

Date Approved: June 3, 2013



CITY OF ALBANY

MINUTES OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE MONDAY, MAY 20, 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 items:

1. Public employee appointment or employment pursuant to Government Code Section 54957. Position to be filled: Fire Chief
2. Conference with legal counsel to discuss existing litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1).
Name of case: Evans v. City of Albany, Alameda County Superior Court Case No. RG-110590735
3. Conference with legal counsel to discuss anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4).
One case.

If necessary, the City Council may recess the Closed Session, reconvene in the Council Chamber to conduct its regular public meeting, then reconvene in Closed Session.

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

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

Mayor Thomsen reported that the Council met in closed session to conduct an interview for the position of Fire Chief.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4-1. Minutes, April 22, 2013, May 6, 2013

Staff recommendation: Approve

4-2. a. Ratification of City of Albany net payroll in the amount of \$188,685.72; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of \$156,837.61. Total payroll in the amount of \$345,523.33. Payroll period: 5/3/2013

b. Ratification of Albany Municipal Services JPA net payroll in the amount of \$49,176.52; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of \$35,441.68. Total payroll in the amount of \$84,618.20. Payroll period: 5/3/2013

Staff recommendation: Ratify.

4-3. a. Ratification of bills, claims and demands against the City of Albany in the amount of: \$454,528.13 (4/26/2013) \$26,197.97 (5/1/2013)

b. Ratification of bills, claims and demands against Albany Joint Powers Authority in the amount of: \$435.75 (4/26/2013)

Staff recommendation: Ratify

4-4. Resolution No. 2013-24 Authorizing the Execution of a Letter Agreement with Muniservices, LLC, Formerly Municipal Resource Consultants, to provide Sales Tax Audit and Information Services.

Staff recommendation: that the Council adopt Resolution No. 2013-24, a Resolution of the Albany City Council Authorizing Execution of a Letter Agreement with Muniservices, LLC, Formerly Municipal Resource Consultants

4-5. A rendering of the quarterly Cash and Investment Treasury Report of the City of Albany as of December 31, 2012, as required by Section 53646 of the California Government Code.

Staff recommendation: Note and File – for information only

Mayor Thomsen asked if anyone would like to remove an item. No items were removed from the Consent Calendar.

MOTION:

Moved by Vice Mayor Wile, seconded by Council Member Maass 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: Tod Abbott, Albany Chamber of Commerce; Aileen Pearson; Kim Denton, City Treasurer; Alan Maris; Alan Eckert; Paul O'Curry; Peggy McQuaid; Del Price; Francesco Papalia; Barbara Chambers; Robert Urhammer; Delia Carol; Amber Whitson.

A summary of comments is as follows: Announced State of the City Event next Wednesday; expressed support for City Council planning regarding the UC Village Mixed Use Development and disappointment regarding the Occupy the Farm activities; presented a certificate of appreciation to the City from the Albany Relay for Life, expressed appreciation to Beth Pollard and Gelli Turingan for their hard work on the Relay for Life event; expressed appreciation to Beth Pollard and City Staff for the Relay for Life event and Arts & Green Festival; expressed concern regarding the Oklahoma tornado and encouraged residents to be prepared for emergency; expressed disappointment regarding action taken by Council regarding the Homeless Task Force, and direction regarding removing homeless from the Bulb; announced Albany High School Band outdoor concert tomorrow at 7:00 pm in Memorial Park; outlined disparity in expense activity on public parks, particularly lack of expenditures regarding Pierce Street Park; expressed interest in the Council agendaizing the issue of homelessness in Albany; expressed interest in developing Pierce Street Park as soon as possible; expressed interest in separating the issues of homeless in Albany and the Bulb property.

City Attorney Craig Labadie provided an update regarding the Larsen/Rawlings lawsuit challenging the legal adequacy of the Environmental Impact Review for the UC Village Mixed Use Project. A 25-page tentative ruling has been released, oral arguments have been heard, and the judge now has 90 days to confirm his tentative decision. The final decision is expected as early as this week.

City Manager Beth Pollard expressed appreciation to Kim Denton and Lieutenant John Geissberger for leading the City of Albany Albany Relay for Life team. The City team raised more than \$6,000. Pollard also congratulated Aleida Andrino Chavez and Jim Bointo for graduating from the Alameda County Leadership Academy.

Mayor Thomsen expressed appreciation to City Manager Beth Pollard and Gelli Turingan for organizing the Albany Relay for Life event, and appreciation to staff and relay participants.

Mayor Thomsen also expressed appreciation to Arts & Green Festival event planners including Ken McKroskey, and to Vice Mayor Wile for her assistance with a number of recent events.

Council Member Atkinson expressed concern regarding the Homeless Task Force and expressed interest in retaining a qualified consultant to assist the community in moving forward. Council Member Atkinson also expressed appreciation for the work conducted by the Homeless Task Force.

6. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARING

- 6-1.** Albany Civics Academy Graduation – Class of 2013
Community Services Manager Chelle Putzer introduced the Albany Civics Academy program and graduates. Mayor Thomsen presented the graduation certificates to the 2013 Albany Civics Academy Class.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 7-1.** City Council Strategic Planning Follow Up

Staff recommendation: that the Council:

- a) Adopt the four major strategic themes identified through the City Council Strategic Planning process
- b) Provide feedback regarding goals and metrics drafted by staff to implement the themes
- c) Provide feedback regarding potential branding options for the themes

City Manager Beth Pollard delivered the staff report. The City Council strategic planning process began in February 2013, including retaining the services of Dr. Frank Benest to provide consulting services. Benest conducted interviews with each Council member, City staff held a strategic planning workshop, and the Council held a strategic planning workshop on April 22, 2013. As part of the Council workshop, strategic themes were identified. Following the Council workshop staff met to further refine themes, identify goals and metrics to accomplish the themes.

Dr. Frank Benest summarized the work conducted to date regarding strategic planning, and reviewed the draft scorecard format with the Council.

The following people spoke: Del Price; Harry Chomsky, Albany Strollers & Rollers; Caryl O'Keefe; Peggy McQuaid; Francesco Papalia; Robert Urhammer; Norman Ludwig; Amber Whitson; Paul O'Curry; Barbara Chambers.

A summary of comments is as follows: expressed disappointment regarding the proposed food truck event; expressed support for bike and pedestrian improvements including enhanced sidewalk repair program, and referring the sidewalk program to the Traffic & Safety Commission, expressed interest in minimizing parking adjacent to the Ohlone Greenway to increase the greenway space and suggested the Traffic & Safety Commission and Park & Recreation Commission review the item; suggested including improving public works infrastructure, encouraged an increased staffing level, expressed support for completion of Phase 1 of Pierce Street Park, suggested review of Measure D parking requirements, and informational training on public participation at meetings; expressed concern with how the homeless issue is identified, social services should also be included; requested the Council give the Waterfront Committee clear direction regarding the Committee's purview as related to the Bulb transition and homeless at the Bulb; suggested including expenses associated with each of the goals/projects, suggested including the General Plan and Housing Element; expressed support for completing Phase 1 of Pierce Street Park; asked about provision of services and affordable housing for homeless; expressed interest in focus on low income housing; suggested better support for community volunteers.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: suggested changes to the icons and clarifying verbiage; noted that ongoing projects and programs are not necessarily included in the goals, noted connectivity of the themes, expressed interest in keeping the homeless issue and the park/Bulb separate; suggested inclusion of housing opportunities, and monitoring the results of the RFP for homeless outreach, suggested an international Dinner with Albany celebration, noted that the themes and goals are dynamic and can be changed, suggested a stronger emphasis on addressing climate change.

The Council suggested edits to the theme language including: maximize park and open space, promote vital and inviting business area, create a more walkable and bikeable community and mitigate climate change, engage our diverse community.

City Manager Beth Pollard noted that staff will make changes and return to Council with revisions.

MOTION:

Moved by Vice Mayor Wile, seconded by Council Member Barnes to adopt the

four major strategic themes identified through the City Council Strategic Planning process with room for mitigation.

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

ABSENT: None

NOES: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

Benest noted ideas on how to stay focused, including promotion of the strategic themes through media sources, referencing themes in staff reports and other documents, staff management meetings to review status of achieving themes, and utilization of display tools in the Council Chambers.

- 7-2.** Update on “Complete Streets” planning for Buchanan Street and San Pablo Avenue to improve safety for walking, biking, and other modes of travel.

Staff recommendation: Provide direction to staff and the Traffic and Safety Commission.

Community Development Director Jeff Bond delivered the staff report. In January 2012 the City obtained a grant to develop concept plans for complete street improvements to Buchanan Street and San Pablo Avenue. The complete streets planning process included retaining the services of Nelson Nygaard and WRT. The planning process also included a design charette including Dan Burden as the keynote speaker. Three design alternatives were developed based on the results of the planning process. The Traffic & Safety Commission has discussed the design alternatives.

The proposed design for San Pablo includes: providing space for wide raised medians where possible; retaining on-street parking where demand is high such as in the core area of San Pablo Avenue between Clay and Buchanan; providing on-street bike lanes where most needed or where parking demand is low; using super-sharrow lane markings where bikes share the lane with vehicles. The Commission suggested an implementation strategy of incremental improvements starting with signage and painted lane markings, then monitoring the effectiveness before making any major capital investments in construction.

Improvements for selected intersections on San Pablo Avenue were identified including Dartmouth/Monroe, Washington, and Solano. Kains Avenue and Adams Street could potentially serve as an alternative bike route to San Pablo Avenue if a continuous bike route on San Pablo Avenue is not possible.

Improvements to Buchanan Street include adding a pedestrian crossing on the east leg of the Buchanan/Jackson intersection, implementation of a pedestrian “High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk” signal at the intersection of Buchanan and Taylor, and the realignment of the Buchanan/Marin merge.

The following people spoke: Harry Chomskey, Albany Strollers & Rollers; Clay Larson.

A summary of comments is as follows: expressed appreciation for the Complete Streets planning work, provided suggestions regarding bike lanes on Kains and Adams Streets and suggested the Traffic & Safety Commission research options; suggested conducting analysis of Kains and Adams Streets seperately.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: suggested considering traffic impacts associated with the Farmers Market, asked for clarification regarding relocation of the bus line, suggested additional study regarding a two-way bike lane on Kains and Adams Streets which are both one-way streets; and expressed general support for the complete streets planning work.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8-1. Albany Wayfinding Plan for Bicyclists and Pedestrians

Traffic & Safety Commission recommendation: that the Council approve the Albany Wayfinding Concept Plan

8-2. Designation of Voting Delegates and Alternates for the League of California Cities Annual Conference

City Manager Pollard noted that items 8-1 and 8-2 are not time sensitive and could be postponed to the next meeting on June 3.

MOTION:

Moved by Vice Mayor Wile, seconded by Council Member Barnes to postpone items 8-1, Albany Wayfinding Plan for Bicyclists and Pedestrians, and 8-2, Designation of Voting Delegates and Alternates for the League of California Cities Annual Conference, to a future meeting.

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.

10. RECONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION

The City Council reconvened in closed session.

11. REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Thomsen reported that the City Council gave direction to legal counsel regarding existing litigation in the case of Evans v. City of Albany and regarding one case of anticipated litigation.

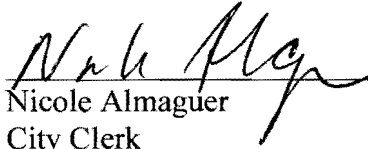
12. ADJOURNMENT

10:05 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