



CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT/GVMID

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

BRISBANE COMMUNITY CENTER/LIBRARY, 250 VISITACION AVENUE, BRISBANE

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:00 p.m., the City Council met in closed session in the Library Conference Room to discuss personnel matters.

- A. **Conference with labor negotiator regarding International Association of Fire Fighters and Police Officers Association; pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6**

CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the flag salute.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present:

Staff present:

Bologoff, Conway, Richardson, Waldo, and Mayor Barnes
City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault, Associate
Civil Engineer Fabry, Associate Civil Engineer
Flanagan, City Manager Holstine, Acting City Clerk Ricks,
Administrative Services Director Schillinger, Parks and
Recreation Director Skeels, Public Works Team Leader
Tarquinio, City Attorney Toppel, Senior Accounting
Assistant Patton, Financial Services Manager Cooper,
Public Works Lead Maintenance Worker Allen, Public
Works Works Maintenance Worker II Ibarra, Public Works
Supervisor Peters, Administrative Management Analyst
Cheng, Police Chief Hitchcock

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

CM Richardson made a motion, seconded by CM Conway, to adopt the agenda as proposed. The motion was carried unanimously by all present.

PROCLAMATIONS

A. World Peace Day

Mayor Barnes read a proclamation declaring September 21 as World Peace Day, an international day of ceasefire and nonviolence. He encouraged all citizens to participate in a gathering on September 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Park gazebo. He presented the document to Moira Lucas.

Moira Lucas thanked the City Council for acknowledging and validating the World Day of Peace.

B. National Preparedness Month

Mayor Barnes read a proclamation recognizing September 2008 as National Preparedness Month. He urged citizens to take steps to help themselves cope with emergencies by collecting emergency supplies, developing a family emergency plan, becoming informed about potential hazards and risks, and participating in community preparedness and response efforts.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault advised that the City of Brisbane is taking part in National Preparedness Month by participating in the annual San Mateo County Disaster Preparedness Day on September 13, posting four short emergency preparedness videos on the City's Website and public television channel, and showing a special San Mateo County video presentation on September 24 at the Mission Blue Center.

C. Recognition of Concerts in the Park Sponsors

Parks and Recreation Director Skeels noted that sponsors cover 100 percent of the costs of the Concerts in the Park series, and these successful events would not be possible without their financial support.

Mayor Barnes publicly thanked and recognized the businesses and organizations that sponsored the 2008 Concerts in the Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Skeels noted that a letter signed by the Mayor will be sent to each sponsor. He provided Councilmembers with complimentary Concerts in the Park T-shirts.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS NO. 1

Michele Salmon, Brisbane resident, thanked the City Council for its wise decision in rejecting the freight forwarding proposal for 325 Valley Drive. She said she and many other members of the community appreciated the Council's concern for public health and safety. Ms. Salmon recommended revising Crocker Park ordinances to eliminate this problem in the future. In particular, she advocated changing the 20 percent cap on freight forwarders and extending the same restriction to any future development in the quarry.

Mayor Barnes suggested including this topic on a future agenda for Council consideration.

Elisa Primm, Brisbane, said she had problems with the speed notification sign the City installed on San Bruno Avenue the previous week. She expressed her opinion that the large electronic sign across from her house was out of character with the small-town feel of the community and was not achieving its intended result. Ms. Primm noted that stop signs would be much more effective in slowing traffic down.

Ms. Primm reported that she talked with Mothers of Brisbane, and many others agreed that stop signs would be preferable in other locations as well.

Mayor Barnes proposed agendaizing this topic for discussion at a future meeting, and he asked the staff to notify Ms. Primm.

CONSENT CALENDAR

CM Waldo advised that he wished to abstain from voting on Item A.

CM Conway requested that Items E and G be removed.

- A. Adopt City Council Minutes of July 7, 2008**
- B. Adopt City Council Minutes of July 21, 2008**
- B. Adopt City Council Minutes of July 28, 2008**
- C. Approve Monthly Investment Report as of June 30, 2008**

- D. Adopt Resolution No. 2008-36 declaring certain property surplus and providing for the disposition of such**
- F. Approve Co-Sponsorship of Shakespeare Event**
- H. Approve construction contract for Bayshore Corridor North-South Bikeway Project Phase I (#9607)**

CM Waldo made a motion, seconded by CM Bologoff, to approve the Consent Calendar as amended. The motion was carried, 4 – 0 – 1 (CM Waldo abstaining), with respect to Item A, and unanimously by all present with respect to the remaining items.

- E. Approve Co-Sponsorship of Mothers of Brisbane event**

CM Conway said he understood the event had already taken place, and he confirmed that all went well.

CM Conway made a motion, seconded by CM Waldo, to approve the co-sponsorship request as proposed. The motion was carried unanimously by all present.

- G. Approve awarding of contract for Street Sweeping Services, Fiscal Year 2008-09 and 2009-10 and authorize Mayor to sign agreement**

CM Conway asked what sweeping contractor the City was currently using. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault responded that the City uses the same contractor, UBS.

CM Bologoff said he had heard complaints that streets were not being cleaned well. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault observed that parked cars prevent the sweepers from reaching the curb and gutter. He said prohibiting parking on street-cleaning days would be a big help. He suggested that the Council consider adopting an ordinance with enforcement provisions.

