

NOTE: These minutes are subject to Council approval and are not verbatim; however, tapes are available for public review.

MINUTES OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL
IN REGULAR SESSION, 1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2006

8:00 p.m.

Mayor Maris who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag called the regular meeting of the Albany City Council to order on the above date.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Good, Javandel, Lieber, Okawachi & Mayor Maris
Absent: None

STAFF PRESENT

Beth Pollard, City Administrator; Robert Zweben, City Attorney; Jacqueline Bucholz, City Clerk; Melinda Chinn, Recreation & Community Services Director; Charles Adams, Finance Director; Judy Lieberman, Assistant City Administrator; Ann Chaney, Community Development Director; Barry Whittacker, Project Manager, Rich Cunningham, Public Works Manager; Randy Leptien, City Engineer.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

(Consent Calendar items are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. By approval of the Consent Calendar, the staff recommendations will be adopted. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Council Member or a member of the audience requests removal of the items from the Consent Calendar.)

3-1. City Council minutes, February 21, 2006 & February 28, 2006.

Staff recommendation: Approve.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

3-2. a. Ratification of City of Albany net payroll in the amount of \$164,029.97; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of \$191,779.07. Total payroll in the amount of \$355,809.04. Payroll period: 02/17/06.

b. Ratification of Albany Municipal Services JPA net payroll in the amount of \$42,113.43; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of \$44,504.33. Total payroll in the amount of \$86,617.76; Payroll period: 02/17/06.

Staff recommendation: Ratify.

3-3. a. Ratification of bills, claims & demands against the City of Albany in the amount of \$104,912.02. Period: 02/10/06.

b. Ratification of bills, claims & demands against the City of Albany in the amount of \$22,265.91. Period: 03/01/06.

c. Ratification of bills, claims & demands against the City of Albany in the amount of \$321,710.21. Period: 02/24/06.

d. Ratification of bills, claims & demands against the Albany Municipal Services JPA in the amount of \$1,416.19. Period: 02/10/06.

e. Ratification of bills, claims & demands against the Albany Municipal Services JPA in the amount of \$224.40. Period: 02/24/06.
(File #300-40)

Staff recommendation: Ratify.

3-4. a. Ordinance #06-03 – An Ordinance of the Albany City Council Creating Section 8-21 “Prohibition and Limitation Against Certain Time, Place and Manner of Aggressive Solicitation” of the Albany Municipal Code. Second Reading – Pass-to-Print.

b. Resolution #06-6 – A Resolution of the Albany City Council to Amend the Master Fee Schedule to set a base bail amount of \$30.00 for violation of Section 8-21 of the Albany Municipal Code.
(File #100-95)

Staff recommendation: 1) Approve Ordinance #06-03 for Second Reading-Pass-to-Print. 2) Approve Resolution #06-6.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3-5.** Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2005-06 Financial Statements and Projection.
(File #330-20)

Staff recommendation: Information only.

- 3-6.** Call for Bids and Contract Award for Re-carpeting of Albany Library.
(File #600-30)

Staff recommendation: Authorize the City Clerk to invite bids and authorize the City Administrator to award the contract for re-carpeting of the Albany Library.

- 3-7.** Ratification of pension payments in the amount of \$102,645.95 for the month of February, 2006.

Staff recommendation: Ratify.

Mayor Maris asked if anyone would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Okawachi requested that Item 3-5 be removed for discussion.

3-5. Financial Statement & Projections

Council Member Okawachi asked how the sales tax revenue was doing noting there was quite an increase from the audit report between July & September. The Finance Director responded that he feels good about the sales tax and stated it is above what was budgeted. The Finance Director commented that Target has exceeded expectations.

Council Member Okawachi also asked if the City had a way of tracking whether the Bridal Shop was selling wholesale and the Finance Director responded the City does not receive that information.

Mayor Maris asked about the property transfer tax and the property turnover in the City noting that it appears the City will receive a significant payment. The Finance Director responded that the City would get the final payment towards the end of the fiscal year; however, sometimes a partial payment is received in June.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Okawachi, seconded by Council Member Lieber to approve the Consent Calendar, as submitted.

AYES: Council Members Good, Javandel, Lieber, Okawachi & Mayor Maris

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

4. GOOD OF THE CITY/PUBLIC FORUM

For persons desiring to address the City Council on an item that is not on the agenda please note that City policy limits each speaker to five (5) minutes. The Brown

4. GOOD OF THE CITY/PUBLIC FORUM

Act limits the Council's ability to take and/or discuss items that are not on the agenda; therefore, such items are normally referred to staff for comment or to a future agenda.

Mayor Maris opened the Good of the City/Public Forum and asked if anyone would like to speak.

Mr. Clay Larson, Adams Street, spoke about the Borrowing Owl Habitat and noted that he believes this would not be good for Albany, as the City would lose 60% of the plateau area.

Mr. Larson asked staff to provide background information including: 1) Surveys conducted that identified the burrowing owl habitat and copies of the survey that led Berkeley to its decision. 2) The requirements of law – get specific legal background regarding the requirements that lead to Berkeley's decision and also the impacts of the law in terms of Albany's response. 3) The evaluation of alternative mitigation sites and the City needs to determine whether Berkeley conducted a thorough evaluation of alternative mitigation sites, such as the Meadow area, before selecting the Albany plateau site. 4) What can Albany do about this – the City needs to find out what the authority and responsibilities actually are.

Mr. Sol Strand, Pierce Street, complained that the plants put in at the sound wall at Pierce Street are dying and would like to know who is responsible for this and what will be done once the rain stops.

There being no one else wishing to speak Mayor Maris closed the Good of the City/Public Forum.

5. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARING

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6-1. Parks Rehabilitation Project

(File #920-60)

The Recreation & Community Services Director introduced John Cahalan, Landscape Architect. Mr. Cahalan went over the project, as follows:

Ocean View Park: 1) Community Gardens. The area behind the tennis courts has been designated for community gardens. 2) Fencing around the play area. The Commission has requested the City Council provide direction for either a fence that encircles the northern and eastern sides of the play area or one that encircles the entire play area. 3) Restrooms. The restroom building includes men, women and family facilities, as well as storage for maintenance equipment. 4) Elimination of the skinned baseball/softball practice diamond. The field users groups have agreed to a small backstop in the northeastern corner of the field, as an alternative.

Terrace Park: 1) Restrooms. The community center has been eliminated and replaced with a restroom, which includes men, women and a storage room. 2) Drainage. Neighborhood representatives met with staff to discuss methods to address this issue, which include the installation of French drains and valley grates. 3) New Turf Area has

6-1. Parks Rehabilitation Project

been added to the southwest corner. 4) Trees. The only trees to be removed are the three pine trees that are a hazard. 5) New Wooden Entry Sign has been added to the design.

Council Member Good stated that he would be recusing himself on the discussion regarding Memorial Park, as he has a conflict of interest due to the location of his home across from Memorial Park.

Memorial Park: 1) Group Picnic Area includes disassembling the stone fireplace, moving it slightly and rebuilding with a concrete and steel interior. The existing stones will be used for the exterior. 2) Baseball Field. A pedestrian sidewalk has been added from Carmel Avenue and the third baseline of the baseball diamond has been redesigned so that it is parallel to the bleachers and the entire infield rotated 10-15 feet.

At this time Council discussed the presentation made by Mr. Cahalan. Memorial Park: Council Member Lieber stated that he likes the new design with the bleachers and dug out changed around, however, is concerned about the financing.

Mayor Maris asked a question regarding drainage and Mr. Cahalan responded that there is not very good surface drainage and that it does not percolate very well and noted that this will be looked at for new surface drainage and new pipes.

