

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL
EL CERRITO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, December 7, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.
Hillside Conference Room

SPECIAL CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING
Monday, December 7, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Meeting Location
El Cerrito City Hall – City Council Chambers
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

ROLL CALL

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

6:30 p.m. SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Potter convened the Special City Council Meeting at 6:45 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

COMMISSION INTERVIEWS, STATUS AND APPOINTMENTS

Conduct interviews of candidates for city boards and commissions. Interviews may result in an announcement of appointment at the meeting. The Council may also discuss scheduling of future interviews.

Action: Conducted interviews.

ADJOURNED SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 7:28 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers/Agency Members Abelson, Cheng, Jones (Agency Chair) and Mayor Potter present.

7:30 p.m.

CONVENE SPECIAL CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

Mayor Potter convened the Concurrent City Council/Redevelopment Agency meeting at 7:36 p.m.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** was led by Councilmember Cheng.
2. **STAFF COMMUNICATIONS/COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS**

Announcement of the El Cerrito Police Departments Receipt two California Law Enforcement Challenge (CLEC) Awards: 1) First Place CLEC Award for The Allied Agency Competition for Agencies with 26-50 Sworn personnel; and 2) 2008 CLEC Special Award Winner for Commercial Vehicle Safety.

Action: Sergeant Stephen Bonini announced the Police Department's receipt of two California Law Enforcement Challenge (CLEC) Awards: 1) First Place CLEC Award for The Allied Agency Competition for Agencies with 26-50 Sworn personnel; and 2) 2008 CLEC Special Award Winner for Commercial Vehicle Safety.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember Lyman announced that the Police Department will be hosting a Crab Feed on January 29 at the Community Center at 7:00 p.m. to raise funds for its canine program. Tickets can be obtained by leaving a message at 215-4414 extension 4. Councilmember Lyman also reported on his attendance at the Fire Department's Pasta Feed in conjunction with the Annual Toy Drive for youth and on his attendance at the December 5 City Hall Art Gallery reception, featuring the works of artist Tomé whose gallery exhibition is entitled, "Music for Your Eyes." Additionally, the Crime Prevention Committee will present the Council with an award the City received at a future meeting and is working on new brochures for the neighborhood watch and home inspection programs.

Mayor Pro Tem Abelson invited all to attend the annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for the David Hunter Memorial Fund on December 12 from 9-11 a.m. at the Community Center.

The breakfast honors the memory of a former city swim instructor who was killed in an auto accident and collects funds for recreation program scholarships. Tickets are available through the Community Center. At 11:00 a.m. the Environmental Quality Committee and the League of Women Voters are co-sponsoring the movie, "Who killed the Electric Car" at the Cerrito Theater. On January 2 and 3, 2010 from 9-3, there will be a free electronic waste collection event at the Department of Motor Vehicles, located at 6400 Manila Avenue. Mayor Pro Tem Abelson also reported, in accordance with AB1234, that she attended a leadership training and goal setting on November 18-20 in Anaheim, in conjunction with her role as incoming Chair of the Policy Committee of the League of California Cities.

Councilmember Jones reported that the Contra Costa College is now conducting classes at El Cerrito High School. Councilmember Jones also expressed his appreciation for Pinole-TV for capturing the council meetings and other services provided this year. On a sad note,

Councilmember Jones reported that El Cerrito resident Fred Kudera passed away recently. Mr. Kudera was a special person within the soccer community in El Cerrito and throughout the greater Bay Area.

Councilmember Cheng stated that there will be a community meeting on safety improvements underway along the Ohlone Greenway at the Community Center on December 14 at 6:30. The goal is to encourage more people to use the Greenway and learn about forthcoming safety features. Councilmember Cheng also reported that the Economic Development Board is partnering with the Contra Costa Small Business Development Center to provide an opportunity for New Venture Business Planning Training. The class is twelve weeks with two classes per week. More information can be obtained by calling 215-4362. The Economic Development Board also discussed its selection of El Cerrito businesses of the year.

Mayor Potter reported that Councilmembers Lyman and Abelson and staff had attended the Contra Costa Mayors Conference with her at Lafayette's beautiful new library. Dave Hudson of the City of San Ramon was appointed to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Mayor Potter said she was deeply grateful to Councilmember Lyman for playing in the 2009 Charity Basketball Game that was held for the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program and acknowledged the presence of Contra Costa County Supervisor Gioia who also played in the basketball game and who is in attendance this evening.

3. **PRESENTATIONS** – None

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Al Miller, El Cerrito, encouraged the Council to approve Consent Calendar Item No. 5D, the recommendation to convene a special joint meeting with the West Contra Costa Unified School District on December 14.

Alan Stanek, El Cerrito, stressed his opposition to a T-Mobile Cell Phone Tower proposed at Camp Herms.

Philip Zimmerman, Kensington, outlined his opposition to the location of the cell tower proposed by T-Mobile at Camp Herms. Mr. Zimmerman stated that the proposed cell phone tower is the height of an eight story building.

Laureen Bethards, El Cerrito, stated that she owns four homes in El Cerrito, expressed her opposition to the cell tower proposed by T-Mobile.

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

Moved, seconded (Abelson/Lyman) and carried to adopt Consent Calendar Item Nos. 5A through 5D as indicated below.

A. Minutes for Approval

Approve the November 16, 2009 City Council Meeting minutes.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. Second Amendment to the Stormwater Utility Area Agreement

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Contra Costa Flood Control and Water Conservation District to execute a revised Commercial and Industrial Inspection Agreement with the East Bay Municipal Utilities District and authorizing the City Manager to execute a second amendment to the Stormwater Utility Area Agreement between the City and the District.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2009-78.

