

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Schroder called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. at the Senior Center, 818 Green Street, Martinez, and welcomed all those present.

PRESENT: Lara DeLaney, Councilmember, Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, Mark Ross, Councilmember, and Robert Schroder, Mayor.

EXCUSED: Vice Mayor Michael Menesini

ABSENT: None.

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENT (Only those item(s) listed on the Agenda)**

Phil Ciaramentaro asked about the process of the meeting which Mayor Schroder answered.

Harlan Strickland spoke on open space and jobs in relation to an article in the Martinez Gazette by Tim Platt.

## **III. CITY COUNCIL RETREAT**

City Manager Phil Vince stated that he wanted to help Council focus on what to spend our resources on and what would benefit the City as a whole.

1. Discussion of goals for 2009-2011 operating budget.
  - a. Economic development, revitalization, and redevelopment.
  - b. Marina Improvements;
  - c. Public safety and emergency preparedness.
  - d. Adoption of an unreinforced masonry ordinance.
  - e. Improvements to the City's park, library, and pool.
  - f. Improvements to and maintenance of City streets.
  - g. Maintain fiscal health.
  - h. General Plan revision.
  - i. Parking structure.
  - j. Ferry system.
  - k. Alhambra/North Pacheco annexation.
  - l. Implement Specific Plan with an emphasis on adding housing.

Council discussed Emergency Preparedness and public safety.

Councilmember Janet Kennedy emphasized the need for a community-wide disaster plan and noted that the public needs to know where to go in the event one needs to leave their home. They reviewed public resources such as the Red Cross and Association of Bay Area

Governments and the information listed on their websites. Councilmember Kennedy suggested that a disaster preparedness workshop be held some time soon.

Councilmember Lara DeLaney suggested that the agenda have a section for Chief of Police comments which the City Manager agreed.

Kathi McLaughlin requested that emergency preparedness be part of a future City/School Subcommittee meeting to discuss school evacuation.

Rich Verrilli suggested that the Fire Department be brought into the discussion as well.

Phil Ciarmontaro questioned the fiscal health of the City which Mayor Schroder answered.

Mike Alford stressed the need for emergency training for citizens since they will need to depend on each other until public agencies can respond.

Paul Wilson commented that the radio needs to be updated with correct information.

Discussion was held on the progress of the bonds for Measure H. City Manager Vince stated that there would be two issuances of \$15 million. Currently, staff and the bond counsel are working on the underwriting. The first set of bonds will be used for the pool and library projects; the second will be used on the parks projects beginning in 2013.

Mike Alford asked questions regarding the bond process which City Manager Vince clarified.

Kathi McLaughlin suggested that the Council speak to the School District regarding using the High School's pool while the City's is being repaired, since the District will have closed the pool due to budget cuts.

Paul Wilson questioned the landscape renovation for Rankin Park if it would be completed due to the current drought situation. Mr. Vince indicated that could be done in the second phase.

Discussion was held on formation of a redevelopment agency which was well supported by the Council present.

City Manager Vince stated that if the main monies from redevelopment can be used for infrastructure and utilities at the Marina, it would free up other monies to be used elsewhere, such as for the unreinforced masonry program.

Councilmember Mark Ross suggested that \$40,000 be spent in educating the community on redevelopment.

Phil Ciarmontaro suggested instead of creating a redevelopment agency, the City should look at the concept of micro credit or micro financing and giving money to small business owners which might stimulate growth as they did with the \$100,000 loan to the Willows Theatre. The Council stated that it would be "shift of public funds" which is not allowed.

Shelley (did not state last name) stated that she was in favor of redevelopment.

Mike Alford stated that the City does not want redevelopment.

Ken King stated that the City would not benefit from redevelopment and wanted to know reasons why not to have a redevelopment agency.

Kathy McLaughlin spoke against redevelopment stating that she did not want the City looking like Walnut Creek or Pleasant Hill.

Kristin Henderson asked questions regarding redevelopment and the legalities of the Historic Resource Inventory.

Heidi Perryman spoke against a redevelopment agency.

Council discussed the marina and ferry system. Mayor Schroder stated that Tom Escher, Red & White Ferry Fleet, was very interested in Martinez and will be meeting with Mr. Escher, WETA, and Vice Mayor Menesini.

Paul Wilson complained about the foot dragging in repairing the marina.

Mike Alford questioned why the City didn't accept Rick Parker's idea of bringing a boat, which Council discussed.

Ken King suggested bringing light rail from the ferry to downtown.

Kristin Henderson added the suggestion of bringing a light rail system all the way to the John Muir Home.

Linda Meza spoke on the benefits of having a marina and suggested using an alternative fuel for the ferry.

Councilmember Kennedy discussed the need to update the General Plan and Councilmember Ross commented on SB375 Reducing Green House Gases.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 2:30 p.m. to a Regular Council Meeting on April 1, 2009 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 – 5/6/09