

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Schroder called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. with all members present except Councilmember Menesini and Vice Mayor DeLaney who arrived shortly after roll call.

CLOSED SESSION

- A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.8:

Property: 865 Howe Road, Martinez.
Agency Negotiators: Philip Vince, City Manager; Dave Scola, Public Works Director;
Jeff Walter, City Attorney.
Negotiating Parties: City of Martinez and CGT Associates.
Under Negotiation: Proposed property acquisition.

- B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957: Title: Chief of Police.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to Closed Session Items)

Mayor Schroder opened and closed public comment on Closed Session items with no speakers coming forward.

The Council adjourned to the City Manager's Office.

**Councilmember Menesini arrived at 6:00 p.m.*

RECONVENE- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - ROLL CALL

Mayor Schroder called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. He reported that closed session was held with respect to Public Employee Appointment, Title Chief of Police, there was nothing to report out at this time; with respect to Conference with Real Property Negotiators regarding 865 Howe Road, direction was given to the City's negotiators.

PRESENT: Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, Michael Menesini, Councilmember, Mark Ross, Councilmember, Lara DeLaney, Vice Mayor, and Rob Schroder, Mayor.
EXCUSED: None.
ABSENT: None.

PRESENTATION(S)/PROCLAMATION(S)

A. WiFi Update by Dan Wilson, AirCloud Communications.

Senior Management Analyst Mike Chandler introduced the item, reminding the Council of the past presentation in May, and the plan to add a public wireless network in the downtown area. He introduced Dan Wilson from Air Cloud Communications.

Mr. Wilson provided an update on the project and described the problems encountered that postponed the start date. He also discussed new, improved equipment, testing of the network and eventual phasing in of the full network, which should be up and running by the end of the year.

Mayor Schroder asked about the strength of the signal and how much of the downtown will be covered by the network. Mr. Wilson said it is expected that there will be a strong signal in the 6-block area around City Hall, and a little bit into surrounding neighborhoods, but until the equipment is installed and testing can be done, he couldn't say for sure how big an area will be covered. Mayor Schroder also asked if the network will work similarly to airport WiFi networks. Mr. Wilson said yes, and like Starbucks networks.

Vice Mayor DeLaney asked what other nearby communities Air Cloud services. Mr. Wilson said the closest is Pleasant Hill. He commented on paid subscribers as well as free users, and the advertising possibilities. Vice Mayor DeLaney said the advertising appealed to her especially because the City can use it as well, and low cost advertising is always attractive.

Councilmember Kennedy said the Chamber of Commerce is especially excited by the possibilities.

Mayor Schroder opened public comment on the item.

Rose Martin asked whether the harbor area would be included in the WiFi network. Mr. Wilson said no, not at this time.

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

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

Sue Higgens, resident, raised concerns with the pathway that runs in front of her home between Morello and Center Avenue, is in great need of repair and she asked the Council to direct staff to repair it. She also commented on the condition of the eucalyptus trees which are in terrible condition and need to be topped. Ms. Higgens did express appreciation for the repairs made in the past, but encouraged the Council to take action before more injury occurs.

Gary Freitas discussed his open space property (5 and half acres) and his wish to develop it. He requested that the Council use the General Plan update to correct the opens space designation for his property. Mayor Schroder recommended Mr. Freitas contact Terry Blount, Planning Manager, and include himself into the General Plan process and express his views.

Rose Martin expressed her concern with the corners at Marina Vista and Ferry Street with respect to the ditch on both sides and the problems pedestrians are having. She could not understand how the corners, sidewalks, and the street were going to come together. Ms. Martin also asked for clarification on the new fingers at the Marina, which Mayor Schroder provided. Public Works Director Dave Scola explained that the gutter pan at Ferry and Marina Vista is at the correct level, the streets will be graded and the sidewalks improved so everything will eventually come together.

Scott Alstad reintroduced himself as a candidate for City Council and stated that this campaign has been exciting. He thanked the citizens for participating in the process.

Mike Alford expressed support for Mr. Freitas' project; he spoke out against Richfield developing on open space and the proposed tree removals. He asked why would the Council allow that to happen. Mr. Alford stated that the Council is using extortion when it comes to pushing redevelopment and taking money from the General Fund to pay consultants. He also commented on the Marina development and information he had received from the Department of Boating and Waterways.

Councilmember Kennedy clarified that the Alhambra Highlands is not designated open space, but residential. She further stated that the Council has not taken any action on this project; it was approved many years ago by another Council. Councilmember Kennedy also stated that taking away the opportunity for a property owner to develop their property is against the law.

Seeing no further speakers, Mayor Schroder closed public comment.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION WAIVING READING OF TEXT OF ALL RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES.

1. Motion approving City Council Minutes September 15 and September 22, 2010.
[M.Cabral]
2. Motion accepting Check Reconciliation Registers dated 10/07/2010 and 10/14/10.
[C.Spinella/2.1.1]
3. Motion accepting the Cash and Investment Report dated September 30, 2010.
[C.Spinella/2.1.1]
4. Resolution No. 097-10 accepting bids and awarding the construction contract for the Martinez Public Library, Project No. C4012, to Gold Spring Construction Company of San Francisco, the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$1,193,894.
[D.Scola/5.18.02]10.05.03]
5. Resolution No. 098-10 authorizing the City Manager to execute an addendum to extend and modify the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Martinez and the Labors Union, Local #324 from December 31, 2010 to June 30, 2011.
[M.Chandler/4.5.7]

Councilmember Janet Kennedy requested Item #1, City Council Minutes of September 15th be pulled from Consent since she was not present at that meeting. Vice Mayor DeLaney requested that the Minutes be pulled since she was not present at either the September 15th or September 22nd meetings.

