

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rob Schroder called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez with all members present except Councilmembers Avila Farias, who arrived after roll call, and Councilmember McKillop, who arrived at 6:15 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Comments are limited only to items listed under closed session).

Julian Frazer stated that the Council should have used the City's Human Resource Department for the Chief of Police recruitment. He stated that having an outside recruiter is a waste of money and Interim Chief Ghisletta is a very good leader. He expressed that this is obviously a political maneuver and indicated he was supportive of the Interim Chief receiving the permanent assignment.

There being no further comments made, the Council adjourned to the City Manager's Office for Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION (adjourn to City Manager's Office)

- A. With respect to an item of business to be discussed in closed session pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT - Title: Chief of Police

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT APPOINTMENT - Title: Chief of Police

RECONVENE - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - ROLL CALL

Mayor Schroder reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. He reported that a Closed Session was held with respect to California Government Code Section 54957, Public Employment and Public Employment Appointment, Title--Chief of Police and direction was given to staff.

PRESENT: AnaMarie Avila Farias, Councilmember, Lara DeLaney, Councilmember, Debbie McKillop, Councilmember, Mark Ross, Vice Mayor, and Rob Schroder, Mayor.

EXCUSED: None.

ABSENT: None.

PRESENTATION(S)

- A. Proclamation proclaiming Arbor Day March 11, 2015.

As part of the City's designation as a "Tree City USA", Mayor Schroder, on behalf of the City Council, read and presented the proclamation to Acting City Manager Alan Shear.

Acting City Manager Shear recognized Recreation Department staff present: Patti Lorick, Barbara Patchin and Robin Agostino. He indicated that staff was putting on an Arbor Day Event on March 11th at Susana Street Park at 10:00 a.m.

B. Proclaiming March 2015 as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

Mayor Schroder, on behalf of the City Council, read and presented the proclamation to Jill Chioino, from Alcohol and other Drugs Board Contra Costa County. Ms. Chioino commented on her role and duties as a member of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Board as well as RX Safety from Prescription Drugs. She noted that the City of Martinez has the highest rate for accidental overdose in Contra Costa County, and that doesn't include those who die from other means with high levels of drugs in their system. She also discussed the importance of keeping prescription drugs secured and out-of-reach for those who would steal and/or misuse them.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (COMPLETE SPEAKER CARD AND GIVE TO CLERK)
Reserved only for those requesting to speak on items not listed on the Agenda.**

Tom Lewis reported that United Steel Workers are currently in negotiations with the refineries and on strike at Tesoro, and he requested support from the Council. He explained that the main issues are related to safety, and the dangers need to be addressed. He added that there are 7,000 employees on strike around the country, and he expects there will be more in Contra Costa County in the near future. He extended an invitation to the Council to the NAACP Banquet.

Rick Calhoun spoke against Aladdin Bail Bonds moving into the old McDonalds building, or any bail bonds company at that site. He stated that bail bonds should not be located on the Main Street, but should be placed on a side street in the interest of beautification of the City.

Doug Van Raam stated that he supported the United Steel Workers. He noted that he received a parking ticket and tried to pay his ticket, but the City of Martinez would not accept cash money even though it is legal tender in this country; and he would have to go through an agency and send a check. Interim Chief Ghisletta stated that he will accept his money and clear it with the agency.

Julian Frazer spoke about the purpose and history of Arbor Day. He said that he attended the Public Safety Committee meeting and had to wait a half hour for a Councilmember to arrive after he had rearranged his work schedule to get there on time. The first part of the meeting was supposed to be on the oil transport, which Mr. Frazer had wanted to hear, but the agenda was rearranged to later in the meeting. He thought Councilmember McKillop was very respectful. Mr. Frazer stated that the Committee did not discuss safety with adequate information or focus, and he was concerned whether the meeting was conducted properly. He also indicated he thought public safety issues are important enough that they should be covered at Council meetings.

Mike Alford wanted to make it clear that he will work actively against the referendum pushed by Tim Platt when it comes to a vote about raising taxes, in the next election. He also did not support another bail bonds business downtown.

Martinez resident Mr. Cooper complained about the rent increase he just received and requested the City establish some type of rent control ordinance, to protect those with limited incomes.

