

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

June 18, 2012
6:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting of the City Council was called to order at 6:00 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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Closed Session

At 6:01 PM, the City Council recessed to Closed Session to discuss the following item:

CS-1 Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation
Re: Lisa Lujan v. City of Culver City et al.
Case No. BC465942
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a)

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Reconvene

The City Council reconvened its meeting at 7:02 p.m. with all Councilmembers present.

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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 Suzanne DeBenedittis.

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Closed Session Report

Mayor Weissman indicated nothing to report from closed session.

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Community Announcements By City Council Members/Information Items From Staff

Martin Cole, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, introduced Management Analyst Jeremy Green.

Vice Mayor Cooper discussed concerns with public health and the water supply associated with fracking in the oil fields above Culver City, and he received consensus to discuss a resolution opposing fracking and demanding that the state place a moratorium on the controversial practice.

Councilmember Sahli-Wells reported that the environmental subcommittee would discuss the ban on plastic bags on July 9 and she discussed Backward Beekeepers noting that June is beekeeping month.

Councilmember O'Leary announced an e-waste and hazardous waste roundup on June 30 at the Former National Guard Armory and that the train would be coming to Culver City on June 20 with many activities by restaurants and local businesses to celebrate the event.

Councilmember Clarke announced a BBQ held by Culver City Amateur Radio Emergency Services behind Fire Station #1 on June 23.

Councilmember O'Leary reported attending the Council of Governments Transportation meeting on June 18 where a regional bike share program was discussed.

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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:

Steven Rose announced the 2012 Chamber of Commerce Business Expo on June 27 at Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

Tom Camarella expressed appreciation for the successful Fracking Hearing; reported an upcoming meeting with Holly Mitchell; discussed a pending Los Angeles resolution on fracking; requested that Culver City agendize consideration of a ban on fracking and an ordinance; and noted that there was no way for them to prove that the City could be safe.

Ken Ruben was looking forward to the Expo opening and he discussed the new buses in the City.

Councilmember Sahli-Wells reminded everyone of free fare day on June 20 for Culver City Lines 1 and 7 in honor of the Expo opening.

Rebecca Rona-Tuttle expressed gratitude to the City Council for their position on the fracking issue; felt that a ban would be more effective than a moratorium on fracking; questioned whether the City had the authority to enact a ban; and she was pleased that the matter would be agendized.

Councilmember O'Leary clarified that the City Council was united in their opposition to fracking and he discussed slant drilling and the importance of coordinating with surrounding cities and the state.

Rick Tuttle discussed the powers of the municipality; reiterated the importance of enacting a ban; he requested that realtors and bankers look into the matter regarding land use and effects to business; and he noted that fracking could already be taking place.

Discussion ensued between staff, Councilmembers and the speaker regarding clarification that the City was pursuing a redraft of the drilling ordinance, and that legal rights with respect to fracking would come up in the context of the ordinance; issues to be discussed on July 2; a suggestion to agendize consideration of a ban; the complexity of the issue; lack of regulation; the need for regulation; the position of the governor; concern with exposing the City to liability; and the custom of addressing the Mayor.

Dr. Suzanne DeBenedittis, Frack Free Culver City, discussed the momentum of opposition to fracking; the National Day of Fracking; appreciation to the City for hosting the fracking

hearing; she requested that the City Council agendaize a ban on fracking in and under Culver City with a resolution to the County and State to do so also; she discussed the symbolic nature of the ban; seismic issues; setting legal precedent; and she offered to help staff research issues.

DaShayne Walker, Dare to Care Learning Center, discussed her business; financial issues; and she questioned whether there was a policy of harassment of those who are behind in their bills.

John Nachbar, City Manager, indicated that he would look into the matter.