On motion by Michael Menesini, Councilmember, seconded by Lara DeLaney, Vice Mayor, to approve Items #2 through #5 of the Consent Calendar. Motion unanimously passed 5 - 0.

On motion by Michael Menesini, Councilmember, seconded by Mark Ross, Councilmember, to approve the City Council Minutes of September 15, 2010. Motion unanimously passed 3 - 0.
Yes: Michael Menesini, Councilmember Mark Ross, Councilmember, Rob Schroder, Mayor,
Abstain: Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, Lara DeLaney, Vice Mayor.

On motion by Michael Menesini, Councilmember, seconded by Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, to approve the City Council Minutes of September 22, 2010. Motion unanimously passed 4 - 0.
Yes: Janet Kennedy, Councilmember Michael Menesini, Councilmember Mark Ross, Councilmember, Rob Schroder, Mayor, Abstain: Lara DeLaney, Vice Mayor.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

6. Public hearing to consider resolution approving receipt of \$100,000 from the State of California's Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Funds; and authorize the Chief of Police to receive funding provided by this grant.[G.Peterson/4.8.0]

Chief of Police Tom Simonetti presented the staff report. Lara DeLaney said she would like to see that future requests for approval include a report regarding how the funds were used by the activities of the Resource Officer.

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

On motion by Lara DeLaney, Vice Mayor, seconded by Mark Ross, Councilmember, adopt Resolution 099-10 approving receipt of \$100,000 from the State of California's Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Funds; and authorize the Chief of Police to receive funding provided by this grant. Motion unanimously passed 5 - 0.

CITY MANAGER

7. Discussion of relocation of the County's Conservation and Development Department to 30 and 40 Muir Road. [P.Vince/43.00.01]

City Manager Philip Vince presented the staff report, noting that the County's current plan is to move into only one of the two buildings. He commented on the economic impacts from County offices, and he indicated that the purpose of this item tonight is to discuss options for the City at this point.

Vice Mayor DeLaney discussed information she had gathered from the General Services Director, Mike Lango, regarding the status of the project and the number of employees affected. She noted this could be the last chance the City and the public have to influence the County's plans to move more departments out of the downtown.

Mayor Schroder confirmed that 30 and 40 Howe Road are vacant buildings. He agreed that it is important for the City to act soon, and he stated that he would like City staff to contact County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema, and to reactivate the County/City Liaison Subcommittee.

Councilmember Menesini said he would be happy to work with Vice Mayor DeLaney in interactions with the County, to show them the advantages of continuing to have their main hub of County offices in Martinez.

Vice Mayor DeLaney commented on the County's need for better parking options for their employees, noting this could be a good time to partner together to create a structure that could be shared with the City.

Councilmember Kennedy said she would be willing to work on the Subcommittee. She noted that the departments that are proposed to be moved also have a lot of interaction with the public, and the loss of those potential customers would be felt in the downtown as well. She suggested that other downtown employers be brought into the discussion too.

Councilmember Ross commented on other considerations, such as redevelopment, that could help make the downtown more viable.

Mayor Schroder agreed that redevelopment could be a key component for the long-term health of the downtown, as it has been in other communities in the bay area. He also agreed with Councilmember Kennedy about involving other members of the community. It was decided that Councilmembers Menesini and Kennedy would be the new members of the County/City Liaison Subcommittee.

Mayor Schroder opened public comment on the item.

Mike Alford commented on a company that wanted to come to Martinez and bring 300 new jobs, but was not encouraged to do so. He questioned whether the County was much of a financial boon to the City, since they don't pay rent nor would they pay for needed retrofit of one of the buildings that have been proposed to be used by them. He also questioned the advisability of redevelopment, considering the indebtedness of many such agencies.

Doug Stewart said he thought the City should build the downtown around transportation rather than the County, noting that County employees leave at the end of the work day so there is not much open in the downtown at night. He indicated that trains run later in the night, and if the buses did too, there would be more potential for business from the riders. Mayor Schroder noted that the County Connection bus service has budget problems too, and are decreasing bus services not adding new services .

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

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

No comments made.

CHIEF OF POLICE

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.

Councilmember Janet Kennedy urged citizens to vote. She also announced the Mayor's Golf Cup Tournament on Friday, October 22 at 11:00 a.m. at Roddy Ranch Golf Club; the Spaghetti Feed fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Club on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. She congratulated Ann Finke and John Marigone on their retirement from Shell.

Vice Mayor Lara DeLaney announced the Joltin' Joe Fundraiser on Saturday, October 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Shell Club House; the Beer Fest on Saturday, at 1:00 p.m. at 333 Ferry Street (near Marina). She too encouraged the public to vote.

Councilmember Mark Ross commented on the wonderful Homecoming Parade.

Councilmember Menesini also commented on the Homecoming Parade as one of the great events held in Martinez. He too echoed the other Councilmembers' comments and encouraged all to vote.

Mayor Rob Schroder stated that he went to the Homecoming Parade, and he announced the winners of the floats: Juniors came in first; Seniors, second; Sophomores, third; and Freshman, fourth. He also went to the Homecoming game and noted that Alhambra beat Alcalanes 14 to 12. As a LAFCO boardmember, he indicated they are currently reviewing a report regarding the fire districts unsustainability and are searching for other alternatives, i.e. mergers, service agreements, etc. Mayor Schroder also urged the public to vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 8:20 p.m. to a Regular Meeting on November 3, 2010 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 –12/1/10