Richard Verrilli stated that he was upset that the Bank of America was closed, and now the Martinez Gazette seems to be closing with only printing two times a week. He hopes that the City will put itself on the right track. He found out that Central Sanitary District does not take care of the line from the center of the street to the house property; it is the homeowner's responsibility, although in many cities the Sanitary District covers from the middle of the street to the house property. He said he is bringing this issue up now because it relates to the Sidewalk Ordinance.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Motion waiving reading of text of all Resolutions and Ordinances.
1. Motion approving City Council Minutes of January 21, and January 26, 2015. [M.Cabral]
 2. Motion rejecting a Claim against the City by Ronnie Ecker, Claim #14-15. [M.Cabral]
 3. Motion approving Check Reconciliation Register dated 02/19/15. [C.Spinella/2.1.1]
 4. Motion adopting Ordinance No. 1384 amending Title 12 of the City's Municipal Code by adding Chapter 12.31, Sidewalk Maintenance and Repair, and finding that the adoption thereof is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA guidelines sections 15301, 15302 and 15061(b)(3). [M.Chandler/12.02.02]
 5. Motion authorizing the Acting City Manager to execute the 2015 Rankin Aquatic Center Use Agreement between the City of Martinez and the Martinez Community Swim Team. [P.Lorick/11.04.01]
 6. Resolution No. 028-15 authorizing destruction of City files pertaining to the Personnel Division and Planning Division. [M.Cabral/40.10.01]

Mayor Schroder opened public comment on the Consent Calendar.

Richard Verrilli spoke on Item #4, Ordinance 1384, Sidewalk Maintenance and Repair. He noted that the public hearing notice did not mention the shifting of responsibility for sidewalk maintenance from the City to the property owner. He commented as well about cost savings to the City and insurance issues for homeowners. Mayor Schroder noted that some of those issues were discussed at the previous hearing on the ordinance, including provision for subsidies, and that the Council will re-evaluate after a trial period.

Seeing no further speakers, Mayor Schroder closed public comment on the Consent Calendar.

On motion by Lara DeLaney, Councilmember, seconded by AnaMarie Avila Farias, Councilmember, to approve Item A and Items #1 through #6 of the Consent Calendar. Motion unanimously passed 5 - 0. Yes: AnaMarie Avila Farias, Councilmember; Lara DeLaney, Councilmember; Debbie McKillop, Councilmember; Mark Ross, Vice Mayor; Rob Schroder, Mayor.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

CITY MANAGER

7. Discuss options regarding City's long-term interest in the Campbell Theater property located at 636 Ward Street and provide direction to staff. [M.Chandler/9.12.07]

Senior Management Analyst Michael Chandler provided the staff report, discussing the background history, the City's current lease of the property, the sublease by Onstage Theater, and their very successful programs. He asked for direction from the Council as to whether to pursue purchase of the property or renewal of the leases, adding that the City does have more than \$500,000 available from cultural fees that have been collected.

Councilmember DeLaney asked how much the City has spent on the lease since 2005, and Mr. Chandler said it was approximately \$515,000.

Mark Hines, Director of Onstage Theater, discussed their program, goals, community support, negative effects from operating under a short-term lease, and their gratitude to the City for its support.

Mayor Schroder acknowledged the difficulties facing Onstage from the lease term. He asked Mr. Hines to expand further on their vision for the future of the theater, which Mr. Hines discussed.

Councilmember DeLaney agreed that the Onstage Theater has been an asset to the community, but she noted that a past partnership had not been as successful as they had hoped. She expressed concern about moving forward too fast, and she asked Mr. Hines about their current financials, which he provided. He also discussed the difference between operating a theater company and operating a theater.

Vice Mayor Ross discussed other intangible benefits to the City from having a successful theater company, including improved economics from more people coming to the downtown. He thought purchasing the building was a better idea than leasing it.

Councilmember Avila Farias agreed that the time was right for the City to consider purchasing the property if the owners are willing. She expressed concern about the advisability of investing a large amount, and she wondered what the new City Manager's thoughts would be. She was supportive of the arts overall and was interested in further research into the possibilities with this property and Onstage Theater Company. Mr. Hines noted that there are approximately 63 theater companies in the bay area - the most successful one is in Berkeley and it only has 92% funding. He did not think there were any that exist without donations. He added that even the City of Walnut Creek invests in the Leshner Theater. He was appreciative of the Council considering the proposal.

Mayor Schroder opened public comment on the item.

Mike Alford expressed that if the City were willing, jail residents could work off part of their sentence by providing manual labor to the theater

Doug Van Raam commented on a production he was in at a local theater, with a script written by local talent, which was extremely successful. He asked if Onstage had any locally-written productions under consideration, perhaps one about John Muir.

Mark Hines noted that there were 209 performances over the last year. He acknowledged that local talent can be good, although they can sometimes be hard to market. He mentioned a goal they have to have a one-act play festival, all by local writers. He also expressed willingness to use other local talent, like musicians, etc, and he discussed the balance between keeping the tickets affordable, and still making enough to cover the production costs.

Seeing no further speakers, Mayor Schroder closed public comment on the item.

Mayor Schroder said he would support continued collaboration with Onstage, but he agreed with other Councilmembers that he would like to pursue purchase of the Bisio property. He was also willing to authorize an appraisal of the property. He expressed support for the arts in all forms, as the City has done in the past.

Councilmember Avila Farias asked if it was known whether the owners were willing to sell. Mr. Chandler said not for sure, but they agree with the City's recommended appraiser. Councilmember Avila Farias said she thought checking with the owners was an important first step.

Councilmember DeLaney asked whether staff knows who the principals of the trust were. Mayor Schroder said yes.

Councilmember Avila Farias expressed appreciation for the children's programs that were offered.

The Council directed staff directed to speak with the property owners to find out if they are interested and if so, to obtain the appraisal.

City Attorney Jeff Walter clarified that, if there is an appraisal, and the Bisios do not agree on the price, then the Council may be faced with the issue of whether it wishes to condemn the property. If so, certain steps should be taken beforehand and can be included in the retention. He stated that a closed session may be needed in the future.

8. Review of the Draft Updated Housing Element (2015-2023) of the City's General Plan; and direct staff to submit the document to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for certification. [D.Tasini/09.02.05]

Planning Manager Dina Tasini presented the staff report, reviewing changes that were made in response to questions/comments that were raised at the last meeting.

Vice Mayor Ross corrected grammar on page 34 of the document, changing "as effective a method" to "an effective method."

Councilmember DeLaney asked about comments received from Planning Commissioner Donna Allen regarding finding a way to encourage senior housing. Ms. Tasini said it was not included as a separate thing, but the need for housing in general was mentioned.

Councilmember Avila Farias said she thought it could be included as one of the housing types under Program 1 of the Element.

Mayor Schroder opened and closed public comment on the item with no speakers coming forward.

On motion by AnaMarie Avila Farias, Councilmember, seconded by Debbie McKillop, Councilmember, direct staff to submit the Draft Updated Housing Element document to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for certification. Motion unanimously passed 5 - 0. Yes: AnaMarie Avila Farias, Councilmember; Lara DeLaney, Councilmember; Debbie McKillop, Councilmember; Mark Ross, Vice Mayor; Rob Schroder, Mayor.

9. City Manager Comment(s)/Update(s).

Acting City Manager Alan Shear announced that Patti Lorick and Valerie Fisher, Personnel Technician, attended the DVC Summer Job Internship Fair today. Their main goal was to recruit for the upcoming pool season. The City had a great display with pictures of the facility and pictures that provided a visual overview of the lifeguard position, job announcements and applications. One of the bonuses of attending the event was staff being approached by a number of other agencies that assist in employment services, and they requested to be on the City's distribution list for recruitment announcements. Another bonus was that several individuals inquired about Rankin Pool rentals for events.

CHIEF OF POLICE

10. Chief of Police Comment(s)/Update(s).

Interim Chief of Police Eric Ghisletta reported that today was the first day for extended service with Homeless Outreach. They have increased service to three days a week on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday during daytime hours. He also announced that on Saturday is the Little League Parade.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS AND/OR AGENCIES

CITY COUNCIL

11. Council Subcommittee Reports.

Councilmember DeLaney reported out on her and Mayor Schroder's attendance on the Enhanced Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on February 26th. They discussed rolling out the concept and engaging the community about the City's infrastructure needs. Councilmember DeLaney noted that there will be a Public Workshop on March 25th in the Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Avila Farias reported out on her and Councilmember McKillop's attendance on the Public Safety Subcommittee meeting held on March 2nd. She acknowledged Mr. Frazer's comments about the late start to the meeting, but she commented on the very capable staff that assisted at the meeting while Councilmembers were enroute. She also discussed subsequent meetings with representatives from the railroads, noting that there will be a full presentation at an upcoming Council meeting on railroad safety and security, and eventually one on transportation of hazardous materials.

Councilmember McKillop was appreciative of the information provided by the railroad, and she was hopeful about future progress that will be made.

12. City Council Comments.

Councilmember Lara DeLaney reported that she represents the Cities on the County's Hazardous Materials Commission and at the meeting last Thursday they received a report from the Alamo Improvement Association, which had applied for a \$50,000 Department of Transportation grant to provide a study of pipeline safety. There will be two workshops and one of the workshops will be conducted in Martinez.

Vice Mayor Mark Ross hoped that the oil workers' strike is successful in bringing greater safety, and he is very supportive of their efforts.

Councilmember Lara DeLaney stated that she has been approached by a number of people supporting pickleball. They wish to have more dedicated courts for this sport. In particular, they have identified Nancy Boyd Park as an ideal location for pickleball courts; and she is very supportive.

Mayor Rob Schroder stated that he will not be at the next meeting and Vice Mayor Ross will be in charge. Mayor Schroder announced that he agreed to dye his hair green to raise money for the St. Baldricks Association which funds research for children with cancer. The second part of the event will be a "shave off" on March 15th. He also announced that the City of Martinez hosts the Mayors' Conference on March 5th at the Shelby Cobra Experience. He will use that opportunity to promote the St. Baldricks event and hope to get donations.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:45 p.m. to a Regular Council Meeting on March 18, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, California.

Approved by the City Council,



Rob Schroder, Mayor

Mercy G. Cabral, Deputy City Clerk – 4/15/15