

MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL MEETING – CITY COUNCIL  
August 17, 2010

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 6:00 p.m.

**II. CONVENE OPEN SESSION:**

**A. ROLL CALL**

All Council Members were present.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. REFERENCE TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC:**

**III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**A. WRITTEN COMMENT**

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

On motion of Council Member Ioakimedes Council adopted the agenda as presented, on roll call by the following vote:

Ayes: Patterson, Schwartzman, Campbell, Hughes, Ioakimedes

Noes: (None)

**V. CLOSED SESSION:**

Heather McLaughlin, City Attorney, read the announcement of Closed Session.

Mayor Patterson adjourned the meeting to Closed Session at 6:02 p.m.

**A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section §54956.8)**

City owned property (City of Benicia Park Road Right of Way between Stone Road and East Second Street, i.e., the location of the "Nationwide" sign)

Negotiating parties: City Manager and Economic Development Manager - Instruction to negotiator on price and terms of payment.

**B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
(Subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54957)  
Title: City Manager**

**C. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CITY MANAGER  
(Subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54957)**

**VI. PRESENTATION:**

**A. CALTRANS BENICIA-MARTINEZ BRIDGE PROJECT LANDSCAPING PRESENTATION**

Mayor Patterson called the Open Session to order at 6:38 p.m.

Jim Erickson, City Manager, introduced the item.

Charlie Knox, Public Works & Community Development Director, reviewed the staff report. He reviewed a map provided by Caltrans.

Ms. Jean Gorum, Caltrans, reviewed an update on the project. The irrigation system has been installed, with the exception of two booster pumps, which are on order from the manufacturer. There will be a three-year plan establishment period from the contractor. After the three years, it will turn over to the Caltrans maintenance department.

Mayor Patterson discussed how pleased she was that the landscaping was going forward. She has heard some concern regarding the landscaping of the corridor into Benicia.

Ms. Gorum discussed how Caltrans had worked with the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Commission regarding the landscaping. They made some plant changes and came up with a design for the project. They received a letter from Mr. Goetz regarding his desire for them to expand the limits of the start/stop sections of planting. She discussed the issue of rehabilitation projects, which are currently not being funded.

Mayor Patterson discussed the area off of I-780 where the water tower was located. She wondered if that area would be landscaped. Caltrans confirmed it would be landscaped. The area by Hospital Road would not be landscaped. They did not think it had ever been approved.

Council Member Ioakimedes asked Caltrans what Benicia could do improve the other areas that needed to be landscaped. Ms. Gorum discussed the Adopt-a-Highway tree and planting program. The City could do enhanced landscaping at its own cost. There would need to be an agreement in place.

Mayor Patterson discussed the possibility of starting an Adopt-a-Highway planting program this year. If the City was willing to contribute, Caltrans could work with staff to come up with a plan to landscape the areas.

Vice Mayor Schwartzman asked if there was a provision where a local service club could take over a designated area and landscape it. If someone wanted to move forward with that, they would have to work with the City, who would in turn work with Caltrans.

Mayor Patterson and Ms. Gorum discussed the possibility of the Arts and Culture Commission having artists paint the underside of the overpass on East Second Street. There are safety provisions that would need to be met. Caltrans would assist the City with processing the paperwork necessary to do such a project.

Council Member Ioakimedes and Staff discussed tree planting in the area of Hospital Road. It is currently not being considered. They could talk to the Tree Committee about the issue.

Public Comment:

Steve Goetz - Mr. Goetz discussed the letter he wrote to Staff (copy in file) that was included in the staff report.

Marilyn Bardet - Ms. Bardet urged Council to press Caltrans to include the area by East Fifth Street in the landscaping project.

Council Member Hughes thought Mr. Goetz's ideas were good. It would not hurt to ask Caltrans to do the work. If the new proposal is missing some of the previous commitments, the City would need to address that with Caltrans.

Mayor Patterson stated the direction was to provide information and seek cooperation for the Adopt-a-Highway program, submit all information to Caltrans for that project - specifically for planting on East Fifth to the halfway point on the original plan, and then Caltrans would plant on to Hospital Road. That would be the ideal, but short of the ideal, nonetheless, all of the work would be done. The

second stage would be looking at potential reimbursement so the work could be done with the current contractor. Mayor Patterson directed Staff to work with Arts and Culture Commission on looking into the mural painting on the East Second Street overpass under area. She directed Staff to work with the Tree Commission to consider tree planting on East Fifth Street to Hospital Road, and for Staff to formally ask the Caltrans director (in a letter) to landscape the median. She asked Staff to get more information (in writing) from Caltrans on the split program for I-780 for the replanting of the trees.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Patterson adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.