



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY MINUTES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007
6:00 p.m.

701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
Menlo Park City Council Chambers

6:00 p.m. SPECIAL MEETING (Menlo Park City Council Chambers)

CONTINUED ITEM FROM THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 3, 2007

REGULAR BUSINESS

- I. Discussion of the fiscal year 2007-08 Budget process; approval of recommended 2007-08 Capital and Study Projects Priorities; and direction regarding budget initiatives to be included in the City Manager's proposed 2007-08 Budget.

ROLL CALL - Fergusson, Cohen, Boyle, Cline and Robinson.

STAFF PRESENT – Interim City Manager Steffens, City Attorney McClure, and City Clerk Vonderlinden. Other City staff was present in the audience.

Kent Steffens, Interim City Manager and Finance Director Carol Augustine presented the report. Interim City Manager Steffens provided details on the schedule and program based budget and Director Augustine covered an orientation manual that clarifies the various budgetary funds, sources of revenues and expenditures. She also covered how revenues are estimated including information on the General Fund reserve for the last 16 years. Director Augustine provided details on the sales tax revenue, other post employment benefits (OPEB) and its implications for the city as previously unfunded liabilities. She announced two upcoming Budget Open Houses to respond to questions from the public on the 2007-08 Budget and she said that all Department Heads would be there. She also announced a photo contest for the cover of the budget document and welcomed submittals.

Council posed questions about the OPEB liability and how the General Fund balance is handled. Director Augustine said that the Council does not have a policy on the level of reserves. Council discussed the level of the General Fund needed for a city this size and possibly making this a topic of discussion for a future meeting. Interim City Manager Steffens provided an update on the Project Priorities. He summarized the previous Council direction on the matter at the April 3, 2007 meeting. Interim City Manager Steffens reported that project E9 would be added and funded from the recreation-in-lieu fund while the O'Brien Drive streetscape project would be deleted and looked at again next year. Interim City Manager Steffens explained that if a position was added to the Transportation Division then four projects could be added and these would be: 1) Safe Routes to Encinal School - \$80,000; 2) School Traffic Trip Reduction - \$100,000; 3) Study of Sand Hill Road near I-280 to evaluate congestion and bicycling safety - \$50,000; and 4) Feasibility Study of Sidewalks on Santa Cruz Avenue - \$75,000.

Interim City Manager Steffens covered the issue of the downtown parking plazas that have been resurfaced and the estimated costs of renovating additional parking plazas. He provided figures for renovations of two parking plazas and said that while there are funds to add a plaza repaving project, the constraints are staff related and Council would need to prioritize which plaza was to be completed next. He suggested that if Council wanted to renovate additional parking plazas, that E7 (citywide sidewalk master plan) be deleted from the list. Interim City Manager Steffens addressed the issue of budget initiatives, which are ideas proposed by Council or staff, and asked if there is an interest in having more information. He covered the following possible budget initiatives: financial forecasting and reporting; community engagement; enhancement of the business development program; restoration of the police traffic enforcement unit; and increasing transportation project

management staff and increasing projects in that area. If these initiatives were approved then staff would need to do more detailed cost estimates. The Interim City Manager also highlighted other projects that are on the horizon and are not fully funded.

Council did not conclude this item and so the matter was continued to the regular meeting under regular business.

M/S Robinson/Cline to continue the item to the regular meeting as the first business item matter. Motion carries 5-0-0.

The special meeting was adjourned and the City Council took a three-minute break.

7:00 p.m. REGULAR MEETING (Menlo Park City Council Chambers)

ROLL CALL – Fergusson, Cohen, Boyle, Cline and Robinson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The regular City Council meeting started at 7:10 p.m.

A. COMMISSION REPORTS

1. Commission members and Chamber of Commerce reports. **None.**

B. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation declaring April 23 through April 29, 2007 West Nile Virus and Mosquito Vector Control Awareness Week. (attachment)

Mayor Fergusson presented Ms. Valentina Cogoni with a proclamation commemorating the week of West Nile Virus and Mosquito Vector Control Awareness week. Ms. Cogoni represents the City of Menlo Park in the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District Board.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1 (Limited to 30 minutes)

Mayor Fergusson announced that tomorrow night the first Tri-City Youth Summit would take place in Palo Alto. She encouraged everyone to attend.

