd Street

and Bissell Avenue and end at Nicholl Park. The Richmond Sol Soccer Program will also kick off their league the same day and participate in the parade. There will be 150 baseball players, 200 soccer players and 30 cheerleaders in the parade. The public safety departments and their youth programs have also been invited to march in the parade. Dr. Tysell thanked Chris Treaward of West County Times for publicity. The following donations were received: \$5,000 from the Oakland A's; \$5,000 from Walnut Creek Little League; \$5000 from Cherokee Brook Street; and \$4,000 worth of baseball equipment from Wilsons Sporting Goods. Dr. Tysell reported that Police Chief Chris Magnus sponsored a team and Fire Chief Michael Banks donated \$350. The cost per player is \$35. Vice Mayor Marquez thanked Councilmember Bates for his efforts in getting the program started. Officer Larry Lewis also thanked Councilmember Bates and all City staff for their support. Councilmember Bates stated there are still teams in need of sponsors. Councilmember Butt stated he would like to sponsor a team.

Mayor McLaughlin read a proclamation declaring March 2008 as American Red Cross Month in Richmond. She presented the proclamation to Reverend Cedric Alexander, Senior Pastor of First African Methodist Episcopal Church in North Richmond. Reverend Alexander gave remarks and thanked the Mayor and Council for the proclamation.

Kevin Hufferd, Chair of West County Reads, and Summer Brenner, Board Member of West County Reads, gave a presentation which included handouts with information on available programs and scheduled upcoming events within the City of Richmond. Ms. Brenner stated that West County Reads would like to schedule a meeting with City staff to continue efforts to address literacy.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Eleanor Thompson stated the City Council allocated \$125,000 for the Home Front Festival, and Girls Inc. should have also received funding assistance.

Corky Booze Corky Booze stated the Richmond City Council is being disrespectful to its citizens by placing Open Forum after Public Hearings.

STUDY AND DIRECTION TO STAFF SESSION

The purpose of the Study and Direction to Staff Session was as follows:

Janet Schneider, Chief Administrator, made a presentation to the City Council that included a PowerPoint display describing recommendations for a new special event application process, guidelines, and fees to help facilitate better event planning, department coordination, and recovery of City costs. She introduced Rochell Monk and Jeff Semis who also assisted with the presentation. The major changes in the proposal included: Better description of event and sponsoring organization; 45-day requirement for application

submittal to ensure proper review; 30-day requirement for block party application; application processing fee and refundable deposit if no City costs are incurred; new fees such as security review, road closure, and alcohol permit issuance; clear insurance requirements and insurance obtaining information; more requirements for road closures that affect neighbors and businesses; requirements for neighborhood council approval for block parties; required security plans and security contract submittal; food and alcohol permit referrals; simplified sound permit approval process; preparation of emergency medical and fire plans; solid waste and recycling planning and sanitation and portable toilet contracts submittal; site plan drawing for fire department approval; traffic and parking accommodations review; and a provision for AC Transit signoff as necessary. Councilmember Lopez requested a matrix for entire fees applicable and she stated there needs to be better definitions and directions on the forms. Councilmember Viramontes stated that collecting individual signatures from neighbors should not be required, but contacting Neighborhood Councils should be required. Councilmember Rogers stated the neighborhoods could be notified by flyers. James Jenkins thanked the committee for trying to change the process. Other speakers were: Corky Booze, Naomi Williams, and Gina Swirsding. Mayor McLaughlin referred this item to the Public Safety Committee. She stated there should be emphasis placed on affordability. Councilmember Lopez stated it is important to know what services the City is trying to recover.

A resolution to adopt and approve the following actions: (1) adopt the Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) Post-Retirement Health Care Plan Trust, including the PARS Post-Retirement Health Care Plan, as part of the City Retirement Program, effective April 1, 2008; (2) appoint the Finance Director/Treasurer, or his/her successor or his/her designee as the City's Plan Administrator for the Program; and (3) authorize the City's Plan Administrator to execute the PARS legal documents on behalf of the City and to take whatever additional actions are necessary to maintain the City's participation in the Program and to maintain compliance of any relevant regulation issued or as may be issued; therefore, authorizing him/her to take whatever additional actions are required to administer the City's PARS plan(s). Finance Director, Jim Goins, gave an overview of the item. Andrew Brown, Portfolio Manager for Highmark Capital Management, and Mitch Barker, with PARS, and John Fulton, Union Bank, spoke on this item. Councilmember Lopez requested staff submit an annual report to the City Council. Following discussion, on motion of Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Councilmember Bates adopted **Resolution No. 33-08**, by the unanimous vote of the Council.

Rich Davidson, City Engineer, gave a presentation of the completed Richmond Parkway Engineering report which provides the estimated cost of varying levels of improvement that may be requested by Caltrans prior to their acceptance of the Parkway into State of California ownership and maintenance. It was further recommended that the City Council direct staff to initiate discussions with CalTrans to determine what will be required for the eventual transfer of ownership and to preserve in the City's General Plan ultimate

right of way for Parkway modifications. Rich Davidson introduced Hisham Noeimi, Engineering Manager, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, who gave an overview of the report. Larry Loder, former Public Works Director for the City of Richmond and Project Manager for the Richmond Parkway Project, gave historical information on the project. Adrian Gunderson, Project Manager with HDR Engineering, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the project. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Councilmember Sandhu, to direct staff and regional staff to start conversations with CalTrans, and begin the process of researching how the City of Richmond will generate money and report back to the City Council on whether we have a project or not and also asked that the City Council consider preserving the alignment for the express way in the General Plan. Discussion continued and the motion passed by the unanimous vote of the Council.

This item was heard directly after Open Forum. Anthony Norris, Parks and Landscaping, gave an overview of the item and introduced Mike Anderson, Assistant General Manager for Planning/Stewardship & Development for East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD). Mr. Anderson gave a presentation to the City Council that included a PowerPoint display describing the benefits of extending the successes of Measure AA, which was passed in 1988, and projects the measure proposes to fund, by the extension, the Regional Park Bond. Mr. Anderson also discussed the City park capital projects that should be included in the per capita allocation that is part of the bond measure. Corky Booze spoke on this item and requested a fishing pier with handicap accessibility. He also requested that the EBRPD consider naming a park after an African American and also stated that the play equipment at Nichol Park needs to be updated. Councilmember Viramontes requested the following projects as well: (1) Brunner Marsh; (2) expanding George Miller Park; (3) expanding the conservation area to go over the hill at Alvarado Park; and (4) preserving Briones Hill. Councilmember Rogers requested a place for people to go horseback riding, and also a swimming pool for El Sobrante. Councilmember Sandhu requested that EBRPD preserve and identify sites used by Native Americans. Councilmember Bates requested EBRPD address access to Brooks Island. He also stated that there are enough parks in the City of Richmond and EBRPD should utilize resources to improve areas that already have parks. Councilmember Butt stated that all shoreline parks increase the value of land left in Richmond. He also supports the EBRPD's efforts to obtain more of the shoreline. Mayor McLaughlin requested an Interpretive Center at Point Pinole, and she stated that Point Molate should be fully utilized to bring in revenue, i.e., recreation services. She announced that a public meeting will be held on April 9, 2008, at the Recreation Center, 3230 Macdonald Avenue at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Viramontes stated a discussion of proposed projects to be funded by the extension of the Regional Park Bond, will go before the Finance Committee on Friday, April 18, 2008. EBRPD will require prioritization decisions from the City of Richmond by the beginning of June 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 p.m., in memory of Everett Davis, Geraldine Smith, and Richard Granzella, to meet again on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor