

MAYOR JEFF IRA  
VICE MAYOR ALICIA C. AGUIRRE

MINUTES

COUNCIL MEMBER IAN BAIN  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSANNE S. FOUST  
COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFEREY GEE  
COUNCIL MEMBER BARBARA PIERCE  
COUNCIL MEMBER JOHN SEYBERT

1017 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD  
REDWOOD CITY, CA

CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING/  
STUDY SESSION  
February 1, 2010  
7:00 P.M.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- 2. ROLL CALL** – Council Members Bain, Gee, Pierce, Seybert, Vice Mayor Aguirre, and Mayor Ira. Council Member Foust was absent

Mayor Ira announced that Council Member Foust is in WA advocating for the Council.

Staff present: City Manager Ingram, Interim City Attorney Abrams, City Clerk Vonderlinden, Deputy City Clerk Wong, Senior Planner Lyon, Planning, Housing & Economic Development Director Ekas, Building, Infrastructure and Transportation Director Chang, and Public Works Water Superintendent Ezell.

Others Present: Planning Vice Chair Radcliffe and Planning Commissioner Borgens

- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Jeffrey Gee, Council Member

- 4. INVOCATION** – Father Vern Jones, Episcopal Priest of Dioceses of California

## 5. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

### A. Proclamation: Wear Red Day – Sheree Chiang, American Heart Association.

Mayor Ira thanked those present and expressed his support for this cause. Ms. Chiang introduced a volunteer who is a six year survivor of heart disease. She referred those interested to a website [www.startraining.org](http://www.startraining.org) where they can learn more about supporting this organization.

## 6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSENT CALENDAR

Daniel Paley, Vice President of Citizens to Protect Redwood City, spoke in support of public process in particular in regards to the High Speed Rail issue.

Lynne Trulio spoke about a community led program like the General Plan and how this would be welcomed for Cargill. She asked for a full community visioning process.

Cynthia Denny, Chair of the Wetlands Committee for the Loma Prieta Sierra Club, expressed her views on the Cargill that is on the agenda tonight.

Gail Raabe spoke about water issues and contaminants. She related these comments to the Cargill project. She asked that every house be surveyed on this topic.

M/S Aguirre/Seybert to approve the Consent Calendar. **Motion carried 6-0 by electronic vote with Council Member Foust absent.**

### 6.1 Section - Motions

- A. Approve the Special City Council meeting minutes of January 12, 2010 as submitted. (301) **Minute Order 10-019**

### 6.2 Section – Claims and Warrants

- A. Approve warrants dated through February 1, 2010 and usual and necessary payments through February 8, 2010. (303) **Minute Order 10-020**

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## 7. STUDY SESSION

### A. Saltworks Application Review – Tier One Topics and Summary Reports.

#### Recommendation:

1. Consistent with prior Council direction, receive and consider the summary reports regarding the Tier One Topics for the Saltworks Development application concerning Jurisdictional Issues, Water Demand/Supply and Transportation/Circulation.
2. Due to heightened interest and the complexity of the Saltworks application, consider a public participation and involvement process that includes

informational meetings, workshops, and procedural steps to fully engage the public in the environmental review process as described by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and in accordance with the City Council's Strategic Initiative, "Community Building and Communications." (110)

### **Executive Summary**

Per the City Council's direction on August 10, 2009, the City began evaluating the Saltworks development proposal as it related to jurisdictional issues, water demand/supply, and transportation/circulation. The independent analysis associated with these "Tier One" topics has been provided in a series of summary reports, which concur that no fundamentally insurmountable issues have been identified. As such, in an effort to build on the analysis provided in the Tier One summary reports and consistent with the City Council's previous direction, the next step in the evaluation process is to begin the process for identifying a lead CEQA consultant via a request for qualifications (RFQ) process. Unless directed otherwise, staff intends to proceed as previously directed by Council.

Blake Lyon, Senior Planner introduced the item and explained what a "Tier One" evaluation entails and the topics that it covers. He shared a diagram and other slides (presentation on file). Mr. Lyon then explained the proposed land use as well as the various components. The first consultant was Mr. Whit Manley, and he covered the jurisdictional report. He summarized that he recommended a robust consultation with all agencies involved which have jurisdictional authority over the permitting process. David Smith, the second consultant, explained water issues as these relate to supply and demand for such proposal. Mr. Smith also provided details on the water exchange possibility. In conclusion he stated that the "water exchange" seems to be feasible and that potentially there is sufficient supply of potable and non potable water.

Robert Eckols next consultant focused on transportation issues. He covered the various possibilities. He also explained that the plan would include complete streets. The consultant added that more clarity on each of the proposed plans might be beneficial. In particular he mentioned the transportation management association, parking management plan, employee shuttles, car share & electric vehicles, and the level of commitment to TDM programs.

Mr. Lyon then summarized that tonight staff was presenting reports to the Council. He then explained the next steps which include a "Request for Qualifications" and future public workshops. He announced that the city's website is up and all the reports have been posted at [www.redwoodcity.org/saltworks](http://www.redwoodcity.org/saltworks).

Council asked questions of staff and of the experts present. The questions focused on jurisdictional agencies, water issues, transportation and other issues.

*At 9:03 p.m. Council took a ten-minute break. The meeting resumed at 9:15 p.m.*

Mayor Ira said that there were over 30 cards and he reminded everyone that there will not be any decisions tonight. He said that speakers will be limited to 2 minutes and that the

path will be that Council will move forward with hiring a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) consultant, as previously directed to staff.

**Public Comment:**

John Bruno, of DMB Saltworks, said he is very pleased with the consultants work and he welcomes further study through the CEQA process. He thanked the city and its staff.

Ben Paul, Board Member of the Redwood City San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce, thanked Council for the reports and analysis. He appreciated all the outreach done to date.

Diane Cusimano owns a restaurant in Redwood City and she supports more housing and further studies. She opined that this will bring more people to downtown.

Stephen Palmer spoke in favor of moving forward.

Greg Greenway, Chair of the Chamber of Commerce Transportation and Housing Committee, encouraged moving forward and continuing a rigorous process. He suggested that the public outreach be taken to the people to enable dialogue.

Bonnie Miller said the reports were good and she asked that the matter continues through the Environmental Impact process.

Stephen Knight, Political Director of Save the Bay, spoke in opposition of Cargill and the proposed development. He urged Redwood City, state and federal agencies to reject it and to work on full restoration. He opined that Cargill does not belong to Redwood City but this is bayfront property that belongs to the region.

Glenn Arvin commended the effort to go forward with Tier One and supports going ahead.

Jan Lindenthal, Vice President of Mid Peninsula Housing Coalition, spoke in favor of continuing discussion of tier one and addressing the need for affordable housing in the Bay Area and Redwood City and exploring all options.

Barb Valley, a resident Redwood City for about five decades, opined that the citizens of Redwood City are the ones in charge of the decision and that it does not matter what other cities or nonresidents say. She spoke in favor of moving forward with the process and encouraged people to participate, get involved, and speak up.

John Farrow spoke in favor of a public process that engages Council and residents in a dialogue. He expressed concerns that information meetings do not foster citizen participation or bi-lateral communication. He also expressed his concerns and questions regarding various aspects of the project, including other sites for housing, robust community engagement, and independent efforts.

Ricardo Leanos spoke in favor of the project as a positive and thanked the Council.

Steve Mincey, with DES Architects and Engineers, but representing SAMCEDA as their Executive Director, said the biggest issues are transportation and housing. He spoke

about the need for a thoughtful process to attract quality employees and having housing closer to jobs.

Lou Covey, President of Sustainable Redwood City, asked for consideration of a flood control network. He opined that this is a great process and exactly what voters asked for when they rejected measure W. He believes there is a need for public input, and he recommended looking at free social media technology.

Kaia Eakin expressed her concerns and questions regarding the salt ponds. She asked if any exploration had been done of private and or public purchases for land restoration. Ms. Eakin referred to a report that stated that one of the agency's highest priority is restoration.

Patricia Lindo, spoke in favor of moving forward. She believes that great work was done on the studies, there are no insurmountable obstacles, and Redwood City needs more housing and jobs, and so in her opinion this could move forward.

Gail Raabe expressed her concerns regarding tier one and issues related with water quality and storage.

