

**CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - ROLL CALL**

Mayor Schroder called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Councilmembers Lara DeLaney, Janet Kennedy, Michael Menesini, and Vice Mayor Mark Ross present.

**PRESENTATION(S)/PROCLAMATION(S)**

- A. *Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to Hidden Valley Elementary Science Fair 1st and 2nd Place Winners.*

Mayor Schroder introduced Dianne Coventry from Hidden Valley School, who gave information on the Science Fair. Certificates of Recognition were given to Hidden Valley Science Fair first and second place winners from the third (Noah Hurley, Jack Rialton, Makena Vadnais), fourth (Jamie Busby, Kendelle Sullivan), and fifth grade (Paul Cook, Nick Warriner) classes.

- B. *Grad Night Presentation to Alhambra High School and College Park High School.*

Mayor Schroder presented Shawn Lewis from College Park High School and Joelle Fockler from Alhambra High School with \$500 each to be used towards Grad Night. Ms. Fockler expressed appreciation on behalf of Alhambra High School. She invited everyone to an upcoming fundraiser.

- C. *Presentation by Main Street Martinez.*

Executive Director Leeann Peterson of Main Street Martinez presented their annual report. Ms. Peterson reviewed past events, marketing and advertising efforts, communications and outreach, year-round tree lights, and economic development.

Councilmember DeLaney asked about the banner program. Ms. Peterson said it has been discussed as part of beautification efforts. She was hopeful that more will be done in the next year. Councilmember DeLaney also asked about directional signs in the downtown, and Ms. Peterson reviewed current and potential locations.

Councilmember DeLaney commended Ms. Peterson and Main Street for their efforts on behalf of the City. She noted, however, that it would be helpful to have comparisons with statistics from other years in future reports.

Councilmember Menesini echoed Councilmember DeLaney's appreciation of Main Street's accomplishments. He asked for some consideration of reinstating Fourth of July and Columbus Day celebrations.

Councilmember Kennedy asked about the collaboration between Main Street and the Chamber of Commerce with the shared office space, and Ms. Peterson indicated it was working very well.

Mayor Schroder asked about the new kiosks at the train station and other potential sites, which Ms. Peterson reviewed. Mayor Schroder also expressed appreciation for Main Street's accomplishments, especially in cooperation with the Chamber, and for Ms. Peterson's work.

Vice Mayor Ross expressed his appreciation to Main Street for all their efforts this year.

D. *Proclamation declaring June 2008 as "Buy Fresh Buy Local" Food Month.*

Mayor Schroder stated that Contra Costa County Supervisors Mary Piepho and John Gioia requested that cities endorse and support for "Buy Fresh Buy Local" Food, and he read the proclamation.

Mayor Schroder also mentioned that Cindy Gershon, owner of Sunrise Bistro in Walnut Creek, has an eating healthy program for restaurants and has received a \$50,000 grant from Kaiser. He asked for Main Street's help to identify three restaurants in the City that might want to participate in the program.

Councilmember Kennedy noted that everyone has an opportunity to buy fresh and local twice a week (Thursdays and Sundays) at the Farmers, Market.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Tuong Truong of the Boy and Girls Club read a brief report on behalf of Executive Director Lou Schoeneman and presented an overview on the Martinez Area Chamber of Commerce progress, programs and activities over the last year.

Councilmember DeLaney thanked Mr. Truong for the report. As she had indicated to Main Street, she repeated that it might be helpful to have statistical comparisons in the future.

Linda Riebel strongly urged the Council to support the Martinez Opera, especially financially if possible. She commented on ways that opera attendees can benefit local businesses. Mayor Schroder asked Ms. Riebel if she knew the status of Festival Opera in Walnut Creek. Ms. Riebel's husband confirmed it was still active.

Mike Alford expressed his concerns with the rash of armed robberies recently, and public safety issues, and why these incidents go unreported in the newspaper. Mr. Alford discussed homeless camps, and the need for truthfulness about the actual number of homeless people in Martinez. He asked what the Council and the Police intend to do about public safety issues, including homeless camps and public drunkenness.

