

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Schroder called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. with all members present.

PRESENT: Lara DeLaney, Councilmember, Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, Mark Ross
Councilmember, Michael Menesini, Vice Mayor, and Rob Schroder, Mayor.

EXCUSED: None.

ABSENT: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Meza informed the Council that hand sanitizer and other health items useful in combating the swine flu were available in some stores and out of stock in others.

Seeing no further speakers, Mayor Schroder closed public comment.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Resolution approving the Memorandum of understanding between the Contra Costa County and the City of Martinez, and receipt of \$50,437 from the Recovery JAG 2009 Award (Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant). [T.Simonetti/04.08.00]

Chief of Police Tom Simonetti presented the staff report.

Mayor Schroder opened and closed public comment on the Consent Calendar, with no speakers coming forward.

Councilmember Kennedy congratulated the police department and the Chief on the award.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 039-09 approving the Memorandum of understanding between the Contra Costa County and the City of Martinez, and receipt of \$50,437 from the Recovery JAG 2009 Award.

Moved by Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, seconded by Lara DeLaney, Councilmember.
The Council voted to approve unanimously.

BUDGET

2. Review and discussion of 2009-11 Operating Budget.

City Manager Phillip Vince thanked Finance staff for their diligence and hard work. He reviewed the budget timeline, Council goals, budget reductions/savings, major increases, and grant funding.

Lianne Marshall, Assistant City Manager for Administrative Services, reviewed projected general fund expenditures and revenues, projected general fund balance, enterprise fund summaries, and total summary of all funds expenditures.

Key departmental objectives were reviewed by Mr. Vince, Ms. Marshall, Assistant City Manager/Community and Economic Development Karen Majors, City Engineer Tim Tucker, Chief of Police Tom Simonetti and Public Works Director David Scola.

Staff also responded to questions/comments from the Council as follows:

Councilmember Ross asked about impacts on public safety from the District Attorney's recent statements regarding lessened prosecution of crimes due to its own budget difficulties. He also acknowledged that the property tax revenues could experience even greater drops, although the proposed budget was a fiscally conservative one.

Mayor Schroder thanked staff and the department heads for their efforts during the multi-month budget process. He expressed appreciation for the fact that no jobs were being lost in meeting the budget, noting that means no loss of service to the public either. He also asked staff what the basis was for the property tax projections.

Councilmember DeLaney also thanked staff for their efforts. She asked staff if they had any forecasts of future property tax revenues. She also commented on the basis for the PERS projections, costs for the ferry consultant contract, possible purchase of 610 Court Street, relocation of the Corp Yard, the possibility of using federal stimulus funding for paving lesser important arterials in the City, COPS and CERT programs through the Police Department, and statistics on foreclosed properties in the City.

Vice Mayor Menesini commented on the number of variables in making the necessary budget projections, the impact on the City's budget if the voters do not approve the upcoming State budget propositions (particularly on the library system), impacts on public safety if the D.A. follows through with the reduction in criminal prosecutions, the unreinforced masonry ordinance, 610 Court Street, and renovation of the City pool.

Councilmember Kennedy said she was glad to see that the quiet zone study was still on the list. She also asked about Alhambra Highlands, the drop-off projected for other revenue under the general fund, and the DBAW loan.

Mayor Schroder opened public comment on the item.

Don Pellata discussed the organizational meeting of the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission, and the lack of ability to make budgetary recommendations to the Council. He also expressed appreciation to Chief Simonetti for standing up and telling the County that it was not a good idea to reduce criminal prosecutions.

David Piersall noted that the latest polls indicate that Proposition 1A and others will not pass, and necessary adjustments to the budget should be made. He also asked about project and program assignments, and whether the water department is being charged for the portion of salaries and benefits that are assigned to it.

Tim Platt expressed concern that the noticing for this public budget workshop was inadequate. He also asked whether the proposed wage increases include any additional staff, restrictions on the open space funds, retiree health costs, fund balance transfers to public groups, the marina enterprise fund, parking services fund, and the CIP fund. He suggested it might be good in some cases to include information about the 2008 budget for comparison purposes.

Mike Alford commented on continual references to redevelopment. He asked that the Council finally go ahead and enact it so that the people can referend it. He questioned whether there was going to be enough money, and he asked for confirmation as to whether the new pool was going to be rebuilt in its current location or whether it will be moved.

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

Councilmember Kennedy responded to Mr. Pellata's comments about funding for activities under the purview of the Parks, Recreation, Marina and Cultural Commission, noting that the Commission's input may be sought when such opportunities occur.

Vice Mayor Menesini thanked staff for their efforts on the budget. He also stated that if all the WWW funds have not been spoken for, perhaps some could be used to enhance the fishing pier facility.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 7:30 p.m. to a Regular City Council Meeting on May 6, 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 -6/3/09