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

September 13, 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 item:

CS-1 Conference with Legal – Anticipated Litigation
Re: Initiation of Litigation – 1 Matter
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c)

Heather Baker, Assistant City Attorney, clarified that the matter to be discussed in Closed Session is City of Culver City, et al. vs. Los Angeles Community College District, et al.; Case No. BS128400.

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Recess

The City Council recessed to Closed Session at 5:31 p.m.

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Reconvene

The City Council reconvened its meeting at 7:10 p.m., with all Councilmembers present.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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Closed Session Report

Mayor Armenta indicated that there was nothing to report out of Closed Session Item CS-1 for the City Council.

Per Mayor Armenta’s request, Murray Kane, General Counsel for the Redevelopment Agency, reported that negotiation instructions had been given to the Executive Director and staff for use of the Pasqin property as the New Jazz Bakery in Culver City.

Martin Cole, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, reported that the Redevelopment Agency had not considered Closed Session Item CS-1.

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Presentations

Item P-1

A Presentation to the City Council from Culver City Sister City, Inc.

Barbara Honig, Culver City Sister City Committee President, introduced the delegation and discussed their visit to Lethbridge, Canada in July 2010.

Heather Alcantar described her experience visiting Lethbridge, Canada and noted the importance of exchanging ideas.

Barbara Honig extended an invitation to a wine tasting fundraiser on October 17, 2010 at the Culver City Radisson Hotel; announced that applications were being accepted for runners to participate in the annual exchange of marathon runners with Kaizuka, Japan on February 20, 2011; and presented a gift from the Lethbridge Twinning Society to the City Council.

Discussion ensued between the City Council and Ms. Honig regarding the display of gifts from Sister Cities, and rooms named for the Sister Cities.

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Public Comment – Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Armenta invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Julie Lugo Cerra, Culver City Historical Society, reminded everyone that Culver City would be 93 years old on September 20, 2010; reported that Huell Howser had filmed a Culver City segment of his show that would be airing on KCET on September 23, 2010 and October 15, 2010; she encouraged everyone to visit the Culver City Historical Society website; reported on work to restore a traffic signal donated by a former mayor; discussed groups visiting the Historical Society; and she reported that the Society had been working with a girl scout group and would be screening film by Katherine Maxwell.

Ken Kaufman, Downtown Business Association Restaurant Owners, expressed concerns with gourmet food trucks and asked that they be prohibited.

Martin Cole, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, reported that the Committee for Permits and Licenses and staff has recognized this issue and more information would be coming to the City Council along with a recommendation from the Committee.

Public Hearing

Item PH-1

A Public Hearing to Consider and Approve the Use of Monies for Front Line Police Services as a Result of Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund Grant Under the Citizen's Option for Public Safety (COPS) Program, Including Continued Funding of a Property Technician Position (Non-Sworn) in the Property and Forensic Unit and Creation of an Overtime-Funded Officer Task Force to Address Community Crime Prevention.

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER WEISSMAN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER O'LEARY, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVE AND FILE THE AFFIDAVITS OF PUBLICATION AND POSTING OF NOTICES AND CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICES.

Police Lieutenant Ronald Iizuka provided a summary of the material of record.

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER COOPER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER O'LEARY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PUBLIC HEARING BE OPENED.

Mayor Armenta invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the City Council:

Cary Anderson questioned salary adjustments for the Property Technician and asked what the costs were for the position.

Mayor Armenta indicated that staff would contact Mr. Anderson with the requested information.

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER WEISSMAN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER O'LEARY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE PUBLIC HEARING BE CLOSED.

Item PH-1
(continued)

Following discussion, the following motion was made:

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER MALSIN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER COOPER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE CONTINUED USE OF SLESF PROGRAM GRANT MONIES TO FUND ONE PROPERTY TECHNICIAN POSITION AND WITH ANY REMAINING GRANT MONIES, AN OVERTIME-FUNDED TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION.

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Consent Calendar

Councilmember Malsin received clarification regarding the process for amended motions in the minutes and agreed to approve the minutes subject to specified corrections being made.

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

Item C-1

Meeting Minutes

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 9, 2010 AS AMENDED.