Dr. Khin Khin Gyi, Culver Crest Neighborhood Association, thanked the City Council for hosting the Fracking Workshop; reported that the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund had assisted 140 communities in the Northeast United States with crafting municipal codes to keep fracking out of their neighborhoods and she recommended obtaining their assistance; discussed Culver City wells; liability; obtaining a bond from PXP; and she announced a Cancer Run held by Senator Curren Price's office on June 23, and a Health Symposium on disparities in health outcomes around the Inglewood oil fields at the Magnolia Family Center on June 22.

Michelle Weiner expressed appreciation for City Council consideration of the fracking issue; she discussed the ability to control what goes on under the City; expressed support for a ban even if it is only on the Culver City portion; she discussed the importance of standing in solidarity with neighboring cities; the importance of the symbolic ban; proposed legislation by Assemblymember Butler; she expressed a lack of faith in the regulations; support for the plastic bag ban; and she emphasized the importance of Culver City taking the lead.

Robert Zirgulis asked that the City reexamine having Turbo Data collect parking fines for the City; he discussed the red light camera fines; he suggested examining policies to reduce the amount of parking fines lost; and he expressed opposition to the proposed sales tax increase.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1

FIRST 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

John Nachbar, City Manager, introduced the item; discussed efforts to publicize the meetings; and additional potential cuts.

Martin Cole, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, discussed the City website; virtual City Council meetings; and the schedule of meetings.

Jeff Muir, Chief Financial Officer, provided a brief history of the City's financial situation and the choices facing the City as they move forward.

Councilmember Clarke received clarification that examples provided by staff illustrated what would have to occur in order to reach \$8 million in cuts.

Mayor Weissman invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

David VonCannon felt it was apparent from presentations that a great deal of work had been done to reduce expenses and operate departments as efficiently as possible, especially in the transportation department; he suggested asking employees to see where they might be able to find additional efficiencies; he expressed support for the tax increase and possible assessment districts; and he encouraged the additional pursuit of grant money.

Martin Cole, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, discussed the suggestion to have employees identify possible cost savings.

Matthew Hetz, Culver City Symphony Orchestra, discussed his bus riding experiences; reported that the orchestra had been invited to move from Westchester to Culver City; discussed the 2,000% increase in rent at Veterans Auditorium that they received mid-season; requested that the rent not be increased further and perhaps be decreased; he acknowledged the difficult financial situation of the City; he discussed how to incorporate the arts and music in the City; the reputation of the City as an arts center; and the importance of live music.

Mayor Weissman reported that staff was revisiting the issue of fee increases and organizations with longstanding relationships with the City.

Paul Ehrlich discussed the budget process; the emphasis on the reserve; money put in the budget for retirees; preventative maintenance; budget reserves; the proposed tax; prudent formulas for the General Fund and the Self Insurance Fund; the Four-Fifths Rule; other taxes being proposed at the same time; the importance of an ongoing and separate budget committee; having a contingency plan; red light cameras; pro rata cuts; prioritization; he felt that buses should not be affected by cuts; the large amount of overtime in the police department; comparisons of net income for police officers between Culver City and Los Angeles; parking enforcement officers; areas to be studied; closing The Plunge; determining what level of crime is acceptable; closing Fire Station #2; outside consultants; whether the proposed tax increase is sufficient; and a suggestion to close City Hall every Friday to save money.

Mayor Weissman discussed the level of service the residents want.

Karen Kurokawa discussed the quality of life in Culver City; expressed concern that the sales tax increase would not be enough; and suggested a higher increase.

Seth Horowitz, Culver Hotel, discussed the transient occupancy tax; increasing expenditures to increase revenues; the perception of Culver City in Los Angeles; the Visitors Convention Bureau; and marketing Culver City to Los Angeles County.

Cary Anderson discussed revenue generated by parking enforcement; street sweeping violations; technology available to parking enforcement officers; fully burdened costs of parking enforcement officers; who has power over the Fire and Police budgets; and improving on the status quo.

Robert Zirgulis discussed balancing the City budget; the City's emergency fund; he disagreed with red light revenue comments made by Mr. Ehrlich; he expressed opposition to using Turbo Data; he discussed Red Flex; expressed concern with the expenditure of lawyer fees for the PXP issue and suggested arbitration; and he suggested working to avoid lawsuits.

