

The Benicia City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Copies of Council Agendas are available in the City Clerk's office on the Friday afternoon before the Council meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL MEETING - CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 6, 2003**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Benicia was called to order by Mayor Steve Messina at 7:31 p.m. Tuesday, May 6, 2003, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 250 East L Street, complete proceedings of which are recorded on tape.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Council Members Bidou, Campbell, Smith and Mayor Messina

Absent: Council Member Whitney

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Messina led the pledge to the flag.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor Messina announced that the Closed Session previously scheduled for this evening had been cancelled.

Mayor Messina announced that the Public Works Department would have a display at the Library from May 21, 2003 to May 27, 2003 in observance of National Public Works Week; invited all citizens to an Open House at the Corporation Yard on Saturday, May 17, 2003.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Mayor Messina announced the appointment of Reg Page to the Historic Preservation Commission to fill a full term to April 18, 2007.

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-52 - A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF REG PAGE TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION TO FILL A FULL TERM TO APRIL 18, 2007**

The above Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment was adopted on roll call by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members Bidou, Campbell, Smith and Mayor Messina

Noes: None

Absent: Council Member Whitney

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**PRESENTATION OF THE CITY FLAG TO MARGE WILLIFORD AND HARRY WASSMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS, BENICIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM FOR "FLAG STAFF DEDICATION AND FLAG RAISING AND SEARCH FOR HISTORY"- MAY 17, 2003 AT THE CAMEL BARN COMPLEX**

Mayor Messina presented the City Flag to Marge Williford and Harry Wassman, Benicia Historical Society, Board of Directors Members; noted that Mr. Wassman was responsible for the design of the City Flag in 1980.

**BENICIA/TULA SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION UPDATE - LEEANN CAWLEY, PRESIDENT, BENICIA-TULA SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION**

Leeann Cawley, President, Benicia-Tula Sister City Association, reported that the Association has received its Charter and non-profit status; fundraising efforts will begin; dues for a yearly membership are \$35.00 (family membership); requested the following: (1) reinstitute \$2000.00 per year stipend from the City to the Sister City Program in this years budget (2) would like a room or portion of a room at City Hall to display items sent from Tula (3) would like to find a permanent display area for the Atlantis statue presented to the City by the City of Tula (4) would like the City to pay for

indemnity insurance for the Association.

Mayor Messina directed the City Manager to look into the Associations requests.

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

**ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH - MAY 2003**

Mayor Messina read the Proclamation: accepted by Valerie Ansley, Program Director, Solano Asthma Coalition; additional remarks were made by Dr. Edward Swenson.

**WATER AWARENESS MONTH - MAY 2003**

**NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK - MAY 18-24, 2003**

Mayor Messina read the Proclamations; accepted by Dan Schiada, Assistant Public Works Director.

**NATIONAL POLICE WEEK - MAY 11-17, 2003**

Mayor Messina read the Proclamation; accepted by Mike Greene, Detective.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

Mayor Messina asked if there were any changes to the Agenda.

On motion of Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Bidou, and unanimously carried, Agenda was adopted as presented.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**WRITTEN**

Mayor Messina stated that a letter was received from Institutional Financing Services.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Kitty Griffin, 236 Baker Street, gave a status report on the initiative petition drive on the UGB; a goal of 2400 signatures has been set; listed the various places that are available for citizens to sign the petition.
2. Jon Von Landschoot, 175 West H Street, spoke on the process of appointments made by the Mayor to the various Boards and Commissions; suggested that those people selected for a commission, such as the Historic Preservation Commission, be knowledgeable on the various laws and acts that govern that commission; suggested recognition and thanks be given to those that serve on these unpaid commissions.
3. Larry Banner, 540 Sandy Way, presented a copy of a petition he had circulated regarding the number of vehicles allowed per single-family residence; received support from 21 of the 22 residences that were contacted.
4. David Lockwood, 495 Gray Court, suggested alternative bus routes that could be tried that would generate a more profitable rider ship.
5. Council Member Smith announced the following events to be held in May: (1) May 10, 2003- Mother's Day Dance and Auction Fundraiser for CSR - Clock Tower (2) May 12, 2003 - Environmental Scoping Session dealing with congestion - held by the County and Transportation Authority -Rodriquez High School - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (3) May 7, 2003 - City Council/School District Liaison Meeting - 8:30 a.m. (4) May 8, 2003 - Chamber of Commerce Mixer - 1100 Rose Drive (5) May 17, 2003 - Annual George Miller Environmental Town Hall Meeting; commented on the unwillingness of Valero Refinery to allow additional restrictions for their use permit; expressed concern between the relationship of industrial operations to the high rate of asthma in the county.
6. Vice Mayor Campbell commented on the limited use of the shuttle bus designated for bicycles that goes across the Benicia/Martinez Bridge; suggested a possible location change for that bus.

Alan Nadritch, Finance Director, stated he would contact Cal Trans on this issue.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Mayor Messina asked if there were any requests for items to be pulled from the Consent Calendar;

requests were made for Items C, D, E and G to be pulled.

On motion of Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Bidou, and unanimously carried, the following items were approved under the Consent Calendar:

Minutes of April 15, 2003.

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-53 - A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AND REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO PERMIT THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS TO PROVIDE SPECIFIED SERVICES FOR A GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 4, 2003**

Waive the readings of all ordinances introduced and adopted pursuant to this Agenda.

**(END OF CONSENT CALENDAR)**

**RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR WEED ABATEMENT AND FIRE BREAKS OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES AND OPEN SPACE AREAS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,000 TO TIMELINE LEASING INC., AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY**

Vice Mayor Campbell requested this item be pulled from the Consent Calendar; questioned whether or not the contract was awarded to the lowest bidder.

Ken Hanley, Fire Chief, stated that the contract was awarded to the lowest bidder.

(A vote on this item was not taken at this time)

Council Member Smith stated that he would like to amend his motion that he had pulled Item G in error and would like to pull Item F instead.

Council took the following action:

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-54 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMPLETION OF THE EMERGENCY REPAIR WORK TO CITY HALL AND DIRECTING STAFF TO SUBMIT A PROGRESS REPORT AT THE NEXT SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

On motion of Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Campbell, the above Resolution was adopted on roll call by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members Bidou, Campbell, Smith and Mayor Messina

Noes: None

Absent: Council Member Whitney

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION OF A "GO SERVE" GRANT FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACT AS THE AUTHORIZED AGENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AND CREATING A REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT IN THE 2003-05 BUDGET**

Vice Mayor Campbell requested this item be pulled from the Consent Calendar; would like the public to be aware that the City will be receiving this funding for the BERT Program.

Council took the following action:

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-55 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR A "GO SERVE" GRANT FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACT AS THE AUTHORIZED AGENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY AND CREATING A REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT IN THE 2003-2005 BUDGET**

On motion of Council Member Bidou, seconded by Council Member Smith, the above Resolution was adopted on roll call by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members Bidou, Campbell, Smith and Mayor Messina

Noes: None  
Absent: &nbsp; Council Member Whitney

Linda S. Purdy, City Clerk, reminded the Council that they had not taken a vote on Item C.

Council took the following action:

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-56 - A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR WEED ABATEMENT AND FIRE BREAKS OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES AND OPEN SPACE AREAS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,000.00 TO TIMELINE LEASING INC., dba: A & L SERVICES, INC., AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY**

On motion of Council Member Bidou, seconded by Council Member Smith, the above Resolution was adopted on roll call by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members Bidou, Campbell, Smith and Mayor Messina  
Noes: None  
Absent: Council Member Whitney

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR A DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT SHOULD IT EXCEED \$25,000, AND AUTHORIZE THE RE-APPROPRIATION OF \$35,000 FROM THE CURRENT BUDGET TO THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR TO FUND THE STUDY**

Vice Mayor Campbell requested this item be pulled from the Consent Calendar; would like the public to be aware of what the City is doing.

Brenda Gillarde, Principal Planner, clarified that existing funds from the Community Development budget would be used for this study.

Council took the following action:

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-57 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE THE CONTRACT SHOULD IT EXCEED \$25,000, AND APPROPRIATING \$35,000 FROM THE CURRENT BUDGET TO THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR TO FUND THE STUDY**

On motion of Council Member Bidou, seconded by Council Member Smith, the above Resolution was adopted on roll call by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members Bidou, Campbell, Smith and Mayor Messina  
Noes: None  
Absent: Council Member Whitney

**CONCURRENCE OF CITY COUNCIL TO FORWARD THE REPORT ON LAND APPLICATION OF BIOSOLIDS IN SOLANO COUNTY TO THE SOLANO MAYORS' CONFERENCES AS REQUESTED IN AN APRIL 7, 2003 RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE**

Council Member Smith requested this item be pulled from the Consent Calendar; would have liked to have seen stronger wording of the Resolution on Public Health issues; concerned about the air-borne pathogens in the sludge.

On motion of Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Bidou, and unanimously carried, to forward the report to the Solano Mayors' Conference.

**REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER:**

**DISTRIBUTION OF 2003-2005 PROPOSED CITY BUDGET AND SETTING OF BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES**

Jim Erickson, City Manager, gave a report; two major issues that may be problematic (1) State budget crisis and loss of the VLF funding to cities (2) higher retirement costs and funding required to be paid into the PERS retirement system by the City; will propose a conservative approach with a 5% to 6%

reduction in the City's expenditures; no employee layoffs at this time; Budget Workshops to be held June 2-4, 2003.

Mayor Messina requested that staff be made available to the Council to answer questions prior to the budget sessions.

Vice Mayor Campbell asked for clarification on certain expenditure numbers presented and reassessment figures for the Valero Refinery; suggested meetings be held with the various union and employee groups.

Jim Erickson, City Manager, stated that employee Memorandums of Understanding would be reviewed and discussions with the Council would be held during Closed Session.

Karen Majors, Assistant City Manager, stated that a ruling on the reassessment of the Valero Refinery should be received by July.

Council Member Bidou questioned how often the approved budget would be brought before the Council for review.

Jim Erickson, City Manager, stated that the budget would be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION DISCONTINUING THE "BENICIA ROCKET" BUS SERVICE TO THE BENICIA INDUSTRIAL PARK AND INCREASING BENICIA DIAL-A-RIDE SERVICE**

Alan Nadritch, Finance Director, gave a synopsis of the performance of this service during the nine months of operation; extensive marketing to promote the service was done; ridership does not warrant the continuation of this bus service; funding will now be used to increase Dial-A-Ride services.

Council Member Smith stated that he would like to see funding used for an additional car and driver for Dial-A-Ride service and improvement of that service.

Council took the following action:

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-58 - A RESOLUTION DISCONTINUING THE "BENICIA ROCKET" BUS SERVICE TO THE BENICIA INDUSTRIAL PARK AND INCREASING BENICIA DIAL-A-RIDE SERVICE**

On motion of Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Bidou, the above Resolution was adopted on roll call by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members Bidou, Campbell, Smith and Mayor Messina

Noes: None

Absent: Council Member Whitney

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Messina adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Linda S. Purdy, City Clerk