Mayor Schroder indicated that the City does not have control over information presented by the media, but neither the City nor the Police Department hide public information. Chief Simonetti discussed how the Police Department patrols and deals with the one or two homeless camps in

the City. He indicated that he knew of only three recent robberies in the City, however, not the nine alleged by Mr. Alford.

Councilmember Kennedy commented on how the County determines the number of homeless on a given day and in a given area. She noted that every community in Contra Costa County has some homeless, and the County is seeking solutions to the problems.

Paul Wilson expressed his concerns about Joe Dimaggio's boat (the Joltin' Joe) and urged the City to finally preserve it or return it to New York. Mayor Schroder commented that the City has been aware of where the boat is, and has taken steps to keep it safe.

Public Works Director Dave Scola said the boat will be relocated from the Kinney Building to the train station in the next week.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **MOTION WAIVING READING OF TEXT OF ALL RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES.**

1. Motion approving City Council Minutes of April 30, May 7, 15, and 21, 2008. [M.Cabral]
2. Motion rejecting claim(s) against the City by Rick and Michaela Morales, Claim #08-15.[M.Cabral]
3. Motion approving Check Reconciliation Registers dated 05/15/08, 05/19/20, and 05/22/08.[C.Heater/02.01.01]
4. Motion approving the City's Investment Policy. [C.Heater/02.01.00]
5. Motion approving the Budget Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations for the 2008-09 Community Funding Program Grants.[L.Marshall&M.Chandler/2.10.00]
6. Resolution No. 34-08 adopting the 2008-09 Fiscal Year Appropriations Limit.[C.Heater/2.01.00]

Mayor Schroder opened public comment on the Consent Calendar.

Regarding Item #5, Tim Platt asked what items were covered under the Community Funding Grants, and Mayor Schroder reviewed them. Mr. Platt commented on the effect of rising costs on vacation plans, noting this was likely to be a "stay-at-home" summer for most people. He recommended that the City increase its investment in local activities and programs. He also suggested the City hire a fulltime publicity person for the downtown and increase cross-marketing of events.

Mike Alford asked if the City was experiencing a budget shortfall, and Mayor Schroder confirmed that was why the community funding was being cut. Mr. Alford expressed that there should be some extra funds available with City Manager Blubaugh leaving and the retiring of

the previous Police Chief. He also suggested that the City help repair the Dunivan's property and decrease the cost of attorney fees.

Mayor Schroder indicated that the full budget would be discussed under Item #8.

Richard Verrilli commented on the procedure for public comments under the Consent Calendar. He expressed concern that the full information required by the Brown Act is not being presented. He asked the Council to consider going back to the previous process. Mayor Schroder confirmed with the City Attorney that the process being followed meets the Brown Act requirements. He also indicated that Consent Calendar items do not normally have a presentation.

Councilmember Menesini asked whether "Friends Outside" had applied for a grant, noting it was a very worthy organization. Mayor Schroder responded that the application process had been posted on the City website, but an application by "Friends Outside" was not received within the specified time limits. Councilmember Menesini encouraged the Council to consider any future applications by them.

In response to Mr. Platt's comments, Vice Mayor Ross discussed upcoming events at the Willows Theatre and the Cabaret. He also discussed his wife's role with CASA, noting she receives no remuneration, so there is no conflict.

On motion by Michael Menesini, Councilmember, seconded by Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, to approve Items #1 through #6 of the Consent Calendar, Motion unanimously passed 5 - 0.

## **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

### **CONTINUED ITEM(S):**

**NOTE: At the request of the proponent's attorney, this item has been continued to July 2, 2008.**

7. General Plan Amendment at 635 Vine Hill Way; Applicant: Gary Freitas.  
[K.Majors/9.02.01]
  - A. Resolution adopting a mitigated negative declaration and a mitigation monitoring program pertinent to a General Plan Amendment redesignating approximately 3 acres located at 635 Vine Hill Way from Open Space to Residential.
  - B. Resolution approving a General Plan Amendment to re-designate approximately 3 acres from "Open Space" to "Residential," to allow the possibility of creating 4 additional single family home lots, in addition to the one existing single-family home on the 5.57 acre site at 635 Vine Hill Way.

Mayor Schroder announced that this item is being continued to the meeting of July 2nd at the request of the proponent's attorney.

## **CITY MANAGER**

8. Resolution accepting the revisions to the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Budget. [L.Marshall & C.Heater.2.10.00]

Assistant City Manager Administrative Services Lianne Marshall presented the staff report, reviewing reductions in income and subsequent proposed reductions in expenses.

As a member of the Budget Subcommittee, Mayor Schroder highlighted the fact that the budget reductions were not as great as they might have been because the City has received one-time insurance rebates which will offset some of the other income decreases. He also noted that the budget does not consider what impacts State budget changes might have on the City. Mayor Schroder further commented on other factors that might impact the City's budget, and the need to protect the City's reserve for the future.

Councilmember DeLaney said she could not support the cuts to Main Street Martinez, which is working toward economic revitalization; and while the amount of the reduction is not that much for the City, it will greatly affect the organization's work. She also stated that the projected ending fund balance was very conservative, and in the past has come in higher than projected. She urged the Council to not make this cut, or the proposed one to the Arts & Library Commission grants.

Councilmember Menesini indicated he could not support the cuts to Main Street, for the same reasons mentioned by Councilmember DeLaney. He also expressed support for greater funding of the Fourth of July event. Mayor Schroder asked, and Acting City Manager Karen Majors discussed the likelihood of some corporate sponsorship for the event.

Budget Subcommittee Member Vice Mayor Ross said he would have no problem restoring the Main Street cuts and reconsidering other cuts. He also discussed property tax and sales tax reductions, noting that the City's financial outlook is still good, because of its past fiscally conservative policies.

Councilmember Kennedy asked Chief Simonetti how the booking fees can be reduced; and he noted that he was hopeful the State will fund them as they have for the past few years. Councilmember Kennedy urged cautiously against restoring the cuts, noting that the alternative might mean lost jobs. She indicated she would be willing to reconsider once the State budget is finalized.

The Council discussed the pros and cons of making the cuts or not, and Mayor Schroder reviewed the proposed cuts and additional requests.

Mayor Schroder opened public comment on the item.

Richard Verrilli spoke against cutting temporary employees.

Bradley Jackson, President of Main Street, asked the Council to reconsider its cuts, and keep the funding for Main Street at \$50,000 per year.

Barbara Kapsalis thanked the Council for their past support and urged them to continue to support Main Street and all its efforts on behalf of downtown revitalization. She also encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming clean-up day.

David Piersall indicated he had warned the City about the need for budget cuts, noting that past budgets have not been conservative enough or the City wouldn't be in its current position. He was especially concerned about funding for the needed booking fees, especially if State cuts are made that reduce the prison population and return criminals to the street.

Mike Alford expressed agreement with Mr. Verrilli and Mr. Piersall, as well as Councilmember Kennedy. He questioned whether salaries for current open positions couldn't be shifted to other areas of the budget. He also suggested events that could bring in revenue to the City, such as a jazz festival. He commented that the County should supplement jail costs to the City, since the City provides so much protection for County property.

Kristin Hendersen commented on the good work done by Barbara Kapsalis. She also offered her services as a grantwriter.

Debra Dawson spoke about the benefits she has seen from being a member of Main Street Martinez. She encouraged the Council to keep funding at the current level of \$50,000.

Marie Newson, Chamber of Commerce, agreed that a \$10,000 cut would have a big impact on their efforts. She commented on work done by the Chamber and invited all to the Chamber barbecue on June 20 and 21.

Paul Wilson said he was glad to see some effort being made to restore the fireworks. He also expressed support for the Opera.

Maria Billingsly thanked the Council for their support of Martinez Opera. She expressed strong support for Main Street and the Chamber of Commerce as far more important than the Opera. She asked that the Council work with her on the proposed grant for the Opera. At the request of Mayor Schroder, she also discussed details of the grant. Mayor Schroder expressed willingness to partner with the Opera, although he was unsure how the City could help with the grantwriting. Councilmember Menesini expressed confidence that the City could work with the Opera in this endeavor.

