

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rolling Hills Estates was called to order at 7:39 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 4045 Palos Verdes Drive North, by MAYOR SEAMANS.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR SEAMANS led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

City Council Members Present: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

City Staff Present: City Manager Doug Prichard
City Attorney Kristin Pelletier
Planning Director David Wahba
Community Services Director Andy Clark
Administrative Services Director Mike Whitehead
Assistant to the City Manager Greg Grammer

Others Present: David Pierson, Park and Activities Commission
Andy Rein, Planning Commission

4. CEREMONIAL ITEMS

A. Eloy Morales, Jr., District Representative, presented a California Senate Resolution on behalf of Senator Ed Vincent's Office, congratulating the City on its 50th anniversary.

Jennifer Zivkovic, Senior District Representative, presented a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of Assemblywoman Betty Karnette's Office, commenting that she has always been proud to represent the City as it is a unique and wonderful community in which to live.

Tom Long, Mayor, presented a Proclamation, on behalf of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, in honor of the City's 50th anniversary.

5. ROUTINE MATTERS

A. ADJOURNED JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN

TO APPROVE THE ADJOURNED JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 AS PRESENTED.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR SEAMANS SO ORDERED.

B. CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN

TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 AS PRESENTED.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR SEAMANS SO ORDERED.

C. DEMANDS AND WARRANTS – SEPTEMBER

COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN moved, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL

TO APPROVE WARRANTS 42610 THROUGH 42677 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$264,415.58; WARRANTS 42678 THROUGH 42679 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$345,400.00 FOR A GRAND TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$609,815.58 WITH PROPER AUDIT.

AYES: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN

TO APPROVE ITEMS A-C.

A. READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions presented for consideration to the City Council will be waived and all such ordinances and resolutions will be read by title only.

B. AUGUST 2007 SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

Recommendation: That the City Council receive and file the Schedule of Investments report for the month.

RECEIVED AND FILED.

C. LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PRIORITY FOCUS DATED SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

RECEIVED AND FILED.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR SEAMANS SO ORDERED.

7. AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA/WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS (Taken out of order)

A. PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17,2007

COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN moved, seconded by MAYOR PRO TEM ZERUNYAN

TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2007.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR SEAMANS SO ORDERED.

B. PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN

TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2007.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR SEAMANS SO ORDERED.

1. PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION ACTION ITEM – PVDN AND HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD MEDIANS LANDSCAPING

Recommendation: That the City Council: 1) Approve the scope of the project that shall include all the medians on Palos Verdes Drive North and Hawthorne Boulevard within the City's limits; and 2) Select a qualified landscape design firm through the RFQ process.

Community Services Director Clark provided a staff report (as per agenda material).

After brief discussion, it was the consensus of the COUNCIL to utilize drought-tolerant plants for this project.

COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN

TO APPROVE: 1) THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT THAT SHALL INCLUDE ALL THE MEDIANS ON PALOS VERDES DRIVE NORTH AND HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD WITHIN THE CITY'S LIMITS; AND 2) SELECTING A QUALIFIED LANDSCAPE DESIGN FIRM THROUGH THE RFQ PROCESS.

2. PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION ACTION ITEM – STREET ENTRYWAY BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM FUNDING REQUESTS (DAPPLEGRAY/HARBOR SIGHT)

Recommendation: That the City Council: 1) Approve the request by Dapplegray HOA for funding as follows: Dapplegray HOA be awarded \$2,500 and that Dapplegray HOA submits a more detailed bid to the Park and Activities Commission for review, and that City Council be requested to allocate enough funding to cover an additional \$1,000 for this project; 2) Approve the Harbor Sight HOA request for funding as follows: \$2,500 for their project; and that City Council be requested to allocate enough funding to cover an additional \$349.07 for this project; and 3) Approve the advanced sign request for Harbor Sight HOA at the Harbor Sight HOA's expense.

Community Services Director Clark provided a staff report (as per agenda material).

COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN moved, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL

TO APPROVE: 1) THE REQUEST BY DAPPLEGRAY HOA FOR FUNDING AS FOLLOWS: DAPPLEGRAY HOA BE AWARDED \$2,500 AND THAT DAPPLEGRAY HOA SUBMIT A MORE DETAILED BID TO THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION FOR REVIEW; AND ALLOCATE ENOUGH FUNDING TO COVER AN ADDITIONAL \$1,000 FOR THIS PROJECT; 2) THE HARBOR SIGHT HOA REQUEST FOR FUNDING AS FOLLOWS: \$2,500 FOR THEIR PROJECT; AND ALLOCATE ENOUGH FUNDING TO COVER AN ADDITIONAL \$349.07 FOR THIS PROJECT; AND 3) APPROVE THE ADVANCED SIGN REQUEST FOR HARBOR SIGHT HOA AT THE HARBOR SIGHT HOA'S EXPENSE.

AYES: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS

A. CITIZENS' OPTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY (COPS)

Recommendation: That the City Council: 1) Open the public hearing; 2) Take any public testimony; 3) Close the public hearing; 4) Authorize the continuation of the three CORE Deputies; and 5) Adopt Resolution No. 2143 establishing a reserve account for the COPS program and making appropriations therefrom.

City Manager Prichard provided a staff report (as per agenda material).

COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL moved, seconded by MAYOR PRO TEM ZERUNYAN

TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR SEAMANS SO ORDERED.

Sgt. David Rozas, Lomita Sheriff's Station, noted that this is a unique program to the area and is one of the top 50 police programs in the United States. He commended the CORE Deputies noting that this program has improved relationships throughout the community.

COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN

TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR SEAMANS SO ORDERED.

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2143 FOR ADOPTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROLLING HILLS ESTATES ESTABLISHING A RESERVE ACCOUNT WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE CITIZENS' OPTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY (COPS) PROGRAM AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFROM.

COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN

TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2143.

City Manager Prichard read Resolution No. 2143 by title only.

AYES: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

9. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

3. PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION ACTION ITEM – STRAWBERRY LANE HOA SIGNAGE CONCERNS

Recommendation: That the City Council send the survey, as modified, to all Strawberry Lane residents.

Community Services Director Clark provided a staff report (as per agenda material).

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the COUNCIL not to become involved with the Strawberry Lane Homeowners' Association on this issue.

Discussion continued on whether or not the Park and Activities Commission should review every street entryway sign in the public right-of-way.

COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN moved, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL

TO DIRECT STAFF TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE STRAWBERRY LANE HOA IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE ENTRYWAY SIGNAGE ISSUE AND REFER ALL FUTURE ENTRYWAY SIGNAGE PROJECTS IN THE CITY'S RIGHT-OF-WAY TO THE PARK AND ACTIVITIES COMMISSION FOR REVIEW.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR SEAMANS SO ORDERED.

ADJOURNED TO PEPPER TREE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AT 8:24 P.M.

C. PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD ACTION ITEM – LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOURTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT MATCHING FUNDS FOR GEORGE F CANYON NATURE PRESERVE

Recommendation: That the Pepper Tree Foundation Board of Directors allocate \$10,525.53 in Foundation funding as the required funding match for the Los Angeles County Fourth District Grant Program to expand habitat restoration in the George F Canyon Nature Preserve.

Community Services Director Clark provided a staff report (as per agenda material).

MAYOR SEAMANS suggested sending a thank you letter to Supervisor Knabe for his support.

BOARD DIRECTOR ADDLEMAN moved, seconded by BOARD DIRECTOR ZERUNYAN

TO ALLOCATE \$10,525.53 IN PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION FUNDING AS THE REQUIRED FUNDING MATCH FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOURTH DISTRICT GRANT PROGRAM TO EXPAND HABITAT RESTORATION IN THE GEORGE F CANYON NATURE PRESERVE.

AYES: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

D. PEPPER TREE FOUNDATION ADVISORY BOARD ACTION ITEM – RFP FOR NATURE CENTER INTERPRETIVE AND DESIGNS SERVICES

Recommendation: That the Pepper Tree Foundation Board of Directors allocate \$7,500 to seek proposals from qualified consulting firms for the interpretive planning and conceptual design services for the George F Canyon Nature Center to transform its mission toward a “geological portal” facility.

Community Services Director Clark provided a staff report (as per agenda material).

Barbara Dye, Executive Director, PVP Land Conservancy, explained their desire to take a fresh look at the Nature Center and possibly change the focus to its unique geology.

Kristina Darbari, Education Director, PVP Land Conservancy, noted her experience in interpretive education as well as interactive design. She then distributed visual representations of the proposed exhibits.

City Manager Prichard clarified that the recommendation is to approve only the request for proposals at this time. Additionally, COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN noted that it is premature to place a budget amount until a proposal comes back to the COUNCIL for consideration.

MAYOR PRO TEM ZERUNYAN noted that he would feel more comfortable if the Land Conservancy raised their own funding and then bring back a request to the COUNCIL.

Ms. Dye commented that it is her hope the City will fund the first step for planning and design and will consider moving forward on this project in phases.

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN stated that outdoor options should be explored for the geological value of the Nature Center.

COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN moved, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL

TO APPROVE SEEKING PROPOSALS FROM QUALIFIED CONSULTING FIRMS FOR THE INTERPRETIVE PLANNING AND CONCEPTUAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE GEORGE F CANYON NATURE CENTER TO TRANSFORM ITS MISSION TOWARD A "GEOLOGICAL PORTAL" FACILITY WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RFQ: "IT IS THE COUNCIL'S INTENTION TO CONSIDER UP TO \$7,500 FOR THE RETENTION OF SERVICES DESCRIBED HEREIN."

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR SEAMANS SO ORDERED.

RECONVENED CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT 8:56 P.M.

9. NEW BUSINESS (Taken out of order)

F. REVISED AGREEMENT WITH PVP LAND CONSERVANCY FOR GEORGE F CANYON NATURE PRESERVE HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the revised Agreement with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy to manage the George F Canyon Nature Preserve habitat restoration projects, which includes grant funding awarded from the State of California's 2000 Park Bond Act Riparian and Riverine Program and the 2007 Los Angeles County Fourth Supervisorial District Grant Project.

Community Services Director Clark provided a staff report (as per agenda material).

COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN

TO APPROVE THE REVISED AGREEMENT WITH THE PALOS VERDES PENINSULA LAND CONSERVANCY TO MANAGE THE GEORGE F CANYON NATURE PRESERVE HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS, WHICH INCLUDES GRANT FUNDING AWARDED FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S 2000 PARK BOND ACT RIPARIAN AND RIVERINE PROGRAM AND THE 2007 LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOURTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT GRANT PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

AYES: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

G. LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS SERVICES AGREEMENT (Taken out of order)

Recommendation: That the City Council enter into the agreement with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps for the George F Canyon Preserve habitat restoration project.

Community Services Director Clark provided a staff report (as per agenda material).

COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN moved, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL

TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO THE AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS FOR THE GEORGE F CANYON PRESERVE HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT SUBJECT TO CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

AYES: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

E. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Recommendation: That the City Council receive and file this report.

City Manager Prichard provided a staff report (as per agenda material).

COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL moved, seconded by MAYOR PRO TEM ZERUNYAN

TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR SEAMANS SO ORDERED.

10. OLD BUSINESS

B. PALOS VERDES LANDFILL (REPLACEMENT OF GAS-TO-ENERGY FACILITY) – *(Taken out of order)*

Recommendation: That the City Council review a letter from Mr. Bill Piazza and staff's "draft" letter to the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts and direct staff to transmit this letter in final form prior to the Districts' October 1, 2007 deadline.

Planning Director Wahba provided a staff report (as per agenda material).

Bill Piazza, Air Quality Dynamics, Consultant provided an extensive presentation of his evaluation of the proposed Gas-to-Energy Facility. He noted that they took into consideration direct impacts to the community and was pleased to report that the assumptions brought forth by the Sanitation Districts are reasonable and consistent with regulatory guidelines. He emphatically stated that there will be no impact to surrounding schools.

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN noted that members of the public are interested in project alternatives. Mr. Piazza noted that, while he understands the interest from the community, his evaluation showed that the Applicant did in fact follow the proper protocol.

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN noted his pleasure that the impacts could be mitigated through normal means.

Mr. Piazza thanked Planning Director Wahba for the opportunity to open a line of communication with the Sanitation Districts as it provided valuable assistance in receiving information.

MAYOR PRO TEM ZERUNYAN noted his hope that this report will provide comfort to the public. He then noted that surrounding jurisdictions will be looking to the City and that other jurisdictions will benefit from this evaluation as well.

Mr. Piazza noted that he is available to assist in dealing with the public.

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN stressed that the community's involvement has been very important and was also pleased to note that this matter appears to have come to an outstanding conclusion.

Robert Ferrante, Sanitation Districts, commented that the report from Mr. Piazza was very detailed and thorough. He also commended Planning Director Wahba for his assistance.

In response to COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN, Mr. Ferrante noted that the quality of gas at this site precludes the use of certain technologies even though they may work at other sites. Additionally, he noted that they will continue to work with Mr. Piazza in reviewing his analysis as well as verifying the impacts and discuss various ways to mitigate them.

In response to COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN, Mr. Ferrante noted that in facilities of this particular size range, boilers are not utilized. He noted that they will continue to respond to comments in accordance with CEQA requirements.

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN inquired as to their air quality monitoring program. Mr. Ferrante stated that extensive monitoring will take place and will continue on a yearly basis.

City Manager Prichard suggested that language be incorporated into the final letter to include creation of a monitoring plan for mitigation efforts during construction whether it is for a Mitigated Negative Declaration or provided as a courtesy.

Mr. Piazza recommended that quantifying mitigation is necessary for those three weeks of construction exposure.

It was noted that Mr. Piazza and Planning Director Wahba will work together to explore appropriate language for inclusion in the letter.

It was the consensus of the COUNCIL

TO DIRECT STAFF TO WORK WITH MR. BILL PIAZZA, AIR QUALITY DYNAMICS, TO FURTHER EXPLORE DETAILED LANGUAGE REGARDING CREATION OF A CONSTRUCTION IMPACT MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE FINAL LETTER TO THE SANITATION DISTRICTS.

A. RENEWAL OF SEAHORSE RIDING CLUB REAL PROPERTY LEASE

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the Lease Agreement with the Seahorse Riding Club for a five-year period beginning October 1, 2007.

Administrative Services Director Whitehead provided a staff report (as per agenda material).

After brief discussion, COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN

TO APPROVE THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE SEAHORSE RIDING CLUB FOR A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2007 AS AMENDED SUBJECT TO CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

AYES: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

11. CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

NONE

12. CITY COUNCIL/REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: This item provides the opportunity for Members of the City Council to provide information and reports to other Members of the City Council and/or the public on any issues or activities of currently active Council Committees, ad hoc committees, regional or state-wide governmental associations, special districts and/or joint powers authorities and their various committees on which Members of the City Council might serve or have an interest, which are not otherwise agendized.

A. COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN inquired as to what is happening with the soil boring at the Equestrian Center. City Manager Prichard noted that the DTSC has approved the revised protocols which have been sent to the AQMD.

13. MAYOR AND COUNCIL ITEMS: - This item provides the opportunity for Members of the City Council to request information on currently pending projects and/or issues of public concern, direct that an item be agendized for future consideration and/or make announcements of interest to the public.

A. MAYOR SEAMANS

1. AMENDMENT TO THE CITY MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

Following Closed Session, after reconvening in Open Session, it was the consensus of the COUNCIL

TO APPROVE THE FIFTH AMENDMENT TO THE CITY MANAGER'S EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR A 5% SALARY ADJUSTMENT.

AYES: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

2. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' NOMINATION

MAYOR SEAMANS, along with COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL, was pleased to announce the nomination of Nell Mirels (former City Council Member) to receive a certificate of commendation from the League of Women Voters.

3. APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE

COUNCIL MEMBERS ADDLEMAN and ZUCKERMAN volunteered to serve on the Audit Committee.

4. MAYOR SEAMANS reported that a Household Hazardous Waste Pick-Up will be held on Saturday, October 6 at the Carson Water Treatment Facility.

At 10:16 p.m., the CITY COUNCIL convened into closed session.

14. CLOSED SESSION

- A. DISCUSSION WITH RESPECT TO PERSONNEL MATTERS
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957)

1. QUARTERLY CITY MANAGER PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION, CONSIDERED ITEM 13.A.1.

At 12:10 a.m., the COUNCIL reconvened with MAYOR SEAMANS, MAYOR PRO TEM ZERUNYAN, COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN, COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL and COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN present.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 12:10 a.m., MAYOR SEAMANS formally adjourned the City Council meeting to Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a joint emergency preparedness workshop with the City of Rolling Hills.

Submitted by,

Approved by,

Hope J. Nolan
Deputy City Clerk

Douglas R. Prichard
City Clerk