



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
City Council Chambers**

Vice Mayor Keith called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with Mayor Cline and Council Member Fergusson absent. Council Member Fergusson arrived at 6:15 p.m. and Mayor Cline arrived at 6:20 p.m.

1. Receive public input regarding City Manager recruitment
Bill McClure, City Attorney explained the item is to receive public input in addition to the Survey Monkey survey and emailing comments directly to Avery & Associates.

Mr. Paul Kimura, Avery & Associates explained the over all recruitment process and the value of community input.

Public comments

- Henry Riggs – Suggested qualities that he would like to see included in the search for a City Manager.

Recess at 6:34 p.m.

Reconvene at 7:06 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was lead by Mayor Cline.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The State of the City address will take place on September 22 beginning promptly at 5:15 at the Stanford Park Hotel and is open to the public. The Mayor's address will be held prior to the Annual Golden Acorn Awards.

Item F4 will be taken out of order and prior to Item F3 in order for the City Attorney to be present to address any legal questions related to the League of California City resolutions.

One Council Member Report (Item J) will be taken directly after F4 and prior to F3 in order for the City Attorney to be present.

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Recognition of current and retired Menlo Park firefighters who served at Ground Zero on 9-11

Proclamation presented to Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman, Menlo Park Fire Protection District in recognition of their contributions in the recovery efforts related to the 9-11 terrorist attack at the World Trade Center buildings in New York City.

B. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

The City Clerk is accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Commission, Housing Commission and Transportation Commission. There are two vacancies per commission.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

- Luisa Buada spoke regarding the Ravenswood Family Health Center and provided the City Council with a folder full of information on the Center's programs.

- Roxanne Rorapaugh spoke regarding Consent Calendar Item D1 and requested the City amend their response to the Grand Jury.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

- D1.** Approve response to the San Mateo County Grand Jury report, “County Officials Need to Make Noise about Aircraft Noise”, regarding noise generated by San Francisco International Airport and the impacts on San Mateo county residents ([Staff Report #11-154](#))

Item pulled by Kirsten Keith for changes to the City’s response

ACTION: Motion and second (Keith/Cohen) to approve the response to the San Mateo County Grand Jury report, “County Officials Need to Make Noise about Aircraft Noise”, regarding noise generated by San Francisco International Airport and the impacts on San Mateo county residents changing all responses in the Recommendations section with the exception of number two (2) to read “Agree with the Finding” passes 4-0-1 (Fergusson – Abstain).

- D2.** Approve response to the San Mateo County Grand Jury report, “Running on Empty?” regarding San Mateo County and Cities General Fund reserves ([Staff Report #11-155](#))

Item pulled by Peter Ohtaki for changes to the City’s response

ACTION: Motion and second (Ohtaki/Cohen) to approve the response to the San Mateo County Grand Jury report, “Running on Empty?”, regarding San Mateo County and Cities General Fund reserves and direct staff to take this to the Finance & Audit Committee passes unanimously.

- D3.** Authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Cal-West Lighting & Signal Maintenance to provide maintenance for traffic signals, streetlights, radar speed feedback signs, & in-pavement lighted crosswalks in an amount not to exceed \$105,000 with authorization to exercise an option to renew the contract annually for up to four additional years up to the budgeted amount each year ([Staff Report #11-157](#))

Item pulled – Kelly Fergusson announced a recusal on the item and left the Council Chambers at 7:53 and returned at 7:54 p.m. (Her employer submitted a bid on the project)

ACTION: Motion and second (Cohen/Ohtaki) to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Cal-West Lighting & Signal Maintenance to provide maintenance for traffic signals, streetlights, radar speed feedback signs, & in-pavement lighted crosswalks in an amount not to exceed \$105,000 with authorization to exercise an option to renew the contract annually for up to four additional years and up to the budgeted amount each year passes 4-0-1 (Fergusson - Recusal).

- D4.** Accept Council minutes for the meeting of August 23, 2011 ([Attachment](#))

ACTION: Motion and second (Keith/Ohtaki) to accept the minutes as submitted passes unanimously.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

F. REGULAR BUSINESS

- F1.** Adopt a Resolution of Intention and Introduction of a City Ordinance to approve a contract amendment with the California Public Employees Retirement System, providing for section 20475 (different level of benefits), section 21363.1 (3% at 55 full formula) and section 20037 (three-year final compensation), applicable to local safety members entering membership for the first time in the safety classification after the effective date of this amendment to contract

([Staff Report #11-156](#))

Staff presentation by Starla Jerome-Robinson, Assistant City Manager

ACTION: Motion and second (Fergusson/Keith) to adopt **Resolution No. 6026** and introduce a City Ordinance to approve a contract amendment with the California Public Employees Retirement System, providing for section 20475 (different level of benefits), section 21363.1 (3% at 55 full formula) and

section 20037 (three-year final compensation), applicable to local safety members entering membership for the first time in the safety classification after the effective date of this amendment to contract passes unanimously.

F2. Introduce an Ordinance to elect and implement participation by the City and the Community Development Agency in the Alternative Voluntary Redevelopment Program
([Staff Report #11-158](#)) ([PowerPoint](#))

Staff presentation by Carol Augustine, Finance Director

ACTION: Motion and second (Keith/Ohtaki) to introduce an Ordinance to elect and implement participation by the City and the Community Development Agency in the Alternative Voluntary Redevelopment Program passes unanimously.

F4. Discuss and provide direction on the League of California Cities Annual Conference Resolutions
([Attachment](#)) ([PowerPoint](#))

By consensus the delegate should vote yes on all of the resolutions at the Annual Conference.

J. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

K. Fergusson – asked the Council to agendize a discussion on the Congressional redistricting. By consensus this will be placed on the September 20 agenda for closed session regarding potential litigation.

NOTE: The City Attorney announced his recusal on the Draft El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan and left the Council Chambers at 8:29 p.m.

F3. Review of Planning Commission recommendations on the Draft El Camino Real/ Downtown Specific Plan ([Staff Report #11-159](#))

Staff presentation by Linda Heineck, Community Development Director

Public comments

- Mark Flegel, Downtown Alliance, spoke regarding the hopes and concerns for the future of the downtown. ([PowerPoint](#))
- Jim Brenzel spoke regarding the trees down the center of Santa Cruz Avenue and the process taken when initially installed.
- Bill Frimel spoke in support of a parking garage in Plaza 3 to alleviate issues with traffic and parking.
- Pat White spoke against the Plan.
- Sramana Mitra spoke about what downtown could be and made suggestions to be considered. ([PowerPoint](#))
- Lawrence Zaro spoke about the parking plazas being paid for through assessments.
- Leslie Aldrich spoke regarding the lack of parking in the parking plazas and the need for street parking in neighborhoods adjacent to the downtown.
- Halle Hewitt spoke about a cultural center and teen center on El Camino Real, but feels the timing is not right to be spending money.
- Hugh Macdonald suggested keeping the current downtown flavor.
- Sam Sinnott spoke against the public benefit committee and the composition of said committee.
- Patti Fry requested that the Council slow the process and allow additional time for community input.
- Joan Skurnick commented on the viability of the Plan if the hotels are not successful.
- Gail Sredauxil spoke against the parking structure and supports comments made by Patti Fry and the downtown merchants.
- Cheryl Zaslawsky stated it is important to step back and take a look at the state of the economy before moving forward.
- Mary Gilles spoke about embracing change and the need for improvements. She spoke in favor of the Planning Commission recommendations.