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Item C-2

Cash Disbursements

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE CASH DISBURSEMENTS FOR AUGUST 13, 2010 - SEPTEMBER 3, 2010.

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September 13, 2010

Item C-3

(1) Approval of the Plans and Specifications and Authorization to Advertise for Construction Bids for the Playground for Children Ages 2 – 5 at Veterans' Memorial Park, P-924; and (2) Approval of a Related Budget Amendment.

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

1. APPROVE THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZE THE ADVERTISING FOR CONSTRUCTION BIDS FOR THE PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN AGES 2 – 5 AT VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK, P-924; AND,

2. APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO ADD BOTH THE GRANT REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF $48,808.00 IN PROPOSITION 40 ROBERTI-Z'BERG-HARRIS BLOCK GRANT FUNDS TO ACCOUNT NUMBER 42300924 (CAPITAL GRANTS/VETERANS' PARK PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS). A BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUIRES A 4/5THS VOTE.

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Item C-4

Award of a Contract to FS Construction, as the Lowest Responsive and Responsible Bidder, for the Construction of ADA Improvements at Veterans' Memorial Park, P-924.

THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

1. AWARD A CONTRACT TO FS CONSTRUCTION, AS THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, FOR ADA IMPROVEMENTS AT VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK, P-924, IN THE AMOUNT OF $20,500.00, BASED ON ITS BASE BID; AND,

2. AUTHORIZE THE PARKS DIVISION MANAGER TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDERS IN THE AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED $2,050.00, IF NECESSARY; AND,

3. AUTHORIZE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO REVIEW/PREPARE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS; AND,

4. AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SUCH DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY.

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Joint Item

Item J-1

Discussion of a Policy Related to Special Event Sponsorship and Financial Support of City- and Agency-Sponsored Events and Direction to Staff.

Jeremy Green, Cultural Affairs Administration and Special Projects Coordinator, provided a summary of the material of record.

Mayor Armenta invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Jay Shery, speaking on behalf of the Culver City Car Show, urged the City Council to support the continuation of the funding for the Culver City Car Show in-kind services; he discussed timing of the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) proposal; expressed concern with the mandatory annual 20% reduction in costs; discussed the benefits the Car Show provides to the City; and he asked that funding be continued.

Mike Snell, Culver City Exchange Club President, discussed benefits of the Car Show; stated that the Car Show was put on by local volunteers; discussed the Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Fire Department which is held the same day as the Car Show; noted that success could not be measured in dollars and cents; and he pointed out that the event raises money that is donated back to the City.

Steve Rose, Culver City Chamber of Commerce President, praised the proposal; discussed criteria for eligibility; felt that the proposal posed a complete change to the system; and he suggested looking at other events being funded in support of economic development.

Ela Valladares, Deputy City Clerk, read written comments submitted by:

Karlo Silbiger

Discussion ensued between the City Council and staff regarding the need for structure; consideration of what each event brings to the City; in-kind costs, actual costs and labor costs; reductions to services provided by staff; the difficulty of quantifying in-kind services; whether the non-profit donates money back to the City; non-profits vs. for-profits; criteria for eligibility; providing sponsorship dollars to as many worthy groups as possible; the reduction of sponsorship dollars over time to those groups who receive it year after year; and motivation for the groups to become self-sufficient.

Item J-1
(continued)

Further discussion continued regarding payments and the timing of City billing; the NOFA panel; staff time required; the value of the volunteer time; the budgetary analysis; Agency sponsored events versus other events in the City; concern that the policy proposal is based too much on an arts model rather than an economic development model; the importance of spurring economic activity in the City; the difference between arts events and economic development events; how efficient a group may be at doing something balanced with which events are valuable to the City; the 10% limit; annual consideration; the performing arts grant program; promotional ties-ins with the City; the value of media exposure and publicity; and developing new audiences.

Discussion continued regarding looking at events from an economic development standpoint; quantification; budgeting a certain dollar amount; feasibility of grandfathering organizations; total cost of each event and percentages of the total; concern with damaging already successful events; comparing guidelines with current practices; a desire for guidelines; staff agreement to provide additional information; events that become Culver City events; and other events requesting assistance.

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Item J-2

Consideration of the Comprehensive Downtown Parking Study Recommendations, Including Parking Structure Rates and the Pooled Parking Program.

