



CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 8, 2002
7:30 p.m.
Menlo Park Council Chamber
801 Laurel Street, Menlo Park

6:00 P.M. STUDY SESSION (Held in the First Floor Conference Room of the City Hall Building located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park.)

1. Update and direction regarding the Oak Grove Plaza Housing Project.

The Council discussed four options for the proposed Oak Grove Plaza Housing project. Scheme #1 showed 30 residential units over a total of 161 parking spaces in a structure. Scheme #2 showed 30 residential units with residential parking on half of the plaza and 112 commercial parking spaces in a structure on the other half of the plaza. Scheme #3 showed 30 residential units over 189 parking spaces in a structure. Scheme #4 showed 20 residential units over 146 parking spaces in a structure. One concern expressed was the cost of locating replacement parking spaces for the commercial spaces now on the plaza plus additional commercial parking spaces all in a structure below grade. The Council requested the Housing Commission and staff to bring back a revision to Scheme #1 where more of the parking spaces would be above grade. The Council also asked for information on potential alternative sites to see if the cost of land elsewhere may be less than the cost of building replacement parking at the Oak Grove site. In addition the Council asked that a "request for proposals" be prepared for potential developers of the Oak Grove site in case the Council decided to proceed with that site.

ROLL CALL – Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Kinney and Councilmembers Borak, Collacchi, and Jellins were present. Staff present included City Manager Boesch, Assistant City Manager Seymour, City Attorney McClure, City Clerk Ramos and other department heads.

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS – None

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

1. There are no current commission vacancies.
2. Appointment to the Arts Commission.

Mayor Schmidt opened the floor for nominations and called for the vote.

Councilmember Jellins nominated Gil McMillon. Councilmember Borak nominated Nancy Travers.

Mr. McMillon received three votes (Schmidt, Jellins, Kinney); Ms. Travers received one vote (Borak). Mr. McMillon was appointed to the Arts Commission. Councilmember Collacchi was not present at this time.

3. Appointments to the Community Mediation Service.

Mayor Schmidt opened the floor for nominations and suggested appointing the representatives first, followed by the alternates.

Councilmember Jellins nominated Kirsten Keith as a representative. Councilmember Borak nominated Candace Hathaway as a representative. There were no other nominations.

Ms. Keith and Ms. Hathaway were both appointed as representatives to serve on the Community Mediation Service Committee.

There was consensus to appoint Ms. Acayan and Ms. Honda as alternate members.

Tom Prussing, Chair, commented about the caliber and qualifications of the four applicants.

Mayor Schmidt reported that he attended the Palo Alto City Council reorganization last night where he commented on items of regional interest.

Councilmember Kinney reported on Bay Area Water Users' Association (BAWUA) and its seismic upgrade master plan.

Mayor Schmidt reported that he was reappointed to the Transit District Board (SamTrans) by the County of San Mateo City Selection Committee.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

John Preyer, Menlo Park, commended the new audio system in the Council Chambers.

Frank Carney, Menlo Park, urged the Council to amend the Resolution for a preliminary design of a Willow-Cambridge Bike-Pedestrian Railroad Undercrossing (Item D4) to authorize a firm to study an additional site located at Burgess Park. He felt that this would meet the needs of the groups who desire a tunnel and those who are opposed to placing a tunnel and who are opposed to placing a tunnel at the proposed site.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Schmidt read the consent calendar items. City Manager Boesch requested to pull item D2 to continue the item to January 15, 2002. Councilmember Collacchi requested to pull item D6.

M/S Schmidt/Collacchi to approve consent items 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 as presented and continue item D2 to January 15, 2002. Motion passed 5-0.

1. Approval of audited bills for period 23 ending November 30, 2001, period 24 ending December 7, 2001 and period 25 ending December 14, 2001.
3. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to Execute an agreement between the City of Menlo Park and HNTB Architects, Engineers, Planners for a Pr
4. Preliminary Design of a Willow-Cambridge Bike-Pedestrian Railroad Undercrossing.
5. Approval of the Menlo Park Community Development Agency Annual Report for 2000-2001.
7. Adoption of a Resolution authorizing the destruction of certain records in the Finance Division.
8. Approval of the City Council Minutes for the meeting of November 13, 2001.

PULLED ITEM

2. Introduction of an Ordinance amending Municipal Code, Chapter 12.42, Flood Damage Prevention, as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

This item was continued to January 15, 2002.

6. Adoption of a Resolution to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Employment Development Department of the State of California for the request and use of employment data in the study of commercial and economic development in the City of Menlo Park and authorizing the Chief Planner to execute the MOU, the Confidentiality Statement and Indemnity Agreement on behalf of the City.

Questions and discussion ensued regarding access to data and timeframe.

M/S Collacchi/Schmidt to adopt the Resolution as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

E. PUBLIC HEARING – None

F. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Consider possible actions relative to train horn noise, quiet zones and quiet zone infrastructure.

Jamal Rahimi, Transportation Manager, and Dan Smith, Traffic Contractor, presented the staff report

Questions and Discussion ensued about quiet zones in other cities, decibel readings, quadrant gate solutions and associated costs.

Robert Castigleone, locomotive engineer for Caltrain, commented about the safety benefits from blowing the horn, federal law requirements and the various types of train horn equipment. He concurred with staff's recommendation for a grade separation.

Charles Metoyer, Menlo Park, noted that some horns are louder and longer than others and the noise is impacting the quality of life and property values of the neighborhood. He noted that the quiet zone approach might be the best solution to mitigating the train horn noise problem but suggested that a sound wall might be more economical and it could be built in conjunction with the grade separation if it is considered.

Eric Gilbertson, Menlo Park, said that the train noise is an ongoing problem that needs to be solved. He questioned the belief that horn blasting saves lives and suggested taking a good look at the causes of the fatalities. He feels the loud horn noise disorients people. He commented about the absence of crossing arms on the sidewalk.

Councilmember Jellins moved to direct staff to prepare a letter to the Joint Powers Board, the railroad and other similar organizations to seek different kinds of relief.

Councilmember Kinney seconded the motion.

Mayor Schmidt suggested he would bring up the train noise issue and find ways to reduce noise and increase safety at the Joint Powers Board (JPB) meeting on Thursday, January 10, 2002. He asked staff to craft a letter to the JPB for his review. He believes that grade separation is the key to resolving this issue. He would not support reducing train service to resolve this matter.

Motion passed 5-0

2. Consideration of legislative items listed in the League of California Cities Bulletin(s), or items referred to in Written Communications or Information Items, including decisions to support or oppose any such legislative, communication or information item.

City Manager Boesch noted that the latest issue of the Priority Focus will be on next week's agenda.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None

Mayor Schmidt noted for the record that he received a petition tonight from fourteen residents at 20 Willow Road seeking a short and long term solution to the train horn noise.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Affordable Housing Action Plan annual report – Noted and filed.
2. Status on Santa Cruz Avenue Street resurfacing and calming measures.

Mayor Schmidt commented on the foundation repairs to Santa Cruz Avenue and Willow Road and requested an update.

Councilmember Jellins asked for clarification on the types of design standards being applied to the different neighborhoods.

Staff updated the Council on the Willow Road resurfacing project noting that the delay is due to inclement weather and holidays. Staff also described the design standards, measures and signage, being used in different neighborhoods and the reasons thereof.

3. Update regarding the next steps to implement the Park and Recreation facility improvements – Noted and filed.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT #2 – None.

J. ADJOURNMENT – 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Ramos, CMC
City Clerk