

MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING – CITY COUNCIL
March 04, 2014

City Council Chambers, City Hall, 250 East L Street, complete proceedings of which are recorded on tape.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. CONVENE OPEN SESSION:

Mayor Patterson convened the Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

All Council Members were present.

Vice Mayor Campbell arrived at 6:02 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Brad Kilger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. REFERENCE TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC:

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

On motion of Council Member Schwartzman, seconded by Council Member Hughes, Council adopted the Agenda, as presented, on roll call by the following vote:

Ayes: Patterson, Schwartzman, Hughes, Strawbridge, Campbell
Noes: (None)

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

A. WRITTEN COMMENT

None

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Charlie Peters - Mr. Peters discussed an article he read in the San Francisco Chronicle regarding crude by rail. He discussed concerns regarding the issue.

V. BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. WATER SUPPLY PROCUREMENT

RESOLUTION 14-15 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENICIA AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL WATER PURCHASES UP TO \$900,000 TO BE ADVANCED FROM THE WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

Steve Solomon, Public Works Consultant, reviewed the staff report.

Vice Mayor Campbell and Staff discussed the Lake Berryessa water. They discussed the October 2013 agreement with the State. They discussed purchasing water from Lake Berryessa.

Council Member Schwartzman and Staff discussed the carryover water in Lake Berryessa. They discussed scenarios and what could happen if the current rain rate continued, and other sources of water (other than what had been presented). They discussed possibly having discussions with Valero (who uses the most water). Council Member Schwartzman would like the City to find a water source that was more readily available.

Council Member Strawbridge and Staff discussed how much water Valero was saving with the implementation of new programs. Council Member Strawbridge would like the City to partner with Valero on possible opportunities. They discussed possibly receiving transfers of water from Fairfield/Suisun/Cordelia area. Staff discussed the possibility of working with the City of Vallejo on the issue.

Council Member Hughes and Staff discussed the State Water Project, Lake Herman's capacity, and the issue of banking the water the City purchases from Lake Berryessa.

Mayor Patterson summarized the recommendations Council would be voting on. Council was voting on Staff's recommendations to seek to purchase up to \$900,000 of water. Council would be giving the authorization to start to procure sufficient Solano Project water supply to address projected demand in 2014-2015 (if the drought continues). The City would also hire a rate consultant to prepare an analysis and report on a drought surcharge amount, duration, structure, and compliance with Prop 218. Staff will return to Council on 3/25/14 with an update.

Council Member Hughes clarified that Council was not saying they were going to put a surcharge into effect. They are just gathering information as to what it would look like.

Vice Mayor Campbell clarified that the proposed resolution would give Staff the ability to negotiate the cost. The purchase authorization would be brought back to Council for approval.

Public Comment:

1. Charlie Peters - Mr. Peters discussed Valero's water use. He was in support of the City working with Valero on ways to conserve water.

Mayor Patterson discussed the need to think about 2014 and 2015. She discussed the need to look into how the City would deal with a 10 year drought. The best way to increase the water supply is conservation. She would like to move forward with looking into purchasing water.

Council Member Schwartzman asked Staff to move forward with discussions with Valero, and he would like Staff to explore long term solutions. He discussed amending the motion to memorialize that.

Mayor Patterson discussed the update of the Urban Water Management Plan. It might be good to form an ad-hoc committee so concerns could be fully explored.

Mayor Patterson noted that Council was supposed to go into Closed Session immediately following the Special Meeting. The Closed Session could not be accomplished in 10 minutes, so it would be held over until after the Open Session. There were no objections to the suggestion.

On motion of Council Member Hughes, seconded by Council Member Strawbridge, Council adopted Resolution 14-15, as presented, on roll call by the following vote:

Ayes: Patterson, Schwartzman, Hughes, Strawbridge, Campbell
Noes: (None)

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Patterson adjourned the Special Meeting at 6:53 p.m.

Lisa Wolfe, City Clerk