Sol Blumenfeld, Community Development Director, provided a summary of the material of record.

Steffen Turoff, Walker Parking Consultants, discussed the current pooled parking program; monitoring and quantifying supply and demand; parking structures, parking management challenges; revenue; inventory; parking operations; the City Hall Parking structure; the parking credit system; monitoring; and goals and recommendations.

Discussion ensued between the City Council, Mr. Turoff, and staff regarding covenants and long term leases; changing parking rates to direct parking to underutilized areas; issues created by free parking; and follow up after changes have been implemented.

Mayor Armenta invited public comment.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Ken Kaufman, Downtown Business Association, distributed and read from a letter from the Association about the parking study; discussed comparisons with Beverly Hills and Santa Monica; the importance of balancing price, convenience and accessibility; the two-hour free parking; and City Hall parking.

Cary Anderson provided a DVD presentation regarding problems addressed by the parking firm and feeding meters; he suggested metering loading zones; and he discussed parking in residential areas and enforcement of permit parking.

Neil Rubenstein felt it would be offensive to have to pay to park in the City Hall parking structure when coming to address City issues.

Meghan Sahli Wells, Downtown Neighborhood Association, reported that she was not receiving notices about items regarding the downtown area; reiterated a previous request to be notified for any items regarding the Downtown Neighborhood Association; expressed agreement with statements from the Downtown Business Association; and she asked that a protection for the residents be put in place before any changes are made.

Mayor Armenta asked staff to ensure that Meghan Sahli Wells was on the proper notification lists and suggested that any interested people enter their information in the computer at the back of the Council Chambers.

Robert Zirgulis expressed support for maintaining the free two-hour parking; he suggested moving employee parking offsite; and he reported that the Culver City School Board and Linwood E. Howe allegedly had offered to lease their parking to the City.

Discussion ensued between the City Council and staff regarding the School District offer; two-hour free parking; length of parking time allowed in the busy Cardiff and Watseka structures; cost differentials as incentives to balance parking between the structures; validation for those visiting City Hall for City business; implementing changes in tandem with increased enforcement; parking credits; costs for parking structures; usage of Redevelopment Agency funds for pay on foot systems; improving traffic flow in the structures; funding and timeframe for space inventory signage; enforcement; revenue considerations; parking management considerations; neighborhood parking; rising meter rates; and the rate of ticket writing per hour for the downtown area.

Discussion ensued between the City Council and Steffen Turoff regarding results of predictions in the past; outcomes of other projects in other cities; the fact that the popularity of the area increases parking demand; concrete evidence; information from the industry leader; past experience; and cutting edge techniques.

Further discussion ensued between the City Council and staff regarding concern that the system would fail without consistent enforcement; the price of parking tickets and how much of the fine comes to the City; monitoring the effect of the changes; price versus available parking; consistent treatment of different areas in the City; driver habits; consumer turnover; impacts to nearby residents; protections for businesses in the downtown area; and moving traffic to different areas.

Discussion continued between the City Council, staff; and Steffen Turoff regarding incentives for people to move after the first two hours; consultant experience managing parking at The Grove; the two-hour shuffle; concern with creating more movement; grace periods; validations; one-hour parking versus two-hour parking; incremental changes with monitoring; flexibility; success indicators; incentivizing parking in a different structure; keeping City business parking validated; contracting out enforcement; and new enforcement technology.

Responding to Councilmember Cooper, Ken Kaufman, Downtown Business Association, indicated that businesses promoted the two-hour free parking in the structures.

At this time, Meghan Sahli Wells, Downtown Neighborhood Association, discussed the importance of effective communication that parking is available in another lot and real time parking information, and she suggested more creative solutions.

Further discussion ensued between the City Council and staff regarding the time frame for the installation of real time parking signage; staff offering to provide a summary of recommendations made at this meeting for the City Council's review and input; monitoring the parking supply in the City; the way parking affects transportation decisions; the Metro project coming to the City; and transporting people from the Metro station to the downtown area.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Consideration of the City's Position on Resolutions for the 2010 League of California Cities Annual Conference – September 15-17 in San Diego - and Naming of a Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate(s) for the Conference.