- Richard Li suggested that the Council listen to everybody and not just the naysayers and encourage private property owners to invest in their properties.
- Roxanne Rorapaugh criticized the process and the plan.
- Richard Draeger spoke against mixed-use buildings in the parking plazas and suggested a parking structure in Plaza 2 or at the transportation corridor at Caltrain.
- Suzi Tinsley expressed concerned about the scope of the project and the impacts it would bring.
- Jitze Couperus spoke regarding truck access for supply trucks and suggested Plaza 2 be used for a parking structure. He also made the suggestion of a parking structure at the Caltrain station. ([PowerPoint](#)) ([Handout](#))
- Jeff Warmoth spoke in support of the process and in the Plan being approved. He asked that the density of the FAR in the Caltrain station area apply to the area along El Camino. He also asked the Council to address the height restrictions.
- Adina Levin spoke regarding the need for balance between development centered around vehicles versus not needing a vehicle.
- Chuck Bernstein spoke about his concerns with the Fiscal Impact Analysis.

Recess at 10:13 p.m.

Reconvene at 10:22 p.m.

Recommendations by Consensus of the Council are as follows:

Downtown Area

1. Chestnut Street Paseo/Market Place (Modified Planning Commission recommendation 5.a.i. through 5.a.iii.)
 - a. With outreach to and participation by the Downtown merchants and property owners to ensure success, pursue implementation of the Chestnut Paseo and Market Place in a phased approach. The first phase would include a temporary closure of Chestnut Street as delineated in the Specific Plan, with functional access for the operation of the Farmer's Market, seven days per week to be used as a public space with seating, food vendors (food trucks), landscaping, and possibly decorative paving. The temporary phase would be maintained for several months and would be used as the basis for a review and consideration of the permanent installation of the Paseo and Market Place.
 - b. With both the temporary and permanent installations, consideration should be given to Menlo Park merchants for access to the public space and should build upon successful existing businesses, including the Farmer's Market.
 - c. The recommendation is based on the recognition that the Chestnut Paseo and Market Place are closely linked in functionality and that the success of the space will be dependent on uses that would attract people.
2. Sidewalk Widening (Modified Planning Commission recommendation 5.b.i.)
 - a. Retain the sidewalk widening elements and guidelines of the Specific Plan with implementation starting on a temporary basis for smaller block or half-block areas where there is a logical relationship to an adjacent use or purpose in order to assess the viability of the widening and whether to expand and make permanent the widened sidewalks over time.
3. Utilize trial/temporary installations for the pocket parks to determine the impacts on circulation.
4. Parking Structures (Modified Planning Commission recommendation 5.c.i. through 5.c.vi.)
 - a. Include Parking Plaza 2 in addition to Parking Plazas 1 and 3 as a possible site for a parking structure. (Factors considered by the Council in discussing preferred locations included the proximity of Parking Plaza 1 to transit, the Downtown merchants' and property owners' support of Parking Plaza 2, and the interest of the Presbyterian Church to work with the City on Parking Plaza 3.)
 - b. Encourage utilization of portions of parking structures by parking permit users and preserve street level parking for customers.

- c. Provide opportunities for businesses to contribute to the financing of parking structures to the benefit of the business through reduced parking permit costs or other incentives.
 - d. Require high aesthetic standards for the parking structures, including landscaping within required setbacks or as a vertical element of the structure.
 - e. Encourage the preservation of as much surface parking for customers as possible within the structures.
 - f. Encourage the design of parking structures that are consistent with the scale of adjacent planned and existing buildings.
 - g. Downtown property owners must be presented with a viable financial model for funding the construction of the garages, so as not to create a burdensome cost drain on either businesses or the city (i.e., preferring in-lieu parking fees, public/private partnership, permit revenues, consent-based assessment or other funding mechanism).
5. Not including the Market Place, eliminate small mixed use buildings on the parking plazas and discourage infill of the current parking plazas for purposes other than parking, pedestrian and bicycle circulation, and other limited public spaces.
6. Eliminate the residential option associated with the parking structure on Parking Plaza 3.

F5. Consider 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. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – None

H. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION – None

I. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – None

J. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

K. PUBLIC COMMENT #2 – None

L. ADJOURNMENT – 1:09 a.m. September 14, 2011

/S/

Margaret S. Roberts, MMC
City Clerk

Minutes accepted at the Council meeting of October 4, 2011