Michael McKay, with time donated by Heather Nelson and Judith Holiber, spoke about supporting light rail in the Dumbarton Rail Corridor. He said this is the transit alternative that makes sense for this community. He added that the overall environmental impacts are much less than if heavy rail is allowed. He asked that the Council study and support this position. He opined this would be beneficial for the environment and would still allow for better transit systems. Mr. McKay asked the City to take a stance and state that heavy rail is not the correct alternative.

The Mayor asked if this matter was scheduled for an upcoming agenda and Interim City Manager Steffens said that was not the case. Council Member Robinson said that under Council Member Reports he planned to share information as the representative to the Dumbarton Rail Policy Committee. Council Member Boyle asked if the Council Member could report on this at this point in the meeting and Council consensus was to allow the report to be provided now. Council Member Robinson proceeded and said that as the representative on this body he attends the meetings of the Joint Powers Authority. He opined that the project would probably be split in two (one portion will run from Newark to Redwood City and the other project will take place somewhere in the East Bay). He said this was because the Dumbarton Rail Project is unable to obtain the right of way from Southern Pacific and so the question comes up of how the funds of approximately \$150 million will be split. Council Member Robinson would like to get some direction from Council on this matter. He shared that it would be important for the members of the public to attend the upcoming meeting that will take place in Union City at 2:30 p.m. and have the residents state that Menlo Park is not in favor of heavy rail. Council Member Robinson said that he would like staff to prepare a

report on the matter for Council consideration of the issues. He welcomed public comment at the meeting, or emails on the matter to be sent directly to him.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Adoption of Resolution No. 5736 encouraging the continued participation of the San Mateo County Flood Control District in the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority. (Staff Report # 07-065)
2. Approval of the City Council minutes for the meetings of March 27, 2007 (attachment); and April 3, 2007. (attachment)

M/S Cline/Robinson to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carries 5-0-0.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

F. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Consideration of a City Council recommendation to the Town of Atherton to install an additional 56-Foot No Parking Zone on El Camino Real in front of Celia's Restaurant. (Staff Report #07-067)

Renee Baile, Transportation Engineer, presented the staff report with visual slides illustrating the recommendations. Mr. Baile said that staff received a petition from Spruce Avenue residents requesting the removal of all on-street parking on El Camino Real in front of Celia's Restaurant to provide clear vision for drivers that are making a left turn from Spruce Avenue onto El Camino Real.

Vice Mayor Cohen asked if Celia's patio dining replaced parking and staff said that it did not know. He asked about the significance of the 250-foot line-of-sight and staff said that this is the distance needed for cars to decelerate to react to cars that are pulling out of Spruce Avenue. Mr. Baile said that the removal of parking would increase the sight distance. Vice Mayor Cohen did not think that one parking space should be left because it would substantially impact visibility. City Attorney McClure clarified that the one parking space would be outside of the line-of-sight distance.

Council Member Cline stated that equally important to him is the number of cars that drive northbound on El Camino Real. Mr. Chip Taylor, Transportation Manager, said that there are about 2,000 vehicles driving by during the peak hour. Council discussed the Transportation Commission's recommendation for denial of the request and Mr. Taylor explained that the Commission had concerns about safety. Mr. Taylor added that staff's recommendation to leave one parking space in front of Celia's was part of finding a balance between meeting the needs of the residents who filed the petition and the business owner. In response to a question, Mr. Taylor noted that an additional impact of the loss of the parking could be the shifting of parking to Spruce Avenue.

