

Date Approved: June 6, 2011

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, 1249 MARIN AVENUE
MONDAY, May 16, 2011**

7:30 p.m.

Mayor Javandel 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 Atkinson, Lieber, Thomsen, Wile, & Mayor Javandel
Absent: None

STAFF PRESENT

Beth Pollard, City Manager; Robert Zweben, City Attorney; Ann Chaney, Community Development Director; Charlie Adams, Finance and Administrative Services Director; Jeff Bond, Planning and Building Manager; Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director; Mike McQuiston, Chief of Police; Amanda Bennett, Planning Clerk

3. REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY

Mayor Javandel reported Ann Chaney would be retiring in August and the Council had interviewed a candidate and directed staff to agendize the appointment of Jeff Bond to the position of Community Development Director.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4-1. Minutes, Council Meeting of May 2, 2011.

Staff recommendation: Approve

4-2. a. Ratification of City of Albany net payroll in the amount of \$194,964.99; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of \$155,600.39. Total payroll in the amount of \$350,565.38. Payroll period: 05/06/2011.

b. Ratification of Albany Municipal Services JPA net payroll in the amount of \$53,561.17; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of \$75,891.66. Total payroll in the amount of \$129,452.83. Payroll period: 05/06/2011.

Staff recommendation: Ratify.

- 4-3. Ratification of bills, claims and demands against the City of Albany in the amount of: \$618,758.60 (4/29/11) and \$19,613.93 (5/1/11).

Staff recommendation: Ratify

- 4-4. Intention to Order Improvements and Levy Assessments in Assessment District No. 1988-1 and Assessment District No. 1996-1 for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 Fiscal Years, and Set a Public Hearing for June 20, 2011 on the proposed assessments.

a. Approve Resolution #2011-25 - A Resolution of Intention to Order Improvements and Levy Assessments in Assessment District No. 1988-1 for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 Fiscal Years (Pursuant to the Landscaping & Lighting Act of 1972), set a public hearing for June 20, 2011 on the proposed assessments; and

b. Approve Resolution #2011-26 - A Resolution of Intention to Order Improvements and Levy Assessments in Assessment District No. 1996-1 for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 Fiscal Years (Pursuant to the Landscaping & Lighting Act of 1972).

Staff recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 2011-25 and Resolution No. 2011-26.

- 4-5. Resolution No. 2011-24 - A Resolution requesting that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) allocate Fiscal Year 2011/12 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 Pedestrian/Bicycle Project Funding in the amount of \$11,804 to the City of Albany toward construction of the Safe Routes to School Project (SR2S) in the vicinity of Ocean View Elementary School.

Staff recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 2011-24.

- 4-6. Resolution No. 2011-13 - A resolution thanking Jacqueline L. Bucholz for her Thirty-six Years of Service with the City of Albany.

Staff recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 2011-13.

Mayor Javandel asked whether any Council Members or anyone else wished to pull any items from the consent calendar. Council Member Atkinson pulled item 4-4 and Council Member Lieber pulled item 4-1.

On item 4-1, Council Member Lieber stated item 7-3 of the minutes should have added text "all the members of ACAP must approve of the funding."

On item 4-4 Council Member Atkinson asked which was open space and which was park? The blank lots were private open space behind the condo developments. The park was owned by the City. On page A-8 it stated Village and Codornices Creeks target development were supposed to be completed in 2008. City staff had not received the final review from City of Berkeley staff.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Thomsen, seconded by Council Member Wile to approve the Consent Calendar as corrected.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

5. GOOD OF THE CITY/PUBLIC FORUM

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

Ed Fields announced May 22nd was Transition Albany's Great Unleashing, from 2:00 p.m. into the evening. City Manager Pollard reported a successful branding project meeting, it would be brought to the agenda in June, and she thanked the Chamber of Commerce and Solano Avenue Association. The Golden Gate Fields property had been identified as one of six potential second campuses for Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories and there would be a late July or early August community meeting.

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

6. PRESENTATION

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Staff presentation on the "Sustainable Communities Strategy" Regional Planning Initiative

Staff recommendation: For information.

Planning Manager Bond delivered the staff report. Council Member Atkinson asked about non-new housing (like taking over an apartment building). She felt developers could do concentrated density near BART. Mayor Javandel opened the public hearing. Francesco Papalia asked what staff thought of the practicality of this estimate? He opined there were limited sites. Del Price, Albany resident, stated that co-housing, community land trust, and infill housing should be added to housing element/general plan. She wanted to see transit-oriented development and facilities for elderly to age-in-place.

Council Member Thomsen stated the models were not realistic. She was glad staff was working with other cities. Council Member Wile said small was beautiful; why not

think about pulling back. Council Member Lieber found the goals laudable, but when would there be an end of growth? There was a need to absorb the growing population, though. Mayor Javandel noted the need to link the forecast and projections to the reality of previous growth and current conditions.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8-1. City of Albany Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2011-12 and beyond

Staff recommendation: That Council approve the recommended budget balancing strategies for 2011-12, and direct staff to return with an amended budget for adoption in June; 2) That Council, the community, and employees engage in discussion about the suggested revenue, expense, and operating options for future fiscal sustainability, and provide preliminary guidance on suggestions for further consideration.

City Manager Pollard delivered the staff report. Recreation Director Leach talked about Teen Center changes, cable division changes, and senior meals changes. Council Member Lieber said this sounded like a layoff to him and he was not happy to be using that word. He suggested moving to action minutes so they would not have to hire anyone to do minutes (folks can watch the recording). He wanted less mailings--more Web-based magazine. They could reduce City Council funding. Council Member Atkinson noted senior dinner attendance was down. She thought there was too much advance notice required. Council Member Thomsen asked what Friday attendance was. She was concerned by no meals three days in a row.

Isabelle Leduc, Senior Services Supervisor, said seven to nine or twelve to fifteen seniors on Fridays.. Council Member Wile asked for some of the new ideas. Friends of Albany Seniors and staff came up with using more volunteers to serve the meals, possibly a different caterer, and possibly changing the fee. Mayor Javandel recommended looking at decreasing the subsidies—it would be okay to increase fees a bit but not to price anyone out (maybe a sliding scale). Council Member Atkinson wanted to make sure the City was up-to-date on social media. Ms. Price said it sounded like meal servers would be laid off, too. The layoffs were at the lower end of pay scale, the staff with the shortest hours. The social interaction was important for the seniors--try to keep it open for five days.

Mr. Papalia asked what does it cost per person when serving only ten meals? The scale was not efficient. Maybe there could be a voucher program at local restaurants? Ms. McQuaid reported all funding for Albany Police Activities League (APAL) would be eliminated in this budget, which was a bad idea. Jack Kenney, Albany resident and member of Community Media Access Committee, stated it was better to preserve jobs and maybe use some of the reserves. Jewel Okawachi was not too happy about a reduction to four days for senior meals. Also APAL and the Teen Center should not be lost our young people were our future.

Mr. Fields asked how much cost savings and what were other options? How many police positions were unfilled and how many would be unfilled? Why not chop from the top? Contracted City Engineer and his firm are making \$440,000 a year. Christina

Osborn was appalled and embarrassed about laying off low-paid workers and reducing services for teens and seniors. What about a tax to make up for the cost of the Voices to Vision? Clay Larson, Albany resident, thought the impact to the cable would be more substantial. What about a furlough--salaries, especially over \$100,000, are the bulk of the budget? Ray Anderson, Albany resident, said teen programs are important.

City Manager Pollard asked Isabelle Leduc for the cost per person for dinner. It was five dollars. Recreation Manager Leach noted teen center employees might be able to come back as class leaders. The meal preparation staff members were mostly high school students who only worked seven hours a week. They could move them around to other positions. The senior meals grant was \$30,000 per year, for 6,000 meals per year.

City Manager Pollard listed the police positions unfilled: school officer and patrol officer. Chief of Police McQuiston added dispatcher. APAL would still exist, just not the fiduciary support. City Manager Pollard explained the City was trying to meet teen needs by partnering and not duplicating services, augmenting what was being provided elsewhere. Council Member Thomsen reiterated. Mayor Javandel asked if revenues rose, could they revisit. City Manager Pollard said yes. Council Member Atkinson stressed the need to stay relevant for today's teens. Council Member Wile would like to use the City Council's discretionary fund to refund APAL because it was so important. So was Friday for the seniors, use discretionary funds for that, too. Mayor Javandel wanted to see how the discretionary fund had been used in the past. Council Member Thomsen agreed with Council Member Wile.

Council Member Lieber noted top management had taken cuts, were sharing a Fire Chief, not filling City Clerk, and short-staffed police--not just lowest paid. He liked the idea of using discretionary funds for APAL and meals. Mayor Javandel asked whether a 5% cut for council would be worth the paperwork? Council Member Atkinson noted the voters created it so they could not change it. They could return it voluntarily. She agreed with discretionary funds for APAL and meals.

Lieber moved staff bring it back with \$9,000 for APAL and Friday night meal.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Lieber, seconded by Council Member Atkinson to approve the recommended budget balancing strategies for 2011-12, and direct staff to return with an amended budget for adoption in June, with \$9,000 from the discretionary fund applied to APAL and meals.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

9. WORK SESSION

At the meeting of April 19, 2011, the community generated ideas on how to reduce costs and raise revenues. At this work session, the City Council met with members of the community and staff to discuss the ideas generated by the community, and by staff. The discussions took place by table topic. Participants had matrixes on which to record which ideas were worth pursuing and which were not. The results of the comments will be

presented to Council at a later date.

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

10:00 p.m. – There being no further business before the City Council it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.



FARID JAVANDEL
MAYOR

PREPARED BY:
AMANDA BENNETT, MINUTES CLERK

ATTEST:



JUDY LIEBERMAN
CITY CLERK