

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 27, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 7:11 p.m., by Mayor Gayle McLaughlin who led the Pledge to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Butt, Lopez, Marquez, Sandhu, Thurmond, Viramontes and Mayor McLaughlin.
Absent: Vice Mayor Bates and Councilmember Rogers (Councilmember Rogers arrived at 7:22 p.m.)

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

Mayor McLaughlin presented a proclamation recognizing March as American Red Cross Month to Phil Machell, a representative of the American Red Cross. Mayor McLaughlin read the proclamation.

COUNCIL AS WHOLE

In the matter to discuss and provide direction to staff to determine whether or not the Charter update should include only technical changes eliminating obsolete, illegal, and historical provisions, or a review for possible broader policies revisions contained in the Charter. Specifically consider: (1) establishing a Blue Ribbon Citizen Committee ("Committee") to make recommendations to the City Council on possible charter provision policy changes, and (2) determining what issues the City council would like the Committee to consider. Janet Schneider, Administrative Chief, presented a revised City of Richmond Charter packet. Ms. Schneider gave an overview of the proposed Charter changes. Attachment 1 of the packet is a copy of the entire Richmond City Charter, Articles I through X, with a strikeout version of provisions the outside Counsell has deemed to be outdated, obsolete, and inconsistent. The handout included the entire 10 articles and begins with the Table of Contents which shows the sections recommended for deletion or revision. Attachment 2 of the packet is an actual sample ballot measure representing what the ballot would look like should the City Council decide to recommend proposed technical amendments to the Richmond City Charter. The staff matrix report summarizes what the proposed technical changes are. For example Article III, The Council Section, establishes that members of the City Council must be registered voters, eliminates the one-year residency requirement, removes historical references, removes reference of the City Council being a Board of Equalization, establishes the number of City Council members needed for a quorum, establishes how salaries are set by ordinances, eliminates fines for absences and establishes that contracts require an affirmative vote of the majority of City Council members. Article IIIA, The Mayor Section, removes historical provisions and redundancies. Article IV, The Duties of Officers Section makes the city manager references gender neutral and eliminates illegal residency requirement. Article X, Charter to take effect, certificate eliminates this section all

together due to historical nature. Articles XI through XIII, which are the internal personnel provisions, is anticipated to be presented to the City Council in the future with proposed technical changes and identifying policy issues. Gregory Stepanichich of Richards, Watson, and Gershon, an outside legal counsel assisting in updating the Charter, identified provisions of the existing Richmond City Charter that would be eliminated because they are currently illegal due to the passage of state laws, obsolete, outdated or impractical. Outside counsel stated that direction is needed from City Council to approve moving forward with technical changes to the Richmond City Charter. Elections would be held as early as 2008 to seek a majority vote for the proposed technical changes to the Richmond City Charter. Outside counsel then indicated that if the City Council wanted to consider broader policy issues as part of the Charter revisions, it would be more involved and time consuming. Outside counsel suggested that perhaps a Charter Committee could be established by the City Council to assist Council in developing the analysis and review of changes to the Richmond City Charter. The City Council would have the final say in what needs to be changed and would be responsible in giving the Charter Committee direction on issues to report back to the City Council. James Jenkins stated that he agrees with the Charter amendments and with forming a citizens' committee. He stated that the will of the people should be included when revisions are made regarding filling vacancies on the City Council. After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Viramontes, seconded by Councilmember Rogers to go forward with technical changes and have staff come back with the technical changes for the remaining articles. Discussion ensued during which a substitute motion was made by Councilmember Butt and seconded by Councilmember Thurmond to appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee and pursue more comprehensive changes to Richmond City Charter. The motion failed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Butt and Thurmond and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** Councilmembers Rogers, Sandhu, Viramontes. **Abstentions:** Councilmembers Lopez and Marquez. **Absent:** Vice Mayor Bates. The original motion passed, to go forward with technical changes and have staff come back with the technical changes for the remaining articles by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Sandhu, Marquez, Lopez, Rogers and Viramontes. **Noes:** Councilmember Butt and Mayor McLaughlin. **Abstentions:** Councilmember Thurmond. **Absent:** Vice Mayor Bates. A motion was made by Councilmember Rogers, seconded by Councilmember Thurmond to ask staff to bring back language which would give the City Council discretion to appoint the appropriate person to perform the duties of the City Manager. Discussion ensued. The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmember Sandhu, Butt, Rogers, Thurmond, and Viramontes. **Noes:** Mayor McLaughlin. **Abstentions:** Marquez and Lopez. **Absent:** Vice Mayor Bates.

In the matter to consider adopting strategic goals for the 2007/08 City of Richmond fiscal year to be included in the budget document, and consider approving the City Council's 2007/08 budget content. Bill Lindsay, City Manager, presented a handout which included the City Council's Strategic Goals for the 2007/2008 fiscal year. Page 3 of the handout provided a flow chart for the new budget format. Janet Schneider requested two actions by the City Council; (1) Adoption of the Strategic Goals and staff recommendations and (2) Approve new budget format

to include key standards and performance measures. Following discussion a motion was made by Councilmember Thurmond, seconded by Councilmember Viramontes to approve staff recommendations and accept a broader list as presented by staff. Discussion ensued. An amended motion was made by Councilmember Thurmond and seconded by Councilmember Viramontes to approve staff recommendations as presented by staff. The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Sandhu, Butt, Marquez, Lopez, Rogers, Thurmond, Viramontes and Mayor McLaughlin. **Noes:** None. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** Vice Mayor Bates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Marquez announced that there would be an open house for the El Sobrante Boys' and Girls' Club on Saturday, March 31, 2007, at 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. He encouraged all to attend and support our youth.

Councilmember Thurmond encouraged everyone to attend the Teen Summit to be held on Saturday, March 31, 2007, at 9 a.m. at Lovonya De Jean Middle School, sponsored by the West Contra Costa Unified School District's Black Student Union, Richmond NAACP, and Richmond City Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, April 3, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor