

MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL MEETING – CITY COUNCIL  
JUNE 1, 2009

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Benicia was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Patterson at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, June 1, 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 Hughes, Ioakimedes, Schwartzman, and Mayor Patterson

Absent: Vice Mayor Campbell (arrived at 7:08 p.m.)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Ioakimedes 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).

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

WRITTEN:

Various items submitted (copies on file).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Dana Dean – Ms. Dean discussed the BHS SAGE Team taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the National Competition. The Team will now be invited to participate in the International Competition. Ms. Polly Farina has led the team.
2. Christina Strawbridge – Ms. Strawbridge discussed the success of the Relay for Life event that took place 5/30/09-5/31/09.

BUDGET WORKSHOP:

Review and approval of 2009-2011 Strategic Plan:

Jim Erickson, City Manager, gave a brief overview of the process. He briefly discussed the computer virus that hit the City computer systems over the weekend, making it difficult to print the actual budget. He reviewed a PowerPoint presentation titled 'Budget Workshop.' The following topics were covered:

- Five strategic issues
- General Fund Budget Summary
- Proposed Budget Achievements - General Fund
- Problems to Overcome
- Keys to Budget Balancing
- Summary of Major Budget Issues – General Fund

Anne Cardwell, Administrative Services Director, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation titled '2009-2011 Strategic Plan & Budget Workshop.' The following topics were reviewed:

- Purpose of Strategic Plan
- Strategic Plan Process
- Highlights of 4/28/09 Input
- Status of the Actions taken from 4/28/09 Input
- What Now?

Council Member Hughes and Staff discussed the State's intent to pull 8% from cities, and how repayment of those funds (8%) would be handled.

Vice Mayor Campbell and Staff discussed the 8% fund loss, its effect on the City's reserves, and possibly spreading out some of the Tier I capital projects on the list over time.

Council Member Ioakimedes and Staff discussed the current return on the City's reserve and the interest rate the City would earn on the money borrowed by the State, and the Grand Jury's recommendation on what needed to be done with the Police Department renovation.

Council Member Schwartzman discussed the projected slow economic recovery process.

Public Comment:

1. Norma Fox – Ms. Fox asked for clarification on the cost of the proposed video streaming and agenda management program.
2. Claire McFadden – Ms. McFadden asked for clarification on how the strategic issues were prioritized. Staff clarified that the projects were not prioritized, just listed.
3. Karen Burns – Ms. Burns discussed concerns regarding the lack of funding for the cemetery.
4. Duane Oliveira – Mr. Oliveira asked for clarification on priority funding criteria, and the need to have the priorities placed in order.

Staff discussed the following topics from the earlier PowerPoint presentation titled 'Budget Workshop':

- Decision-Making Criteria – Discretionary Projects
- Community Survey – Top Investment Priorities
- Community Survey – Key Drivers

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2010 and 2011 Budgets:

Rob Sousa, Finance Director, reviewed the staff report, as well as the following topics from the earlier PowerPoint presentation titled 'Budget Workshop':

- All Funds Budget Summary
- General Fund Budget Summary
- Proposed Tier I Projects – Funded
- Tier II Projects – Not Funded

- Tier III Projects – Not Funded
- Street Projects – Proposed

Anne Cardwell, Administrative Services Director, reviewed the portion of the PowerPoint presentation relating to the City Council. The following topics were reviewed:

City Council and City Clerk:

- Organizational Charts
- Responsibilities
- Accomplishments – FY's 2007-09
- Expenditure Summary

City Manager's Office:

- Organizational Chart
- Mission Statement (need to implement adopted strategic plan)
- Responsibilities
- Accomplishments – FY 2007-09
- Major Budget Changes

City Attorney's Office:

- Organizational Chart
- Mission Statement
- Responsibilities
- Accomplishments – FY's 2007-09
- Major Budget Changes
- Expenditure Summary
- Priorities
- Desired Outcomes and Performance Measures
- Expenditure Summary

Council and Staff discussed various budget changes in the City Manager's office, City Attorney's office, and Economic Development, staffing changes in the City Attorney's office, and the use of consultants.

Mr. Sousa discussed the increase in salary and benefits to the City Treasurer's budget. A portion of the City staff salary was being directed into that budget as there were staff functions being performed.

Finance Department:

- Organizational Chart
- Mission Statement
- Responsibilities and Accomplishments – FY's 2007-09
- Significant Budget Changes
- Expenditure Summary
- Priorities for FY's 2009-11

- Desired Outcomes and Performance Measures

Mr. Sousa addressed the concern regarding the cost of the agenda management software program. The City has already spent funds to upgrade Council Chambers. The cost of the software for the agenda management program has come down to \$43,000.

