

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL
EL CERRITO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

SPECIAL REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

Monday, December 15, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

Hillside Conference Room

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 15, 2008 – 7:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers

Meeting Location

El Cerrito City Hall

10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

Sandi Potter – Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Janet Abelson
Councilmember Greg Lyman

Councilmember/Agency Chair William C. Jones, III
Councilmember/Agency Vice-Chair Ann Cheng

7:00 p.m. ROLL CALL

Agency Members Abelson, Cheng, Lyman, Potter and Chairperson Jones all present.

CONVENE SPECIAL REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

Chairperson Jones convened the Special Redevelopment Agency meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY CLOSED SESSION

Conference with Real Property Negotiators

Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8

Property: 11600 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Agency Negotiators: Scott Hanin, Executive Director
Mitch Oshinsky, Community Development Director
Lori Treviño, Redevelopment Agency Manager
Karen Tiedeman, Special Agency Counsel

Negotiating Party: George Valente

Under Negotiation: Price and terms

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – No speakers.

RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION at 7:03 p.m.

ADJOURNED REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY CLOSED SESSION at 7:30 p.m.**ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Abelson, Cheng, Jones, Lyman and Mayor Potter all present.

7:30 p.m.

CONVENE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Potter convened the regular City Council Meeting at 7:37 p.m.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** was led by Councilmember Greg Lyman.
2. **COUNCIL / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Jerry Bradshaw, Public Works Director, announced that tree planting at Canyon Trail Park was delayed due to concerns with the drought but is scheduled to begin this fall using recycled water which will be trucked in from the sewer plant in Richmond. Ninety trees will be planted this year and another ninety trees will be planted next year.

Redevelopment Agency Chair Jones reported that the Redevelopment Agency had met in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 and had directed staff to proceed in a particular direction and that the Agency will be reporting out further at a future date.

Mayor Pro Tem Abelson reported on an article that was recently published in the West County Times, *El Cerrito Residents Have a Ticket to Ride*. The article identified El Cerrito as being 54th in the nation and 1st in the East Bay in the percentage of residents who use public transit to commute to work. The ranking is attributable to transit convenience and availability. Transit policy is in the General Plan. The article stated that 20.5% of El Cerrito residents use public transit to get to work.

Councilmember Lyman informed residents of a West Contra Costa Unified School District meeting scheduled on December 18 at 6:30 at Lavonya DeJean Middle School. Two proposals for possible closures will be distributed at the meeting.

Mayor Potter reported that the School Board held a meeting on December 10 to discuss two important issues: 1) Portola/Castro School Rebuilding; and 2) District-wide school consolidation and school closure process. On December 18 the School Board will present two scenarios. Additionally, at the December 10 meeting, a decision was made to create a District Wide School Consolidation and Closure Committee. This will be a large committee and Mayor Potter has been asked to appoint two people to sit on the Committee. Mayor Potter encouraged everyone in the community who is interested in representing El Cerrito on the Committee to submit a letter of interest to the City Clerk by Monday, December 22. The Committee will meet on January 8, 2009. There are six scheduled meetings at different locations for each of the high school districts. The meeting that will be held for the El Cerrito High School District is scheduled on January 20 in the Portola Gym. The individual appointed to this Committee will only need to attend the January 20 meeting but they may attend more meetings [if desired as a member of the public]. Meeting dates are January 8, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 20.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Speakers: Al Miller, El Cerrito, reported on the set up of the Sundar Shadi Holiday Display and acknowledged the hard work of the many dedicated volunteers including Rich and Jane Bartke, Mae Ritz, Gordon White, City Firefighters, and Police representatives. Mr. Miller encouraged all to come out and see the display which will be lit up from 5 p.m to 10 p.m. until December 26, 2008.

Peter Loubal, El Cerrito, commented on the role of land banking in redevelopment properties, the state's use of redevelopment funds and the use of public funds for other uses such as schools, the senior center and the library.

