

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, February 23, 2008

Meeting Location
Arlington Clubhouse
1120 Arlington Boulevard, El Cerrito, CA

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Abelson, Bridges, Moore, Potter, and Mayor Jones
All members present.

Staff present: Scott Hanin, City Manager; Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager, Alexander Abbe, City Attorney, Jerry Bradshaw, Public Works Director, Lance Maples, Fire Chief, Monica Kortz, Recreation Director, Mitch Oshinsky, Community Development Director, Gary Priebe, Police Commander, Michael Regan, Police Commander, Chris Jones, Recreation Supervisor II, Bruce King, Maintenance Manager, Mary Dodge, Finance Director, Heather Abrams, Environmental Services Manager, Melanie Mintz, CIP Manager, Yvette Ortiz, Engineering Manager; Suzanne Iarla, Public Information Specialist and Cheryl Morse, City Clerk.

Facilitator: Royleen White, Principal, Royleen White Associates.

9:00 a.m.

CONVENE SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor Jones convened the Special City Council Meeting at 9:07 p.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** was led by Councilmember Potter
2. **Council/Staff Communications/Announcements**

Mayor Jones stated that three presentations had been made at prior City Council meetings which informed the current Goal Setting Worksession: Sales Tax Revenue, Year End Review and Mid Year Budget Review.

3. **Oral Communication from the Public**

Peter Loubal, El Cerrito, expressed concerns regarding consideration of fiscal impacts in the context of the changing status of the economy.

Hal Schultz, El Cerrito, expressed support for increasing bike locker usage at the BART station and improving access from the Ohlone Greenway to BART.

4. **Special City Council Goal Setting Worksession**

City Council discussion of priorities, goals and budget.

Action: The City Council discussed priorities and budget and outlined the following goals:

FISCAL DISCUSSION

- State fiscal challenges and current economy are a concern
- Maintain City workforce, programs, services and operations is a top priority
- Finance and the City Manager will provide summary data for Council quarterly, to include key indicators such as year to year comparisons of sales tax, foreclosures, and home sales.
- Staff will provide updates regarding redevelopment changes
- “Invest in El Cerrito” is a key value, the under-pinning for all else

FINISH AND/OR CONTINUE PROJECTS ALREADY UNDERWAY

- City Hall Grand Opening this year!
- Measure A Implementation
- San Pablo Avenue Improvements and Specific Plan
- Recycle Center
- Ohlone Greenway

LIBRARY AND SENIOR CENTER

- Council has directed staff to acquire the Fairmont site
- Uncertainty continues with the School District
- Staff could bring back to Council the possibilities for an Redevelopment Agency Amendment to include the Portola site
- Staff will provide scenarios regarding various options, to include Public Safety Building and Station 71 and the Community Center. The Community Center remodel is needed sooner rather than later

ALSO IMPORTANT—PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING AND COMMUNITY CENTER

- Community Center could include Senior Center functions
- All require flexibility
- Several potential projects may be inter-dependent
- Would like to be ready if opportunities become available

TRAIN COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR DISASTERS & EMERGENCIES

- Staff will provide training this year to both Council and staff
- Include protocol for working with press, even if not a full-scale disaster

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND CALMING

- Coordinated strategies to react to community concerns are being provided by the Public Works and Police Departments who meet regularly to plan
- Perhaps more outreach might help to make community more aware
- Staff will provide a report to Council in March

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

- Council affirmed that this is still a priority to include things like: Urban Forest Plan, Tree Committee, and other: "Green" initiatives

SENIOR HOUSING

- Council agreed that current staff direction is appropriate

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

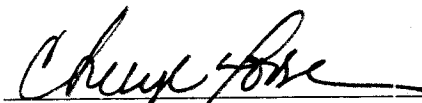
- Council agreed that it is important; due to other priorities this will be tackled later; Housing Element due mid-2009


SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Road Map for the Day – February 23, 2008 – El Cerrito Goal Setting. Provided by Royleen White.
2. El Cerrito Goal Setting Workshop: Items from Councilmember Interviews. Provided by Royleen White.

ADJOURNED SPECIAL MEETING at 11:57 a.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special City Council Goal Setting Worksession of February 23, 2008 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.


Cheryl Morse, City Clerk


William C. Jones, III, Mayor