

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

July 16, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the City Council was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Andrew Weissman, Mayor
Jeffrey Cooper, Vice Mayor
Jim B. Clarke, Councilmember
Micheál O'Leary, Councilmember
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Councilmember

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Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

The Invocation was given by John Nachbar, City Manager, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Daryl Cherness.

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Community Announcements By City Council Members/Information Items From Staff

Councilmember Clarke reported attending the opening of the Copenhagen Bakery and wished the new business well.

Councilmember Sahli-Wells reported attending a free salsa class at the Helms Bakery on July 15 noting another free chance to learn salsa at the Helms Bakery on August 5th, and she announced Dine L.A. throughout Culver City.

Councilmember O'Leary summarized issues discussed at the Independent Cities Association meeting that he had recently attended.

Mayor Weissman announced a Fracking Symposium on August 4 and he received consensus that a discussion on the use of Council Chambers for the Symposium be placed on the City Council agenda for July 23, 2012.

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Joint Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Weissman invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Marta Zaragoza discussed increased taxes and fees; praised the work of Charles Herbertson and City services; suggested oversight and evaluation of City departments; expressed opposition to potential cuts to police and fire in the City; discussed ineffective managers; ham radio services; emphasis on emergency response; neighborhood watch organizations; CERT; and concern with wasting money on unnecessary staff and redevelopment.

Mary Homan spoke on behalf of Dave Baker regarding a request for a variance and a fee waiver noting that his property met requirements of the zoning code and neighbors have expressed support for the garage variance.

Responding to an inquiry from Mayor Weissman, John Nachbar, City Manager, indicated that he would return with additional information on the matter.

Louise Coffey-Webb, Culver City Historical Society, announced their Fall Fundraiser at the Culver Hotel on September 23; their annual BBQ on July 18 in Veterans Memorial Park; and she reported that due to construction in the Veterans Memorial building the Historical Society would be closed on July 21.

Michelle Weiner announced *Fixing the Future* on July 18 at the Pacific Theatres.

Ross Hawkins provided background on himself; he felt that none of the suggestions made to address budget problems were sufficient; he pointed out the value of the City's history; he discussed Bring Hollywood Home, an organization dedicated to bringing motion picture production back to California; and he questioned whether the budget deficit would exist if production had not left the area.

Tom Camarella expressed concern with having adequate time to prepare for the Fracking Symposium if the use of Council

Chambers is not discussed until the July 23 City Council meeting.

Mayor Weissman discussed Brown Act requirements and reported that the event was being put on by Transition Culver City and the Sierra Club in association with The League of Women Voters.

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Receipt of Correspondence

MOVED BY VICE MAYOR COOPER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER O'LEARY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, TO RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

FIFTH OF FIVE PLANNED COMMUNITY DIALOGUES ON CITY FINANCES - A Presentation from the City Manager and Chief Financial Officer on the State of City Finances and Acceptance of Public Input and Comment

Mayor Weissman discussed previous workshops to address the structural deficit in different venues throughout the City; the staff presentation identifying the nature of the problem; and categories of services that could be affected if sufficient revenues cannot be generated.

Jeff Muir, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation on the history of the City's financial situation and choices to consider moving forward.

Mayor Weissman invited public input.

The following member of the audience addressed the City

Council:

Cary Anderson felt that the numbers were hard to comprehend; he expressed support for a three-quarter cent sales tax; and he discussed money lost by not enforcing parking meters.

Mayor Weissman clarified that the proposed half-cent sales tax would provide revenue necessary to pay existing expenses but would not address issues of continuing concern in the City.

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Item A-2

Adoption of Resolutions (1) (Unanimous Vote Requirement) Declaring a Fiscal Emergency Pursuant to Article XIII C of the Constitution of the State of California; (2) Calling and Giving Notice of the Holding of a Special Municipal Election to be Consolidated with the Statewide General Election to be Held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 for the Purpose of Submitting to the Voters a Measure Relating to Implementing a Local Transactions and Use Tax (Sales Tax); (3) Requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles Render Specified Services Related to the Conduct of said Election; (4) Authorizing the City Council and/or Certain Council Members to Submit Ballot Arguments and Rebuttals Regarding the Measure; (5) Potential Creation and Appointment of Members to an Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to Draft and/or Submit Such Ballot Argument(s) and Rebuttal(s); and (6) (Four-Fifths Vote Requirement) Approving a Related Budget Amendment

John Nachbar, City Manager, introduced the item and discussed options.

Jeff Muir, Chief Financial Officer, provided a summary of the material of record.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Crystal Alexander expressed support for the ballot measure; discussed City assets; the elimination of redevelopment; CALPERS investment returns; sunset clauses; the reserve policy; and she suggested creation of a public finance advisory committee.

Stephen Murray felt that the City was over-dependent on sales

tax revenue; discussed the volatility of sales tax; expressed support for a sales tax and the sunset clause; and he wanted to see the establishment of a public financial advisory committee.

Bill Reider, DoubleTree Hotel and Chamber of Commerce, expressed support for a half-cent sales tax with a five-year moratorium and he wanted to be involved with finding a permanent solution to the problem.

Responding to inquiry from Councilmember Clarke, Mr. Ryder indicated that the Chamber of Commerce supported a five-year sunset to try to find real solutions.

Cary Anderson received clarification regarding the sunset for Measure EE for schools; he discussed state and local taxes; and he expressed support for a three-quarter percent sales tax with a sunset.

Frank Campagna expressed support for a three-quarter percent sales tax with a sunset clause and he suggested ways to promote the measure.

Kevin Lachoff discussed emailed comments to the City Council; support from the Chamber of Commerce for the half-cent sales tax increase with a five-year sunset provision; the importance of exploring new revenue streams that can be put in place immediately; sales tax levels of surrounding cities; opposition to a three-quarter percent sales tax increase; the importance of weaning the City off a dependency on sales tax; and he emphasized the importance of diversification of income sources.

Julie Lugo Cerra expressed support for a half-cent sales tax increase for five years in order to provide funds to reestablish a balance; noted that current issues were not the fault of the City; discussed the loss of redevelopment; and the utility users tax.

Jeremy Green, Management Analyst, read comments submitted by:

Steven Rose
Michael Hamill
Marta Zaragoza
Phyllis Owens

Discussion ensued between Councilmembers regarding maintaining

City services; the precarious position that the City has been put in; the vital nature of the community and the importance of community input; and clarification that Culver City is not in the same financial situation that San Bernardino is.

MOVED BY VICE MAYOR COOPER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CLARKE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL: ADOPT A RESOLUTION DECLARING A FISCAL EMERGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION XIII C OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION.

Discussion ensued between staff and Councilmembers regarding a three-quarter percent increase to sales taxes; the true deficit; the structural deficit; the shortfall for capital improvement projects; a hybrid sales tax increase; the sunset clause; the importance of running an active campaign; concern with opposition to a three-quarter percent sales tax increase; concern with losing support for any sales tax increase; the sunset clause vs. a permanent increase; costs to put on a special election; coordinating with a regular election; Councilmember ability to remove sales tax increases; opposition by businesses in the community; appreciation for support of the increase by many in the community; City services; sales tax rates of surrounding communities; improving efficiencies; the importance of public input; support for establishing a public finance advisory committee; the importance of transparency; appreciation to the public for their input; the importance of replenishing reserves when things are better; appreciation to prior Councils who provided for tough times; work to shrink the size of City government; limiting impacts to the public; reductions in operating costs; support of the bargaining units; retiree medical benefits; covering the operating structural deficit; concern that a five-year sunset does not allow enough time; allowing a realistic time frame to evaluate impacts; support for a ten-year sunset; motivation to future councils to look for ways to reduce expenditures and explore other sources of revenue; community evaluation of the impact of tax on levels of service; ways to provide greater diversity in the revenue stream; whether some of the money can be used for a 'Buy Local' campaign; tying the sunset date to a municipal election; whether the sunset clause is necessary to get the increase passed; a suggestion to modify the title of the resolution; the ordinance; the ability and discretion of future City Councils; and the potential amount of revenue generated by the tax.

Councilmember Clarke moved that the City Council approve a

half-cent sales tax with a ten-year sunset and a termination date of March 31, 2023.

Discussion ensued between Councilmembers and staff on whether to include the public advisory committee in the motion and agendaizing a discussion of the advisory committee as soon as possible as the committee could be an advocate of the tax and assist in generating support for the measure.

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER CLARKE, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR COOPER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL: PROPOSE A HALF-CENT SALES TAX WITH A TEN-YEAR SUNSET AND A TERMINATION DATE OF MARCH 31, 2013.

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAHLI-WELLS, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER O'LEARY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL: ADOPT A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO RENDER SPECIFIED SERVICES TO THE CITY OF CULVER CITY RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION AND APPROVE THE APPROPRIATION OF NECESSARY FUNDS.

MOVED BY VICE MAYOR COOPER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER O'LEARY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT APPROPRIATING \$80,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND RESERVE TO COVER COSTS TO CONDUCT THE ELECTION.

Discussion ensued between Councilmembers regarding having the entire City Council draft arguments for the local transaction and use tax; Brown Act issues; and the availability of Councilmember O'Leary for the July 23, 2012 meeting.

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER O'LEARY, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SAHLI-WELLS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE FORMATION OF AN AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE AND APPOINT MAYOR WEISSMAN AND COUNCILMEMBER CLARKE THERETO FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE PRIMARY ARGUMENT AND REBUTTAL ARGUMENT (IF NEEDED) AND REQUIRE THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO COMPLETE ITS WORK IN TIME TO PRESENT THE CITY COUNCIL WITH A DRAFT PRIMARY ARGUMENT ON JULY 23, 2012 AND ANY REBUTTAL ARGUMENT NO LATER THAN AUGUST 6, 2012.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Councilmembers regarding naming the proposition.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda (Continued)

Mayor Weissman invited public input.

There was no response.

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Items from the City Council

Items from Vice Mayor Cooper

- Asked about a discussion of traffic mitigation on Sawtelle Boulevard between Sepulveda and Braddock planned for August 6

John Nachbar, City Manager, noted that given the absence of two Councilmembers on August 6, the matter would be moved to the August 13 City Council meeting.

Items from Councilmember Sahli-Wells

- Reported enjoying the first summer concert of the series despite the rain and encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming concert on July 19 in the City Hall Courtyard

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 10:03 p.m., the City Council adjourned its meeting to a meeting on Monday, July 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

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Martin R. Cole

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



ANDREW WEISSMAN

MAYOR of the City of Culver City, California