Maryetta Faulk urged the Council to make conservative decisions now, and consider adding additional funding once it becomes clear whether the State will be able to provide something more.

Albert Turnbaugh agreed the economic conditions might be longterm, and conservative planning is in order. He expressed support for continued funding of Main Street and the Chamber of Commerce, because of the assistance they are able to give new businesses.

Ken (last name not stated) encouraged the Council to consider the intangible benefits from the beavers, the Opera, development of the marina, and Nonsense.

Mayor Schroder read an email from Bill Wainwright, suggesting that the Council be guided by the need for revitalization of the downtown, and urging support of Main Street over the Chamber. Mr. Wainwright also suggested the grant amounts be maintained at current levels, and that funding for the Fourth of July not be cut.

Seeing no further speakers, Mayor Schroder closed public comment..

Vice Mayor Ross commented on the past policies proposed by staff, resulting in the current surplus. He also discussed ways the City can take advantage of the resources available and restore the proposed cuts.

Councilmember Menesini asked for more information on the temporary employee cuts, which staff provided. Councilmember Menesini expressed concern about potential denigration of service, and whether the cuts were really necessary.

At the request of Mayor Schroder, staff reviewed the services provided by each temporary employee. After further discussion, it was suggested that the positions be kept in place at least for 6 months, until the next City Manager is on board and has a chance to review staffing.

On motion by Michael Menesini, Councilmember, seconded by Lara DeLaney, Councilmember, reinstate the full funding to the Martinez Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Martinez in the amount of \$50,000 bringing that up by \$10,000 for each. Motion unanimously passed 5 - 0.

On motion by Michael Menesini, Councilmember, seconded by Lara DeLaney, Councilmember, keep the temporary employees, except for the summer position, for an additional 6 months and allow the City Manager to make the final decision for a total of \$26,000. Motion unanimously passed 5 - 0.

On motion by Mark Ross, Vice Mayor, seconded by Lara DeLaney, Councilmember, reinstate the Arts and Library grant funding of \$5,000. Motion unanimously passed 5 - 0.

Staff directed to work with the Martinez Opera on grant writing.

On motion by Mark Ross, Vice Mayor, to provide additional funding totaling \$7,500 to the Martinez Opera. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

On motion by Michael Menesini, Councilmember, seconded by Mark Ross, Vice Mayor, to approve Resolution No. 035-08 accepting the revisions to the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Budget as amended by the Council. Motion unanimously passed 5 - 0.

9. Comment(s)/Update(s)/Report(s).

No comments made.

## **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS AND/OR AGENCIES**

10. Reappointment of Kathy Fuller to the Contra Costa County Library Commission for a two year term. [M.Cabral/16.31.00]

On motion by Robert Schroder, Mayor, no second required to approve reappointment of Kathy Fuller to the Contra Costa County Library Commission for a two year term. Motion unanimously passed 5 – 0.

## **CITY COUNCIL**

11. Motion appointing Lianne Marshall as Interim City Manager from June 5 through June 18, and Karen Majors as Interim City Manager from June 19 through July 6.

On motion by Michael Menesini, Councilmember, seconded by Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, to approve appointment of Lianne Marshall as Interim City Manager from June 5, through June 18, and Karen Majors as Interim City Manager from June 19, through July 6th. Motion unanimously passed 5 - 0.

12. City Council Comments.

Vice Mayor Mark Ross wished Barbara Hannafan well and a speedy recovery.

Councilmember Janet Kennedy urged the public to volunteer for the Alhambra High School Grad Night. She reported on her attendance at the ABAG Seminar, and commended Chief Simonetti for starting the EOC training for staff. She also announced the kick off event for the Parks & Library Bond on Sunday, June 8, at 2:00 p.m. at Ranklin Park.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 10:03 p.m. to Regular City Council Meeting on June 18, 2008, 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 – 7/2/08