

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
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2004

8:00 p.m.

Mayor Ely 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, Maris, Okawachi, Thomsen & Mayor Ely
Absent: None

STAFF PRESENT

Beth Pollard, City Administrator; Robert Zweben, City Attorney; Jacqueline Bucholz, City Clerk; Ann Chaney, Community Development Director; Dave Dowswell, Planning Manager; Charles Adams, Finance & Administrative Services Director.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION

4. 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.)

4-1. City Council minutes, January 5, 2004.

Staff recommendation: Approve.

4-2. a. Ratification of City of Albany net payroll in the amount of \$153,656.87; tax & benefits in the amount of \$105,405.04; Total payroll in the amount of \$259,061.91. Payroll period. 01/09/04.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

b. Ratification of Albany Municipal Services JPA net payroll in the amount of \$35,571.71; tax & benefits in the amount of \$21,594.40. Total payroll in the amount of \$57,166.11; Payroll period: 01/09/04.

Staff recommendation: Ratify.

4-3. a. Ratification of bills, claims & demands against the City of Albany in the amount of \$340,001.32. Period: December 19,2003.

b. Ratification of bills, claims & demands against the City of Albany in the amount of \$424,497.27. Period: December 22, 2003.

c. Ratification of bills, claims & demands against the City of Albany in the amount of 238,188.69. Period: January 9, 2004.

Staff recommendation: Ratify.

4-4. Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2003/04 Financial Statements and Projection.

Staff recommendation: Information only.

4-5. Resolution #04-2 – A Resolution of the Albany City Council Revising the Stop Sign Warrant Criteria to Allow Installation of All-Way Stop Signs Within One Block of a School or Park Located on a Two-Lane, Undivided Residential Street.

Staff recommendation: Approve Resolution #04-2.

Mayor Ely asked if anyone would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar for discussion. The City Clerk requested Item 4-1 and Council Member Maris requested Items 4-4 & 4-5.

4-1. Council Minutes January 5, 2004

The City Clerk stated that she would like to correct the minutes, as follows: Pages 5&6, Item 7-1 – Financial Statements, added Council discussion.

4-4. Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2003/04 Financial Statements

Council Member Maris spoke on the Pension Override Tax, page 3, Fund Transfers regarding the transfer of funds to the Public Employees Retirement System. Council Member Maris asked if guidelines had been established and the City Administrator responded that she would bring back an answer to that question.

Council Member Maris expressed concern about the impacts of the State budget and stated that the cities should make sure the message gets through to the Legislator.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Maris noted that the League of California Cities is working on this issue and are working on getting a ballot measure before the public for the November election.

4-5. Resolution #04-2 – Revising Stop Sign Warrant Criteria

Council Member Maris expressed concern about the way the Resolution is written and asked if the Traffic & Safety Commission discussed this. The Community Development Director responded that the Commission did look at this and responded to complaints from neighbors regarding the Tot Lot and noted that this stop sign was identified in the Traffic Management Plan.

Council Member Good asked that the Resolution be changed from one block to 100-200 feet noting that the entire block is too much. The Community Development Director stated that this item could be tabled and sent back to the Traffic & Safety Commission regarding the comments made tonight.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Good, seconded by Council Member Thomsen to approve the Consent Calendar with the corrections made to the minutes of January 5th and to table Resolution #04-2.

AYES: Council Members Good, Maris, Okawachi, Thomsen & Mayor Ely

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

5. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARING

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

7-1 General Plan Amendment & Zoning Designation for Caltrans and Union Pacific Railroad Properties

(File #420-30)

The Planning Manager reported that during the updating of the Zoning Ordinance, staff became aware that all or portions of the properties owned by Caltrans and Union Pacific Railroad, located within the City, do not have either a General Plan land use designation, zoning classification or both.

Staff believes it is appropriate for the City to assign a land use designation and zoning classification, as it has done with most of the properties owned by public entities or governmental agencies.

Council Member Maris presented Resolution #04-3 – A Resolution of the Albany City Council Initiating a General Plan and Zoning Ordinance Amendment.

7-1. General Plan Amendment & Zoning Designation for Caltrans and Union Pacific Railroad Properties

MOTION:

After reading the title, and waiving reading of entire Resolution, it was moved by Council Member Maris and seconded by Council Member Thomsen to approve Resolution #04-3.

Directed staff to prepare for the Planning & Zoning Commission’s consideration at a public hearing possible amendments to the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, as they relate to properties located within the City owned by Caltrans and Union Pacific Railroad.

AYES: Council Members Good, Maris, Okawachi, Thomsen & Mayor Ely

NOES: None ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

8. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENT OF EVENTS

Council Member Maris announced the following: 1) On January 17th the City had a very successful planting of small bushes and flowers at the Bay Trail and approximately 30-40 people participated. Another event is being planned for February 14, 2004. 2) On Monday, January 19th, the City of El Cerrito celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which was put on by the City’s Human Rights Commission. Council Member Maris noted that the City of Albany has discussed having a Human Rights Commission and a City celebration in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. 3) Attended a Waste Management Authority Planning Committee meeting today noting that the Authority still does not have a facility to properly treat compost material. 4) Attended a Water Transit Authority meeting and would like to have them make a presentation before the City Council regarding the Bridge Toll Initiative. 5) Noted that the Drug & Alcohol Prevention Council and the Albany PTA had a forum on how to improve the situation in Albany and that they are working closely with the Unified School District and families who are experiencing problems in this area. 6) Announced that on January 22nd at 6:30 there will be a meeting at the Community Center regarding the sports fields and on February 3rd a workshop will be held regarding the Waterfront Development. 7) Noted that the Cable Subcommittee is about to select an editing suite for videos to be shown on Albany’s channel.

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

A resident at 924 Pomona spoke to the Council expressing concern about the creation of a new stream in Albany, which runs from 922 Pomona to 927 Key Route.

9. GOOD OF THE CITY/PUBLIC FORUM

The resident asked the Council to study this problem and come up with a solution regarding drainage problems.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

8:30 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.

JON ELY
MAYOR

ATTEST:

JACQUELINE L. BUCHOLZ, CMC
CITY CLERK