Shelly Wolfberg, Assistant to the City Manager, provided a summary of the material of record.

Mayor Armenta invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the City Council:

Goran Eriksson, Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee, informed the City Council that, in regards to League Resolution 3, the Chamber is recommending opposition to Proposition 23. The Chamber feels the City should not support delaying SB375.

The City Council expressed support for League Resolutions 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6; and opposition to League Resolution 3.

Discussion ensued between the City Council and staff regarding ways to proceed; whether to actively oppose Resolution 3 or abstain; support for the voting delegate conveying the City's position during the conference; and selection of the delegate and alternate.

Following discussion, the following motion was made:

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER MALSIN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER COOPER AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

1. ADOPT A CITY POSITION SUPPORTING THE LEAGUE RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE LEAGUE PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS; AND

2. ADOPT A CITY POSITION SUPPORTING THE LEAGUE'S RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE NATIONAL LET'S MOVE CAMPAIGN; AND

3. ADOPT A CITY POSITION OPPOSING THE LEAGUE'S RESOLUTION TO DEFER ACTION ON AB 32 AND SB 375 AND TO ADOPT THE BOARD-APPOINTED TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS, AND ALLOWING COUNCILMEMBER O'LEARY TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR AB 32 AND SB 375; AND

4. ADOPT A CITY POSITION SUPPORTING THE LEAGUE'S RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO RESPONSIBLE BANKING; AND

5. ADOPT A CITY POSITION SUPPORTING THE LEAGUE'S RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO UNFUNDED MANDATES; AND

6. ADOPT A CITY POSITION SUPPORTING THE LEAGUE'S RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY WHILE DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE; AND

7. DESIGNATE COUNCILMEMBER O'LEARY AS THE VOTING DELEGATE FOR THE 2010 LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2010 IN SAN DIEGO; AND

8. DESIGNATE COUNCILMEMBER COOPER AS ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE FOR THE 2010 LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2010 IN SAN DIEGO.

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Item A-2

Adoption of a Resolution to Join the Los Angeles County Recycling Market Development Zone Program.

Damian Skinner, Manager, Environmental Programs and Operations provided a summary of the material of record.

Mayor Armenta invited public participation.

No speakers came forward.

Discussion ensued between the City Council and staff regarding quantifying the effectiveness of the City’s participation and measuring business participation.

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER COOPER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER O’LEARY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2010-R072 TO JOIN THE LOS COUNTY RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT ZONE PROGRAM THEREBY ESTABLISHING CULVER CITY AS A RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT ZONE.

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Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda – continued.

Mayor Armenta invited public participation.

The following member of the audience addressed the City Council:

Cary Anderson expressed concern that the staff report for Item J-2 indicated that the Downtown Neighborhood Association was allegedly notified by mail and he pointed out that the date listed for email of the agenda notification was incorrect. He asserted that the City Council agenda notification had not gone out but he did receive notification of the Redevelopment Agency meeting. He discussed mailed notification and postmarks, expressing concern with the way the City discussed future events as though they had already occurred. He asserted that the City Council agenda notification was inadequate, noting that the Redevelopment Agency agenda notification had gone out for the September 13, 2010 meeting and that the City Attorney’s Office was consistent with their notification.

Discussion ensued between the City Council and staff regarding issues with notification; issues with email addresses; and a request to put each of the Councilmembers on the notification list.

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Receipt of Correspondence

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

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Items from Staff

No action was taken on this item.

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Adjourn in Memory

MOVED BY COUNCILMEMBER MALSIN, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WEISSMAN, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF SID KRONENBERG AND FRANK NAKAGAWA.

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Items from the City Council

Items Presented by Councilmember Cooper:

- Expressed appreciation for the services held by the City in memory of September 11.

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Items Presented by Mayor Armenta:

- Requested staff to address graffiti at the former Spartan lot.

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Items Presented by Councilmember Weissman

- Requested staff to address graffiti on the fence at the bottom of the Culver Boulevard ramp on the northbound 405 Freeway.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 10:41 p.m., the City Council adjourned its meeting in memory of Sid Kronoenberg and Frank Nakagawa to a Regular meeting to be held on September 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 October 11, 2010

CHRISTOPHER ARMENTA
MAYOR of the City of Culver City, California