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CITY OF ALBANY
MINUTES OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL
IN REGULAR SESSION,
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012

6:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION

Presentation from Rusty Monroe, Center for Municipal Solutions (CMS), Municipal Telecommunication Consultants, on New Federal Wireless Co-Location Law.

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Javandel called the regular meeting of the Albany City Council to order on the above date.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Javandel lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Lieber, Thomsen, Wile, Vice Mayor Atkinson, Mayor Javandel

Absent: None

Staff Present: Beth Pollard, City Manager; Craig Labadie, City Attorney; Anne Hsu, Deputy City Clerk; Penelope Leach, Assistant City Manager/Community Services Director; Jeff Bond, Community Development Director; Chelle Putzer, Community Services Manager.

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

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4-1. Minutes, September 4, 2012

Staff recommendation: Approve

4-2. a. Ratification of City of Albany net payroll in the amount of \$206,471.46; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of \$178,490.61. Total payroll in the amount of \$384,962.07. Payroll period: 8/10/2012

b. Ratification of Albany Municipal Services JPA net payroll in the amount of \$49,849.66; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of \$36,891.33. Total payroll in the amount of \$86,740.99. Payroll period: 8/10/2012

c. Ratification of City of Albany net payroll in the amount of \$218,973.61; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of \$268,602.08. Total payroll in the amount of \$487,575.69. Payroll period: 8/24/2012

d. Ratification of Albany Municipal Services JPA net payroll in the amount of \$46,255.96; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of \$56,186.36. Total payroll in the amount of \$102,442.32. Payroll period: 8/24/2012

Staff recommendation: Ratify.

4-3. Claim AL667 – Hicks v City of Albany

Staff recommendation: Reject the claim and authorize the City Clerk to send out the appropriate rejection letter to Robin Hicks.

4-4. A Resolution of the Albany City Council Authorizing the City Manager to Submit a Grant Application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for improvements to the trail network on the Albany Bulb.

Staff recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 2012-55.

4-5. Ordinance No. 2012-06 Amending Chapter 15, Sewers and Sanitation of the Albany Municipal Code to Control Fats, Oils, and Grease Entering the Sanitary Sewer System – Second Reading - Pass to Print

Staff recommendation: That Council adopt on second reading Ordinance No. 2012-06 regulating fats, oils, and grease entering the sanitary sewer system

Mayor Javandel asked if anyone would like to remove an item. No items were removed.

MOTION:

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

AYES: Council Members Lieber, Thomsen, Wile, Vice Mayor Atkinson, Mayor Javandel. ABSENT: None

NOES: None.

Motion carried and so ordered.

5. GOOD OF THE CITY/PUBLIC FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Javandel opened the Good of the City/Public Forum/Announcements and the following people spoke: Signe Madson; Benjamin Lascow on behalf of Jacqueline Bradley; Eric Limesider on behalf of Jacqueline Bradley; Chelle Putzer, Recreation Department; Alexa Houser; Emilie Raguso, Albany Patch; Eric Larsen.

A summary of the comments is as follows: expressed support for Prop 37; issue with a recent claim that was denied by the City; announced Albany Local Week, Alberrito Streets, Albany Local Garden Swap, Bike About Town and Dinner with Albany; provided feedback from circulating the referendum petition against the Development Agreement for University Village and that the majority of people contacted felt more community engagement was needed; announced upcoming candidate forums to be held at 7pm at St. Albans Church on October 7 for the Board of Education candidates and October 17 for the City Council candidates.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: Council Member Thomsen expressed condolences for community volunteers May Ling Barde and Grant Chamberlain who recently passed away.

6. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARING

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 7-1. Update from City Council subcommittee working on issues related to future uses of the Gill Tract including but not limited to urban agriculture, gardening, and/or farming

Council Subcommittee Thomsen and Wile recommendation: That Council accept the information generated from the July 26, 2012 meeting of the Subcommittee with representatives from Transition Albany, Albany Farmers' Alliance, Occupy the Farm, UC Berkeley, and UC Village, with additional participation from members of the public.

