

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING – CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 6, 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, October 6, 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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Hughes 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/APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Openings on Boards and Commissions:

- ❑ Arts & Culture Commission:
Nine full term openings (4 year term)
- ❑ Community Sustainability Commission
Six full term openings (4 year term)
- ❑ Senior Coalition of Solano County
One full term opening (2 year term)
- ❑ Sky Valley Open Space Committee:
One full term to January 31, 2013
- ❑ Human Services and Arts Board:
One unexpired term to June 30, 2010
One full term to July 31, 2013

Mayor's Office Hours:

Mayor Patterson will maintain an open office every Monday (except holidays) in the Mayor's Office of City Hall from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Other meeting times may be scheduled through the City Hall office at 746-4200.

APPOINTMENTS:

None

PRESENTATIONS:

Rebuilding Together – Solano County

Ms. Maria Theresa Matthews, Board Member, Rebuilding Together, Solano County, introduced Elizabeth Johnson Hoffman, Executive Director, Rebuilding Together, Solano County, who discussed the organization, how was started, what it had done, what it plans to do in the future, and how the City of Benicia could assist them.

Ms. Hoffman reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on Rebuilding Together, Solano County

PROCLAMATIONS:

- ❑ Recognition of Fire Prevention Week – October 4-10, 2009
- ❑ Proclamation Welcoming Rotary Exchange Student – Kristina Kovacikova
- ❑ Recognition of Arbor Day – October 17, 2009

ADOPTION OF 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 Hughes, Ioakimedes, Schwartzman, and Mayor Patterson

Noes: None

Absent: Vice Mayor Campbell

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

WRITTEN:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Marilyn Bardet – Ms. Bardet made a formal request that Council consider a draft Council resolution to make an official request to the congressional delegation and state legislators to engage Cal/EPA’s Department of Toxic Substances Control to complete the investigation and cleanup of land of the former Benicia Arsenal, with priority given to the Lower Arsenal area within the boundaries of the Lower Arsenal Mixed Use Specific Plan.

Council, Staff, and Ms. Bardet discussed funding for the cleanup, and Council procedures for handling a request by a citizen for agendaizing an item for Council discussion.

2. Joe Kearns – Mr. Kearns discussed concerns regarding the City’s Police Department.

Staff discussed the appointment process for new staff members.

3. Ken Paulk – Mr. Paulk expressed support for City Staff and City Council.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Council pulled item VII-C.

On motion of Council Member Schwartzman, seconded by Council Member Ioakimedes, the Consent Calendar was adopted as amended, on roll call by the following vote:

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

Noes: None
Absent: Vice Mayor Campbell

Council approved the Minutes of September 15, 2009.

Council approved the amendment to the “Plan for Initial Expenditure of VIP Settlement Funds” to clarify that the \$30,000 allocation of funds for solar panels at the Hearthstone development is a grant (not a loan), and to allow for excess funds to be used in other affordable housing units citywide.

Approval to waive the reading of all ordinances introduced and adopted pursuant to this agenda.

(END OF CONSENT CALENDAR)

Council took the following actions:

Cancellation of the November 3, 2009 City Council meeting:

Council Member Ioakimedes discussed concerns regarding canceling City Council meetings due to conflicts with election nights. Staff will look into the issue of not scheduling Council meetings on election nights when setting the annual calendar for Council.

On motion of Council Member Ioakimedes, seconded by Council Member Hughes, Council approved the cancellation of the November 3, 2009 City Council meeting, on roll call by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Vice Mayor Campbell

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

ACTION ITEMS:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Reports from City Manager:

Quarterly Review of Strategic Actions and Capital Projects:

Jim Erickson, City Manager, introduced the agenda item.

Staff reviewed a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file) on the various capital projects.

Public Comment:

None

Performance Measures:

Jim Erickson, City Manager, introduced the agenda item.

Council and Staff discussed why the National Citizens Survey Standards were used.

Mayor Patterson expressed concern regarding the updated information provided. She requested Staff do a high level overview tonight and then allow Council time to digest the information and provide comments, then re-agendize the item at a future Council meeting.

Various Staff members reviewed portions of the staff report.

Council requested Staff add to the performance measures surprises they come across, concern that there was too much reliance on the National Citizens Survey, what the most important features the City should work on were, and that the City needed to be careful about measuring against other standards (the City itself should be the benchmark).

Public Comment:

None

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Patterson adjourned the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Lisa Wolfe, City Clerk