Mayor Maris asked how much it would cost to rebuild the fireplace and Mr. Cahalan responded \$18,000.

Ocean View: Mayor Maris asked if any new parking spaces were incorporated into the design and it was noted that there would be two additional parking spaces.

Council Members Javandel and Lieber both commented that they prefer having a continuous fence around the play area.

Council Member Okawachi questioned the bark chips in the picnic area and stated she was told by a concerned parent that bark chips make it very difficult to push a wheel chair and asked if there were any other options. Mr. Cahalan stated that there is going to be a concrete pad that would be fully accessible, which meet the ADA requirements.

Council Member Lieber asked how easy it would be to move the backstop and was told it would require tools. Council Member Lieber expressed concern about the soccer players and the backstop.

Mr. Roger Carlson, Park & Recreation Commission, commented that backstop is permanent but should not present a problem to the soccer players.

Council Member Lieber commented that he would like to hear from the soccer groups noting that they would like to have a dedicated playing field.

Terrace Park: Mayor Maris asked that a sign be put on the Francis Street side.

Council Member Okawachi stated that she was not happy with the placement of the restrooms and asked if a partition could be put in front of the doors. Council Member Okawachi also questioned the size and the need for the storage area and the Recreation & Community Services Director responded it is needed for maintenance equipment.

Council Member Okawachi stated that a lot of people with dogs use this park and asked if a doggy water fountain could be installed.

Council Member Lieber stated that having the restroom doors visible makes it safer for the children and if a barrier is installed is concerned about what might happen.

Mayor Maris expressed concern about the sandbox and the fact that the sand comes out and makes the sidewalk slippery and suggested a screen is put over it.

6-1. Parks Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Cahalan spoke to the Council about the turf removal at Memorial Park and noted that the Park & Recreation Commission have recommended that the turf be removed with the Excavate and Off-Haul method. The advantages to this method are that no chemicals are used, it is responsive to the community concerns about chemical usage, it is a very effective way to remove weeds and the end product (turf field) will be of high quality. The disadvantages include increased cost of \$75,000 over the cost for the chemical removal, traffic, noise and dust generation, loss of nutrient/organic matter, need for additional import of material and landfill disposal of removed turf.

Council Member Lieber stated that he is very pleased with the recommendation not to use chemicals for the removal of the turf. However, is concerned that Measure F contingency money is being used and believes that other options should be used before the use of Measure F funds.

Council Member Javandel agreed that the Excavate and Off-Haul method is the best way to deal with this but would like to look at alternatives for the disposal rather than dumping it at the landfill.

The following people spoke on this issue: Mr. Alan Riffer, Park & Recreation Commission; Mr. Jeff Pillar, Talbot Street; Mr. Roger Carlson, Albany resident; Mr. Dwight Willard, Albany resident; Mr. Peter Gazzalker(sp), Terrace; Ms. Nan Wishner, an Carlos; Ms. Sally Outis, Ventura Avenue.

A summary of the comments is as follows: The soil removed from Memorial Park could be used at the Gilman Fields; noted that the School District has made arrangements with St. Mary's for the use of the football fields due to the closure of Cougar Field; a comment was made that there is nothing wrong with the dirt being removed and probably looking at \$50,000 without tipping fees; believe the restrooms at Terrace Park are in the right location; asked that the public art be visible and spoke about the drainage problems; agreed with the method being recommended to remove the turf from Memorial Park; noted there will be a tile mural at Terrace Park on the building and on the drinking fountain tile and expressed concern that the mural would not work on the roll up doors; expressed concern about the number of truck trips that would be used to remove the dirt and suggested that the neighbors be alerted when this would happen; appreciate all the work done by the Park & Recreation Commission.

Mr. Cahalan stated that instead of the rollup doors he would check into installing spring doors.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Okawachi, seconded by Council Member Javandel to approve the Commission's final recommendations for the park rehabilitation project for Memorial, Ocean View and Terrace Parks, with consideration to the requests made regarding the bathroom doors at Terrace Park.

AYES: Council Members Javandel, Lieber, Okawachi & Mayor Maris

NOES: None

RECUSED: Council Member Good

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

6-1. Parks Rehabilitation Project

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Javandel, seconded by Council Member Lieber to approve a continuous fence around the play area with an accessible gate.

AYES: Council Members Javandel, Lieber, Okawachi & Mayor Maris

NOES: None

RECUSED: Council Member Good

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

Council Member Lieber stated that he does not support using Measure F contingency funds for the park projects

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Lieber, seconded by Council Member Javandel to approve the Park & Recreation Commission’s recommendation for the use of mechanical means (excavate and off-haul) for the turf removal at Memorial Park and that Measure F funds should only be used as a last resort and Measure R funds should be looked at first.

ON THE QUESTION:

Mayor Maris noted there is \$250,000 left in Measure R funds and would not support using it for the ball fields.

Council Member Okawachi agreed noting that many people worked very hard to get Measure R approved and they should not be used for this purpose.

AYES: Council Members Javandel & Lieber

RECUSED: Council Member Good

NOES: Council Member Okawachi & Mayor Maris

ABSENT: None

Motion failed.

The City Administrator suggested that the motion be split into two separate motions: 1) Turf removal and 2) Financing. This way Council Member Good could vote on the financing.

The City Attorney stated that Council Member Good recused himself from this issue and it must be consistent.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Lieber, seconded by Council Member Javandel to approve the excavate and off-haul method for removal of the turf at Memorial Park.

AYES: Council Members Javandel, Lieber, Okawachi & Mayor Maris

NOES: None

RECUSED: Council Member Good

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

Council Member Javandel stated that as the Council is at an impasse on the financing and as he does not feel that strongly about the use of Measure F funds he is willing to change his vote.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Javandel, seconded by Council Member Okawachi to allocate additional funding from the Measure F contingency for parks projects to fund the

6-1. Parks Rehabilitation Project**MOTION (cont.)**

additional costs for the mechanical turf removal method. Staff to look for any opportunity that would reduce the dumping costs.

AYES: Council Members Javandel, Okawachi & Mayor Maris

NOES: Council Member Lieber

RECUSED: Council Member Good

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

6-2. Civic Center Public Safety Rehabilitation Project

(File #200-30)

The City Administrator report that since the last meeting with the City Council in November, 2005, planning meetings with departmental staff have taken place, cost estimates have been received and updated, and some changes have occurred in the expectations for the project. In February, 2006, the City Council discussed pursuing additional funding through a ballot measure for a project that accomplishes more of its goals than current funding allows.

The project has been divided into two funding levels. The first level project elements could be accomplished with existing funding sources (Measure F). The second level of project elements could be accomplished with additional funding from a tax measure.

The first level project accomplishes the following for an estimated total cost of approximately \$6.5 million: Seismic retrofit of City Hall, Police & Fire Departments; Replacement of heating system; interior renovation and 300 sq.ft. addition to the Police Department to conform to ADA and new law enforcement and code regulations; remodel to the Fire Station housing quarters to accommodate female firefighters; improvements to the Fire Station apparatus doors, apparatus bay exhaust system and some storage.

The second level project accomplishes the following for an estimated total cost of approximately \$3.1 million; this number is subject to change if other goals are identified for a Level 2 project: Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Civic Center site; expanded Fire Station with an extension of the apparatus bay and expansion of the kitchen and day room; renovation of reception and office area; fire sprinkler system.

The City Administrator stated that Level 1 funding is available from the \$4.5 million in Measure F allocated by the City Council, and the \$2 million Measure F contingency previously considered by Council, for a total of \$6.5 million from Measure F.

Level 2 funding requires an allocation from Measure F plus approximately \$3.1 million additional funds from other fund sources, which staff has identified to be a November, 2006 tax measure.

Ms. Janet Tam, Noll & Tam, Project Architect, made a presentation showing the proposed plans. Ms. Tam answered some questions and noted that the proposed project is for a one-story building.

6-2. Civic Center Public Safety Rehabilitation Project

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Javandel, seconded by Council Member Good to authorize preparation of construction drawings for a “Level 1” project, at a project cost estimate not to exceed \$6.5 million. Authorized preparation of construction drawings for a “Level 2” project to provide additional remodel and expanded space for Emergency Services using additional funding of approximately \$3.1 million to be sought on a ballot measure in November, 2006.

AYES: Council Members Good, Javandel, Lieber, Okawachi & Mayor Maris

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

6-3. Ballot Measures for June, 2006 Election

(File #630-30)

The Assistant City Administrator reported that in February the City Council directed staff to prepare ballot language to place four items before the Albany voters in the upcoming June, 2006 election. The following are the proposed ballot measures: 1) Street Paving and Storm Drain Facility Improvement Parcel Tax, which establishes an annual parcel tax of \$96.00 per single family unit (\$8.00 per month) that will raise annual revenues of \$672,00 based on approximately 7000 Equivalent Residential Units (ERU). 2) Supplement Library Services Parcel Tax. The Albany Library Board presented its request for a supplemental parcel tax of \$24.00 per ERU to fund restoration of staff hours, which were cut last year, the addition of four open hours on Sunday, the purchase of new materials and other items as may be needed. 3) Procedure for Setting Compensation for City Council Members. The Charter Review Committee recommends a modification to the Charter to provide compensation for Council that could be set by Ordinance after considering the recommendation of a City Commission that would be adopted and take effect on or after January 1, 2000. 4) Term for Appointees to City Committees and Commission. The Charter Review Committee recommends a ballot measure to provide that appointees to committees/commissions/boards serve for a term lasting until the next general election.

The Assistant City Administrator stated that the cost to the Albany taxpayers per ERU of the two tax measures combined is \$120 annually or \$10 per month. Passage of both taxes would generate approximately \$672,000 annually for street paving and storm drains and \$180,000 for library services.

The following people spoke on the proposed tax measures, as follows: Ms. Laura Allen, Curtis Street; Ms. Carla Golden, Neilson Street; Ms. Stephanie Travis, Curtis Street; Mr. Sol Strand, Pierce Street.

A summary of the comments is as follows: Concern was expressed that the \$98 annual tax might too much for some Albany residents and would rather have a tax that is less that might have a better chance of passing. Expressed concern about the “hap hazard” approach the City is using for tax measures and noted that the City website regarding financial information is very confusing. Noted the difference in the ERU

6-3. Ballot Measures for June, 2006 Election

between the two tax measures regarding condominiums and apartments and did not see the rationale for the disparity.

The Assistant City Administrator responded to the question regarding the difference between the two taxes for condominiums and apartments stating that the Library Tax is based on the 1994 Library Tax.

Mayor Maris stated that it is very important for the citizens to run a good campaign.

Council Member Good spoke about Proposition 13 and the money the cities have lost due to that proposition.

Council Member Javandel noted that in November, 2005, it was the Albany School District that put a tax measure on the ballot and not the City.

Council Member Lieber stated that he is proud of this City and noted that to have a great working City taxes are needed and supports the two tax measures.

Mayor Maris stated that the City's budget process starts in April and would welcome everyone to attend the meetings and give their input.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Good, seconded by Council Member Lieber to extend the Council meeting to 11:30 p.m.

Motion carried and so ordered.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Good, seconded by Council Member Javandel to approve the Street Paving and Storm Drain Facility Improvement Parcel Tax in the annual amount of \$96.00 per ERU, with a 5% cap.

ON THE QUESTION:

The City Attorney clarified the motion stating that regarding the cap the same language that is in Exhibit B, Sec. 5.23.5 will be added to Exhibit A, line 15.

AYES: Council Members Good, Javandel, Lieber, Okawachi & Mayor Maris

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

Discussion followed regarding the cap in the Library Services Act. Ms. Linda Yamamoto, Library Board, stated that the language is based on the 1994 Library tax.

Council Member Javandel stated that it makes sense to have the measures be consistent.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Good, seconded by Council Member Javandel to approve the ballot measure for a Supplemental Library Services Parcel Tax in the annual amount of \$24.00 per ERU.

AYES: Council Members Good, Javandel, Lieber, Okawachi & Mayor Maris

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

The City Attorney presented the Change to the Charter regarding the term of a Commission/Committee/Board member stating the Charter Review Committee recommended this amendment.

6-3. Ballot Measures for June, 2006 Election**MOTION:**

Moved by Council Member Javandel, seconded by Council Member Okawachi to approve submitting the Charter Amendment regarding Commission/Committee/Board terms on the June, 2006 ballot.

ON THE QUESTION:

Council Member Good addressed Measure Q, which was a citizens' Initiative stating that he did not believe the terms of Commission/Committee/Board members should be shortened and would be voting against this motion.

AYES: Council Members Javandel, Lieber, Okawachi & Mayor Maris

NOES: Council Member Good

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

The City Attorney presented the Change to the Charter regarding the compensation for City Council Members, which was recommended by the Charter Review Committee.

Council Member Lieber stated originally he favored the language that is before Council tonight; however, after seeing the previous language that was before the voters in 1988, that failed by 3 votes, he would prefer to have that language submitted to the voters. The previous language referred the compensation to what General Law cities follow, which is set by the Government Code.

Council Member Good commented that he agrees with Council Member Lieber on the previous ballot language being submitted to the voters. However, believes that this work is voluntary and looks at the money as a gift.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Okawachi, seconded by Council Member Javandel to extend the meeting for 15 minutes.

Motion carried and so ordered.

Council Member Javandel indicated that he is not a huge advocate for asking the voters to approve an increase in salary but would be happy to let the voters decide this issue.

Council Member Javandel stated that he does prefer the 1988 language and would suggest taking a little longer to address this issue and not rush to put it on the June, 2006 ballot.

Council Member Okawachi agreed that she would prefer waiting and coming up with different language.

Mayor Maris stated that the issue of inequity should be addressed, as well as the salary compensation noting that currently some Council Members take the health and dental benefits while others do not.

Council Member Lieber agreed that this issue should be put off and would suggest this issue be referred to the Charter Review Committee to look at language for compensation and to incorporate health and dental benefits.

Council Member Lieber noted that he would prefer that this measure be put on the June, 2007 ballot rather than the November, 2006.

6-3. Ballot Measures for June, 2006 Election

Mayor Maris stated that the other Commission/Committee volunteers put in a lot of time and are not compensated and noted that he serves because he enjoys helping the community.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Okawachi, seconded by Council Member Lieber to refer this issue to the Charter Review Committee to work on language for setting compensation for the City Council.

AYES: Council Members Good, Javandel, Lieber, Okawachi & Mayor Maris

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

The City Attorney stated that Council must now approve Resolution #06-4, which submits the various ballot measures and requests the County to run the election. The City Attorney noted that the Resolution would be changed to reflect that one measure, the Council compensation, would not be on the June ballot.

Council Member Good presented Resolution #06-4 – A Resolution of the Albany City Council Calling and Giving Notice of Holding a Special Election to be Held June 6, 2006 and Requesting the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County to Consolidate Said Election with the Special Statewide Election; and Authorize the City Clerk or her Duly Authorized Offices to Carry Out All the Necessary Procedures for Said Election Submitting to the Voters a Special Municipal Services Parcel Tax, a Special Supplemental Library Services Tax and an Amendment to Albany Charter Section 2.01 to the Qualified Voters of the City and Setting the Ballot Language.

MOTION:

After reading the title, and waiving reading of entire Resolution, it was moved by Council Member Good and seconded by Council Member Javandel to approve Resolution #06-4 with the necessary changes to eliminate one ballot measure.

ON THE QUESTION:

The City Attorney noted that the Council should appoint a subcommittee to write and sign the ballot arguments.

It was the consensus of the Council to appoint the Mayor and Vice-Mayor to write and sign the ballot arguments.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

AYES: Council Members Good, Javandel, Lieber, Okawachi & Mayor Maris

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

6-4. City Signage

Mayor Maris stated that due to the lateness of the hour he would recommend that this item be continued until the next meeting.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Good, seconded by Council Member Javandel to continue the City Signage item to the next meeting.

6-4. City Signage

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

AYES: Council Members Good, Javandel, Lieber, Okawachi & Mayor Maris

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Good, seconded by Council Member Javandel to extend the meeting for 15 minutes.

Motion carried and so ordered.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7-1. East Bay Regional Park District Board of Director Appointment

(File #920-80)

The City Administrator reported that due to the death of Ward 1 representative, Jean Siri, there is a vacancy on the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors. The District has set the following schedule: February 28th, deadline for submittal of applications; March 8 & 9, interview of candidates; March 14, 2:00 p.m., special Board Meeting to appoint successor.

The Council has the opportunity to convey to candidates and to the District Board its regional park and open space goals, as well as related issues of interest and concern and to ask for consideration of these matters in the selection of a representative from this Ward.

The City Administrator submitted for Council review a list of considerations to be included in a communication to the District and candidates.

Council discussed this in length and the list of items to be considered in the letter to the East Bay Regional Park District.

Mr. Bob Outis, Albany resident, expressed concern about the reference to the Gilman Ball Fields noting that several Waterfront Committee members believe that alternatives to the burrowing owl habitat on the Plateau have not been adequately considered

Mr. Outis stated that his major concern is with the point concerning potential expansion of the Eastshore State Park through the acquisition of privately owned land in Albany. Mr. Outis believes such a statement is inappropriate and not supported by the City's General Plan. Also that any candidate for the Parks District recognize that the City speaks through its voters, its Council and its staff and not through private interest groups.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Good, seconded by Council Member Javandel to authorize the Mayor to send a letter on behalf of the City Council to the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District. Approve the list that was submitted by staff with the following language change: 4th bullet – add the words “and possible expansion. Last bullet – changed the wording, as follows: Respect for any decision by the City of Albany or by a vote of the citizens of Albany, such as land use decisions regarding the Albany waterfront.

7-1. East Bay Regional Park District Board of Director Appointment

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

AYES: Council Members Good, Javandel, Okawachi & Mayor Maris

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Council Member Lieber

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

8. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENT OF EVENTS

Mayor Maris made the following announcements: 1) Asked staff to agendize an item regarding changing the agenda language for Other Business/Announcement of Events. 2) Attended various meetings, such as the Albany/El Cerrito 2x2, which included discussion of the El Cerrito San Pablo Avenue development, ways to solve the I-80 traffic, BART noise; 2x2 with the City of Berkeley, which included discussion of St. Mary’s High School, Safeway expansion, AC Transit 43 bus reduction of service, Pacific Steel; U.C. Village and Albany Unified School District, which included discussion of police communications. Mayor Maris announced the Disaster Preparedness meeting on April 22nd.

Council Member Lieber requested that an item be agendized regarding the Impeachment of the President and Vice-President, citing a Resolution that was adopted by San Francisco. Council Member Lieber stated that this issue should be referred to the Social & Economic Justice Commission.

9. ADJOURNMENT

12:10 p.m. – There being no further business before the City Council it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Jacqueline L. Bucholz, CMC, City Clerk.

ALLAN MARIS
MAYOR

ATTEST:

JACQUELINE L. BUCHOLZ, CMC
CITY CLERK