

CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - ROLL CALL

Mayor Schroder called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

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

EXCUSED: Janet Kennedy, Councilmember.

ABSENT: None.

PRESENTATION(S)/PROCLAMATION(S)

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Phillip Ciaramitaro spoke on the past redevelopment referenda process, Joltin Joe, Martinez Opera, Ferry Point Park Improvement Project, Fall Festival, and other projects that he has worked on. He also requested that he be allowed to assist and partner with the City, and he urged the Council to forget about establishing a redevelopment agency. Mr. Ciaramitaro requested public notification on Council Subcommittee meetings.

Tim Platt asked for clarification on the Cascara Canyon item under the Consent Calendar, which Mayor Schroder provided.

Mike Alford spoke on a group that wishes to make a sports facility in the Zocchi building; he recommended that the City proceed with this project which would be a benefit to the City. Mr. Alford urged the Council to stop doing what they want and start listening to the people. He stated that he looked forward to this year's City elections.

Kristin Henderson submitted an email with respect to the City being abusive in their discretion regarding Public Records Requests for reports (DPR's Knapp/VCP).

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION WAIVING READING OF TEXT OF ALL RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES.

1. Motion approving City Council Minutes of January 6, 2010. [M.Cabral]
2. Motion rejecting Claims against the City by Walter Santos, Gregory & Lynne Hile, Claim #09-16. [M.Cabral]

3. Motion approving Check Reconciliation Registers dated 01/21/10 and 01/28/10. [C.Spinella/02.01.01]
4. Motion adopting Ordinance No.1354 C.S. Rezoning a 5.6 acre property located on Shell Avenue from R-3.5 (family residential, 3,500 square feet site area/unit) to a combination of R-1.5 (multi-family residential: 1,500 square feet per dwelling unit/10,000 square feet minimum lot size), R-100 (one family residential: 100,000 square feet minimum lot size) and OS (open space) to allow development of 42 multi-family units and one custom home ("Casara Canyon"), RZ #09-01. [C.Simon/9.2.01&9.4.01.06]

Councilmember Mark Ross requested that Item #4 be pulled from the Consent Calendar.

On motion by Mark Ross, Councilmember, seconded by Lara DeLaney, Vice Mayor, to approve Items #1 through #3 of the Consent Calendar. Motion unanimously passed 4 - 0.

Mayor Schroder opened Item #4 for public comment.

John Bellato expressed concern with parking, traffic safety, and the quality of the street. He also expressed frustration with the Council's accepting the higher number of units.

Norman McDonald suggested that a written covenant be created to disallow further construction on the property. He expressed hope that the traffic safety issues would be addressed. He also expressed frustration that the public's input was not having an impact. He questioned the Council's statement that the Planning Commission would be able to make changes to the project. Mayor Schroder noted that the Commission would be able to protect the open space on the property, and that progress was being made in the area of traffic safety.

Phillip Ciaramitaro requested that the Council attempt to work with and dialogue with the neighborhood to ease the impact of so dramatic a change. He made several suggestions, including using the property for parking, reducing the number of units, and using sustainable technologies. Vice Mayor DeLaney pointed out that the Green Belt Alliance supports high-density housing.

Tim Platt talked about the possibility of a referendum regarding the project and asked that anyone interested in working on one contact him. He stated that high-density housing was not in the best interests of the community, especially because of traffic and parking.

Mike Alford stated that a better traffic study was needed because of the safety issues, and insisted that the Council listen to the wishes of the people. He pointed out problems associated with high-density housing in other cities, such as crime. He also expressed frustration with the three-minute time limit. Mayor Schroder pointed out that the time limit was not unusual.

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

Councilmember Menesini expressed satisfaction with the amount and quality of public discussion that had occurred, and stated that he looked forward to the Planning Commission resolving the issues that have been raised.

On motion by Michael Menesini, Councilmember, seconded by Lara DeLaney, Vice Mayor, adopt Ordinance No. 1354 C.S. Rezoning a 5.6 acre property located on Shell Avenue from R-3.5 (family residential, 3,500 square feet site area/unit) to a combination of R-1.5 (multi-family residential: 1,500 square feet per dwelling unit/10,000 square feet minimum lot size), R-100 (one family residential: 100,000 square feet minimum lot size) and OS (open space) to allow development of 42 multi-family units and one custom home ("Cascara Canyon"), RZ #09-01. Motion unanimously passed 4 - 0.