Council Member Robinson thanked staff for the report and said there are two issues. He said that the first issue related to the line-of-sight was addressed by the staff recommendation. His concern is that the staff recommendation does not address the request to cross hatch in the area where the parking would be removed. He believes that by eliminating parking in front of Celia's, drivers going northbound might view the right lane as a wide open third lane and asked what other alternatives might be available to prevent this. Mr. Taylor said that other options might be installing a right turn lane, rumble strips or similar barrier, or a curb, but that each of these options has advantages and disadvantages. Mr. Taylor said that ultimately this is a recommendation to the Town of Atherton and that they will make a recommendation to Caltrans. Vice Mayor Cohen asked about the Celia's owner position on this matter and staff said that the owner said the parking spaces were important for the business. Staff commented that leaving the one parking space would avoid people using that shoulder lane as a travel lane. Staff added that the Transportation Commission had concerns with that being a dangerous spot for parking and that the rumble strips could be helpful.

Mayor Fergusson asked about process after tonight and Mr. Baile explained that a recommendation from Menlo Park would go to the Town of Atherton. Subsequently, that body will consider a resolution approving submittal of an encroachment permit to Caltrans and if approved by Caltrans, installation would follow. Council Member Boyle asked about the possibility of a compromise such as no parking before six in the evening. This would allow line-of-sight for residents during the day. Mr. Baile said that this was not discussed with the business owner and Mr. Taylor said that this can be done but that enforcement is always a challenge. Vice Mayor Cohen asked if individual Council Members are precluded from going to the Town of Atherton and representing the City on the issue. City Attorney McClure said that this could be done and if the Council approved the resolution, the Council could authorize a Council Member to represent the City and attend the meeting.

Public Comment

Don Barnby referred to a petition that was signed by 80 residents, 20 of which were present at the meeting, and stated that the goal was to remove all parking in front of Celia's to allow for safe turns from Spruce Avenue onto El Camino Real. He asked that Council eliminate the parking, maybe paint a red curb or install signage if needed, and have a cross-hatched area and striping to make it clear that this is not a third lane. The residents who were present at the Chambers stood in support.

Anne Moser spoke as a resident and she said drivers can not make a left turn until three streets up on El Camino Real. She also reported that according to her information an accident on Watkins just happened last week. Ms. Moser did not believe that keeping the one space will be helpful and it is her opinion that it will impede visibility and she is certain it will make it harder to cross El Camino Real to go south. She asked that the one parking space be eliminated and she asked that Council Members attend the Town of Atherton meeting.

Council Member Cline said this was a good report but in general he would like to see both sides of the issue addressed. He stated that this is one of the most dangerous intersections in the City. Council Member Robinson thanked the public for its comments. He stated that he will not support the staff recommendation because he believes this might make it more dangerous by encouraging people to use the side lane as a third lane. He stated that he does not believe a recommendation can be made to Atherton without more information. He supported a more general recommendation that asks the Town of Atherton and Caltrans to address ways to make the area where parking would be removed inhospitable to drivers. He stated that the need for safety trumps loss of parking and that it is important to listen to the residents who have the greatest degree of experience with the situation. He further noted that the Council had asked for some consideration of shared parking for the restaurant with the proposed project at 1906 El Camino Real. Vice Mayor Cohen commented that staff had not provided accident or impact information at the other intersections that are impacted by the turning movements at Spruce Avenue and did not believe that staff or the Transportation Commission took that into consideration. He believed that leaving one parking space was a partial solution. He proposed adding the striping and perhaps the rumble strips and eliminating all the parking spots, thereby supporting the residents' request.

Council Member Boyle said he is sympathetic to the safety concerns and the goal should be to urge Atherton to make this intersection safe. He stated that using a non-standard approach to address the area where the parking would be removed had the potential to make the area more dangerous and that it should be used for either parking or driving. He commented that it would be a waste of a major asset to leave the third lane open, and that this might set a precedent for other intersections where people have a problem making a left turn. He suggested that the right thing to do might be to ask Atherton and Caltrans to place a traffic light at the intersection. Council Member Boyle expressed concern about asking Atherton to take away parking for one of the businesses that is in Menlo Park and pays sales taxes. He stated his preference is working with Atherton instead of coming up with a solution for them. He asked if Celia's owner was present because he would like to hear from the owner. Mayor Fergusson said that she would like to send a strong but simple message to Atherton, but understands the need for flexibility. She noted that the Council was interested in safety. She believed that in an ideal world there would be a curb and cafes and outside life and more of the Grand Boulevard concept that encourages pedestrian use rather than

