

**RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, February 23,
2010**

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:11 p.m. by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Lopez, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Absent:** Councilmember Viramontes and Vice Mayor Ritterman (Councilmember Viramontes and Vice Mayor Ritterman 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

LIABILITY CLAIMS – PENDING LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9): McClarin vs. City of Richmond

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9): Citizens of East Shore Park vs. City of Richmond; Communities for a Better Environment vs. City of Richmond; and Chevron vs. City of Richmond

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54956.8): Property: Point Molate (site of former Naval Shipyard Depot), Agency Negotiators: Bill Lindsay and Janet Schneider, Negotiating Party: Upstream Point Molate LLC, Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

There were no public speakers.

The Evening Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:12 p.m. The Closed Session adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:51 p.m. by Mayor McLaughlin who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

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

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Naomi Williams stated that Walgreens on Macdonald Avenue had submitted an application to obtain a liquor license and she encouraged the City Council not to support it.

Will Joseph spoke in support of check points within the City of Richmond.

Don Gosney addressed the City Council regarding the pervasive lawlessness in Richmond, i.e. illegal signs posted all over the city.

Simms Thompson stated that the emergency meeting that took place at 440 Civic Center Plaza, to address activities there were scheduled as a result of the shooting that took place on February 14, 2010, at the New Gethsemane Church of God in Christ should have been open to the community.

Jerome Smith read a poem in recognition of Black History Month. He also spoke against checkpoints.

Mike Ali addressed the City Council regarding the flooding of the sewer system in the City of Richmond which he stated was caused by city trees.

Robert Wimmer expressed his disappointment that the trees that were causing flooding at 958 32nd Street had not been addressed by the City of Richmond.

Charlotte McIntire expressed her disappointment with the proposed parcel tax increase.

Jackie Thompson expressed her disappointment with Doit Fluit Service Station in Richmond.

Jovanka Beckles encouraged everyone to join the campaign that has been initiated by the churches in Richmond in an effort to stop the violence occurring in the City of Richmond.

Corky Booze thanked the mayor for acknowledging strong black community leaders. He also requested that the City Council install the sinage for the Hilltop Marriott. Mr. Booze also requested that the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) do its job.

Tony Sustak expressed his concern regarding the crime within the City of Richmond. He also encouraged the City Council to invest in long term investments in our community.

Richard Lompa spoke in support of the Chevron Refinery.

Antwon Cloird expressed his disappointment with the ONS.

AGENDA REVIEW

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Ritterman, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes to add an emergency item to the agenda, “our voice, our city, our hope,” to discuss activities that would take place within the City of Richmond as a result of the shooting that occurred at the New Gethsemane Church of God in Christ located at 2100 Roosevelt Avenue in the City of Richmond. The motion passed by the unanimous vote of the Council.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Mayor McLaughlin and Councilmember Bates presented a Certificate of Recognition to Globe Publisher Vern Whitmore in honor of being named the president of the West Coast Black Publishers Association. Mr. Whitmore expressed his appreciation for the recognition. The following individuals gave comments: Simms Thompson, Reverend Kenneth Davis, Jackie Thompson, Corky Booze, and Jovanka Beckles. Councilmembers Viramontes, Lopez, and Rogers also gave comments.

Mayor McLaughlin presented a proclamation proclaiming March 2010 as American Red Cross Month to Trisha Polarmo. Mayor McLaughlin announced that a blood drive was scheduled for Friday, February 26, 2010. Appointments could be scheduled with Sue Kadlec, (510) 621-1264, or visit bloodhero.com.

Mayor McLaughlin and Councilmember Bates presented a Certificate of Recognition to Laura Johnson for receiving the 2010 Assembly District 14 Woman of the Year Award. Laura thanked the City Council, specifically Councilmember Bates, for the certificate of recognition. Arthur Johnson gave comments. Councilmember Lopez also gave comments.

REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY OF FINAL DECISIONS MADE AND NON-CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS HELD DURING CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Scott Dickey reported that there were no reportable actions taken during closed session.