Council Members Thomsen and Wile provided an update, and thanked Dean Gilless for his work. Dean Gilless provided an update, and submitted a letter to the Council regarding programs underway to further urban agriculture at the site. Dean Gilless received authorization to hire a new staff person, Kathyrm DeMaster,

who is experienced in the area of sustainable food systems/diversified agriculture and currently works at Brown University, but will join UC Berkeley in January. Also, two faculty members launched a diversified farming program in 2009 which can be built upon, including fundraising from foundations and grant sources to expand activities and retain additional faculty. The UC Cooperative Extension program also has the potential to secure staff positions focused on urban agriculture. Dean Gilless has been granted authority over the Gill Tract growing space for the next ten years. Dean Gilless expressed his commitment to continue engaging with the community and allow for an inclusive process to identify research projects for the Gill Tract. Public safety and respect for the projects that may be undertaken will be critical to the viability of the ongoing collaboration.

The following people spoke: Ulan McKnight; Ed Fields; Alexa Houser; Signe Madson; Paul O'Curry.

A summary of the comments is as follows: questioned whether there were safety issues created by the occupy the farm supporters as expressed by UC representatives, interest in Gill Tract serving as a community resource; expressed interest in the City establishing additional opportunities for the community to participate at the Gill Tract; encourage Council to advocate for the community; interest in sustainable farming and concern that the foundations funding the programs may have corporate interests; asked how the community can communicate and participate in the discussion.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: expressed appreciation for Dean Gilless attendance at the Council meeting. Expressed concern regarding the limit of the ten-year term for usage of the site, and expressed concern with corporate interest funding. Expressed interest in continuing the dialogue with the University. Confirmed that Council Members Thomsen and Wile are designated to work on behalf of the City Council and represent the City in continuing to work with the University.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8-1. Albany General Plan

Staff recommendation: That Council:

- a) Authorize the release of a Request for Proposals for consulting services related to preparation of the General Plan; and
- b) Authorize staff to apply to the Association of Bay Area Governments for an extension of time to meet One Bay Area Grant Program requirements to adopt a certified housing element.

Community Development Director Jeff Bond delivered the staff report. The City's current General Plan was adopted in 1992 and encompasses a time frame from 1990 – 2010. The Request for Proposals is aimed at attracting a smaller consulting firm to assist with updating the City's General Plan, with the Planning and Zoning

Commission serving as the steering committee. The City's website will be utilized as a tool to obtain additional public input. The City's Housing Element is also being completed, with review by the State Housing and Community Development Department. Currently, the Housing Element has not been certified, which could limit the City's ability to obtain grant funding from the One Bay Area Grant program. Requesting an extension in time for certification of the housing element from ABAG is recommended so the City can remain eligible for grant funding under this program.

The following people spoke on this item: Ed Fields; Eric Larsen.

A summary of the comments is as follows: expressed concern regarding the cost associated with retaining consultants and asked about status of the Housing Element; interest in including UC Village as part of the planning process and encouraged more outreach to the community.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: acknowledged that the project schedule is ambitious; asked for clarification regarding the costs and relativity to other cities that have recently conducted General Plan updates.

Bond added that the estimated costs are on the lower side in comparison with other cities, and that staff has met with residents that are professional planners regarding the update.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Thomsen, seconded by Council Member Wile to

- a) Authorize the release of a Request for Proposals for consulting services related to preparation of the General Plan; and
- b) Authorize staff to apply to the Association of Bay Area Governments for an extension of time to meet One Bay Area Grant Program requirements to adopt a certified housing element.

AYES: Council Members Lieber, Thomsen, Wile, Vice Mayor Atkinson, Mayor Javandel. ABSENT: None.

NOES: None.

Motion carried and so ordered.

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

9-1. Albany Local Week – September 22-28

9-2. Dinner With Albany 2012 – September 29, 5:30 – 9:30 PM

Council Member Lieber expressed Happy New Year to the Jewish community. Council Member Lieber expressed support for House of Representatives Bill HR6411, a tax on stock trades which was recently introduced, and will bring it to the Council as a future agenda item.

Vice Mayor Atkinson announced the Senior Center Hawaiian Luau, and noted that she is working to encourage “No on 32”.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn in memory of Grant Chamberlain.

8:40 p.m. There being no further business before the City Council it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

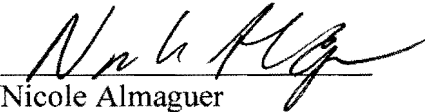
Minutes submitted by Nicole Almaguer, City Clerk.



Farid Javandel

Mayor

Attest:



Nicole Almaguer

City Clerk