Ken Berndt, El Cerrito, expressed his delight with the New City Hall, commented on the City Manager's budget presentation, expressed concerns with the economy and real estate sales, the San Pablo Plan and noted that several businesses on San Pablo Avenue were going out of business. Mr. Berndt stated that the city's priority should be to retain and attract business.

Rich Bartke, El Cerrito Historic Society, stated that he was available to answer any questions related to Item No. 5C on the agenda and thanked staff for meeting with the Historic Society Board and for being so helpful and accommodating in deciding what should be done with the Shadi Memorial Historical Room. Mr. Bartke congratulated Councilmembers Cheng, Jones and Lyman.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A) Economic Development Website – *Presentation by Dwayne Dalman, Economic Development Project Manager.*

Presenter: Dwayne Dalman, Economic Development Project Manager.

Speaker: Peter Loubal, El Cerrito, expressed a desire for integration of GIS data with the Economic Development website and asked how many businesses have come to El Cerrito and how many have left.

Ken Berndt, El Cerrito, noted that the website was nice and suggested that the city speak with business CEO's as to why they should stay in El Cerrito.

Action: Presentation heard.

B) Police Department Traffic Safety Unit Summary – *Presentation by Sergeant Stephen Bonini.*

Presenters: Scott Kirkland, Police Chief and Stephen Bonini, Police Sergeant. Chief Kirkland noted that Commander Michael Regan and Sergeant Shawn Maples were also part of the traffic safety team.

Action: Presentation heard.

5. **ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR – Items 5A through 5E**

Moved, seconded (Abelson/Cheng) and carried unanimously to adopt Consent Calendar Items 5A through 5E as indicated below.

A. Minutes for Approval

Approve the December 2, 2008 Special Concurrent City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting minutes.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. Deferred Compensation Loan Program

Adopt a resolution amending the City's deferred compensation plan originally established by Resolution 81-93, and subsequently restated in Resolution 83-58 to allow employees to take out loans against their own deposited funds.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2008-84 as revised to further clarify the enacting clause of the resolution.

C. Purchase of Furniture for the Historical Room located at City Hall

Adopt a Resolution appropriating \$20,000 of the General Fund in order to furnish the Historical Room at City Hall for the purpose of recognizing and displaying El Cerrito History.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2008-85.

D. Workers.com Contract Extension

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract amendment in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 with Workers.com to assist in recyclable materials collections.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2008-86.

E. California Department of Conservation Certification for Recycling

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager and the Environmental Services Division to file annual Certification Applications with the California Department of Conservation's Division of Recycling (DOR) for El Cerrito's commercial recycling collection program and the Recycling Center community drop-off program.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2008-87.

6. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A. Proposed Integrated Waste Management Fee Increase – Effective January 1, 2009

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt a Resolution adjusting the Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Fee, effective January 1, 2009.

Presenters: Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager and Garth Schultz, Environmental Analyst.

Mayor Potter opened the public hearing. No speakers.

Moved, seconded (Abelson/Jones) and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

Action: Moved, seconded (Jones/Abelson) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2008-88 adjusting the Integrated Waste Management Fee, effective January 1, 2009.

B. East Bay Sanitary Services Solid Waste Collection and Container Rental Rate Adjustment for 2009

Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion adopt a Resolution accepting maximum allowable garbage and green waste collection and container rental rates for the year 2009, per the index-based methodology previously agreed upon by East Bay Sanitary Company (EBS) and City Council.

Presenters: Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager and Garth Schultz, Environmental Analyst.

Mayor Potter opened the public hearing. No speakers.

Moved, seconded (Jones/Abelson) and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

Action: Moved, seconded (Abelson/Cheng) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2008-89.

7. POLICY MATTERS

A. East Bay Regional Park District Measure WW Bond Extension Grant Funds

Adopt a resolution that does the following:

1. Authorizes the City Manager to execute a grant contract, in substantially the form attached, for \$1,065,840 of grant funds from the Local Grant Program under the East Bay Regional Park District Measure WW Park Bond Extension;
2. Certifies that the City of El Cerrito has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project(s);
3. Certifies that the City of El Cerrito has reviewed, understands and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the Contract shown in the Procedural Guide; and
4. Appoints the Public Works Director as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but no limited to, applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the Project(s).

