

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, April 22, 2008

The Special Meeting of the City Council was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

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

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 LABOR NEGOTIATORS

(Government Code Section 54957.6):

City Designated Representative(s): Bill Lindsay, Leslie Knight, Lisa Stephenson, Bruce Soublet, and Chris Magnus
Counsel: Jack Hughes, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
Employee Organization or unrepresented employee(s):
Richmond Police Officers' Association (RPOA), and
Richmond Police Management Association (RPMA)

There were no public speakers.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:36 p.m. The Closed Session adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The Special Meeting of the City Council was reconvened at 7:23 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

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

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

Removed Items F-1 and F-2 from the Consent Calendar. Item K-1 was heard directly after Presentations, Proclamations, and Commendations and Item M-1 was heard after the Consent Calendar items.

Vice Mayor Marquez made corrections to the dollar amounts in Item M-1. The additional amount requested was \$45,000 for a total City contribution of \$65,000.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Councilmember Bates gave a brief biography of Mother Novelean Harris' life and accomplishments in the City of Richmond. Mayor McLaughlin read a proclamation and presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mother Novelean Harris in honor of her 92nd birthday. Mother Harris gave comments and thanked the City Council for the recognition.

Presentation of Kennedy High School students Rayshana Brown and Esther Taufa and Richmond High School students Jaimee Dickerson and Marvin Salazar and their award-winning two-minute video on global warming, which led to Marvin Salazar being named a California Climate Champion and one of three students to represent the United States at global warming conferences in London, United Kingdom on March 24-30, 2008, and Kobe, Japan on May 18-25, 2008. Mayor McLaughlin gave an overview of the item and read and presented the proclamation to the students. Each of the students gave comments on how they met and their collaboration on the video project as well as the friendships that were formed. Corky Booze spoke on this item.

Councilmember Lopez gave an overview of the item on the status of Doctors Medical Center and introduced Supervisor John Gioia. Supervisor John Gioia, Contra Costa County, gave a status report on Doctors Medical Center and the successful efforts to resolve Doctors Medical Center's financial problems. Supervisor Gioia stated that on April 28, 2008, 6:00 p.m., there will be a community meeting held at the Richmond Recreation Complex, 3230 Macdonald Avenue to give the community an update on the Health Center. Corky Booze spoke on this item.

Dan Boatwright, Sacramento Advocates, gave a report on the status of the State Budget and its potential impact on the City of Richmond. Simms Thompson, Jr. spoke on this item.

Nancy Baer, Manager of the Injury Prevention Promotions Project, Contra Costa County, and assistant Shannon Ladner-Beasley, gave a report, which included a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Richmond Pedestrian Project--Results and Recognition". Corky Booze spoke on this item.

Mayor McLaughlin invited members of the Commission on Aging to the podium as she read a proclamation recognizing May 2008 as Older Americans Month. She presented the proclamation to Arnie Kasendorf, Chairperson for the Commission on Aging. Mr. Kasendorf gave comments and invited everyone to the Senior Information Health Fair, sponsored by the Commission on Aging, on May 20, 2008, and the Senior Night Out on May 30, 2008. Both events will be held at the Richmond Recreation Complex at 3230 Macdonald Avenue. For reservations call Debbie Hernandez at 307-8086. Mr. Kasendorf thanked the Mayor McLaughlin, City Council, and City Manager, Bill Lindsay, for the proclamation.

Corky Booze spoke on this item.

Mayor McLaughlin invited members of the Historic Preservation Committee to the podium as she read a proclamation recognizing May 2008 as National Historic Preservation Month. Rosemary Corbin gave comments and thanked Mayor McLaughlin and the City Council for the proclamation and for their support in preserving Richmond's history. She stated that the Historic Preservation Committee joined by the National Park Service, Rosie the Riveter World War II Homefront Historic Park, Richmond Maine Street Initiative, Richmond Museum of History, Rosie the Riveter Trust, and the Point Richmond History Association, will present the Annual Historic Preservation Award on May 12, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at the Richmond Museum. Everyone is invited.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A proposal to approve, as an additional recommendation to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), the completion of three Bay Trail segments as proposed by the Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC) for inclusion in the proposed Measure AA Bond Extension for the November 2008 ballot was presented. Mayor McLaughlin gave an overview of the item. Bruce Brubaker spoke on this item. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Bates to approve the item as presented by staff. A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Councilmember Lopez, to authorize the city manager to meet with the EBRPD to discuss Richmond's fair share of allocation and to include items one and two, and not include item three. Councilmember Rogers offered a friendly amendment to ask for money for the general area and not specify the layout. Councilmember Viramontes stated that she would accept an amendment to "connect the bay trail plant by the City on the shore line of the former Point Molate Navel Fuel Depot to the I-580 corridor including closing the gap under the bridge". The item was approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Lopez, Rogers, Sandhu, Viramontes, and Vice Mayor Marquez. **Noes:** Councilmembers Butt and Thurmond. **Abstentions:** Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** None.

A proposal to approve the second eCivis Incorporated contract amendment for a city-wide grant locator database and support to City departments in applying for grants in the amount of \$29,500, at a total cost not to exceed \$96,575 was presented. Janet Schneider, Administrative Chief, gave an overview of the item. Following discussion, on motion of Councilmember Bates, seconded by Vice Mayor Marquez, approved the contract by the unanimous vote of the Council.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Williams requested more police presence in the Nevin/Iron Triangle Area. She also requested that code enforcement look into the mold that is located in the Barrett Terrace Apartments.

Corky Booze Corky Booze read quotes from an article in the West County Times regarding a 23rd Street Meeting. He asked Vice Mayor Marquez if he supports the Police Department's driver's license checkpoints.

Jovanka Beckles stated that the meeting was inspiring and stated she would like to see more positive behavior continue in our community. She requested the City continue to support Richmond Build and also identify money to sponsor the youth going to Sacramento to protest the proposed reduction in the State of California budget allocation for education.

STUDY AND DIRECTION TO STAFF SESSION

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

In the matter to hear a report from staff and give staff direction on a strategy for mitigating blight resulting from buildings left vacant by foreclosure. Police Chief, Chris Magnus, gave an overview of the item which included a PowerPoint presentation. Other staff that assisted with the presentation was: Trisha Aljoe, City Attorney; Dong Yoo, Code Enforcement; and Officer Darren Monaham. Councilmember Bates suggested that a committee of stakeholders, including Gus Kramer, County Assessor, and a PG&E representative, be organized to come up with a comprehensive program to deal with the blight which has resulted from buildings left vacant by foreclosure. Councilmember Butt requested staff submit a monthly status report. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Vice Mayor Marquez to form an adhoc committee of the Council and various stakeholders to focus their attention on identifying a conclusion on the strategies presented, i.e. use of demolition, use of land bank, warrant and lien, current receivership program, tough love, blight, cooperative help us fund mortgages, incentive to pay private individuals to acquire properties, establish a vendor list to help move abatement quickly, ID housing venture capital, national, or statewide funds that could buy land that was put into a land bank, continue information referral on foreclosure intervention team, establish an emergency ordinance for fees and fines. Also, the Finance Committee would look at a \$148,000 HUD grant balance in Redevelopment Agency for receivership program, discuss one time intervention, and identify new housing funds. Councilmembers that volunteered to serve on the adhoc committee included Councilmembers Butt, Lopez, Bates, and Thurmond. Simms Thompson, Jr. and Corky Booze spoke on this item. The motion passed by the unanimous vote of the Council.

In the matter to discuss and direct staff to confer with the City of Richmond's current West Contra Costa

Integrated Waste Management Authority Directors (Chair Marquez, Bates, and Lopez) to establish Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) projects as a priority and to implement a solution within six months. A motion was made by Councilmember Butt, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes, to approve the item. Councilmember Butt gave an overview of the item. Janet Schneider, Administrative Chief, gave a brief overview and turned the presentation over to Jenny Oorbeck, Environmental Manager, and Joe Light, Planning Department. Councilmember Butt requested, as part of his motion, that the city attorney's office provide a legal opinion on current recycling efforts. Councilmember Lopez offered a friendly amendment to give staff further direction to continue to work on this project and submit a report to the City Council or Directors on the Integrative Waste Management Authority to present to the Integrative Waste Management Board. Councilmember Butt accepted the amendment. Councilmember Bates offered a friendly amendment to have this item referred back to staff and bring back recommendations in six months. He accepted all amendments. The motion was approved by the unanimous vote of the Council.

RESOLUTIONS

This item was heard directly after Presentations, Proclamations, and Commendations. A resolution to support the Campaign for Quality Education's May 15 student mobilization against the California budget cuts to education and for a long-term plan to fully fund education was presented. Mayor McLaughlin gave an overview of the item. Speakers were: Abel Pineda, Linda Salinas, Lonnea Wilcox, Blanca Zepeda, Marquita Griffin, Adefela Thomas, Marvin Salazar, and Tiasa Powell. On motion of Vice Mayor Marquez, seconded by Mayor McLaughlin adopted **Resolution No. 41-08** by the unanimous vote of the Council.

A resolution certifying the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report for the proposed re-designation of certain areas of the City of Richmond as a California Enterprise Zone was presented. On motion of Councilmember Bates, seconded by Vice Mayor Marquez, adopted **Resolution No. 42-08** by the unanimous vote of the Council. Corky Booze spoke on this item.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

In the matter to consider appropriating additional funds for the 2008 Cinco de Mayo Festival in the amount of \$45,000 for a total City contribution of \$65,000. Vice Mayor Marquez gave an overview of the item. Speakers were: Corky Booze and Rafael Madrigal. Following discussion, on motion of Vice Mayor Marquez, seconded by Councilmember Butt, approved the additional funds by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Rogers, Sandhu, Thurmond, Vice Mayor Marquez, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** Councilmember Viramontes. **Abstentions:** Councilmember Lopez. **Absent:** None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:37 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor