

CITY OF EL CERRITO

MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 21, 2007 AGENDA

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY CLOSED SESSION

Community Center Conference Room, 6:45 p.m.

JOINT MEETING OF THE EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

THE PENSION TRUST BOARD

THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES CORPORATION BOARD

THE PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY

City Council Chambers, 7:30

CITY COUNCIL CLOSED SESSION

Community Center Conference Room, Immediately Following the Joint Meeting

Meeting Location

7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito

ROLL CALL

Agency Members: Bridges, Jones, Potter, Moore and Chairperson Abelson

All members were present

6:45 p.m. CONVENE SPECIAL CLOSED REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

Mayor Moore convened the special closed Redevelopment Agency meeting at 6:47 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Conference with Real Property Negotiators

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: APN 513-372-039

Agency Negotiators: Scott Hanin, Executive Director

Mitch Oshinsky, Community Development Director

Lori Treviño, Redevelopment Manager

Dwayne Dalman, Economic Development Program Specialist

Karen Tiedemann, Redevelopment Agency Counsel

Negotiating Parties: ECRB Associates

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no speakers.

ADJOURN SPECIAL CLOSED REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

The special closed Redevelopment Agency meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers/Agency Members/Board Members/Authority Members: Abelson (Agency Chair), Bridges, Jones, Potter, and Mayor Moore

All members were present.

7:30 p.m. CONVENE JOINT MEETING

Mayor Moore convened the special Joint City Council/Redevelopment Agency/Pension Trust Board/Municipal Services Corporation Board/Public Financing Authority Board at 7:43 p.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** was led by Councilmember Potter.
2. **Possible Report of Action Taken at Closed Session**

Mayor Moore announced that there was no reportable action.

3. **Council/Staff Communications/Announcements** (Informational reports on matters of general interest by Council & Staff.)

Mayor Pro Tem Jones reported on the Annual West Contra Costa County Public Education Fund Teaching Excellence Awards held on May 19, 2007 and announced the retirement of Susan Wittenberg as Executive Director, who will remain on the Board and commended her on the great work she has done for the Ed Fund. Mayor Pro Tem Jones also reported on the archive debut of the DVD, *Green & White – The Gaucho Story*, at El Cerrito High School. The file touches on the history, life and times of El Cerrito High School alumni, students and faculty.

Mayor Moore expressed the city's condolences over the tragedy of Alfredo Figueroa, owner of the Red Onion Restaurant in El Cerrito and announced that a \$20,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) who robbed the Red Onion Restaurant and killed Mr. Figueroa. Anyone with information should call Police Detective Sgt. Peter Statton at 215-4423 or Detective Aaron Leone at 215-4422. Additionally, contributions can be sent to the Alfredo Figueroa Memorial Fund at Mechanics Bank.

Michael Bond, Fire Prevention Officer and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, announced the Kick-Off of the Annual Fire Hazard Abatement and Safety Inspections Program and informed the City Council and Community that all properties will be inspected. Officer Bond noted a Schedule of Events and stated that the Fire Department will report back to Council in July. Mr. Bond further stated that last year 300 properties were identified as a hazard and that the City had achieved 100% compliance. This year will be a potentially volatile year as fuel has an average moisture content. Officer Bond introduced an informative brochure which will also be distributed at different sites around the city. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy can call 215-4450. Information will also be posted on the city's website.

4. Presentations

A. CC Mosquito and Vector Control District West Nile Virus Update

Dick Mank, Trustee - Contra Costa Vector Control District, introduced Deborah Bass, Public Affairs Manager for the Vector Control District which represents over sixty vector control agencies in California and highlighted Ms. Bass' experience.

Ms. Bass stated that the special district is a public health agency celebrating its 80th year. Ms. Bass explained that West Nile Virus (WNV) is an infection of birds. WNV is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito and is not known to be contagious by person to person contact. There are 23 species of mosquitoes in Contra Costa County and all breed in standing water. Symptoms of WNV include an incubation period of 3-14 days. Most infections result in mild symptoms or none at all. Twenty percent of patients develop "West Nile fever," a mild to severe flu-like illness that lasts days, weeks, or longer. The disease has been in the United States since 1999. Less than 1 in 150 will exhibit a severe form of the disease. Severe symptoms include muscle weakness, partial or complete paralysis, mental confusion and memory loss. WNV can be fatal and there is no cure or vaccine currently available.

Ms. Bass reported that eight cases were reported in Contra Costa County in 2006. There were two fatalities in 2006 and no activity so far in 2007. WNV is here to stay and is temperature driven. Over 95% of the treatment in Contra Costa County is in larval form. The District only fogs and sprays when absolutely necessary to protect the public health and uses the least toxic control methods available. The District notifies residents of impending fogging or spraying via its website www.ccmvc.dst.ca.us, phone (925) 685-9301, county telephone notification system, and news releases to media, city and county officials.

Additionally, the District sets traps to detect mosquito breeding, inspection catch basins and waterways regularly. The District also stocks sources with mosquitofish. District concerns include: back yard and artificial sources, un-maintained swimming pools, fountains and ponds. Many seniors are unable to care for water sources. Breeding areas also include water under houses and sump pumps. Ms. Bass stated that the District is asking residents to place mosquito dunks containing biological natural bacteria, in water. These are available in most hardware or home improvement stores. Residents should also maintain swimming pools, use dunks for sump pumps, tree holes, etc. Residents should also dump standing water where mosquitoes breed: old tires, flower pot saucers and clogged rain gutters. Ms. Bass urged residents to call the dead bird hotline for bird and squirrel surveillance at 1-877-WNV-BIRD if you find a dead bird. Finally, Ms. Bass asked residents to protect themselves by repairing window and door screens, wearing long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are present, and by using DEET mosquito repellent, oil of eucalyptus or petcarabin.

B. San Pablo Avenue Streetscape Update

Melanie Mintz, Environmental Analyst, provided an update on the multiple components and timelines of the San Pablo Avenue (SPA) Streetscape project, an overview of the design approach, and description of the public outreach process. Staff will come back to Council to request authorization to award a contract for landscaping in August. Ms. Mintz explained the streetscape phases: Baxter Creek Gateway Streetscape; Signage and Banners; Median Renovation and Sidewalk and Pedestrian Upgrades.

Ms. Mintz highlighted the streetscape schedule as follows: 1) Median Design estimated to begin February – June 2007; Median Construction in July – October 2007; Pedestrian/Sidewalk Design March 2007-March 2008; and Pedestrian/Sidewalk Construction March-December 2008.

Re-landscaping all of the existing medians will be done with drought tolerant and low-water use plants, shrubs and trees. In the next phase two new medians will be built from Central to Carlson. 142 trees will be planted and 80 trees will be kept. Ms. Mintz stated that the city's goals are to preserve existing trees, enhance the existing canopy, create seasonal color and visual interest, plant water-friendly and drought tolerant plants, unify the street and maintain merchant visibility for motorists and pedestrians. Water savings are expected to be reduced 50-70% and maintenance costs are also expected to be reduced with an estimated savings of \$10,000 per year. The city is also working with EBMUD on conservation rebates.

Ms. Mintz described the 3 median types along the avenue: 1) Typical along most of medians with 3-4' plants, trees at 20 foot centers and groundcover; 2) Natural – in front of Baxter Creek frontage and potentially Carlson will have grasses, some boulders, naturalistic; 3) Artistic will be near the Theater and will be a more geometric pattern, and signature trees with a distinct feel. One of the main goals is to preserve as many mature trees as possible however ailing trees will be removed. Dominant trees along the avenue will be Red Maple, Sycamore, Liquid Amber, and Magnolia where it is doing well. Overall streetscape design goals are to identify SPA as a distinct place; make a better walking and transit environment; enhance pedestrian safety, and create innovative landscaping. Ms. Mintz said the city will be using the ADA inventory resulting in \$220,000 in improvements. Key components include infill and new street trees, special paving treatments, new cross walks, pedestrian refuge islands at key intersections and pedestrian furnishing zones. Ms. Mintz concluded by updating the Council on Public Review and Outreach which will include efforts relating to construction impacts, a presentation to the SPA Specific Plan Committee, seeking Design Review Board input on lighting and architectural elements, and meetings with businesses and residents to make impacts as minimal as possible.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Jones requested clarification on innovative stormwater treatment in the landscape.

Ms. Mintz replied that the city is exploring the possibility of having water filter through the soil so pollutants can be removed and designing curb cuts so street water can get into tree wells. The Regional Water Quality Control Board and the State Water Resources Control Board are looking at the issue now as a possibility for future requirements. The city's goal is to achieve a sustainable design with secondary environmental benefits.

Councilmember Bridges commented that the public has been commenting on the new banners and directional signs, stated that they are truly attractive and that beautification is important. Councilmember Bridges said she is also pleased to see the city dealing with irrigation issues.

Councilmember Abelson thanked Ms. Mintz for her outstanding work and expressed interest in some of the three legged intersections becoming four legged intersections.

Ms. Mintz replied that she would need to refer to plans for an exact number on the conversion and stated that this issue would be discussed with Caltrans.

Mayor Moore reported that she had received positive feedback from the public regarding their interactions with Ms. Mintz and thanked her for representing the city so well.

5. **Oral Communication from the Public**

Al Miller, 625 Ashbury, acknowledged the efforts of staff to make agenda packets available on city's website.

Greg Chang, 5811 Columbia, Richmond, said his son attends Fairmont Elementary and spoke about the Portola relocation. Mr. Chang said there is a groundswell of opposition and that the School District intends to acquire and demolish 12 homes along Lexington and Eureka Avenues for the school. Some residents are long standing members of the community. Gino Martinucci, a long time resident, owns three of the homes in jeopardy and relies on rental income for retirement. Mr. Chang publicized the url of the community website as follows www.nomiddleschoolatfairmont.blogspot.com. He encouraged the Council to log on to the website and refrain from cooperating with the School District's current plans.

6. **Adoption of the Consent Calendar – Items 6A through 6D**

Moved, seconded, carried (Bridges/Abelson) to approve Consent Calendar items 6A through 6D. Vote: Unanimous.

A. **Approval of Minutes**

Approve the minutes of the May 7 2007 Concurrent City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. **Ordinance for Second Reading – Real Property Acquisition Program for the Redevelopment Plan** (*First Reading May 7, 2007 – Unanimous*)

Waive full reading and adopt Ordinance 2007-04 -- Real Property Acquisition Program for the Redevelopment Plan, an ordinance containing a description of the previously approved eminent domain program of the El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency pursuant to the Redevelopment Plan for the El Cerrito Redevelopment Project Area pursuant to recently enacted Health and Safety Code Section 33342.7 and related actions.

Action: Adopted Ordinance 2007-04.

C. **Recognition of Dr. Mohammad Qayoumi**

Adopt a Resolution commending Mohammad H. Qayoumi on his inauguration as the fourth President of the California State University, East Bay on June 1, 2007 and recognizing the 50th Anniversary celebration of California State University, East Bay.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2007-35.

D. **Claims Filed Against the City**

1. Gabriela Pisano – Reject Claim No. GL-007280 per Claims Administrator.
2. Monraj Eranda Weerasinghe – Reject Claim No. GL-007184 per Claims Administrator.

Action: Rejected claims per Claims Administrator.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Consideration of the City's Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget

Conduct a public hearing and discuss the City's Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget.

Scott Hanin, City Manager, stated that staff is attempting to build on projects and decisions made in prior years. Key points include the submission of a balanced budget with solid reserves that are well above the Council's 10% goal. City Manager Hanin introduced the agenda for the discussion including budget themes, performance overview, department priorities, changes in staff, citywide budget projections and department budgets.

The overriding budget theme is to finish what has been started such as the San Pablo Streetscape and moving into City hall. The city is always looking at ways to increase efficiency and improve customer service, provide more environmental leadership as a city government, lay the groundwork for the next phase of improvements in the city with particular focus on the Redevelopment Agency.

City Manager Hanin outlined a performance overview for each department.

Community Development Department. Activity throughout the city, particularly permitting in the Building Division, remains high. Ten percent of the units are reinvesting in their properties with generally positive results. Mr. Hanin also stated that he is happy with the city's code enforcement efforts. The Planning Division shows a similar trend with a lot of activity. The city has invested in additional planning staff resulting in a reduction of plan check review time. As the quality of work has increased the need for additional Planning Commission and Design Review Board meetings has gone down. Work is getting done more expeditiously with the Boards and Commissions. Community Development priorities include: 1) Collaborative efforts with Richmond on the San Pablo Avenue Area Specific Plan; 2) Code Enforcement; and 3) a Zoning Ordinance update soon. Redevelopment Agency priorities include: 1) Implementation of the Economic Development Strategic Plan including new marketing materials and working with the Chamber of Commerce and Community; 2) Completion of the Un-reinforced Masonry List and a plan for helping businesses to comply; and 3) Focusing on the Del Norte Area in the north part of town. Additionally, the Agency plays a considerable role in funding new facilities.

Police City Manager Hanin stated that the level of activity remains consistently high. Priority one response time has decreased although activity remains high with 15,000 calls a year or 40 calls per day. The city is excited about hiring 6 new officers which is the most hiring that has been done in over thirty years. This allows the department to fully operate the traffic and motorcycle program and this will have a positive impact on traffic and crime and allow for flexibility in officer deployment. Other priorities include an outreach program to businesses including video cameras in certain businesses and on the greenway and false alarm cost recovery.

Public Works Department levels of activity for inspections, encroachments and plan inspections have increased. Maintenance work continues to increase particularly street tree maintenance, sidewalk repairs, and calls for service. The department has done a great job cleaning storm drains and calls have decreased due to a proactive approach in maintaining them. Priorities include: 1) Oversight of construction of the new City Hall; 2) San Pablo

Avenue improvements and getting information out on streets; 3) Implementation of the Urban Forest and ADA plans; 4) Managing most of the CIP projects and environmental leadership -- including creek restoration, expansion of the Clean Water Program, development of green building regulations, development of clean air and noise regulations, coordination of green team efforts, enhancement of public information and environmental training for staff and residents; and 5) Implementation of the Bike and Pedestrian Program.

Fire Department. Two-thirds of Fire Department calls are medical calls. The department has shown success in hiring paramedics. Fire prevention efforts have been effective in achieving a low fire loss rate. The department has also expanded the CERT program and outreach into the community.

Recreation Department. All programs are full or wait listed. This remarkable demand continues to get higher. Childcare is a great program in the City. The number of transactions is remarkably high and the swim center is particularly popular. Recreation Department priorities include: 1) Working with the School District on programs and funding; 2) Continue to look at facilities and deal with the long term needs including the Community Center and Senior Center; 3) Expansion of the easy ride program for seniors and programs for active adults.

Changes in Personnel. Staff is only requesting only one new position -- a maintenance worker in Public Works which is offset 100% by a decrease in contract services.

Overall revenues are solid and sound. Property tax revenues have exceeded what has been budgeted and the sales tax increase has trended down. All revenues continue to increase with inflation. There is no revenue from bond proceeds this year and staff is projecting a 5% increase. Expenses are consistent with revenues. Police and Fire are the biggest part of the operating budgets. The CIP is pushed up. Community Development and Public Works are funded largely by special funds.

Overall Expense Assumptions have increased largely due to cost of living adjustments for all, slight increases in employer PERS costs, and increases in health insurance. There is also a significant increase in the General Fund's subsidy of LLAD. The overall budget is actually going down. The city is looking at trying to move more services in-house and hire seasonal workers. For example, the maintenance budget is \$65,000 less of what it should be.

The proposed general fund revenues, which is the primary operating budget of the city, show overall revenues increasing by 5% with revenue from property tax exhibiting the largest increases.

The General Fund which funds day to day operations illustrates that 77% of the general fund is people. City Manager Hanin stated that city staffing is relatively lean across the board. Personnel continues to grow in proportion to services. El Cerrito is a full service city. There are only 2-3 cities in Contra Costa County that provide the same services that El Cerrito does. Of the remaining 23% approximately 9% is mandated services such as legal, animal control, utilities, fuel, medical supplies and insurance. The remaining 12% is LLAD, supplies, facility maintenance, vehicle purchases, etc. Every year is a struggle to balance the general fund. The city is still looking for ways to provide more service. This is not inconsistent with other cities like us.

Proposed General Fund Expenses are somewhat less than revenues. Expenses other than personnel are down. The city is trying to keep the general balance up in the 17% range. The Council goal is 10%. The new debt service is still very low as a city even with a new building.

City Manager Hanin introduced individual department budgets.

Administration budget reflects staffing of existing and previously approved positions, insurance cost increases borne by the employee services division, and integrated waste services increases including plans for a new recycling center. Overall expenses remain relatively flat.

Community Development shows a spike resulting from the city's relocation into portables. There is a decrease in the building services budget with bringing more services in-house. There is a slight increase in the Planning Division to cover expenses for a general plan update. The Redevelopment Agency includes Economic Development and shows unencumbered moneys left in balance rather than being earmarked for certain projects.

The Fire Department budget illustrates an increase in salaries and benefits as reflected in the current MOU. All other line items decreased. Decrease in capital is due to the Type III Pumper Engine purchase/lease in FY 2007.

Police Department budget illustrates an increase related to the hiring of six additional police officers and related support as well as costs for outside services such as animal control, laboratory services and dispatch and communications. The budget under the Police Department's control is essentially flat.

Public Works Department budget reflects a staffing increase of four individuals that were authorized the previous year. Other expenses are flat or are down.

Recreation Department increases are attributed to colas and an increase of a maintenance worker to a full time position. Most expenses are flat or down.

Redevelopment Agency budget assumes contributions toward affordable housing in the Olson project and a reduction in some encumbered funds from projects to the fund balance. Staffing remains the same.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Thirty two projects have been identified this year with \$6 million identified in the FY 2007 project. \$102 million is needed over the next ten years. CIP projects fall into five categories: 1)Administration; 2) Streets; 3) Facilities; 4) Parks; and 5) Other such as swim center capital enhancements, annual storm drain improvements, new recycling center. CIP unfunded projects include the Public Safety Building, Streets, Library, Senior Center, Corp Yard Improvements and the Recycling Center. Of the \$76 million in non-secure funding, 45\$ million is identified but non-secure. Smaller projects include Huber Park, the Ashbury Interchange and other smaller projects around technology, circulation, retaining walls, and the Urban Forest Plan.

City Manager Hanin concluded his presentation by stating that items for Council Consideration include the reasonableness of assumptions, consistency with Council Goals, and the appropriateness of capital projects. Next steps include advising the City Manager of any changes or revisions of the proposed budget, continuing the budget study session on June 4th and 18th as necessary and adoption of the budget. City Manager Hanin thanked all department heads and managers, Karen Pinkos, Mary Dodge, Geoff Thomas and the Financial Advisory

Board.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Moore asked where the public outreach and education campaign exists in the budget?

City Manager Hanin replied that education occurs throughout the city and that pieces exist in every department budget with the largest share in the City Manager's budget for graphic design, printing and mailing materials.

Mayor Moore also requested information on the budget for preparation of a wood smoke ordinance and a building debris recycling ordinance.

City Manager Hanin replied that an extra \$15,000 for professional services has been added into the Public Works budget. Mr. Hanin also said he anticipates that staff will come back to Council early in the fiscal year with a study session with a list of projects to prioritize.

Councilmember Abelson inquired about intergovernmental revenues listed on Table 1-4 on p. 20 of the proposed budget.

Mary Dodge, Finance Director, explained that intergovernmental revenues are normally funds received from other agencies such as the County, sales tax in-lieu, and Measure C funds. Ms. Dodge further stated that intergovernmental revenues are provided to the city and have not been assessed by the city. Ms. Dodge offered to provide the Council with details.

Councilmember Abelson requested a list to see where the money is coming from and stated that it is not defined in the appendix.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Mayor Moore opened the public hearing and stated that no speaker slips were submitted.

Action: Moved, seconded, carried (Jones/Abelson) to continue the public hearing to June 4, 2007.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Potter stated that she was pleased to hear that Ms. Mintz is being proactive on water quality and emphasized that more work needs to be done on trash reduction and asked that it be added to the list of projects to work on. Councilmember Potter referred staff to the City of Oakland's ordinances regarding fast food restaurants and the use of paper products and fee implementation to achieve trash reduction and wood smoke reduction.

Mayor Moore said that in terms of the green program, she anticipates getting on environmentally responsible action in terms of how we regulate and advise the community as a whole to be more environmentally responsible. Mayor Moore said she expects to see more detail from the city and all of the departments on this issue including budget implications.

Councilmember Bridges requested clarification on the proposed lighting acquisition, specifically what portion is attributable to LLAD and whether it would affect what the city currently subsidizes.

City Manager Hanin explained that all of the street lighting is LLAD eligible. The goal is to reduce energy consumption and to make every light brighter and more energy efficient.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked how much time it would take to replace lights on San Pablo Avenue and noted that it is exciting to replace existing lights with more efficient lighting.

City Manager Hanin replied that the goal for replacement is within the current fiscal year.

Ms. Mintz replied that the city is hoping to add streetlights into the overall streetscape project for the Caltrans permit in approximately May 2008.

Councilmember Abelson commented on the format of the budget and said it improves every year. She thanked staff for their hard work and for making the budget readable.

Mayor Moore also expressed her appreciation.

8. POLICY MATTERS

A. Gann Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Adopt a Resolution setting the appropriations limit for Fiscal Year 2007-08 and selecting the California Per Capita Personal Income option for the Cost of Living factor and the County Population option for the Population factor. Utilizing these factors establishes the City's appropriations limit as \$29,779,203 for FY 2007-08.

Ms. Dodge provided background of the Gann limit requirement which arose out of the passage of Proposition 218 in 1988-89. The limit determines the highest level a local government can charge in taxes.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones confirmed that the city is \$13,000,000 under the Gann limit.

Action: Moved, seconded, carried (Potter/Abelson) to adopt Resolution No. 2007-36.

B. Memorandum of Understanding – Public Safety Management Group/Fire Chief

Approve a recommendation authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of El Cerrito and the Public Safety Management Group – Fire Chief.

Mayor Moore re-ordered the agenda by moving this item to 3B to accommodate those present.

City Manager Hanin, explained that the public safety managers organized five years ago. Lance Maples has served as Interim Fire Chief for the last six months and that the city prepared to initiate a recruitment. Mr. Hanin cancelled based on Mr. Maples performance and recommends permanent appointment of Lance Maples as Fire Chief. Mr. Maples has also been endorsed by Local 1230, the Kensington Fire Prevention Board, and all of the battalion chiefs.

Mayor Moore acknowledged a letter submitted by Esther Sargeant recommending Mr. Maples as Fire Chief and read the letter into the record.

Action: Moved, seconded, carried (Potter/Abelson) to approve the City Manager's recommendation to authorize execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of El Cerrito and the Public Safety Management Group – Fire Chief.

Lance Maples, Interim Fire Chief, thanked the council for the opportunity to serve the City and thanked City Manager Hanin and Ms. Pinkos for their support. He stated that he is optimistic and enthusiastic about the future of the department and fortunate to inherit a great group of employees. Interim Chief Maples acknowledged the department's command staff and all the firefighters and staff and also thanked his wife.

C. Purchase of Replacement Type III Interface Fire Engine

Adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase of a replacement Type III Wildland Interface fire engine from Hi-Tech Emergency Vehicle Services of Oakdale, California through a "Tag On" order process based on the competitive bid proposals.

Lance Maples, Fire Chief, explained that this purchase of a replacement Type III Wildland Interface Fire Engine will replace equipment based on the department's replacement schedule. The specifications cover all the concerns for threats faced in the wildland interface areas. The equipment will be purchased through a ten year lease which will allow the vehicle replacement fund to remain in a fluid state.

Councilmember Bridges reported that the Financial Advisory Board looked at the proposal and found it adequate.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones commented that recent wild fires illustrate that natural conditions for fire do exist and that it is important to update equipment as needed so that the city has back up in any emergency situation and increased water capacity. Mayor Pro Tem Jones further stated that the engine is a great piece of equipment and that the Fire and Finance Departments put together a great finance plan.

Councilmember Abelson stated that she appreciates the thoughtful financial plan which inspired confidence in the purchase.

Action: Moved, seconded, carried (Abelson/Jones) to adopt Resolution No. 2007-37.

Mayor Moore added that she appreciates the Fire and Police Department's updating of the fleet in a smart, cost efficient way for the city's future needs and that Council fully appreciates solid proposals such as this one.

D. Discussion of Summer Meeting Schedule

Consideration of a reduced summer meeting schedule limiting City Council and Redevelopment Agency meetings to the third Monday in July, August and September with the flexibility to schedule special City Council Meetings as necessary as has been done in each of the past five years.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones emphasized a need to keep the first Mondays open for special meetings should the need occur.

Action: Council agreed to approve a reduced summer meeting schedule limiting City Council and Redevelopment Agency meetings to the third Monday in July, August and September with the flexibility to schedule special meetings as necessary.

9. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

A. Mayor Moore reported on the Waste Authority Board which will be voting on its budget at the next meeting. Mayor Moore stated that education is a priority of the Board and suggested that Board Staff get in touch with our Recycling Program Manager to discuss a recycling education campaign. The Board also discussed food recycling and concerns with costs associated with a weekly green bin pick-up. Mayor Moore conveyed El Cerrito's eagerness to try its pilot which will provide important data to other cities.

B. Mayor Pro Tem Jones reported on the JPA Gilman Fields project. Construction will be starting on June 4 and is expected to finish on October 31, 2007 with an opening date of November 1, 2007.

C. Councilmember Abelson – No report

D. Councilmember Bridges reported on the Financial Advisory Board's (FAB) two meetings to review of the budget and stated that FAB was in agreement with the budget. FAB will not be meeting until July to discuss the potential sales tax initiative. The Planning Commission also met. The zoning ordinance will not be ready prior to August. The Planning Commission granted an extension to the Windrush School to accommodate growth in Windrush school enrollment to 330 students and an increase in floor space to 23,000 square feet. Concerned residents asked for conditions for noise abatement. The Crime Prevention Committee will be coming to council in July to present National Night Out.

E. Councilmember Potter – No report.

10. **ADJOURN JOINT MEETING to a Special Closed Session City Council Meeting immediately following the above referenced joint meeting at 9:48 p.m. in memory of Alfredo Figueroa.**

11. **CONVENE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION MEETING**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION (*Called at the request of Mayor Moore*)

Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957
Title: City Attorney

Mayor Moore convened the special closed session meeting at 9:53 p.m.

Possible Report out of Closed Session

Mayor Moore reported that the City Council continued the evaluation of the City Attorney.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Item No. 3 Council/Staff Communications/Announcements

Kick-Off of the Annual Fire Hazard Safety Inspections Program

Brochure entitled, "*Defensible Space – Will your house survive*" prepared by the El Cerrito Fire Department and Kensington Fire Protection District.

Item No. 4A CC Mosquito and Vector Control District West Nile Virus Update

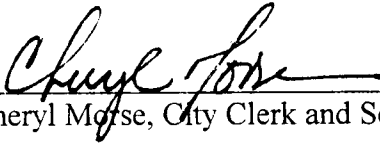
Powerpoint presentation by Deborah Bass, Public Affairs Manager, Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District.

Other: Fairmont School

WCCUSD Board of Trustees Powerpoint Excerpt: Current Proposals, submitted by Greg Chang.

12. ADJOURN SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION MEETING at 10:47 p.m.

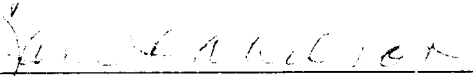
This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Redevelopment Agency Closed Session, Concurrent City Council, Redevelopment Agency, Pension Trust Board, Municipal Services Corporation Board and Public Financing Authority and City Council Closed Session meeting of May 21, 2007 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.



Cheryl Moise, City Clerk and Secretary to the Redevelopment Agency



Letitia D. Moore, Mayor



Janet Abelson, Agency Chair