Information Technology Division (abbreviated presentation – full presentation on 6/15):

- Mission Statement
- Responsibilities

Transit Division (abbreviated presentation – full presentation on 6/15):

- Mission Statement
- Responsibilities

Mayor Patterson called for a 5-minute break at 9:02 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 9:11 p.m.

Public Comment:

1. Christina Strawbridge – Ms. Strawbridge discussed the City’s tourism plan, the issue of tourism, and the recommendations of the plan being ignored in the budget.

Vice Mayor Campbell discussed Ms. Strawbridge’s concern regarding the lack of funding for implementation of marketing, tourism, tourism director, and funding to implement the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) bid.

2. Nancy Martinez, Benicia Main Street – Ms. Martinez discussed Benicia Main Street’s desire for the City to approve its enhancements. They added six new events in 2008 and are looking at adding five new events in 2009. She discussed the need for the City’s financial assistance with the July 3<sup>rd</sup> and July 4<sup>th</sup> events. The elimination of any events would be detrimental to the Downtown and the community.

Council and Staff discussed current and proposed funding for Benicia Main Street, total amount of funding requested amount by Benicia Main Street (\$149,000), Benicia Main Street losing money on the July 3<sup>rd</sup> and July 4<sup>th</sup> activities, and the possibility of Benicia Main Street not being able to continue with the July 3<sup>rd</sup> and July 4<sup>th</sup> activities in the future.

3. Duane Oliveira – Mr. Oliveira clarified agenda language regarding the budget, the general fund summary by department, Tier II capital projects not funded, and the lack of funding for tourism.
4. Jeanne Steinmann – Ms. Steinmann discussed tourism, her involvement in the ad hoc tourism committee, the City’s tourism plan.
5. Rick Englar – Mr. Englar discussed the Tier III capital projects relating to underground utility lines.
6. Mary Eichbauer – Ms. Eichbauer discussed the Library Basement project not being in the Tier II projects rather than Tier I projects.
7. Carol Nail – Ms. Nail spoke in favor of the Library Basement Project.
8. Claire McFadden – Ms. McFadden discussed tourism and the City’s tourism plan.

9. Eldon Petersen – Mr. Petersen discussed the issue of tourism.
10. Jon Van Landschoot – Mr. Van Landschoot spoke in favor of tourism, funding for the Arts and Culture Commission, and the idea of spending money to make money.
11. Norma Fox – Ms. Fox spoke in favor of tourism, Arts and Cultural Commission, design for the Waterfront Park project, Main Street Program, and Benicia Historical Museum, why there were big jumps in some departmental budgets, and finding components of budgeted items that could be whittled down.

Council and Staff discussed funding for the cemetery, the fact that it did not get enough play in the strategic planning process, the Cemetery Improvement Restoration Fund (currently over \$140,000 in the fund), approximately \$55,000 budgeted this year for smaller landscaping and road improvements, grave restoration, and the purchase of some vaults for the cemetery, the possibility of looking into security to prevent vandalism.

Council and Staff discussed the Police facility and the City's obligations regarding the Grand Jury recommendations. The Grand Jury's recommendations were broad. Staff would respond to the Grand Jury. Staff's response would be presented to Council.

Council will continue the budget process with the remaining departments at the next Special Council meeting on June 15, 2009. An additional special meeting could be scheduled if necessary.

Vice Mayor Campbell and Staff discussed the \$200,000 available from the Scouts for the Community Center Phase I project. The City already advanced itself that money. That money would be credited back to the project. Vice Mayor Campbell discussed the money from Valero that has to be used for water conservation. He wondered if it could be used to help out with supplies for the field maintenance. Staff could get in touch with the negotiating parties to discuss the possibilities. He discussed possible energy efficiency improvements at City Hall.

Council Member Hughes asked for more clarification at the next budget meeting on the strategy on not fully funding the reserve funds, long term strategy, public safety, tourism, PERS costs, Commanding Officer's Quarters, Community Center (the need to get more use out of it), the James Lemos pool roof, Benicia Main Street funding, prioritizing to meet compliance, and health and safety issues.

Vice Mayor Campbell inquired about the timing of replacing the roof at the James Lemos Pool. Staff clarified that the roof could make it through this summer season, but it would have to be repaired before the next rainy season.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Patterson adjourned the meeting at 10:31 p.m.

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Lisa Wolfe, City Clerk

