

MAYOR JEFF IRA
VICE MAYOR BARBARA PIERCE

MINUTES

1017 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD
REDWOOD CITY, CA

COUNCIL MEMBER IAN BAIN
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSANNE FOUST
COUNCIL MEMBER JIM HARTNETT
COUNCIL MEMBER DIANE HOWARD
COUNCIL MEMBER IRA RUSKIN

CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
TELECONFERENCE
AUGUST 5, 2004
5:30 P.M.

THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED AS A TELECONFERENCE MEETING. LOCALES:
CITY HALL, HYATT REGENCY POIPU, 1571 POIPU ROAD, KOLOA, HAWAII, 96756
AND 455 SOUTH 200 EAST STREET, VICTOR, IDAHO, 83452

The Mayor called for a Special Meeting of the City Council in accordance with Government Code Section 54956.

1. CALL TO ORDER – 5:37 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Bain (5:48 p.m.), Foust (teleconference), Hartnett, Howard, Ruskin, Vice Mayor Pierce (teleconference), and Mayor Ira

Staff Present: City Manager Everett, City Clerk Howe, Deputy City Clerk Conly, City Attorney Yamamoto, Assistant City Attorney Brower

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Council Member Hartnett

4. INVOCATION - None

5. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY - None

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Pat Dixon stated that several years ago, downtown Redwood City was very lively, but unfortunately some of the former Council Members decided in the late 40's that it would be nice to have banks in the area since it is the County seat. She further referred to a row of palm trees at the Oracle location that did not do well and she stated that the palm trees will not do well in the courthouse location.

7. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Consideration and action regarding petition for referendum of Ordinance No. 1130-332, (Marina Shores) rezoning property located at Peninsula Marina, Pete's Harbor, Uccelli Road and Bair Island Road (307)

City Clerk Howe gave the background on the referendum petition filed in the City Clerk's office on July 27, 2004. The results of the signature verification by the San Mateo County Elections Office were received on Monday, August 2 and the petition was certified on August 3, 2004 by the City Clerk. Both the verification certificate and the petition certificate were shown on the overhead and copies disseminated to City Council. The alternatives as stated in the staff report were explained with a clarification that alternative no. 1 no longer applies since the petition was found to be valid.

Mayor Ira stated that there were a large number of speaker cards and that clapping would not be allowed for either side of the issue. He further explained that this was not the time to talk about the merits of the project but to address the alternatives before Council at this time. Mayor Ira asked for information to be presented on slides showing the Redwood City voter turnout that compared the November 2000 Presidential General Election with 77.13% turnout to the March 2002 Gubernatorial Election with a 34.99% turnout. He stated that by placing this item on the November 2 ballot there could be between 10,000-15,000 more people voting than in a Special Election in March 2005. The second slide reflected the difference in cost between the November election at approximately \$1.00 per registered voter and an election in March with costs estimated to be between \$4-\$5.00 per registered voter.

5:48 p.m. - Council Member Bain arrived

City Clerk Howe reviewed the major points of the reports for Council Member Bain.

Public Comment:

Billy James supported the implied recommendation that the referendum be placed on the November ballot rather than the March ballot, thereby, eliminating the necessity for a Special Election and costs involved. He stated that he is an environmentalist, a bicyclist, a recycler, a member of the Friends of Edgewood Park, the Adopt-a-Highway program, a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and a member of the Library Commission. He stated that he has been perplexed and disappointed by the opponents of the project and urged the City Council to stick to its guns and spoke to his fellow citizens asking them to examine the issues with far less heat and more life.

Gary Saunders, Business Manager for Plumbers & Steamfitters Union #467 in San Mateo County, spoke on behalf of his members in Redwood City and for Bill Nack of the Building Trades Council. He stated that those he represents are in favor of the project and in placing the measure on the November ballot in light of budgetary concerns. He further stated that the opponents of the project should also be in favor of placement on the November ballot in order to have the issue resolved as soon as possible.

Pete Hughes stated that Redwood City has been his home for 47 years and he would like the issue settled as soon as possible.

Victor Torreano stated that as a Redwood City citizen and business representative of Sheet Metal Workers Local Union #104 stated that the members are looking forward to this project and he urged placing the measure on the November ballot to save the citizens money and provide resolution.

Steve Drotos stated that his family has lived here for 12 years and grew up in New York City so has familiarity with high-rises and he is against the project. He stated that this is a perfect area for a marshland and encouragement of environmental rehabilitation and that there is no doubt the proposal would benefit builders and the developer. He urged the City Council to place this on the November ballot because we do have a democracy and the people should vote on this. He urged people to go online and read the information on this topic on the Redwood City website. He stated that there are several environmental and housing issues that have not really been discussed by the developer. One issue he pointed to was that the affordable housing promised for teachers and firefighters does not have to be built in this project, but rather offsite or not built at all.