the need to park cars. Noting that Atherton and Caltrans have the authority to make the final decisions, she asked if then it might be possible to end up with a three-lane configuration. Mr. Taylor said that ultimately the Town of Atherton and Caltrans will make the decision and that it would be possible for them to consider a three-lane alternative. Transportation Manager Taylor commented that Atherton had indicated a willingness to work with Menlo Park on this issue.

M/S Cline/Robinson to send the proposal back to staff with direction to consider eliminating all parking spots and in doing so, to return with recommendations for striping the area in which the parking would be removed so as to not allow the area to be used as a travel lane. The Council would then consider the staff recommendation before forwarding a recommendation to the Town of Atherton.

Council Member Boyle found it dangerous to leave the recommendation open ended since Menlo Park cannot control Atherton's final decision and that he is uncomfortable telling the business it will lose five spaces. Council Member Robinson asked what standing Menlo Park has on the issue. City Attorney McClure said that Menlo Park has standing as a recommending body to bring a safety issue to the Town's attention and that it would be a liability issue for Atherton if, once brought to their attention, the Town does not act. The boundaries between the jurisdictions were discussed, including what portions of the roadway are in Atherton and Menlo Park. In response to a question regarding why the boundary runs in the middle of the street, City Attorney McClure provided some historical information on the City limits and annexations.

Council Member Robinson made a friendly amendment to the motion to consider a wide range of options including but not limited to cross hatching, rumble strip, moving the curb, and inclusion of a bike lane for the area where parking would be removed. In addition, impacts on bicyclists would be evaluated as well as the impacts to the restaurant of the lost parking. The friendly amendment was accepted by the maker of the motion. Vice Mayor Cohen suggested considering the Grand Boulevard initiative and maybe moving the curb into half of the area with a bike lane in the other half to create some al fresco dining. He further suggested that this might allow for the patio in back to be replaced with parking. Council Member Boyle said the direction is very broad, essentially asking staff to reconsider the intersection safety and that he is not comfortable taking away the spaces without considering the loss to the business and without assurances that it will be safer. City Attorney McClure restated the amended motion which is **to return the item to staff with direction to remove all of the parking spaces and investigate alternatives, including but not limited to cross hatching, rumble strips, installation of a curb and others that staff believes would be appropriate to deter use of area and return to Council with the pros and cons of the alternatives and a recommendation.** Council Member Robinson asked questions about moving the boundary lines and City Attorney McClure stated that the entire right-of-way is in Atherton's jurisdiction and explained some of issues that would need to be considered.

Council Member Boyle raised a question regarding analysis of a traffic signal as a part of staff's reconsideration. Transportation Manager Taylor stated that staff could include a more thorough review of whether a traffic signal would be warranted as a part of its study of the options for the intersection and report back to Council. **Mayor Fergusson confirmed that the motion was to investigate all options in conjunction with the elimination of the parking spaces.**

M/S Robinson/Boyle to amend the motion to have a preliminary staff report prepared and presented to the Transportation Commission. Motion carries 3-2-0 with Council Members Cohen and Cline opposing.

Vote on the original motion as amended. Motion carries 3-2 with Council Members Cohen and Boyle opposing.

Council returned to the item that was tabled from the Special meeting.

- I. Discussion of the fiscal year 2007-08 Budget process; approval of recommended 2007-08 Capital and Study Projects Priorities; and direction regarding budget initiatives to be included in the City Manager's proposed 2007-08 Budget.

Mayor Fergusson invited the public to comment. There was no public input.

