



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 30, 2012, at 5:30 p.m.
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
City Council Chambers

Mayor Keith called the Special Session to order at 5:36 p.m. with all members present.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Keith.

A. SPECIAL SESSION

A1. Provide general direction on preferred approaches for addressing the loss of RDA funding for the next fiscal year in preparation for the 2012-13 operations and capital budgets ([Staff Report #12-016](#)) ([PowerPoint](#))

Staff presentation by Carol Augustine, Finance Director

Public Comments

- Tom Huggett, Sol-Training, requested the Council continue with the two projects that are started in the Belle Haven neighborhood.
- Matt Henry spoke regarding a community meeting held in the Belle Haven neighborhood. This is a city-wide problem and the potential cuts should not be concentrated in Belle Haven.
- Elias Blawie spoke against staff recommendations except for increasing the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) and to include staff reductions in mid and upper management.
- Nancy Cash, Mt. Olive Church of God, spoke against the elimination of programs in the Belle Haven neighborhood.
- Edmund Harris stated that there should be some analysis done prior to cutting any services, a needs assessment and best practices should be completed.
- Linda Bruce spoke against closing the Onetta Harris Community Center.
- Bishop T.L. Bostic spoke against cuts to programs in the east side of Menlo Park as they would have a negative impact on the Belle Haven neighborhood and any cuts should be across the entire city.
- Greg Goodwin spoke against any cuts in the east part of the community.
- Barrett Moore spoke about the great condition of amenities and the west side of town has enough; it is time to give to the east side of town.
- Omar Chatty suggested elimination of the Dumbarton Rail Project.

ACTION: The Council took no formal action on the item but provided individual input regarding the items included in Attachment C of the staff report.

A2. Approve a transition plan and tentative budget for elimination of the Housing Division ([Staff Report #12-017](#)) (PowerPoint)

Staff presentation by Cherise Brandell, Community Services Director

Public Comments

- Yvonne Murray spoke regarding the work of the Housing Division and requested the City keep at least one housing staff member. She stated the Housing Commission could be utilized in a different manner to assist the City Council.
- Maggie Creighton requested no decrease to police services in the Belle Haven neighborhood.

ACTION: Motion and second (Fergusson/Ohtaki) to approve the transition plan and tentative budget for elimination of the Housing Division, retooling of the current Housing Manager and the Housing Commission remain in existence with a potentially redefined charge passes 4-1 (Cohen dissenting).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

/s/

Margaret S. Roberts, MMC
City Clerk

Minutes accepted at the Council meeting of February 14, 2012