

MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING – CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 28, 2009

The special meeting of the City Council of the City of Benicia was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Patterson at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 250 East L Street, complete proceedings of which are recorded on tape.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Campbell, Hughes, Ioakimedes, Schwartzman, and Mayor
Patterson

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Patterson led the pledge to the flag.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS:

A plaque stating the Fundamental Rights of each member of the public is posted at the entrance to the Council Chambers per Section 4.04.030 of City of Benicia Ordinance No. 05-6 (Open Government Ordinance).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Patterson read an announcement regarding the Swine Flu update.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

WRITTEN:

Various items submitted (copies on file).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

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

Ayes: Council Members Campbell, Hughes, Ioakimedes, Schwartzman, and Mayor
Patterson

Noes: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Gene Doherty – Mr. Doherty discussed Ms. Street's concerns regarding the City's Strategic Plan with regards to the Waterfront Park.
2. Marilyn Bardet – Ms. Bardet discussed the upcoming air monitoring workshop that will be held on 5/6/09.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

Review of draft 2009-2011 Strategic Plan:

Jim Erickson, City Manager, introduced the agenda item. Staff would like to bring this item back on 5/19/09 for action as opposed to 5/5/09.

Anne Cardwell, Administrative Services Director, reviewed the staff report and a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file).

Mr. Erickson discussed the issue of performance measurements.

Council and Staff discussed why the word 'health' was taken out of the document, air quality monitoring, improving air quality, bringing back school busses, the approach being adopted by the Bay Area Air Quality Monitoring District, what some of the stimulus plan monies could be used for, encouraging economic revival, regional and mass transit issues, the Intermodal Train Station, and the Pavement Management Index (PMI).

Public Comment:

1. Anne Hansen – Ms. Hansen discussed that there was absolutely no mention of the Benicia Historical Museum in strategic issue #5. She would like the museum to be recognized.
2. Marilyn Bardet – Ms. Bardet reviewed her concerns regarding the strategic plan, as documented in her email to Council and Staff dated 4/27/09 (copy on file).
3. Rick Ernst – Mr. Ernst discussed concerns regarding the air quality warning system, the need for a sustainability commission, having LEED in all City-owned property, setting up a goal to have A+ streets, and water conservation.

Mayor Patterson discussed having a list of all funds the City has applied for with regards to the Federal stimulus funds.

4. Dana Dean – Ms. Dean discussed the need to work on more specific actions (specifically regarding strategic issue #2), solar power, the fact that the Lower Arsenal Specific Plan was missing from strategy #3, the lack of reference to the pedestrian pass, what happened to the lesser included items in the larger packet, and the lack of reference to dealing with issue of feeding the poor.
5. Kathy Kerridge – Ms. Kerridge discussed adding 'protecting community health and safety' to strategic issue #1, the need to reference sustainability, the need for more specific performance measurements, moving towards a more green economy, the need for more affordable housing, the need to take care of the people in the community that need our help.
6. Gene Doherty – Mr. Doherty discussed sustainability, school busses, green clean bus transit systems, reducing the City's energy usage, having various City buildings be LEED certified, efforts towards reducing vehicle miles traveled.
7. Mary Frances Kelly-Poh – Ms. Kelly-Poh discussed strategic issue #5, the need to promote a healthy, inclusive, and welcoming community, and the fact that there was a lot missing from strategic issue #5.
8. Jim Stevenson – Mr. Stevenson discussed the need to address water conservation, desalinization, and the need to ensure adequate water supply.
9. Susan Street – Ms. Street discussed that strategic issues 2-5 could have something to do with the Waterfront Park. She would like to see the Waterfront Park added to the list.

10. Dan Smith – Mr. Smith discussed the need to include some health issues added to the list, including the Arsenal Specific Plan to #3 instead of #5.
11. Jon Van Landschoot – Mr. Van Landschoot discussed the issue of solar panels and how the City of Berkeley was addressing the issue of solar panels.

Mr. Erickson stated that Staff would try to work the comments received tonight into the document.

Council Member Schwartzman discussed the need to add ‘health’ back into strategic issue #1, looking at other health related issues, the need for more specific metrics in the performance measures (such as crime rates), health and safety issues relating to foreclosures (swimming pools, etc.), protecting and enhancing the environment, including solar and wind installations in the matrix, adding ‘economically viable’ to strategic issue #4, adding the Benicia Historical Museum to #5, how and when the warning system would be used, and the need to address the garbage franchise issue.

Mayor Patterson discussed the need to remind the reader of the document that there were ongoing issues and activities that were being addressed.

Vice Mayor Campbell discussed the timeline for addressing projects

Council Member Hughes discussed the need for more specific performance measurements in the matrix, the need to compare the City to other cities, the need for more specific actions, adding ‘health’ to #1, the need for more specific actions regarding disaster response and preparedness, the need to spell out energy conservation under ‘protecting the environment’, adding ‘economically viable’, adding something about providing services to everyone in the community, and the need to add the Benicia Historical Museum.

Council Member Ioakimedes discussed the over conservative goals listed, some of the goals listed were projects that were already in the works, possibly updating the General Plan, the need to dream a little bit bigger, goals identified during the Seeno Project discussions were not included in the strategic plan goals, lack of mention of the implementation of the Opticos report, utilizing the health component of the General Plan, the solid school system being a key strength of the community, the possible lack of funding to maintain the current school system, and the possibility of having a completely different relationship with the school district

Mayor Patterson stated that Council Members should submit detailed notes and requests to Staff.

Mayor Patterson discussed the need to address suburban crime issues, water conservation, adopt sustainable practices, the Climate Action Plan, comparing the City to other cities as opposed to itself, air quality, water conservation and reduction, the need for an economic study to look at where the City is going and what it could support, the

community center, the need for a sense of timing (short term, mid term, or long term), and the need to measure change.

Vice Mayor Campbell discussed breaking the goals down into two or three year increments

Staff will review all comments and take them into consideration.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Patterson adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Lisa Wolfe, City Clerk