Vice Mayor Cohen spoke about the budget surplus and suggested using it for some projects that are of high priority. He spoke about budget forecasting and the issue of the Grand Boulevard. Vice Mayor Cohen said he supports the traffic enforcement unit being reinstated and the budget forecasting initiative. Mayor Fergusson requested a scope for each one of the five initiatives. She made comments about the El Camino Real project and how the technical portion is being handled by a consultant. In regards to the budget surplus, she believes there have been mis-characterizations of the situation, especially in the context of unfunded liabilities. Mayor Fergusson added that on the project priorities she would like to modify the safe route to schools project to include a partnership or emphasize communications with the School District whereby staff shares its knowledge with that entity. Council Member Cline said that some of the initiatives are already being addressed and so he appreciates staff's efforts towards more transparency and outreach. Director Augustine confirmed that there are unfunded liabilities and in her opinion steps need to be taken towards dealing with them, especially in looking at the long-term picture.

Council Member Cline inquired about the initiatives origin and Interim City Manager Steffens said that each one of the initiatives has its own story of how they came about and each one needs to be looked at individually. While Council Member Cline would like more detail on each of the five initiatives, Interim City Manager Steffens said that staff would need Council consensus to pursue such approach. City Attorney McClure said that the goal is to have Council look at these and if there are some initiatives that stand out then staff could focus on those. He explained that if Council wants these initiatives pursued then staff will evaluate and bring back plans with a budget for approval. He clarified that it is a major commitment to even consider these five initiatives and how to approach each one and propose a plan of action.

Council Member Boyle thanked staff for the report. He said this feels a little open and things are being considered that just make the list grow. He wondered when the Council would consider all its spending in the context of having a balanced budget. He asked if Council would be comfortable decreasing some of the reserves on certain funds and maybe that discussion should come before moving forward with the wish lists. He pondered if the Council should wait to see what the revenues are before pursuing these five initiatives and he is concerned that this might create a lot of expenditures and no discussion has taken place on the level of reserves that are reasonable for Menlo Park. He would like clarity from the process. Interim City Manager Steffens explained that when the budget proposal comes forth in May the Council will have a chance to discuss some of these issues, but the truth is that Council cannot consider everything at the same time because the budget is too complex and it needs to be an iterative process. He provided information on the multiple funds and how they get used for various expenses.

Council Member Robinson believes that Measure J money that was spent on the campaign issue should be returned to that fund. Interim City Manager Steffens explained that expenses for Measure J were paid from the Capital Improvement Project that was created to explore sports fields at Bayfront Park. Council Member Robinson asked if the funding came from the sinking fund and stated that he does not think that a political measure should be funded from it. He further recommended that this be rectified. Council Member Robinson referred to the fact that when revenues exceed expenditures maybe the Council should adopt a policy on how to address this money and put it into a special fund to be used as a revenue source for the next budget year. These monies could be placed on this special fund to be used at the mid-year point. City Attorney McClure explained that if these monies were for general uses then it would probably be classified as general fund unless it is for a designated goal/fund then it is not in a restricted fund and will be consolidated as part of the general fund.

Council Member Robinson spoke about Parking Plaza 7, stating it has higher use than Plaza 8 because it is next to a grocery store and so he would like to have that taken into consideration. He commented that location and not just condition should be taken into consideration when deciding which Plaza to renovate. Council Member Robinson asked when the cost allocation fee study will be completed and Director Augustine said that it is close to being done and by the end of May staff expects to have a presentation to Council. Mayor Fergusson would like to retain the citywide sidewalk study because of its value. Council Member Boyle wants to hold off on the Plaza 7 item because there is an idea of turning one of the parking plazas into a City park. He believes the El CaminoReal/Santa Cruz study might be useful in looking at this area. Vice Mayor Cohen is supportive of the priorities and he supports Mayor Fergusson's points on the safe routes to school matter. As for T7 he believes that should have been Stanford's responsibility. He would like housing to be added to the list of budget initiatives because of the recently released ABAG housing requirement numbers. City Attorney McClure said that the issue of housing is under the Housing Element Update (CD2) and Council Member Boyle said it was also covered on CD3. Vice Mayor Cohen concurred but he added that what he is trying to do is emphasize the magnitude of the housing problem. Council Member Cline asked how staff handles what can be and can't be addressed especially if it derives from the public. Interim City Manager Steffens said that the Council always has the option of amending the budget but if Council wants to add projects staff will ask that other items be deleted.

M/S Cohen/Cline to accept the staff recommendation and approve the recommended 07-08 Capital and Study Project Priorities.

Council Member Boyle asked if this is the final decision and Mr. Steffens said that it is not final until a budget resolution is adopted. Council discussed the safe routes project and Mayor Fergusson wanted staff time allocated to this. **Council Member Boyle suggested a friendly amendment to give direction to staff to allocate some staff resources to support the current effort by the Menlo Park School District to plan out their site redesign and help facilitate traffic and bike safety and optimize it. The maker and second of the original motion both accepted this friendly amendment and it became part of the motion.**

Interim City Manager Steffens explained that project T6 specifically addresses the School Traffic Trip reduction which talks about discussing the matter with various School Districts. He added that staff could share its knowledge with the School District but to critique and analyze it would be a lot more work. Council Member Boyle added that tentative site plans have been approved for certain schools and this request is for the current fiscal year. Interim City manager Steffens said that the project priorities being approved are for next year. Mayor Fergusson offered to take this discussion off line and broach the matter with the Interim City Manager. Council Member Boyle suggested that staff call the architect and the designer for the District and inform him/her that staff is willing to be a resource.

Council Member Robinson said that he likes the budget open houses and he is hopeful there will be attendance and possibly have some comments. He would like to have the item of the Belle Haven solar system item moved above the line. In his opinion, this could be accomplished with minimum staff resources and it should be a priority. Interim City Manager Steffens said that staff can ask contractors to give ideas about the type of system that would work and the cost, but if there is an attractive payback then this would be another project for a future year or Council could postpone other projects to work that in. Council Member Robinson would like to get some preliminary feedback from contractors just like the Interim City Manager suggested. He said that regarding the initiatives on the Business Development item he said this area could use some enhanced staff resources. Interim City Manager Steffens said that all initiatives have the potential of having staff implications.

The item of the schools was discussed and the Mayor will discuss it off line with the Interim City Manager, but the friendly amendment remained in place. Vice Mayor Cohen offered to do outreach to the School District to encourage that entity to do the right thing and all he asks is for a little coaching from staff. Council Member Boyle mentioned that there already exists a subcommittee to

work on school issues and maybe that body could pursue this matter. Council Member Boyle said that on the issue of the initiatives he wanted to include potentially increasing staff resources in the Finance and Business Development area. Mayor Fergusson spoke about the Utility Users Tax and looking at the balance of certain accounts to analyze its level. Council Member Robinson would like staff to review the comments made by Council tonight in the preparation of the initiatives.

The motion carries 5-0-0.

2. Discussion and possible direction on revisions to the City Council Procedures Manual regarding meeting procedures. (Staff Report #07-063)

Kent Steffens, Interim City Manager, provided the report and highlighted some of the issues such as: meeting schedule, development of agenda, placing items on the agenda, public comment, commission reports, study sessions, discussion rules, and any other issues the Council might have. Mr. Stephens spoke about each of the items.

The Mayor invited public comment. There was no public comment.

Various Council Members discussed their views on the meeting schedule namely starting time and the length of the meetings. Council Member Robinson would like regular time to talk about items on the priority list, and maybe it is a study session format. Some Council Members preferred a two-step process to have items discussed first and then a decision to be made at a subsequent meeting.

Council Member Robinson liked the idea of releasing certain staff reports early. Council discussed releasing the agenda on Wednesday but the consensus was not to change it because it might add confusion for the public. Council discussed the Colleagues Memo as a way to place items on the agenda. City Attorney McClure provided information on the Brown Act. Council also discussed the ending time of Council Meetings and some Council Members thought the ending time should be 11:00 p.m. Council Member Cline would like to have a set schedule for meetings at Belle Haven. He referred to the master schedule for the Council Meetings and how additional meetings just get added and the meetings seem to be continuous. Council Member Cline would like more discipline on the running of the meeting and the amount of discussion.