Councilmember Ross agreed that the issues raised by the public were important, but that all of them had been acknowledged and discussed by the Council at the previous meeting. He stated that when the final plan came before the Council, they would be able to evaluate whether or not the problems had been resolved.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

CITY MANAGER

5. Resolution authorizing the City to accept the transfer of certain Facility Maintenance responsibilities from Contra Costa County at the Martinez Library, effective March 1, 2010. [M.Chandler/5.18.00]

Michael Chandler, Senior Management Analyst, presented the staff report. He discussed the suggested terms and basis for the arrangement, as well as the potential benefits to the City. He noted that other cities had done the same thing.

Councilmember Menesini agreed that the City had responsibilities to support its assets and stated that he supported the transfer.

Vice Mayor DeLaney noted that in the Measure H improvements the City had committed to assisting the library facility, and that the cost estimates for Measure H allowed the City to absorb the current costs. She also stated that having some control of the facility would allow the City to control future costs. She noted that maintaining the hours of operation would be an issue.

Mayor Schroder asked about future library services and the effect the County's decreasing budget would have.

Anne Cain, County Librarian, noted that the library's budget came mainly from property tax revenue, which was continuing to decrease, and that the budget would therefore not improve until the housing market did. Mayor Schroder confirmed that the library might have to reduce its hours if the budget demanded it. Ms. Cain agreed but stated that she would not have exact numbers until the budget was finalized at the end of March.

Mayor Schroder noted that no one in the audience wished to speak on the item.

Councilmember Menesini noted that it was important for the City to protect the library's hours of operation. He stated that the proposed arrangement seemed fair for the City.

Vice Mayor DeLaney thanked the Library Subcommittee for successfully working with the County and evaluating the possible options. She agreed that the City should be responsible for some of the costs because of the improvements being made, and stated that she supported the transfer.

Councilmember Ross agreed with the rest of the Council regarding the transfer of responsibility. He also suggested that the Alhambra High School's library be used while the City's library is closed for renovation, at least during the day. The Council directed staff to contact the Martinez Unified School District to discuss this possibility.

On motion by Michael Menesini, Councilmember, seconded by Lara DeLaney, Vice Mayor, adopt Resolution No. 015-10 authorizing the City to accept the transfer of certain Facility Maintenance responsibilities from Contra Costa County at the Martinez Library, effective March 1, 2010. Motion unanimously passed 4 - 0.

6. Status Report: Storm Management (recent storms)—oral report.

Public Works Superintendent Bob Cellini presented the Storm Management report and a review of the preventative maintenance program. He discussed street sweeping, specifically the collection and disposal of debris, the challenges involved, and the importance of raising public awareness to facilitate the street sweeping. He also described the clean up of roadsides, v-ditches, culverts, storm drains, catch basin inlets, and creeks. He mentioned recent projects and the projects that will be necessary in the near future. He also gave an update on the damage from the past storms and the clean up, which was easier because of the preventative cleaning, and discussed preparations for future storms.

In response to questions from Vice Mayor DeLaney, Mr. Cellini explained what a V-ditch was, enforcement options for the street sweeping times, and the pickup of large debris done by Allied Waste Services.

Mayor Schroder asked about the measures that had been proposed for the emergency removal of the beaver dam in the event of extreme flooding, and if they were still necessary. Mr. Cellini explained that the beavers' structure now was so compacted as to be immovable, but he indicated there were other options for removing any debris that might accumulate, without removing the beaver dam.

Vice Mayor DeLaney asked for clarification about the cables. Mr. Cellini and Public Works Director Scola explained that the cables had been put in place, but one had been cut (most likely from vandalism) and staff had subsequently removed them.

Mayor Schroder also asked about the silt removal upstream, and Mr. Cellini agreed that would improve the siltation level.

Mr. Scola complimented Mr. Cellini on the amount of work he had done. Mr. Cellini added that local businesses had been very helpful, and that controlling the overgrowth of the creek was important.

Councilmember Ross complimented Mr. Cellini on his work and on the handling of the beaver situation.

Councilmember Menesini agreed that the Public Works Department had done an outstanding job during and before the recent storms, and noted the progress made since the flooding in years past.

Vice Mayor DeLaney agreed that the presentation was beneficial and wished that more of the public had heard it. She suggested a public workshop to raise awareness.

Mayor Schroder also expressed his appreciation of Mr. Cellini's work and that of his crew.

7. City Manager Comment(s)/Update(s)/Report(s).

City Manager Philip Vince referred to Councilmember Ross to update the Council on the outcome of the State Lands Commission meeting on Monday, February 1st. Councilmember Ross reported that the City's 46-year lease was approved by the Commission, but described a continuing issue with the number of liveboards which will again be discussed with the Commission in April. Vice Mayor DeLaney and Councilmember Menesini both expressed frustration with the level of control exerted by the State Lands Commission.

CHIEF OF POLICE

8. Status Report: Emergency Tabletop Exercise—oral report.

Chief of Police Tom Simonetti stated that on February 18, the Department will be conducting an Emergency Tabletop Exercise, which will be a part of the newly updated disaster manual. He noted that this will be a realistic scenario, and will provide good training for everyone as well as providing an opportunity for evaluation.

Mayor Schroder asked for a clarification on the role of the City Council in disaster situations. City Manager Vince discussed potential mayoral responsibilities, such as interfacing with the media.

Vice Mayor DeLaney asked about the Council being brought in as back up. City Manager Vince commented that there could be some opportunity for the Council's use especially with their expertise.

Vice Mayor DeLaney also asked about the selection of the nature of the Tabletop Exercise. Chief Simonetti replied that Commander Ghisletta, as Emergency Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, would plan and administer the Exercise.

Councilmember Menesini expressed his appreciation for the Police Department in preparing the exercise, and asked for an update on the recent Shell spill and its impact on the surrounding neighborhoods and schools. Chief Simonetti reported that he received a phone call from Shell relating that the incident was a "level zero," which means there was no impact. Mayor Schroder noted that the Mountain View Sanitary District had noticed no impacts as well.

9. Chief of Police Comment(s)/Update(s)/Report(s).

No comments made.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS AND/OR AGENCIES

CITY COUNCIL

10. City Council Comments.

Vice Mayor Lara DeLaney requested that staff move forward with crafting a new ordinance to establish a redevelopment agency, as a priority for the year. Mayor Schroder noted that the City was generally in favor of a redevelopment agency.

Councilmember Mark Ross agreed with Vice Mayor DeLaney and added that the City is losing thousands of dollars everyday instead of keeping it and using it locally. Councilmember Ross noted that he will not be able to attend the Joint Council and Planning Commission meeting on February 17th.

Councilmember Michael Menesini requested that staff move forward with abatement and code enforcement issues with vacant buildings, especially the building on Main Street. Public Works Director Scola noted that the City was continuously performing inspections and communicating with the owners. Councilmember Menesini requested that staff develop a program and begin with the 10 worst properties and develop solutions, and if necessary, bring back a new ordinance; he requested that this be made a priority. Vice Mayor DeLaney noted San Francisco's requirements for the maintenance of vacant buildings. Mayor Schroder agreed that it was an issue of concern. Councilmember Menesini stated that this problem was an urgent priority that should be dealt with as soon as possible. Vice Mayor DeLaney mentioned that a proposition had qualified for the ballot (Prop. 13), relating to tax breaks for construction of unreinforced masonry buildings; and she requested that staff evaluate the language and indicate how the new proposition relates to the program that the City had adopted. Mr. Scola described the progress being made with some of the properties.

City Manager Vince agreed that it was time to move forward and thanked the Council for their leadership.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:57 p.m. to a Joint City Council and Planning Commission meeting on February 17, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. reconvening to a Regular City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 525 Henrietta Street, Martinez CA 94553.

Approved by the City Council,

Rob Schroder, Mayor

Mercy G. Cabral, Deputy City Clerk – 3/3/10