

Assistant City Administrator Lieberman reported that work continued on the Sustainability, Environment and Economic Development program. The focus this evening would be on the Economic Development Specialist position. While it would be possible to create and fund a permanent staff position, staff felt that the long-term commitment of the funds might not be the best plan. In addition, if a temporary consultant were contracted with, it would be more likely that the level of skill and expertise required for the position would be more easily obtained.

Council Member Wile opined this was well thought out, and recommended having applicants submit an example of their work, with "before" and "after" information. Council Member Javandel agreed it was a good idea to get a sense of direction before making a permanent hire. Council Member Atkinson noted this was a relatively new field, and part of the consultant's job would be surveying what is available to cities. Mayor Lieber asked which option would save staff time. The consultant option should provide a more independent (less dependent on staff) option.

Mayor Lieber wanted to hear from the sustainability committee regarding this. Mara Duncan, 848 Solano, wanted to be sure the process would be open and transparent.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6-1. Appointment of Dan Lieberman to the Sustainability Committee, as the Council At-Large member.

Staff recommendation: Appoint Dan Lieberman to the Sustainability Committee.

Mayor Lieber noted the new process had been approved that evening, but there was only one candidate.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Javandel and seconded by Council Member Wile to approve Dan Lieberman to be the Council At-Large member of the Sustainability Committee.

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Javandel, Okawachi, Wile, & Mayor Lieber

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

6-2. Charter Amendments

Staff recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 07-54 – A resolution of the Albany City Council Calling and Giving Notice of holding a special election to be held February 5, 2008, and

Request the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County to Consolidate said election with the special statewide Primary Election; and

Authorize the City Clerk or her duly authorized officers to carry out all the necessary procedures for said election submitting to the voters An Amendment to Albany

Charter Section 3.23, and an amendment to the Albany Charter Section 4.03 to the Qualified Voters of the City and Setting the Ballot Language.

Mayor Lieber opined that with only these two items it would not be worth it to hold a special election. City Administrator Pollard reported that the two items had to do with the transition between committee and commission members after elections are certified and before new appointments have been made, and about raising the threshold for requiring a competitive bidding process.

Carol O'Keefe, Albany resident, supported not spending the funds to have the special election for these two items alone. Michael Wallace, chair of the Charter Review Committee, agreed, and indicated he expected a third item to be ready before June. Mayor Lieber thanked the Charter Committee for the work they had been doing. There was consensus not to hold the February election. City Administrator Pollard stated that staff would look at what the cost impacts for the contract threshold amendment might be if the items were held until the November election.

7. OTHER BUSINESS, REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED, ANNOUNCEMENT OF EVENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- 7-1.** Potential change of regularly scheduled Council meeting on November 5, 2007 to November 6, 2007, related to City's appeal to El Cerrito City Council.

Council Members Atkinson and Okawachi and Mayor Lieber had attended the pancake breakfast at the fire station. Council Member Okawachi reported on the bicycle rodeo and the reopening of Terrace Park.

Council Member Wile asked how the Council's statements could be coordinated without violation of the Brown Act. City Administrator Pollard indicated staff could provide talking points for each member of the Council.

MOTION:

It was moved by Council Member Javandel and seconded by Council Member Wile to reschedule the November 5 meeting to November 6.

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Javandel, Okawachi, Wile, & Mayor Lieber

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

8. ADJOURNMENT

9:47 p.m. – There being no further business before the City Council it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.