EMERGENCY ITEM

In the matter to discuss the City of Richmond’s support for the community activities to take place Saturday, February 27, 2010, through March 6, 2010, in response to the shooting that took place February 14, 2010, at the New Gethsemane Church of God in Christ located at 2100 Roosevelt Avenue in the City of Richmond. Vice Mayor Ritterman, Councilmembers

Bates, Viramontes, and Mayor McLaughlin gave an overview of the item. The faith community, under the leadership of Bishop J. W. Macklin, is planning a series of events in response. Activities will include: Saturday, February 27, men from the faith community and their male allies and supporters will begin a weeklong walk, knock and pray; Sunday, February 28, walk, knock and pray to continue and churches throughout Richmond have committed to knocking on homes in their neighborhoods. The goal is to distribute informational packets to 10,000 homes by Saturday, March 6; Saturday, March 6, 11:00 a.m. prayer circles will gather at 210 corners throughout the city to pray for seven minutes together; Saturday, March 6, 12:00 noon, "Our Voice, Our City, Our Hope" prayer rally at Civic Center and march to the area around the New Gethsemane Church where thousands of people will hold hands making a human chain; Saturday, March 6, 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. a community affair to empower people with health, employment, and education information for youth and families. A follow-up technical work group meeting will be held at the New Gethsemane Church on Wednesday February 24, at 6:30 p.m. and on Thursday, February 25, anyone interested in volunteering to pack the 10,000 informational packets should meet at 2:00 p.m. at the church. Mayor McLaughlin stated that the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission endorsed the activities and will include a flyer in the packets. She also stated that these outreach efforts should continue will beyond a week. She stated that a booklet entitled "Adopt a Block" will be distributed to local pastors. Councilmember Viramontes stated that on March 6, there would be a survey available for citizens of Richmond to complete to gather information about the social services needed for Richmond residents. The survey results would come back to the full Council on March 14. The following individuals spoke on this item: Morris LeGrande, Jerome Smith, Harpreet Sandhu, Jovanka Beckles, Reverend Andre Shumake, Jackie Thompson, Simms Thompson, Corky Booze, and Reverend Kenneth Davis. On motion of Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Vice Mayor Ritterman authorized City Manager Bill Lindsay to provide logistical support, including the Human Rights and Human Relations pamphlet, for the "Never Again: Our Voice, Our City, Our Hope" events from February 27, 2010, through March 6, 2010, by the unanimous vote of the Council.

STUDY SESSION

The City Council heard a presentation by Ecocity Builders, a Bay Area nonprofit dedicated to reshaping cities for long-term health of human and natural systems, and their community partner organization, the Village Bottoms Neighborhood Association, for creating Richmond Urban Villages. Visit ecocitybuilders.org to learn about the nonprofit organization.

STUDY AND DIRECTION TO STAFF SESSION

The purpose of the Study and Direction to Staff Session:

To discuss the "Jobs for Main Street Act", approve advancement of the Dornan and Barrett Avenue projects for award funding, and direct staff to meet the required review and environmental deadlines with final contract award by May 15, 2010, or as determined by Contra Costa Transportation Authority. Councilmember Viramontes gave an overview of the item. Following discussion, on motion of Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Councilmember Lopez directed staff to meet the required review and environmental deadlines with final contract award by May 15, 2010, or as determined by Contra Costa Transportation Authority, by the unanimous vote of the council. Corky Booze spoke on this item.

To provide direction to staff regarding the preparation of a contingency plan should Chevron abandon, sell, or downsize operations at its Richmond Refinery. Councilmember Butt and City Manager Bill Lindsay gave an overview of the item. City Planner Kierston Slaughter gave a PowerPoint Presentation which included information on the state of previous refineries throughout the United States. The following individuals gave comments: Simms Thompson, Mike Parker, Tony Sustak, Jerome Smith, Richard Lompa, Corky Booze, Jovanka Beckles, and Greg Karras. A motion was made by Councilmember Bates, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes to allow Don Gosney the opportunity to address the City Council regarding the information being presented. A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Butt, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes to allow anyone to speak on any item was approved with Mayor McLaughlin voting Noe. Don Gosney gave comments. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Butt, seconded by Mayor McLaughlin to direct staff to continue researching and consider things that the City Council could do to mitigate and find opportunities should Chevron decide to close the Richmond Refinery. A friendly amendment was offered by Councilmember Viramontes to direct staff to develop information about what public policy action the City Council could take to have an impact to whether Chevron decided to go or stay in Richmond. The amendment was accepted. *(At 11:00 p.m. a motion was made by Vice Mayor Ritterman, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes to extend the meeting for 15 minutes. A substitute motion made by Councilmember Bates, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes to adjourn the meeting with no further discussion failed with Councilmembers Rogers, Butt, Vice Mayor Ritterman, and Mayor voting Noe. The original motion passed with Councilmembers Butt, Bates, and Lopez voting Noe).* A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Rogers to accept the first part of

Councilmember Butt's motion and drop the part about keeping Chevron. The substitute motion failed for lack of a second. **The original motion with the accepted amendment passed by the following vote: Ayes:** Councilmembers Butt, Lopez, Vice Mayor Ritterman, and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** Councilmember Bates. **Abstentions:** Councilmembers Rogers and Viramontes. **Absent:** None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m. in memory of Warren G. Spenser and Eduardo Carrasco to meet again on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor