

CITY OF EL CERRITO

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING 6:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Location

Council Chambers, Community Center
7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Abelson, Bridges, Jones, Potter, and Mayor Moore
Absent: None

6:00 p.m. CONVENE SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor Moore convened the special meeting at 6:03 p.m.

INTERVIEWS OF APPLICANTS FOR COMMISSION AND BOARD VACANCIES

The City Council conducted interviews of applicants for City Commissions. No appointments were made.

ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING

The special meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

7:30 p.m. CONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Moore convened the regular meeting at 7:32 p.m.

1. **Pledge Of Allegiance To The Flag** was led by Councilmember Potter
2. **Council/Staff Communications/Announcements.** (Informational reports on matters of general interest by Council & Staff.)

Councilmember Potter announced that residents should have received a notice from the West Contra Costa Unified School District and are aware of the need to relocate from the Portola Middle School Campus. There have been a series of public meetings and the next informational meeting will be held on January 17, 2007 at 6:30 at the Lavonya Dejean Middle School with follow up action scheduled for February 7, 2007 at the same time and place. The proposal would affect several schools in El Cerrito including the Portola Middle School campus, possibly Castro Elementary, Fairmont Elementary School, and El Cerrito High School as well as the Alvarado School located in the Richmond Annex.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones referred to an item in this week's Time Magazine Milestone section announcing the passing of El Cerrito resident Ruthanna Boris. Ms. Boris was a distinguished dancer, choreographer and ballerina. Mayor Pro Tem Jones stated that Ms. Boris serves as a reminder that there are notable past and present citizens of El Cerrito who are recognized nationally and internationally. Mayor Pro Tem Jones also conveyed a report from Al Miller who reported on a January 12, 2007 West County Times article regarding a newsgroup audit of 216 state law enforcement agencies and their compliance with the Public Records Act. The audit found a state mean of 40%, a Bay Area median of 30%, Contra Costa County at 51% and the El Cerrito Police Department at 84%. Mr. Miller thanked City Manager Hanin and Chief Kirkland for creating high standards and for their professionalism.

Councilmember Abelson discussed her attendance at the League of California Cities Mayor and Councilmember's Leadership Institute. Mayor Moore, Mayor Pro Tem Jones and Councilmember Potter also attended. The conference provided an opportunity to learn what is new and what it means to be a Councilmember. The conference featured a tour of Cal-EPA – a 1,000,000 square foot leads platinum level certified green building. Councilmember Abelson shared that it is not just how a building is built but how it operates. Councilmember Abelson noted that the most interesting thing was cost savings – green construction features were \$2,000,000 or 2-3% of the total cost. Operations are estimated to save at least \$4.8 million over 3 years. During the 25 year lease of the building it is expected to save \$40,000,000. Councilmember Abelson also reported her attendance at two League of California Cities policy committee meetings: Administrative Services Policy (Brown Act, Ethics, Voter Issues) and Community Services Policy (Health care, Recreation).

Councilmember Bridges thanked all the staff and the Human Relations Commission for their work on the Martin Luther King rally and parade on January 15. She noted the participation of the great inspirational speakers and choral groups.

3. **Presentations**

A. El Cerrito Crime Prevention Committee's Presentation of the National Night Out Award Plaque

Mollie Hazen, Chair of the El Cerrito Crime Prevention Committee, presented the City Council with an award conferred by the National Association of Town Watch – 2006 National Night Out Award Recognizing Outstanding Participation in "Americas Night Out Against Crime." Ms. Hazen stated that El Cerrito was chosen out of many cities for its innovative programs and was the only city in Contra Costa County to receive this award. Ms. Hazen reported that over 1200 residents attended last year's event and acknowledged the contributions of residents, committee members, Mario Canepa, Randy Kalish, Scott McCormick, Jim McCormick, Lt. Corporal Horgan, Chief Kirkland, City Manager Hanin and Assistant City Manager Pinkos and the support of the City Council. She also thanked sponsors Target, Jenny Kay Coffee and Tea and Pizza Roma. Ms. Hazen announced the National Night Out date for 2007 as August 7 and also announced CERT program training from January 17-March 7, 2007 at the Senior Center from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Councilmember Bridges announced Ms. Hazen's receipt of special recognition from the state assembly for her work on the National Night Out event.

Councilmember Jones – noted the active involvement of the Crime Prevention Committee and stated his appreciation for the Committee's work.

B. 2006 Year in Review – Presentation by City Departments

Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager, introduced the 2006 year in review and stated that the presentation would take a look back at 2006 as well as look forward to 2007.

Mitch Oshinsky, Director of Community Development, acknowledged the participation of other city departments in accomplishing goals. He presented statistics of services performed including issuance of building permits and scanning of property files. Other accomplishments include improved customer service, an energized code enforcement, the renovation and opening of the Cerrito Theater, Unreinforced Masonry program work, the Plaza Creekside Project, Massage and Medical Marijuana ordinance development, analysis and response on the Cougar Field DEIR, managing the City Hall Project and re-locating to new temporary offices.

Mary Dodge, Finance Director, described the Finance Department's support of core service programs, successful and timely audit reports, receipt of an award for Budget/CAFG, implementation of a new CRW Business License System and issuance of lease revenue bonds.

Lance Maples, Interim Fire Chief, highlighted the initiation of Station 71 as a paramedic engine company – first responder to paramedic services, purchase of a new type one fire engine, certification of all EMTs and Paramedics, implementation and management of an on-line training program to assist compliance with the injury, illness and prevention program, aggressive recruitment and achievement of full staffing for the first time in three years.

Scott Kirkland, Police Chief outlined his department's hiring, promotion and training efforts, implementation of a permanent School Resource Officer program at El Cerrito High School; participation in regional and statewide law enforcement efforts and legislative activities; assistance in the preparation of massage and medical marijuana ordinances, implementation of a 2nd Lifescan fingerprinting machine; as well as considerable time spent on complex investigations.

Jerry Bradshaw, Director of Public Works, reported on the completion of the Baxter Creek/Ohione Greenway Extension and the City's receipt of the Contra Costa County Watershed Project of the Year Award; the award of \$3.25 million in grants to add to Capital Improvement Projects; completion of the inventory portions of the ADA Transition Plan and Urban Forrest Plan; oversight of the bidding and initial construction of the City Hall project and support and coordination for the move into a temporary City Hall. Mr. Bradshaw also commented that El Cerrito has emerged as a regional leader in the transportation and public works fields; and has successfully implemented new C.3 and JMP Clean Water requirements while maintaining city parks and the storm drain system.

Monica Kortz, Recreation Director, acknowledged the contributions of her staff in continuing to refine web access to the public with most fee classes available for online registration; transitioning the 4th of July Fair to the Recreation Department; implementing Proposition 49 after school funds at Portola Middle School in partnership with the school district; implementing the Harding After School Program in conjunction with the Harding PTA; implementing EZ Ride for disabled and senior populations; the installation of two new play structures adjacent to the Harding and Madera Clubhouses; managing full childcare sites; and facilitation of Cinema in the Park, Circus, pancake breakfast and 4th of July events.

Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager, reported on Administrative Services and highlighted the following accomplishments: City Newsletter, recruitment of a new City Clerk and Public Information Specialist, library needs assessment, Local 1230 Firefighter negotiations; position reclassifications and 22 recruitments; successful e-waste events; assistance with the City Hall project and expansion of the recycling program. Ms. Pinkos thanked the City Council, all city hall staff, residents and customers.

Ms. Pinkos outlined goals for 2007 including oversight of City Hall Construction; initiating concept design for the library and/or Senior Center; implementing development of long-term street rehabilitation and maintenance; adoption of a new zoning ordinance; full staffing of police officers; completion of the economic development strategy; initiation of implementation of SPA streetscape improvements; work with Stege Sanitation District; initiate construction of a new recycling center; expansion of traffic, pedestrian and transit efforts, oversight of development of numerous private development projects; a redesign of the city website and implementation of Town Hall meetings; work with WCCUSD on a Portola middle school plan; and develop a strategy for unfunded capital needs.

Mayor Moore explained that the 2006 Year in Review provides an opportunity to highlight accomplishments and the work performed prior to budget discussions. The Mayor also acknowledged staff's attention to the day to day work that also gets done in concert with the major accomplishments and how this provides a picture of the good work that staff does.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones stated that the presentation was a good lead-in to Council's goal setting session and that he appreciated the timeliness of the report.

Councilmember Abelson thanked staff for all of their work.

Councilmember Bridges acknowledged the awards received by the city and noted that many department directors also serve as chairs of their respective professional groups.

4. Oral Communication from the Public

Peter Loubal, 6502 Morris Avenue, expressed his concern over placement of the emergency generator in the Portola School Slide Zone. Mr. Loubal further stated that City Hall creates a hostile environment for public comment and that Council needs to encourage public participation. Mr. Loubal stated a need for more people to speak with constructive criticism and suggestions. He requested that agendas, minutes, weekly reports and communications be posted to the web.

Jeff Williams, 731 Pomona Avenue, commented on the December 18, 2006 San Pablo Avenue presentation. Mr. Williams is concerned that the development plan is out of alignment with what the city currently has. The current strategy involves courting large corporations which is counterproductive toward small owners and operators. Mr. Williams stated that the RDA tiff funds favor large developers, have the potential of increasing prevailing rents and cautioned against trading what we currently have for large commercial chains. He asked the Council to consider the possibility of micro-financing and working with smaller operators with the hope of multiplying capital that is already in the community to reduce the risk.

Carol Johnson introduced herself to the Council as president of West County Chapter of Brady Campaign to prevent gun violence.

Peter Loubal stated his objection to spending money on consultants and staff oversight of consultants. Mr. Loubal stated his opposition to funds spent on the beautification of San Pablo Avenue and expressed concerns with traffic.

5. Adoption Of The Consent Calendar – Items 5A, 5C and 5D

It was moved, seconded, and carried (Abelson/Potter) to adopt items 5A, 5C and 5D of the Consent Calendar.

A. Permit Technician Position Series

Adopt a Resolution amending the City's Classification Plan to add the Permit Technician Series and set the appropriate salary range. (ACTION: Adopted Resolution 2007-03 by Consent Calendar)

B. Application for Federal Funding through the Contra Costa County Transportation Authority County Portion of the Transportation for Livable Communities Program for San Pablo Avenue Pedestrian Crossing, Transit Stop, and Streetscape Improvement Project – Phase II

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application for \$505,845 of Federal Surface Transportation Funds through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Transportation for Livable Communities Program, for the San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Project and committing the necessary local match for the project and stating the assurance to complete the project.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones stated that the City was receiving another \$500,000 for a total of \$2,650,000 for the plan and that development of the San Pablo Plan over the past few years placed the city in a position to show its commitment, apply for grants and receive additional funds.

Action: Removed from the Consent Calendar by Mayor Pro Tem Jones. Moved, seconded and carried (Jones/Abelson) to adopt Resolution 2007-04.

C. Appeal – Creekside Condominiums at El Cerrito Plaza

Approve the City Manager's recommendation to set the North Albany Neighborhood Association's appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of an extension of the Use Permit for the Creekside at El Cerrito Condominium project for a public hearing on February 5, 2007. (ACTION: Approved recommendation by Consent Calendar)

D. Special Meeting – Goal Setting

Approve a recommendation to convene a special meeting on February 3, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, to discuss Council priorities and goal setting. (ACTION: Approved recommendation by Consent Calendar)

6. POLICY MATTERS

A. Permitting Requirements for Massage Establishments and Massage Therapy Technicians (First Reading January 2, 2007)

Adopt second reading of an Ordinance Permitting Requirements for Massage Establishments and Massage Therapy Technicians, and amending El Cerrito Municipal Code (ECMC) Title 8 by adding Chapter 8.10 Massage Establishments.

Action: Motion to consider by title only (voice vote); then motion to adopt second reading of an ordinance by roll call vote.

Moved, seconded and carried (Abelson/Jones) to consider by title an Ordinance Permitting Requirements for Massage Establishments and Massage Therapy Technicians, and amend El Cerrito Municipal Code (ECMC) Title 8.

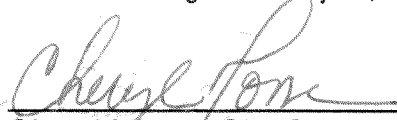
Moved, seconded and carried (Potter/Bridges) to adopt Ordinance 2007-01 Permitting Requirements for Massage Establishments and Massage Therapy Technicians, as amended at the Council meeting of January 2, 2007, and amend ECMC Title 8 by adding Chapter 8.10.

7. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS


- A. Mayor Moore – No report
- B. Mayor Pro Tem Jones – No report
- C. Councilmember Abelson – No report
- D. Councilmember Bridges reported that the Human Relations Commission met and is going forward with plans for a Commissioners Workshop on March 3, 2007.
- E. Councilmember Potter – No report

8. ADJOURNED at 8:45 p.m. to a 9:00 a.m. special meeting on February 3, 2007 at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the special and regular City Council meeting of January 16, 2007 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.



Cheryl Morse, City Clerk



Letitia D. Moore, Mayor