

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF CULVER CITY
CALIFORNIA

May 24, 2010
5:30 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the City Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Christopher Armenta, Mayor
Micheál O'Leary, Vice Mayor
Jeffrey Cooper, Councilmember
D. Scott Malsin, Councilmember
Andrew Weissman, Councilmember

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Closed Session

The City Council will adjourn to Closed Session to discuss the following items:

CS-1 Public Employment

Title: City Manager
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

CS-2 Public Employment Title: Fire Chief

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

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Recess

The City Council recessed to Closed Session at 5:30 p.m.

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Reconvene

The City Council reconvened its meeting at 7:04 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

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May 24, 2010

Closed Session Report

Mayor Armenta indicated nothing to report out from Closed Session.

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Invocation was given by P. Lamont Ewell, Interim City Manager, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Neil Rubenstein.

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Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Armenta invited public participation.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Neil Rubenstein expressed appreciation that Pam Robinson had been chosen to serve as Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

Ed Little, West Basin Municipal Water District Board Representative for Culver City, reported a new video available regarding the City's water supply.

Councilmember Cooper clarified that Pam Robinson was serving as Acting Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

P. Lamont Ewell, Interim City Manager, added that the new City Manager would choose the permanent Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

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Public Comment
(continued)

Karlo Silbiger congratulated the new Mayor; requested help with his goal to have the School Board hold their meetings in the Council Chambers; asked whether the Cultural Affairs Commission could move their meeting to a different day; questioned whether there would be a cost to the School Board to hold their meetings in the Council Chambers; and he asked the City Council to provide staff direction as to what they want.

Mayor Armenta received consensus to agendize the matter for discussion.

Jean Ballantine, representing the Culver City High School AVPA Foundation Board, extended an invitation to a Gala Fundraiser on June 12, 2010 at the Kirk Douglas Theatre and she announced the Senior Seminar Play from May 26-29, 2010.

Gary Silbiger questioned whether a public process was planned for the selection of the new City Manager. Mr. Silbiger outlined the process that was used in the selection of the last City Manager and he suggested that it be used again.

P. Lamont Ewell, Interim City Manager, indicated that a public forum would be held in June.

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Consent Calendar

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER O'LEARY, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER MALSIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS C-1, C-2, and C-4.

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 5, 2010; AND THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 26, 2010 AS SUBMITTED.

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Item C-2

Cash Disbursements

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE CASH DISBURSEMENTS FOR APRIL 24, 2010 TO MAY 14, 2010.

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Item C-4

Adoption of a Resolution Ordering the Preparation of the Engineer's Report, Declaring the Intention to Order the Levy of Annual Assessments, and Setting the Date, Time, and Place for the Public Hearing for the Landscape Maintenance District Number 1.

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2010-R038 THAT ORDERS THE PREPARATION OF THE ENGINEER'S REPORT, DECLARES THE CITY'S INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT ASSESSMENTS AND SETS THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 14, 2010, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MIKE BALKMAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR THE LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NUMBER 1 - FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011.

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The following Consent Calendar item was discussed and voted on separately:

Item C-3

Adoption of a Resolution (1) Ordering the Preparation of the Engineer's Report, (2) Declaring the Intention to Order the Levy of Annual Assessments, and (3) Setting the Date, Time, and Place for the Public Hearing for the Higuera Street Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance District.

Councilmember Malsin suggested removing the parkways as residents did not seem willing to pay the necessary amount to maintain them.

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Item C-3
(continued)

Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director/City Engineer, reported working with the Parks Department to reduce the costs and still maintain the parkways for the current year but he noted that there could be issues in the future.

Discussion ensued between the City Council and staff regarding shrinking the district; the irrigation system; maintaining the uniform look; and keeping costs under control.

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER O'LEARY, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER MALSIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2010-R037 THAT ORDERS THE PREPARATION OF THE ENGINEER'S REPORT, DECLARES THE INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT THE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011, AND SETS THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 14, 2010, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MIKE BALKMAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR THE HIGUERA STREET LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT.

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Joint Item

Item J-1

Budget Study Session - City Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-11: Budget Overview and Presentation by the Police Department and Fire Department.

Mayor Armenta invited public comment.

No speakers came forward.

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Item J-1
(continued)

P. Lamont Ewell, Interim City Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Discussion ensued between the City Council and staff regarding concern with borrowing from reserves and using one-time revenues to balance the budget; projected growth in Fiscal Year 2011-2012; the interim budget for the past year; concern with basing a budget on potential cost savings; the reserve policy; deferred maintenance; living within the City's means; different sources of revenue; economic development strategies; transient occupancy taxes; enterprise funds; service fees; retiring medical benefits; parking revenue; and spinning City assets into enterprise funds.

Further discussion ensued regarding concern with maintenance deferral; tax increases; comparisons to other cities; the importance of diversifying revenue sources; remaining competitive; the structural operational deficit; the November ballot measure proposed by the League of California Cities; concern with state actions to balance their budget at the expense of the cities; catastrophes and an economic uncertainty fund; maintaining staffing levels and levels of service; employee unions; minimizing layoffs; temporary payroll reductions; voluntary deferred raises; permanent fixes versus short-term fixes; marketing the City to attract businesses; reducing expenditures and inefficiencies; City Council retreats; and appreciation for the work of staff.

Budget presentation began:

Police Department:

Don Pedersen, Police Chief, provided a presentation on the 2010-2011 Police Department budget.

Discussion ensued between the City Council and staff regarding staffing for the front desk position; asset forfeiture; dog license penalties; vehicle code and court fines; the Facility Manager position; and volunteer services.

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Item J-1
(continued)

Fire Department:

Chris Sellers, Acting Fire Chief, provided a presentation on the 2010-2011 Fire Department budget.

Discussion ensued between the City Council and staff regarding the training tower; regional grants; staffing levels and reaccridation; collection of fees and incoming revenues; the decision-making process for position elimination; retaining positions that generate income; investing in technology to increase efficiencies; the nurse educator position; accreditation and outsourcing opportunities; the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; retiring positions; participation in regional and statewide boards and agencies; the Class 1 Rating; marketing the fire training facility; permit fees for ambulances; clarification that no firefighters would lose their jobs in this budget; and kudos to the department.

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Action Items

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER MALSIN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WEISSMAN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE ACTION ITEMS A-1 THROUGH A-3.

Item A-1

Receipt and Filing of the Information Related to the City's Intention to Provide Additional Service Credit for Local Miscellaneous Members of the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS).

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVE AND FILE THIS REPORT.

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Item A-2

Adoption of a Resolution Approving the Engineer's Report and Declaring the City Council's Intention to Form the West Washington Boulevard Benefit Assessment District Number 2.

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2010-R036 (1) APPROVING THE ENGINEER'S REPORT; (2) DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO FORM THE WEST WASHINGTON BOULEVARD ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NUMBER 2; (3) SETTING THE TIME AND PLACE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING; AND (4) AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO SEND OUT THE NOTICE AND BALLOT TO ALL RECORD PROPERTY OWNERS IN COMPLIANCE WITH PROPOSITION 218 AND ARTICLE XIIID OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION.

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Item A-3

Consideration and Approval of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission's Recommendation to Name the Bottle Tree as the Recommended Street Tree for the 4100 and 4200 Blocks of Baldwin Avenue in Lieu of the Victorian Box which is Currently Recommended in the City's Adopted Street Tree Master Plan.

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION'S (PRCSC) RECOMMENDATION TO NAME THE BOTTLE TREE AS THE RECOMMENDED STREET TREE FOR THE 4100 AND 4200 BLOCKS OF BALDWIN AVENUE IN LIEU OF THE VICTORIAN BOX WHICH IS CURRENTLY RECOMMENDED IN THE CITY'S ADOPTED STREET TREE MASTER PLAN (STMP).

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda - continued

Alice Prasad, Associate Analyst, read written comments submitted by the following:

Paul Ehrlich

Responding to Mr. Ehrlich's comments, Carol Schwab, City Attorney, clarified that Council retreats are legal under the Brown Act so long as they are held within the City's jurisdictional boundaries and are noticed and open to the public.

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Receipt of Correspondence

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER WEISSMAN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER O'LEARY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Items from Staff

Items Presented by P. Lamont Ewell, Interim City Manager:

- Reminder that the budget hearings would continue on June 7, 2010.
- Indicated that he would be meeting with the Chamber of Commerce Board on May 27, 2010 to discuss any role that the Chamber might play in the economic development of the City.

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Items Presented by Martin Cole, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk:

- Requested that the City Council adjourn to Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 8 a.m.; and the Redevelopment Agency adjourn to June 7, 2010.

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Items from Council

Items Presented by Councilmember Cooper:

- Reported on the installation of Historical Marker 12 at Carlson Park by the Culver City Historical Society.

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Items Presented by Councilmember O'Leary:

- Requested information on the order of department presentations in the budget process.
- Clarified the title for former Speaker Karen Bass and requested City staff to contact her office regarding the City's plans for Memorial Day.
- Questioned what happens to funds that come in through asset seizures.

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Items Presented by Councilmember Malsin:

- Pointed out several incorrect references to the CAO instead of the City Manager in the Capital Improvement Plan.
- Requested paper copies of power point presentations as the screen is difficult to see.

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Items Presented by Mayor Armenta:

- Announced ArtWalk Culver City on June 5, 2010.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 10:08 p.m., the City Council adjourned its meeting to an Adjourned Regular meeting to be held on May 27, 2010.

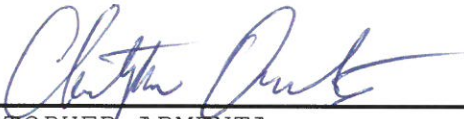
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Ela Valladares

DEPUTY CITY CLERK of the City of Culver City, California
EX-OFFICIO CLERK of the City Council, City of Culver City,
California

APPROVED June 28, 2010



CHRISTOPHER ARMENTA

MAYOR of the City of Culver City, California