Vice Mayor Cohen appreciated all the comments and the staff report that was prepared, and he thinks it would be a disaster to move the agenda up one day. He added that many of the suggestions that were proposed cause delay and seem to complicate the public process by allowing more questions and a dialogue and postponing the actual action session to a later meeting. He opined that these approaches will cause delay and the same goes for the commission reports. Vice Mayor Cohen made comments about meeting procedures and he commented on the placement of items on the agenda. He finds the Colleagues Memo not an appropriate process. He commented that two Council Members seem to be in agreement in a number of things and with the best of intentions have moved outside of the Brown Act in one particular area. Mayor Fergusson made her comments and she is pleased with the meeting schedule and having periodic meetings at Belle Haven. She likes the rhythm of the Thursday release. She supports a two-step process and this slowing down occasionally might cause better results.

Based on the discussion Council expressed consensus on the following points regarding procedures: **1) Colleagues Memo requiring two Council Members support to place an item on a future agenda; 2) Periodic meetings at the Menlo Park Senior Center at Belle Haven; 3) Public comment at Council Meetings is running smoothly and the Mayor should continue to exercise discretion; 4) Using a two-step meeting process (discussion followed by decision-making) for certain topics; 5) Using Study Sessions to review items but not to provide direction to staff; 6) Desire to end the meetings by 11:00 p.m. because the quality of decisions decrease after this hour; and 7) Consideration of certain staff reports being released in advance of Thursday to allow for more public input and review.**

Due to the late hour one Council Member suggested continuing this item to the meeting of April 24, 2007 with a 6:00 p.m. start time. Council Member Cline said that it seemed that all meetings are now beginning at 6:00 p.m. Council discussed the 7:00 p.m. start time and how items get continued.

M/S Robinson/Boyle to continue this item to the next meeting and have it as a special meeting at 6:00 p.m. Motion carries 4-0-1 with and Cohen abstaining.

3. Consideration of state and federal legislative items, including decisions to support or oppose any such legislation, and items listed under Written Communication or Information Item. None.

G. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

1. Memorandum from the City Attorney regarding a request to file an Amicus Support Letter in Save Tara v. City of West Hollywood case. (Memorandum)

M/S Boyle/Cline to approve giving the City Attorney authority to write the letter. Motion carries 5-0-0.

2. Communication from Mayor Fergusson and Mayor Pro Tem Cohen regarding consideration of a State of the City Address for the City of Menlo Park and a Commission Recognition event. (Memorandum)

The Mayor said this is a suggestion to hold a State of the City Address and hold a recognition event for the Commissioners. She also thinks this is a good opportunity to recognize former Council Members. She proposed the date of May 23, 2007. Council consensus was to bring this item back on next week's agenda for discussion.

H. INFORMATION ITEM

1. City of Menlo Park's comments on the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report. (Staff Report #07-068)

Council Member Boyle suggested including in the letter that they pay road impact fees due to the construction. Secondly, he would like a comment about coordinating with the Dumbarton Rail Policy Committee, ensuring that this work gets coordinated with that effort.

2. Update on Brownfields Grant for the Terminal Avenue Housing Site Remediation. (Staff Report #07-069) No comment.

I. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Oral report from the Council Subcommittee on El Camino Real and Downtown Visioning Process.

Council Member Cline said that the subcommittee has interviewed six sources and the next step is coming back to Council and discussing a process that works for Menlo Park. He said that there are only one or two consultants who can do this. Council consensus was to continue the item until next week.

J. PUBLIC COMMENT #2 (Limited to 30 minutes)

Jesus Monroy opined that the first City Council was formed to pave streets and then didn't do anything for the next 30 years. Mr. Monroy reported that the State of California is giving out green stickers for hybrid vehicles which allow the cars to go on the commuter lane alone and these have added \$4,000 to the value of the vehicles. Mr. Monroy suggested green parking zones in Menlo Park and instituting a "no car" or "no SUV" day possibly on Sundays.

K. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Silvia M. Vonderlinden, Certified Municipal Clerk
Approved at the City Council Meeting of May 15, 2007.