

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING – CITY COUNCIL
May 06, 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 7:00 p.m.

II. CLOSED SESSION:

III. CONVENE OPEN SESSION:

A. ROLL CALL

All Council Members were present.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Gina Eleccion 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.

2. Openings on Boards and Commissions:

Arts and Culture Commission

1 full term

1 unexpired term

Open until filled

Historic Preservation Review Commission

1 unexpired term

Open until filled

3. Mayor's Office Hours:

4. Benicia Arsenal Update

Update from City Attorney

Heather McLaughlin, City Attorney, reported that she spoke with the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) today. There is nothing new to report, however, the DTSC might have an update in two weeks.

B. PROCLAMATIONS

- 1. IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH - MAY 2014.**

C. APPOINTMENTS

D. PRESENTATIONS

- 1. Citizen's Academy Graduation**
- 2. PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE DAY**

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

Three items (copies on file).

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1. Bonnie Silveria, Benicia Main Street - Ms. Silveria revealed Main Street's new shopping bags. She encouraged people to attend Benicia's Farmer's Market on Thursdays. She invited people to attend the upcoming Historical Homes Tour.**
- 2. Mayor Patterson - Mayor Patterson discussed the recent air show she attended at Travis Air Force Base.**

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- A. Approval of Minutes from April 15, 2014 City Council Meeting. (City Clerk)**
- B. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS FOR STREET LIGHT AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR**

RESOLUTION 14-41 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WITH SIEMENS INDUSTRY INC. OF SAN RAFAEL FOR A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$40,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY

RESOLUTION 14-42 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WITH SIEMENS INDUSTRY INC. OF SAN RAFAEL FOR A NOT-TO-EXCEED \$30,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY

C. FINAL CAP COORDINATOR WORK PLAN

Council Member Hughes and Staff discussed concern regarding 'Greening Existing Building Stock' - who would pay for the audit (property owner) and what penalties would be enforced if the audit is not done? The specifics would be brought out when the ordinance regarding this issue is introduced at a future meeting.

Vice Mayor Campbell and Staff discussed concerns regarding mandatory assessments, fees, etc. Vice Mayor Campbell wondered whether there would be support for moving forward with an ordinance. Staff discussed the importance of giving property owner incentives that would encourage them to do the energy audits and reduce energy use.

Council Member Schwartzman discussed the usage report he received from PG&E. He thought it was a powerful tool that could encourage people to pay attention to their energy usage.

Council Member Strawbridge and Staff discussed whether the May deliverable date for the grant was attainable. Staff confirmed they would be ready to proceed on 5/19/14.

Public Comment:

None

Council Member Hughes asked Staff to provide Council with options when this item is brought back.

On motion of Council Member Hughes, seconded by Council Member Schwartzman, Council approved, by motion, the Final Cap Coordinator Work Plan, on roll call by the following vote:

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

- D. DENIAL OF CLAIM AGAINST THE CITY BY VICTOR M. HERNANDEZ AND REFERRAL TO INSURANCE CARRIER**
- E. Approval to waive the reading of all ordinances introduced and adopted pursuant to this agenda.**

VIII. BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2013-14 BUDGET

RESOLUTION 14-43 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENICIA AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-14

Brenda Olwin, Interim Finance Director, reviewed the staff report and a PowerPoint presentation.

Vice Mayor Campbell and Staff discussed the pending property tax appeals, the issue of the rising cost of liability insurance, and the Marina Fund.

Council Member Strawbridge and Staff discussed the public access programming fees that were listed in the report, the tree maintenance and tree pruning costs coming out of the Valero Good Neighbor Steering Committee Settlement funds, and how realistic the estimates were for the franchise agreement with Allied Waste.

Mayor Patterson asked Staff to ensure the Valero Good Neighbor Steering Committee was on board with the use of funds for tree pruning and maintenance.

Council Member Schwartzman and Staff discussed the Valero property tax appeal.

Mayor Patterson and Staff discussed how the State and County tax assessor takes Valero's record profits into consideration when addressing the property tax issues.

Public Comment:

None

Vice Mayor Campbell and Staff discussed the issue of transferring money between funds, repayment of those transfers, etc.

Vice Mayor Campbell and Staff discussed PERS and employee benefits.

On motion of Council Member Schwartzman, seconded by Council Member Strawbridge, Council adopted Resolution 14-43, on roll call by the following vote:

Ayes: Patterson, Strawbridge, Schwartzman, Campbell, Hughes

Noes: (None)

B. UPDATE ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY SERVICES STRATEGY

Anne Cardwell, Assistant City Manager, reviewed the staff report and a PowerPoint presentation.

Council Member Hughes and Staff discussed the organizational scan listed in the staff report.

Mayor Patterson and Staff discussed the need to define effective and efficient, as it will be helpful in developing performance measures. Mayor Patterson would like to see benchmarking with other cities such as El Cerrito.

Council Member Hughes and Staff discussed support for Mayor Patterson's suggestions. He suggested Staff look into which cities are best at each separate department (best in class - for each separate city department).

Mayor Patterson and Staff discussed the need to ensure the survey is designed in such a way to get people to participate and be engaged.

Council Member Strawbridge and Staff discussed whether cost information would be addressed in the survey (it would not). They discussed the possibility of attributing a dollar figure to safety in the survey, as in past surveys, the issue of safety always ranked high.

Public Comment:

None

Mayor Patterson gave direction to Staff and Council - Council will each separately email staff with suggestions on what should be included in the survey - it will be their 'wish lists'.

C. PRIORITY PROJECT LIST QUARTERLY REVIEW

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Patterson adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.