

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, October 13, 2009.

The Special Joint Meeting of the Richmond Redevelopment Agency/Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chair/Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

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

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Corky Booze presented a packet to the Council on behalf of Althea Humphreys that included policies and procedures in reference to the use of recreation centers within the City of Richmond. Ms. Humphreys is concerned that seniors in Point Richmond are not able to use the recreation centers.

Sims Thompson expressed his disappointment with the City's lack in cleaning the storm drains within the City of Richmond, specifically on Stege Avenue and Cutting Boulevard.

Jackie Thompson requested clarification regarding the ownership of the trees that are planted on the sidewalks within the City of Richmond. She also stated that there are trees growing near the power lines.

Eleanor Thompson requested that Councilmember Varimontes forward information to her regarding agencies within the City of Richmond that provides reentry services for prisoners returning to the City of Richmond.

AGENDA REVIEW

Items F-1 and F-2 were combined.

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY/COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

Items F-1 and F-2 were combined. In the matter to adopt a resolution: (1) approving and adopting the Second Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget for the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency, adjusting operating costs to \$6,849,652 and adjusting debt payments to \$49,671,000 for a total Operating Budget of \$56,520,652 and (2)

approving and adopting the Second Amendment to the Five Year 2009/2010 - 2013/2014 Capital Project and Program Budget, adjusting project and program costs to \$95,459,000. City Manager Bill Lindsay gave a detailed presentation. Highlights of Mr. Lindsay's presentation included the possibility of the Planning and Building Department operating the Rental Inspection Program in house, as appose to outsourcing. Mr. Lindsay noted that within the Planning and Building Department, staff may perform work at cost where there is no offsetting revenue generation. Mr. Lindsay also stated that Paratransit has been operating at a loss for a number of years and changes would have to be made going forward. He also stated that the City must monitor the Hill Top and Marina Bay Landscape and Lighting Districts to ensure that they are balanced and self supportive going forward. Mr. Lindsay stated that the Employment and Training Department has been encouraged to try to cover overhead costs through grants. He also stated that staff would be exploring ways to generate revenue for the Stormwater Enterprise. In closing, Mr. Lindsay recommended that the Council adopt the October 13, 2009, Budget on October 13, 2009. He stated that the longer the City continues to operate at the current level, the more expensive and difficult it would become to balance the City's budget. Mr. Lindsay stated that by taking these steps, the City of Richmond would preserve its credit rating. He emphasized that the changes staff proposed are significant; however, they are beneficial to the City. Mr. Lindsay stated that services such as libraries, community centers, and fire stations are still preserved and the Council may still achieve its target goals to grow staffing in the Police Department where there has been a shortage in staffing for years. Discussion began. Boardmember/Councilmember Butt referenced the Planning and Building Department and stated that there should be an internal budget to cover the costs of non-revenue generating expenses. The Boardmembers/Councilmembers made the following suggestions: (1) reorganization of the Planning and Building Department and Paratransit; (2) add the Police South-Side Substation on the CIP list unfunded. Mr. Lindsay stated that the substation was currently on the CIP list as unfunded. He also stated that if the Boardmembers/Councilmembers wanted the Police South-Side Substation project to move forward, other projects would be postponed; and (3) consistency in the budget format. Human Resources Manager Leslie Knight spoke on this item. Boardmember/Councilmember Viramontes suggested that the Richmond City Council authorize the Finance Committee to bring recommendations for the following questions regarding the Planning and Building Department: (1) should there be a subsidy from the general fund to the Planning Department, (2) should there be a stabilization fund, (3) actual fees on collection of fees, and (4) how much has the City of Richmond spent on the general plan. She also recommended that the Finance Committee make a final recommendation regarding Paratransit, Code Enforcement, and Stormwater Enterprise. Discussion ensued. Local Union 1021 Representative Millie Cleveland stated that the City

of Richmond should look into the costs for staff taking vehicles home. She also stated that executive management should share some of the cut backs. Other speakers were: Tarnell Abbott, Lori Reese-Brown, Pam Covington, and Sims Thompson. Chair/Mayor McLaughlin suggested: (1) more cuts in operations, fix cars as opposed to buying new ones, or recycle them, (2) cut back on the purchase of IT equipment, (3) revenue generation through developer fees, (4) offer positions at a lower salary, and (5) reducing top salaries. Mayor McLaughlin also stated that she would be willing to let staff continue to work towards solutions to avoid layoffs. Following discussion, on motion of Boardmember/Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Boardmember/Councilmember Ritterman adopted **Resolution No. 09-36 by the unanimous vote of the Boardmembers/Councilmembers.**

