

Date Approved: March 18, 2013



CITY OF ALBANY

MINUTES OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013

6:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

City Council convenes in the Council Chamber and then adjourns to Closed Session to discuss the following: Labor Negotiations pursuant to Government Code Section 59457.6

Agency Negotiator: City Manager & Glenn Berkheimer, IEDA
Employee Organization: Albany Peace Officers' Association

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Thomsen led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Atkinson, Barnes, Maass, Vice Mayor Wile, Mayor Thomsen.

Absent: None

Staff Present: Beth Pollard, City Manager; Craig Labadie, City Attorney; Anne Hsu, Deputy City Clerk; Jeff Bond, Community Development Director; Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner; Claire Griffing, Sustainability & Transportation Coordinator; Nicole Almaguer, City Clerk.

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

Mayor Thomsen reported that the Council gave direction to staff.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4-1. Minutes, February 19, 2013

Staff recommendation: Approve

4-2. a. Ratification of bills, claims and demands against the City of Albany in the amount of: \$658,707.02 (1/8/2013); \$840,656.56 (2/1/2013); \$27,197.97 (2/1/2013)

b. Ratification of bills, claims and demands against the Albany Joint Powers Authority in the amount of: \$753.70 (2/1/2013)

Staff recommendation: Ratify

Mayor Thomsen asked if anyone would like to remove an item. City Manager Pollard pulled item 4-3 from the consent calendar and noted that there was an omission in the minutes, which is now corrected.

There was no public comment.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Atkinson, seconded by Vice Mayor Wile to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted.

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Barnes, Maass, Vice Mayor Wile, Mayor Thomsen.

ABSENT: None

NOES: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

5. GOOD OF THE CITY/PUBLIC FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Thomsen opened the Good of the City/Public Forum/Announcements.

The following people spoke: Bob Outis, Jeff Bond, Suzanne Popkin, Dimitri Popkin, Brian Martin, Joan Larson.

A summary of comments is as follows: expressed appreciation for the City Attorney's recent discussion regarding non-conforming structures, expressed appreciation for Jeff Bond's presentation regarding wireless communication issues, expressed appreciation for Council Member Barnes comments regarding wireless matters; announced the City's Sustainability Committee meeting on March 20th will include a presentation from the Marin Clean Energy Community Choice Aggregation; expressed interest in permitting backyard goats via a City Ordinance, with ordinance language including specifics with regard to the number of goats and requirement for female goats and/or neutered de-horned male goats; presented a petition of more than 300 signatures in support of allowing goats.

City Manager Pollard said that staff would direct this request to the Planning & Zoning Commission for review and analysis of options.
Council Member Atkinson asked that the item be expedited if possible.

6. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARING

6-1. Introduction of BART Director Zakhary Mallett, District 7

Mr. Mallett introduced himself and provided a brief update regarding current activities at BART.

6-2. Wild Turkeys in Albany - Informational Update

City Clerk Nicole Almaguer delivered the staff report. Staff has worked with the County and the Department of Fish & Wildlife to identify options for humane relocation of the turkeys. The Department of Fish & Wildlife has informed staff that relocation of the turkeys is not allowed due to concerns with spread of disease and potential habitat impacts. Fish & Wildlife also indicated that feeding of wild animals should be discouraged, and the City has posted information to this nature on the City's website and hard copy brochures at City Hall. Staff has also been in contact with humane wildlife rescue groups to obtain information with regard to managing wild turkey issues. Staff continues to work with the residents experiencing issues with turkeys.

The following people spoke: Pareen Shah; Misha Windols.

A summary of comments is as follows: residents with roosting turkeys are still considering their options; asked what type of disease the wild turkeys may carry and expressed interest to leave the turkeys alone.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: asked about information provided by wildlife humane rescue service groups; asked about other options for managing the turkeys; thanked staff for the information.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7-1. Resolution No. 2013-7 authorizing the permanent closure of Buchanan Avenue at the intersection with Pierce Street "

Staff recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2013-7 authorizing the permanent closure of Buchanan Avenue at the intersection with Pierce Street.

Community Development Director Jeff Bond delivered the staff report. Closure of the street is being conducted as part of the Buchanan Marin Bikeway project. The closure is intended to help improve safety for bicyclists in the area. Staff is also working with neighbors on Pierce Street to identify how to improve safety.

The following people spoke: Suzanne Popkin.

A summary of comments is as follows: expressed appreciation for the project to improve safety of the area.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: asked about truck routes and signage, asked whether there is sufficient space for a vehicle to turn around.

Bond added that the closure has been designed to allow for a vehicle to turn around, and that signage will be installed to direct truck traffic to the freeway.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Atkinson, seconded by Council Member Maass to adopt Resolution No. 2013-7 authorizing the permanent closure of Buchanan Avenue at the intersection with Pierce Street

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Barnes, Maass, Vice Mayor Wile, Mayor Thomsen.

ABSENT: None

NOES: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

7-2. Electronic Communication Pilot Program

Staff recommendation: That Council authorize staff to initiate a pilot program for submission of written comments through the City website on City Council agenda items, and on information or questions posted by the City about the update of the City's General Plan, in a format that does not include on-line posting of those comments.

City Clerk Nicole Almaguer delivered the staff report. Research has been conducted to determine what other cities are doing with regard to new social media programs. Several cities are beginning to utilize social media programs, and in conversation with staff from cities utilizing social media programs, the programs have been well received to date. Both of the proposed programs, e-comment and AlbanySpeaks, have been scaled back to allow for users to submit comments online and for comments to be received by staff. Comments will not be posted online. AlbanySpeaks can be utilized for planning processes such as the General Plan Update to serve as a platform to receive community feedback throughout the planning process. The comments received are electronic communications and can be handled in the same manner and policy as email communications. Staff will compile e-comments received prior to the City Council meetings and distribute these electronically to the Council Members. A copy of the comments will also be made available to the public at the meeting. Comments received via AlbanySpeaks will be included as part of the public planning process. AlbanySpeaks can be launched specifically for the General Plan Update process. Utilization of both e-comment and AlbanySpeaks are intended to provide a supplemental mechanism for the community to participate in City matters, and to engage a larger percentage of the community.

The following people spoke: Clay Larson.

A summary of comments is as follows: expressed interest in ensuring there is not a limitation on the amount of text for comments, expressed concern for overload on cable staff to administer the programs.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: expressed concern with redundancy; expressed interest in ensuring there is a sufficient character limit for comments; expressed interest in having a document that compiles comments; expressed interest in ensuring sufficient context is provided for users; expressed preference in face to face dialogue and communication; expressed concern regarding staff time that may be needed for administration; expressed interest in receiving feedback regarding utility of both programs.

City Manager Pollard added that the programs are intended to supplement community meetings and face to face dialogue, to help reach out to community members that may not attend meetings, and that the sites can help inform the public about City matters.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Barnes, seconded by Council Member Atkinson to authorize staff to initiate a pilot program for submission of written comments through the City website on City Council agenda items, and on information or questions posted by the City about the update of the City's General Plan, in a format that does not include on-line posting of those comments.

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Barnes, Maass, Vice Mayor Wile, Mayor Thomsen.

ABSENT: None

NOES: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8-1. Earth Hour 2013

Staff recommendation: That the City Council authorize the City to participate in Earth Hour 2013, scheduled for March 23, 2013, 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Sustainability & Transportation Coordinator Claire Griffing delivered the staff report. Staff will promote the event and identify a list of suggested activities for Earth Hour.

There was no public comment.

MOTION:

Moved by Vice Mayor Wile, seconded by Council Member Atkinson to authorize the City to participate in Earth Hour 2013, scheduled for March 23, 2013, 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Barnes, Maass, Vice Mayor Wile, Mayor Thomsen.
ABSENT: None
NOES: None
Motion carried and so ordered.

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

9-1. The City of Albany Passport Office is joining the Department of State in celebrating "*Passport Day in the USA 2013*". The City's Passport Office at City Hall, 1000 San Pablo Avenue, will be open on **Saturday, March 9, 2013, from 10 am until 3 pm** to provide passport information to U.S. citizens and to accept passport applications.

City Manager Pollard announced that this event has been cancelled by the Department of State.

9-2. Berkeley – Albany Mental Health Commission Vacancies (2)

City Manager Pollard announced that the two Albany seats on the Berkeley – Albany Mental Health Commission are vacant.

10. ADJOURNMENT

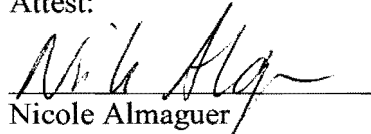
8:43 p.m. There being no further business before the City Council it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Nicole Almaguer, City Clerk.



Peggy Thomsen
Mayor

Attest:



Nicole Almaguer
City Clerk