Rick Tuttle discussed full cost recovery; license and permit categories; political costs; best practices; fines and forfeitures; infrastructure costs; the number of budgeted staff positions in the City; moving personnel to other accounts; geography and competitiveness; he expressed concern with the study indicating that the proposed sales tax would have no appreciable effect; and he questioned what the recommendation of the City Manager was.

Mike King received clarification that if the City achieved a savings of \$8 million, services would not be affected; clarification regarding the use of Redevelopment Agency monies; appreciation to the City Council for being proactive regarding cuts to benefits; he requested data regarding the impacts of reducing fire department services; and discussed the retirement age for fire and police personnel.

Discussion ensued between staff and the City Council regarding the competitiveness of police and fire retirement with other cities; CALPERS; the League of California Cities; and clarifying what increased risk means.

Michelle Weiner expressed appreciation for the process; discussed quantifiable information regarding reduced police and fire and increased risk; she suggested using a portion of the Transient Occupancy Tax to promote Culver City, holding future workshops in the round, and instituting a 'buy local' campaign; she discussed preserving resources; and keeping money in the City.

Discussion ensued between Councilmembers and staff regarding levels of service; the need to raise revenue; public/private partnerships; and looking at things in a different way.

Paul Ehrlich discussed prioritization and wanted to see a dollar amount put on each item to clarify savings; he felt that \$7.5 million underestimated the amount of money necessary; he observed that Workers Compensation costs were out of control; he agreed with opposing fracking but expressed concern about the money spent on legal fees to combat the situation; he noted the reputation of Culver City as a high fee City and suggested comparing fees with those of surrounding cities; and discussed consideration of a policy change.

Mayor Weissman indicated that the next meeting in the series would be held at 10:00 a.m. on June 23 at El Rincon Elementary School and would not be televised.

Discussion ensued between staff and Councilmembers regarding costs incurred to administrate parking fines; clarification that the company used for parking fine collection is Turbo Data; general cost recovery; the comprehensive review of fees; cost recovery for parks and recreation; charging utilities back to their individual departments as a way to increase efficiencies; Culver City as a full-service City; concern that cuts could cost more money in the long run; small ideas for large savings; creation of a Finance Committee; resident involvement; revenue generating ideas; red light cameras; clarification regarding the format of the meetings not located in Council Chambers; making information easily available about what staff has already done to reduce the budget; the buy local initiative; sustainability; service reductions; property values; contrasting Culver City services with those of surrounding cities; scare tactics; information regarding specific cuts; elimination of a Fire Station; previous departmental audits; concern with dipping into reserves; previous actions to balance the budget upended by actions of the state; the five-year pan; instituting a higher sales tax; GASB 45; the irrevocable trust; creative accounting; Enterprise Funds; changing habits; the information gap with the public; concern regarding attendance at future meetings; education and communicating information; maintaining the status quo; and specific information regarding cuts to service.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

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

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda (Continued)

Mayor Weissman invited public input.

The following member of the audience addressed the City Council:

Cary Anderson discussed red light cameras; an accident on Duquesne involving police officers; he requested that police officers write tickets around schools; and he expressed support for EXPO.

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Items from the City Council

Items from Councilmember O'Leary

- Reported that the Expo had been the most successful opening with regard to ridership

Items from Mayor Weissman

- Announced the schedule and location of upcoming meetings

Items from Councilmember Sahli-Wells

June 18, 2012

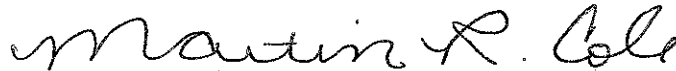
- Clarified that appointments to Commissions and Committees would take place on June 25th in the Rotunda Room at Veterans Auditorium

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 10:29 p.m., the City Council adjourned its meeting to a meeting on Saturday, June 23, 2012 at 10:00 a.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