Keith Bautista stated that the Marina Shore project is too valuable and too important to allow to be delayed any further. He stated both he and his wife support having the referendum voted on in November because of the benefit of greater participation as stated in the election statistics shown tonight. The additional benefit is the savings of upwards of \$100,000.00.

Jack Castle, resident of Redwood City and owner of a business on Bair Island Road, encouraged placement on the November ballot. He stated he is also a former Planning Commissioner and former member of other commissions. He stated this experience provides him with the knowledge of the amount of voluntary time spent on this proposal. He stated that the proposal provides housing for teachers and city workers, meets the requirements of low income housing. He stated his hope that the item go before a November vote.

Daniela Gasparini asked for clarification of what the signature verification on the petition actually consists of. She further stated that the site of the project is an industrial area, it is not open space that is being taken off of the registry. She stated that she would rather see a piece of property redeveloped. She stated that this is a democracy and that people were told during the signature gathering process that the topic is to be put on the November ballot to let the public speak. She encouraged placement of the measure on the November ballot and stated that the community supports that decision.

Ron Crates, Redwood City Elementary School District Superintendent, encouraged the Council to place the measure on the November ballot and to conduct a community dialogue in educating the merits of housing, particularly, this project.

Tom Fernandez, Redwood City resident, stated that there is no question that a large number of people were involved in the effort to gather sufficient signatures. He stated that it is also clear that a large amount of people worked hard to get additional information out to the community and to try to be sure that the facts being put out were correct. He further stated that he was told by people who signed the petition that they support the project but felt it should be voted on by the residents. He urged the placement on the November ballot and not getting caught up in a disingenuous representation.

Victor Moore, Redwood City Neighbors for Reasonable Action (RCNRA), stated that if buildings are built east of Hwy. 101, then he recommends houseboats. He stated his belief in the first democracy that the citizens vote first.

Pat Dixon had various questions such as if there is a change in elevation for Marina Shores, then would that apply to any building on the current movie property, if 14 acres of wetland is taken where will the 28 acres given back come from, are the 300 affordable units being referred to part of the project on El Camino Real and Vera, and how a firefighter is expected to afford a unit based on the current salary.

Mayor Ira reiterated that there has been no project plans submitted for approval.

Lynn Trulio, representing Housing Not High Rises, thanked the voters who signed the petition stating that they worked hard to meet the deadline. She stated that while the goal was to move forward as soon as possible, the moral obligation is to be sure the process is legal and not vulnerable to challenge. She stated that the desire is for the area to go back to the original zoning of 75 feet, allowing housing and that downtown transit oriented housing is desirable.

Sue Hestor, representing Housing Not High Rises, stated she had entered into dialogue with the City Attorney that afternoon. She stated that a memo from the City Attorney and City Clerk regarding placement of the measure on the ballot that night is avoiding the election code provisions. She stated that an ordinance cannot be amended with a resolution and that no legal analysis has been provided for the recommendation. She further stated that the Council and City Attorney owe an explanation to the citizens .

JoAnn Kemist, representing Sequoia Hospital and a member of P3 and Samceda, stated that she respects the process and the thoughtful, intelligent people who worked with excellent developers and the Planning Commission in reviewing the project in detail. She stated that it is the height of hypocrisy to now not want the measure to go forward on the November ballot.

Janet Borgens thanked Council and encouraged community involvement and being part of the process. She stated that she supported the November ballot given budget considerations and staff reductions.

Council asked various questions of the City Attorney.

6:50-7:00 p.m. – Recess

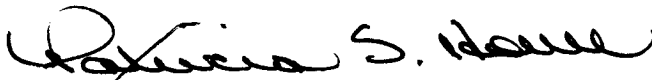
Council comments included the fact that the legal questions have been addressed, that a larger majority of voters will participate if the measure is placed on the November ballot, and that it is a divisive issue that is not good for the community.

M/S Hartnett/Foust to adopt the referenced **RESOLUTIONS 14599** and **14600** detailed in Alternative 3 (A-F) of the staff report including ballot measure language (D) as read into the record and presented on the overhead screen. Mayor Ira is authorized to appoint people to author the ballot argument. **The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.**

8. ADJOURNMENT – 7:15 p.m.

M/S Hartnett/Foust to adjourn to the regular City Council meeting of August 9, 2004. **The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.**

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia S. Howe
City Clerk