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**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL
& THE ALBANY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2005

7:30 p.m.

Mayor Good who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag called the joint meeting of the Albany City Council & the Albany Board of Education to order on the above date.

ROLL CALL

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

Present: Board of Education Members Blanchard, Farrell, Ghammache, Walden & President Barnes
Absent: None

STAFF PRESENT

Beth Pollard, City Administrator; Dr. William Wong, Superintendent; Robert Zweben, City Attorney, Jacqueline Bucholz, City Clerk; Judy Lieberman, Assistant City Administrator; Charles Adams, Finance & Administrative Service Director; Richard Cunningham, Public Works Manager; Marc McGinn, Fire Chief.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4-1. Tax Measure(s) to Fund City of Albany Capital Projects and Operations and Albany Unified School District Operations
(File #390-115)

The City Administrator reported that the City Council directed staff to prepare the necessary documents to place a parcel tax on the special Statewide November election ballot to fund certain capital projects and operations. The amount of the parcel tax under consideration by the City Council is approximately \$145 per unit.

The School District is also considering a parcel tax to fund District operations and the amount under consideration ranges from \$128.24 to \$236.48 per unit.

Both the City and the School District conducted public opinion surveys to assess voters' interest in approving a parcel tax to fund its respective needs. Staff is concerned about the viability of two Albany parcel tax measures on the same ballot; therefore, staff initiated discussion about a joint effort between the City and the School District for placements of one parcel tax on the next ballot with the revenues to be shared between the City and the District.

The outline of the proposal discussed by City and District staff is a parcel tax measure in the amount of \$295 per unit, which would raise a net amount of a little more than \$2 million, to be shared equally between the City and the District (an estimated \$1 million each).

The City Administrator outlined potential advantages, as follows: one tax measure on the ballot rather than two measures; cooperation between the City and the District in funding Albany public needs; Deadlock; similarities; information.

The potential disadvantages of a joint measure include: confusion, rejection; the amount; senior exemption; new territory; timing.

The Albany School District Superintendent stated that the School District realizes the need for a parcel tax; however, the question is how much and when it should go before the voters.

Board Member Farrell requested that a straw poll be taken to see if there is any support from the Board and the City Council for a joint measure.

Before the vote was taken it was the Board of Education and the City Council thanked the City Administrator and the Superintendent for their creativity in bringing this proposal before them.

All five (5) members of the Board of Education stated that they were not in favor of a joint tax measure.

All five (5) members of the City Council stated that they were not in favor of a joint tax measure.

However, all agreed that it would be good for both the City and the School District to work together and support each other's ballot measure.

Mayor Good stated that the next question to be discussed is which Agency would go in November.

Board Members Blanchard, Ghammache, Walden and President Barnes favored putting a measure on the November ballot. Board Member Farrell disagreed stating he believed the Board was not ready.

City Council Members Javandel, Maris, Okawachi & Mayor Good favored November especially if the Board of Education was not ready to put their ballot on that election. Council Member Lieber favored putting the City's measure on the June ballot noting he believes the Council is moving too fast and would like to have more community input.

Council Member Okawachi stated that the City has decided how the funding will be spent and asked if the Board has specifically planned where the money will go and expressed concern about where the funds will be spent.

The following people spoke regarding this issue: Ruth Ganong, Albany resident; David Glasser, Albany resident; Ronnie Davis, Albany resident and Albany Library Branch Manager; Kim Linden, Albany resident; Elizabeth Pun, Albany resident.

The comments are summarized as follows: Did not believe that the District or the City was ready to put a measure on the November ballot. Spoke about the public trust. Encouraged about the District and the City working together for the benefit of the entire City. Concerned about low-income residents when it comes to tax measures. Encouraged the City to go ahead on the November election. Cynical when it comes to the School District because of the belief they have mislead the public in the past.

It was noted that the Board of Education has a meeting tomorrow night, August 2nd, to discuss ballot language and whether they will put a measure on the November ballot, followed by a public hearing at their meeting of August 9, 2005.

It was noted that the City Council has a special meeting on August 8th to discuss ballot language and when they will put a measure on the ballot.

Both the Board Members and the City Council expressed enthusiasm about the joint meeting and the possibility of working together on similar ballot measures and campaign issues.

5. ADJOURNMENT

9:00 p.m. – There being no further business before the City Council and the Board of Education it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

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

ROBERT GOOD
MAYOR

MICHAEL BARNES
PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

JACQUELINE L. BUCHOLZ, CMC
CITY CLERK