

MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING – CITY COUNCIL  
December 01, 2015

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**

Leah Shellhorn 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 unexpired term  
open until filled

Library Board of Trustees  
1 unexpired term  
open until filled

Benicia Housing Authority  
1 unexpired term (Tenant)  
open until filled

Community Sustainability Commission  
2 unexpired terms  
1 student commissioner term  
open until filled

Open Government  
1 unexpired term  
open until filled

**3. Mayor's Office Hours:**

**4. Benicia Arsenal Update**

Update from City Attorney

Heather McLaughlin, City Attorney, reported there is an upcoming meeting scheduled with City Staff and one of the property owners. There should be more information for Council at the 12/15/15 meeting.

**B. PROCLAMATIONS**

**C. APPOINTMENTS**

**D. PRESENTATIONS**

**1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL PRESENTATION**

**V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Anne Cardwell, Assistant City Manager, stated that Staff was recommending a change to Item VII.B - adoption of the 2016 City Council Regular, by cancelling the 11/22/16 and 12/27/16 meetings, as they are close to the holidays.

On motion of Vice Mayor Hughes, seconded by Council Member Strawbridge, Council adopted the Agenda, as amended, on roll call by the following vote:

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

**VI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Patterson asked for a moment of silence in honor of Rosie Switzer, who recently passed away.

**A. WRITTEN COMMENT**

Three items received (copies on file).

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**VII. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Council pulled item VII.A for discussion.

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

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

**A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING. (City Clerk)**

Mayor Patterson reviewed her requested changes to the minutes.

Council Member Campbell requested adding “perception” to line 6 of paragraph 1 on page 8, so it would read, “so there would not be the possibility or perception of impropriety or conflict”.

Vice Mayor Hughes asked if Council Members Campbell and Schwartzman were okay with the Mayor's suggested edits to their discussions. Council confirmed the changes were acceptable.

On motion of Vice Mayor Hughes, seconded by Council Member Strawbridge, Council approved the Minutes of the November 17, 2015 City Council meeting, as amended, on roll call by the following vote:

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

**B. ADOPTION OF THE 2016 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING CALENDAR**

During the adoption of the agenda, Council approved cancelling the 11/22/16 and 12/27/16 City Council meetings.

**C. SECOND READING OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARTS AND**

**CULTURE COMMISSION'S ORDINANCE CHANGING THE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS FROM NINE TO SEVEN**

**ORDINANCE 15-8 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENICIA AMENDING CHAPTER 2.104 (ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION) OF DIVISION 2 (BOARD AND COMMISSIONS) OF TITLE 2 (ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL) OF THE BENICIA MUNICIPAL CODE BY REVISING SECTION 2.104.010 TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS FROM NINE MEMBERS TO SEVEN**

**D. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR 2015 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**RESOLUTION 15-135 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENICIA AWARDED THE CONTRACT TO TULLY & YOUNG, INC. IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$90,000 TO ASSIST IN PREPARATION OF THE FIVE-YEAR UPDATE TO THE CITY'S URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY**

**E. UPDATE ON EMERGENCY CONTRACTS FOR CLOCK TOWER ELEVATOR REPLACEMENT**

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

**VIII. BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**A. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR WATER METER REPLACEMENT/ADVANCE METERING INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTANT**

**RESOLUTION 15-136 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENICIA AWARDED CONTRACT TO SIEMENS INDUSTRY, INC. FOR THE BENICIA WATER METER REPLACEMENT/ADVANCE METERING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$128,600. AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY**

Scott Rovnpera, Water Superintendent, reviewed the staff report and a PowerPoint presentation.

Vice Mayor Hughes and Staff discussed the issue of age-based deployment vs. geographical-based deployment of the new meters. He asked Staff to consult with the manufacturer/consultant on the issue. Vice Mayor Hughes also discussed the issue of tightening the belt on labor savings once the new meters are installed and asked how the City will pay for the new meters without

having significant increase to water rates.

Staff discussed the review that Management Partners will be doing of the overall Public Works Department and how to best utilize staff time for the work that needs to be done.

Mayor Patterson and Staff discussed the scope-of-work that was submitted by Siemens, the industry standard for employees in public works departments, and the goal of being effective and efficient.

Council Member Campbell and Staff discussed why, in 2012, the non-revenue water was low in comparison to the other years listed, and the issue of collecting fees to pay for the new meters.

Council Member Schwartzman and Staff discussed how, with the new meters, the City will be able to identify leaks faster. They also discussed the possibility of residents being able to log into a system and view their water usage.

Vice Mayor Hughes discussed the benefits of having access to more sophisticated and detailed reports with the new meters and software.

Mayor Patterson and Staff discussed the issues of the firms having some funding/financing experience, what lessons Siemens had learned from the recent jobs they did in other Bay Area cities (so Benicia can refine its approach - and have that information imbedded into its agreement), the need for a connection to energy - showing the money the City would be saving by using the new meters, and what some of the things in the City are that are not getting done (leak detection, valve exercising, etc.) because staff has to physically go out and spend time reading the water meters.

Public Comment:

1. Citizen - the citizen asked what the typical lifespan of the current meters is (10-15 years), and what the lifespan and accuracy is of the new meters.

On motion of Council Member Schwartzman, seconded by Vice Mayor Hughes, Council adopted Resolution 15-136, on roll call by the following vote:

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

**B. COUNCILMEMBER SCHWARTZMAN'S REQUEST TO AGENDIZE DISCUSSION OF THE POTENTIAL METROPOLITAN TRANSIT**

**COMMISSION/ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS  
(MTC/ABAG) MERGER**

Council Member Schwartzman reviewed his request.

Mayor Patterson suggested thinking about this in terms of strong participation by the City when this is discussed by ABAG/MTC.

Council Member Schwartzman discussed Council coming to an early decision on this and letting ABAG/MTC know Council's stand.

Council Member Campbell asked if they planned on coming up with a Plan B in case things don't work out the way we want them, and are left with options we don't like with MTC. Council Member Campbell hoped that would be a part of the overall discussion.

Mayor Patterson discussed the importance of the Council getting on-record with their concerns and staying engaged so they can influence the process.

Public Comment:

None

On motion of Vice Mayor Hughes, seconded by Council Member Schwartzman, Council approved Council Member Schwartzman's request to place discussion of the potential Metropolitan Transit Commission/Association of Bay Area Governments (MTC/ABAG) merger on a future agenda, on roll call by the following vote:

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

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Patterson adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m. in memory of Rosie Switzer.