Presenter: Jerry Bradshaw, Director of Public Works.

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Jones) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2008-90.

B. Residential Recycling Cart Purchase

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Toter Incorporated (Toter) for the purchase of 10,000 64 gallon recycling carts via a lease-purchase agreement with First Municipal Leasing Corporation (FMLC). The purchase cost of the carts shall not exceed \$540,000 and interest shall not exceed \$100,000.

Speakers: Ken Berndt, El Cerrito, expressed concerns with the interest rate of the loan.

Action: Moved, seconded (Abelson/Lyman) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2008-91.

C. City Council Liaison Reorganization and Assignments

Discuss City Council appointments to local boards, commission and committees and regional bodies and approve appointments for 2009.

Action: Mayor Potter announced Council liaison assignments to local boards, commissions and committees and regional bodies for 2009.

8. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Mayor Potter reported that the Arts and Culture Commission met last week to further discuss the criteria and topics of the City Hall gallery space and the process for recruiting artists and rotating the gallery display. Mayor Potter also announced that there are several vacancies on the Human Relations Commission and encouraged interested residents to submit an application for consideration. Information relating to city commissions and applications are available on the website.
- B. Mayor Pro Tem Abelson reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission is pleased about staff's creative solution to planting and watering trees at Canyon Trails Park with recycled water during this drought. The Environmental Quality Committee established priorities for the year including: 1) The creation of a recognition program for outstanding businesses and residents in the area of environmental quality; 2) Increasing incentives for solar installations for homes and businesses; and 3) Creating incentives for businesses to offer recyclable take out containers. Mayor Pro Tem Abelson also reported, as Vice-Chair of the League's Community Policy Committee, that she was invited to attend a "League Leaders" meeting at the state level to determine strategic goals for the year. The goals selected for the year 2009 are: 1) Protect funding for vital community services; 2) Promote economic stimulus for infrastructure investment; 3) Support sustainable communities; and 4) Promote reform of state government budget and fiscal systems. Mayor Pro Tem Abelson also attended WCCTAC and stated that unlike prior years where reserves were considered along with studies and reports throughout the year, most of the reserves had already been allocated for specific purposes, which results in little flexibility. Mayor Pro Tem Abelson voted against the budget proposal because she did not think it was fiscally prudent.
- C. Councilmember Cheng – No report.
- D. Councilmember Jones reported that the Tom Bates Sports field JPA Executive Board is attempting to make plans and raise funds to finish the project. The softball and baseball fields still need to be developed and completed. The Board is petitioning the East Bay Regional Park District for the possibility of future funding. El Cerrito is also represented by Councilmember Lyman in youth sports. Councilmember Jones concluded by thanking staff for providing support to the West County Mayors and Supervisors Association Conference for the past six months and thanked Mayor Potter who chaired one of the sessions.
- E. Councilmember Lyman – No report.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Item No. 5B Deferred Compensation Loan Program


1. Revised Resolution – *Submitted by Employee Services.*

Other


2. 2009 League Strategic Goals – *Submitted by Mayor Pro Tem Abelson.*

9. ADJOURNED REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 10:17 p.m.

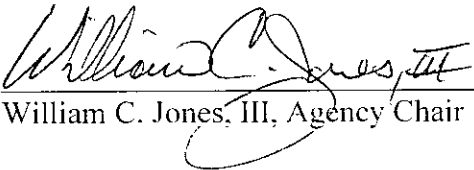
This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Redevelopment Agency and Regular City Council meeting of December 15, 2008 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.



Cheryl Morse, City Clerk and Secretary to the Redevelopment Agency



Sandi Potter, Mayor



William C. Jones, III, Agency Chair