Nil Blackburn, speaking as a resident, spoke in favor of getting more detailed information and facts in order to make informed decisions. She commended Council and asked that the CEQA process continue and she is particularly interested in the traffic study. She asked residents to attend workshops with open minds and do their homework.

Victor Torreano, a resident of Redwood City, spoke in favor of proceeding with the CEQA process and said he particularly found the water portion of the presentation interesting.

Foster Kinney, a resident of Redwood City for four years and a property owner, spoke in favor of continuing the process. He mentioned that there has not yet been an opportunity to make amendments but he wants Council to proceed.

Carole Wong, a resident of Redwood Shores, expressed her appreciation for the tier one reports and said she learned a lot. She expressed concern about having the traffic demand model beefed up and consistent with the general plan as well. She also has questions about any alternatives, changes, opportunities to engage public, the visioning process, and addressing the rise in sea level.

Dianna Reddy, Housing Leadership Council, spoke about affordable housing, due process advocacy, and community building. She spoke in favor of the process thus far and wants it to continue and be a mechanism for public input so that more information can be obtained prior to decisions being made.

William (Bill) Nack, representing the San Mateo Buildings Trade Council, spoke in favor of moving to the next step. He asked that staff be allowed to proceed with the CEQA process as a way to identify the impacts on the environment, allow other agencies to comment, and enable public participation.

Keith Kadera said that he and his wife are residents and own and operate a Redwood City business and that they have been active in the community for over ten years as members

of Downtown Business Group and Redwood City San Mateo County Chambers. He said that businesses depend on opportunities that make this a place to live and grow and he spoke in favor of the process for better economic growth, more jobs, enhanced transportation, and housing.

Jim Bigelow, representing the Redwood City San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of moving forward with the next step, to get more information. He expressed concern about water near mobile homes especially during high tide.

Lilia Ledezma spoke in favor of continuing with the process as people still need more information and facts to be actively involved to make educated decisions.

One Council Member reiterated that staff will continue with CEQA as a next step and that there have been multiple opportunities to provide input. This Council Member wants Redwood City to go well beyond the CEQA process and use the community engagement models that are customarily used in Redwood City. One Council Member also appreciated the work staff has done. Another Council Member highlighted that City funds are not being used to study this matter. He encouraged public participation and reinforced it as a powerful tool to mold the future and the decisions that are made.

One Council Member mentioned how Council is taking this seriously and that this is a show of leadership when they have courage to study it. He supports direct interaction between the developer and the residents. He suggested an attitude survey on various items, as well as a one-time mailer to inform the residents in general. Vice Mayor Aguirre thanked the public and the community who participated and came tonight to provide an opinion. Mayor Ira acknowledged the fact that staff is diligently working on eliciting public input and participation, and that this is not the finish line one step in a lengthy process.

(Between the hours of 7:20 p.m. and 9:55 p.m. the Council heard the staff report, the experts' presentations and public comment. For the full content of the item please watch the archived web stream of this portion of the meeting at: [http://www.redwoodcity.org/government/council/agendas/2010/mov\\_020110.html](http://www.redwoodcity.org/government/council/agendas/2010/mov_020110.html) and select Study Session Item A)

## **8. MATTERS OF COUNCIL INTEREST**

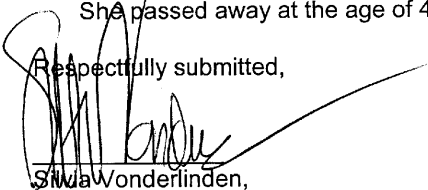
**A. Legislation (information only)** - This sub-section involves possible discussion of City Position on Proposed Legislation described in the League of California Cities City Advocate Weekly Issue No. 3-2010. Council may direct staff to act on positions taken by Council. (Copies of League of California Cities City Advocate Weekly available in the City Clerk's Department).

Council Member Pierce announced that last week Redwood City International held an event at the Sequoia Club. Three students who had been overseas made presentations on their experiences abroad.

**B. City Council Member Report of Conference/Meeting Attendance.**

9. **ADJOURN** – M/S Bain/Pierce to adjourn at 10:17 p.m. in memory of Erin Riser who passed away recently and was instrumental in making the City Center Plaza a reality. She passed away at the age of 44. **Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Respectfully submitted,



Silvia Wunderlinden,

Submitted for approval at the Council Meeting of February 22, 2010.