In the matter to adopt the following three resolutions: (1) a resolution appropriating \$13 million Utility Users Tax (UUT) revenue to offset a reduction in other general fund revenues in FY2008-2009, (2) a resolution to adjust the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget to align expenditures with revised revenue projections, and (3) a resolution to adjust the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Capital Improvement Plan Budget to align expenditures with revised revenue projections. City Manager Bill Lindsay gave a detailed presentation. Highlights of Mr. Lindsay's presentation included the possibility of the Planning and Building Department operating the Rental Inspection Program in house, as appose to outsourcing. Mr. Lindsay noted that within the Planning and Building Department, staff may perform work at cost where there is no offsetting revenue generation. Mr. Lindsay also stated that Paratransit has been operating at a loss for a number of years and changes would have to be made going forward. He also stated that the City must monitor the Hill Top and Marina Bay Landscape and Lighting Districts to ensure that they are balanced and self supportive going forward. Mr. Lindsay stated that the Employment and Training Department has been encouraged to try to cover overhead costs through grants. He also stated that staff would be exploring ways to generate revenue for the Stormwater Enterprise. In closing, Mr. Lindsay recommended that the Council adopt the October 13, 2009, Budget on October 13, 2009. He stated that the longer the City continues to operate at the current level, the more expensive and difficult it would become to balance the City's budget. Mr. Lindsay stated that by taking these steps, the City of Richmond would preserve its credit rating. He emphasized that the changes staff proposed are significant; however, they are beneficial to the City. Mr. Lindsay stated that services such as libraries, community centers, and fire stations are still preserved and the Council may still achieve its target goals to grow staffing in the Police Department where there has been a shortage in staffing for years.

Discussion began. Boardmember/Councilmember Butt referenced the Planning and Building Department and stated that there should be an internal budget to cover the costs of non-revenue generating expenses. The Boardmembers/Councilmembers made the following suggestions: (1) reorganization of the Planning and Building Department and Paratransit; (2) add the Police South-Side Substation on the CIP list unfunded. Mr. Lindsay stated that the substation was currently on the CIP list as unfunded. He also stated that if the Boardmembers/Councilmembers wanted the Police South-Side Substation project to move forward, other projects would be postponed; and (3) consistency in the budget format. Human Resources Manager Leslie Knight spoke on this item. Boardmember/Councilmember Viramontes suggested that the Richmond City Council authorize the Finance Committee to bring recommendations for the following questions regarding the Planning and Building Department: (1) should there be a subsidy from the general fund to the Planning Department, (2) should there be a stabilization fund, (3) actual fees on collection of fees, and (4) how much has the City of Richmond spent on the general plan. She also recommended that the Finance Committee make a final recommendation regarding Paratransit, Code Enforcement, and Stormwater Enterprise. Discussion ensued. Local Union 1021 Representative Millie Cleveland stated that the City of Richmond should look into the costs for staff taking vehicles home. She also stated that executive management should share some of the cut backs. Other speakers were: Tarnell Abbott, Lori Reese-Brown, Pam Covington, and Sims Thompson. Chair/Mayor McLaughlin suggested: (1) more cuts in operations, fix cars as opposed to buying new ones, or recycle them, (2) cut back on the purchase of IT equipment, (3) revenue generation through developer fees, (4) offer positions at a lower salary, and (5) reducing top salaries. Mayor McLaughlin also stated that she would be willing to let staff continue to work towards solutions to avoid layoffs. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, second by Councilmember Butt to approve staffs recommendations and direct staff to continue to work on the ideas that were expressed by the Councilmembers and public speakers and present the results and analysis about changes in the City of Richmond's financial status, specifically Chevron, Point Molate, and Measure T, before December 15, 2009, and include a report on whether any or all layoffs could be averted through other means. Vice Chair/Vice Mayor Lopez offered a friendly amendment to have a letter from the city manager posted on the City's website and in the neighborhood newsletters explaining its budget in a language people can understand. She also requested that staff scrutinize the list of City vehicles that are assigned for take home, if there is a policy, and why staff was assigned a vehicle. The amendments were accepted. Councilmember Bates' friendly amendment to direct

the city manager to report back to the Councilmember with recommendations to reorganize the Planning and Building Department, and also a report of the costs of the purchase and use of blackberry phones, and City vehicles, was accepted. The motion passed and **Resolution No.112-09 was adopted with Vice Mayor Lopez voting Noe; Resolution No. 113-09 was adopted with Mayor McLaughin voting Noe; and Resolution No. 114-09 was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Council.**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m. in memory of Geraldine Macdonald to meet again on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor