

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING – CITY COUNCIL
March 25, 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 Closed Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

All Council Members were present.

II. CLOSED SESSION:

A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Property: Potential Contracts for Various Water Rights

Agency negotiator: City Manager, City Attorney, Interim Public Works

Negotiating parties: City of Benicia and various water providers

Under negotiation: Both price and terms of payment

B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR

(Government Code Section 54957.6 (a))

Agency negotiators: City Manager and Assistant City Manager

Employee organizations: Senior Managers, Middle Management,

Local 1, Benicia Public Service Employees' Association (BPSEA),

Benicia Police Officers' Association (BPOA), Benicia Firefighters'

Association (BFA), Benicia Dispatchers Association (BDA), Police

Management, Unrepresented.

III. CONVENE OPEN SESSION:

Mayor Patterson called the Open Session to order at 6:56 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

All Council Members were present.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ron Uhlman (Doc) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. REFERENCE TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Announcement of action taken at Closed Session, if any.**

Mark Boehme, Contract Attorney, stated there was nothing to report.

2. **Openings on Boards and Commissions:**

3. **Mayor's Office Hours:**

B. PROCLAMATIONS

1. **IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK - APRIL 6-13, 2014**

IN RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - LARRY WHITNEY

2. **IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH - MARCH 2014**

3. **IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK - APRIL 13-19, 2014**

C. APPOINTMENTS (Continued from March 18, 2014 meeting)

1. **Appointment of Sharon Maher to the Community Sustainability Commission for a four-year term ending January 31, 2018.**

RESOLUTION 14-33 - A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF SHARON MAHER TO THE COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION FRO A FOUR-YEAR TERM ENDING JANUARY 31, 2018

Council Member Strawbridge discussed her vote on this appointment at the last Council meeting. The mayor did not take the subcommittee's recommendation on this appointment. She briefly discussed the other two individuals who the subcommittee recommended. She would have preferred to have the full Council present to discuss this appointment.

Council Member Hughes discussed the appointment process. He would support the appointment.

Council Member Schwartzman discussed the appointment process. He would like to see a youthful perspective on the commission.

Mayor Patterson discussed the reasons for her appointment.

On motion of Mayor Patterson, Council adopted Resolution 14-33, on roll call by the following vote:

Ayes: Patterson, Strawbridge, Schwartzman, Campbell, Hughes

Noes: (None)

D. PRESENTATIONS

V. 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, Strawbridge, Schwartzman, Campbell, Hughes

Noes: (None)

VI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

A. WRITTEN COMMENT

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Constance Beutel - Ms. Beutel discussed the bikeable survey and upcoming Community Sustainability Commission events.

VII. BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. WATER SUPPLY AND PHASE I DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN UPDATE

Steve Salomon, Public Works Consultant, and Carrie Wenslawski, Management Analyst, reviewed the staff report and a PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member Schwartzman and Staff discussed the North Bay Aqueduct water, and amounts the City has/will receive, waterless urinals, and current unmetered sites in the City.

Council Member Hughes and Staff discussed the voluntary 20% water reduction base year (2012). Council Member Hughes discussed concern regarding punishing citizens who don't reach their water reduction goal, and also for those

who have already been conserving. He and Staff discussed the proposed issue of an ordinance requiring construction sites to use recycled water.

Council Member Strawbridge and Staff discussed water reduction in City parks. They discussed what communications the City has had with Benicia Unified School District (BUSD) and Valero in regards to water conservation. They also discussed the issues of dredging Lake Herman, and possibly having City and Council representation at the Farmer's Market to encourage water conservation.

Vice Mayor Campbell and Staff discussed concern regarding dredging Lake Herman, and the acre feet of water currently in Lake Herman. They discussed the drought surcharge (temporary or long-term) and the possibility of adding a sunset clause, commercial rebates, mulching, and gray water.

Mayor Patterson and Staff discussed the need for a scenario planning process, the need to get the message to Benicia's citizens regarding water conservation in the yards, the 20% reduction/surcharge, planning for the water budget approach, and the fact that the drought will be painful for everyone involved. Mayor Patterson discussed concerns the public had regarding the 'Cash for Grass' program (too much paperwork). She would like Staff to ask the consultants to look into the issue of what effects the City will experience when the community and citizens conserve water and make changes that might not go back to the way it currently is (water bill income will be less, etc.).

Public Comment:

1. Allison Fleck - Ms. Fleck spoke in support of water conservation efforts.
2. Jasmine Powell - Ms. Powell asked for clarification about the amount of water in Lake Berryessa.
3. Constance Beutel - Ms. Beutel discussed the availability of mulch through Republic Services.
4. Leanne Cawley - Ms. Cawley discussed high-efficiency toilets.
5. Sharon Maher - Ms. Maher discussed water conservation as a lifestyle change and the peer pressure concept.

Mayor Patterson requested Staff compose a list for Council of the suggestions and points made tonight.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Patterson adjourned the meeting to Closed Session at 8:40 p.m.

Lisa Wolfe, City Clerk