C. State Transportation Improvement Program – Transportation Enhancement Funds for Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements to Moeser Lane and Ashbury Ave.

Adopt a resolution applying for \$900,000 in State Transportation Improvement Program – Transportation Enhancement (STIP-TE) grant funds for the “Improvements to Moeser and Ashbury Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors” Project including various assurances of the City’s compliance with state and federal laws.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2009–79.

D. Schedule Joint Meeting with the Board of Education, West Contra Costa Unified School District

At the request of Mayor Potter, approve a recommendation to convene a joint meeting with the West Contra Costa Unified School District on Monday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the El Cerrito City Council Chambers to provide an update and discuss the historical and current conditions at Portola Middle School, receive an update on current safety issues at the Portola and El Cerrito High School campuses and receive input from City Council Members, School Board Members and members of the public.

Action: Approved Recommendation.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

7. POLICY MATTERS

City Council and Redevelopment Agency Reorganization

Election of City Council and Redevelopment Agency Officers.

CITY COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

Mayor Potter stated that it was an honor and privilege to serve the City as Mayor, noting that El Cerrito fared much better than other cities in the region during this difficult economic climate. Mayor Potter thanked staff, residents, commissioners and her fellow elected officials, particularly residents for their generosity, volunteerism and remarkable support for local government and commitment to making El Cerrito a safer and more sustainable city. Mayor Potter reported that the business of the city was conducted with professionalism and courtesy, highlighted the accomplishments of Council and Staff during the past year and thanked her family, friends and father, George Potter, who passed away on December 4.

Mayor Pro Tem Abelson said that Mayor Potter was an outstanding Mayor and expressed her appreciation for her leadership and acknowledged Mayor Potter’s care and respect for all people involved in the democratic process. Mayor Pro Tem Abelson also noted that Mayor Potter held steadfast on championing the unreinforced masonry ordinance, which was not popular but was the right thing to do for the health and safety of the community.

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk, declared the Offices of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore vacant.

Councilmember Potter nominated and Councilmember Jones seconded a motion to select Mayor Pro Tempore Abelson to the Office of Mayor.

Action: The City Council unanimously selected Mayor Pro Tempore Abelson as Mayor.

Mayor Abelson called for nominations for office of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Lyman nominated Councilmember Cheng for the Office of Mayor Pro Tempore.

Mayor Abelson called for further nominations to which there were none.

Moved, seconded (Potter/Lyman) and carried unanimously to close nominations.

The City Council voted unanimously to select Councilmember Cheng as Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Abelson stated that the upcoming year will be challenging, as the city will need to provide services with less funding from the state. Mayor Abelson said she has a great deal of confidence in the leadership and staff to get a good job done. Mayor Abelson said she will spend the year focusing on sustainability and doing the right thing to succeed and noted that by working together, we can all make it happen in this difficult year. Mayor Abelson concluded by saying that she looks forward to making this a sustainable year in the City of El Cerrito, and stated that she looks forward to bringing sustainability and healthy living resolutions to the Council in the New Year.

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY REORGANIZATION

Mayor Abelson called for reorganization of the Redevelopment Agency.

City Clerk Morse declared the Office of Redevelopment Agency Chair and Vice-Chair vacant and called for nominations for the office of Chair.

Mayor Abelson nominated Agency Member Potter for the Office of Chair.

City Clerk Morse called for any additional nominations and there were none.

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Jones) and carried unanimously to close nominations.

The Agency voted unanimously in favor of selecting Redevelopment Agency Member Potter as Chair.

Agency Chair Potter called for nominations for the Office of Redevelopment Agency Vice-Chair.

Agency Member Jones nominated Agency Member Lyman for office of Vice-Chair.

Action: Moved, seconded (Cheng/Jones) and carried unanimously to close nominations.

The Redevelopment Agency voted unanimously in favor of selecting Agency Member Lyman as Redevelopment Agency Vice-Chair.

COUNCIL / AGENCY MEMBER REMARKS

Council/Agency Member Cheng thanked the City Council for making this a wonderful learning year for her and thanked staff for their support and the community for its commitment and for being so involved. Councilmember Cheng also thanked her husband.

Council/Agency Member Jones thanked the community for electing him to serve a second term and stated that it was a pleasure to serve the community and make decisions for the betterment of all. Councilmember Jones acknowledged the strong community and volunteers in El Cerrito and said that the community is in a good position to get through the years ahead.

Council/Agency Member Lyman thanked the residents, friends, family and Council for supporting the city in this tough economic time.

Speakers – Ron Eggherman, Environmental Quality Committee Chair, congratulated former Mayor Potter and the Council on their work over the past year, congratulated Mayor Abelson and read a statement from Linda Schneider who expressed her support for Mayor Abelson.

John Gioia, Contra Costa County Supervisor, referred to the tradition of civic involvement in El Cerrito and the role of the City Council in fostering this involvement. Supervisor Gioia congratulated Mayor Abelson and Former Mayor Potter on their leadership and expressed his appreciation for how well he and the City Council work together.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

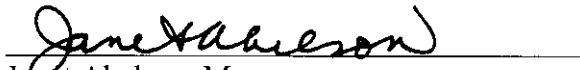
Proposed Cell-Tower at Camp Herms – Submitted by Philip Zimmerman.

8. **ADJOURNED CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING** at 8:40 p.m. in memory of George Potter, father of Former Mayor Sandi Potter, who passed away on December 4, 2009. Mr. Potter was a WW II veteran and long-time community college educator who had a long and amazing life and will be dearly missed.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special City Council and Concurrent City Council and Redevelopment Agency meeting of December 7, 2009 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council and Redevelopment Agency.



Cheryl Morse, City Clerk and Secretary to the Redevelopment Agency



Janet Abelson, Mayor



Sandi M. Potter, Agency Chair