CM Bologoff expressed willingness to consider establishing no-parking hours.

CM Conway pointed out that the frequency of street cleaning has dropped from weekly to once a month. He asked if the staff had any data regarding increases in debris in streets and storm drains. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault advised that there are certain times of year when the staff spends a considerable amount of time clearing drains and catch basins. He said

the best way to gauge the volume of debris would be to find out how much street-cleaning waste was dumped in the past compared to now.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault clarified that when the City performed its own street cleaning, the cleaners were busy every week sweeping different parts of town, but each street got cleaned only once a month. He said new studies suggest that street sweeping is not a very effective way of preventing sediment build-up in nearby waters.

CM Conway suggested increasing the frequency of street sweeping in the fall months. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault acknowledged that this would be helpful, but would not be as effective as keeping the streets cleared of parked cars. CM Conway noted there are some areas in Brisbane where curbside parking is not a problem, and he suggested targeting those streets for more frequent sweeping in the fall. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault expressed his willingness to consider this option.

CM Richardson commented that strong winds and heavy rainstorms tend to exacerbate the problems. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault said City crews are usually able to clear drains and catch much of the debris after the first major storm of the season.

Patricia Michael, Brisbane, said that Brisbane's street sweeper used to get out of the truck and manually sweep areas that were not accessible for the truck. She noted that the current company drives straight down the street, leaving trash and debris along the sides.

Jackie Snowden, Brisbane, stated that she sweeps her own street every week. She said the area below her house has no parking, but it is never swept.

Mayor Barnes asked Ms. Snowden to provide her address to the staff so they could contact the street sweeper.

Dolores Gomez, Brisbane, urged the City Council to require people to remove parked cars from curbs on street-sweeping days. She said parked cars were clearly the main obstacle to clean streets. Ms. Gomez noted that it makes no sense to pay for street sweeping services and then prevent the sweepers from doing the job. She observed that Brisbane's streets are filthy, especially Visitacion Avenue. She added that she sweeps her own street and part of Visitacion on a regular basis.

Michele Salmon agreed that Brisbane's streets used to be cleaner. She recalled that her own street was swept once a week, and residents voluntarily moved their cars on street-sweeping days. She said that once weekly sweeping stopped, the drain began to clog and had to be cleaned out on a regular basis. Ms. Salmon commented that it would help if people knew when the street

sweeper was coming and made an effort to move their cars.

Ms. Salmon added that she was embarrassed by the garbage and debris along Brisbane's main street.

Terry O'Connell, Brisbane resident, said she notices clouds of dust every time the sweeper passes, and she questioned how effective sweeping was at removing debris during a dry season. She recommended focusing street-cleaning efforts on Visitacion, and posting no-parking signs so people are aware of when street-cleaning will occur.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault commented that the street sweeping schedule is available on the City's Website. Mayor Barnes asked the staff to provide the schedule to Ms. Salmon and other interested citizens.

Mayor Barnes suggested that the Council consider enforcing no-parking hours along Visitacion to facilitate street-cleaning. Councilmembers expressed support for this idea. Mayor Barnes asked the staff to place this topic on a future agenda.

CM Conway suggested printing the street-sweeping schedule in the next issue of the newsletter and encouraging people to remove parked cars. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault said he was happy to publicize the schedule and promote cooperation.

Mayor Barnes asked if the sweepers operated without water. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault responded that the type of equipment depends on the area, and both wet and dry sweeping are done in Brisbane.

Mayor Barnes observed that requiring drivers to get out and manually sweep areas would entail extra cost. Ms. Primm commented that the City used to provide two-man crews. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault advised that the current contractor uses a one-man crew.

Mayor Barnes suggested that the Council consider paying for an extra person.

CM Bologoff recommended finding out what it would cost for the City of Brisbane to do its own street sweeping. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault estimated that street sweeping equipment would cost about \$150,000, and employees would cost \$80,000 to \$90,000 per year per person.

CM Richardson asked the staff to make sure the contract provides for the contractor to keep equipment functioning well. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault said the City already has such a requirement.

Mayor Barnes noted that the City is required by NPDES regulations to keep streets clean to prevent debris from entering the Bay. He observed that the existing permit expires in June of 2009.

CM Conway made a motion, seconded by CM Richardson, to approve the contract award as proposed. The motion was carried unanimously by all present.

Mayor Barnes indicated there had been a request from a member of the public to speak on an item on the approved Consent Calendar, and he drew attention to Item H, the bike corridor.

H. Approve construction contract for Bayshore Corridor North-South Bikeway Project Phase I (#9607) (Continued)

Michele Salmon clarified that although she supported bikeways, she had concerns about the proposed construction of the new bikeway corridor. She noted that like the Safe Pathways to Schools program, this project might be over-engineered. She pointed out that the construction will impact traffic and businesses along Bayshore Boulevard. She urged the City Council to carefully consider what the project will look like, as well as its effects on endangered habitat and erosion.

Mayor Barnes noted that the bikeway project was funded through C/CAG. He stated that he was familiar with the project, having served as a member of the County's Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee for the past seven years, and considered it necessary for safety and access. He indicated that the committee inspected the site and felt comfortable with the proposed design. Mayor Barnes said the roadway will be slightly narrower to provide more space on the shoulder for a bikeway.

Mayor Barnes asked City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault to describe how the bike lanes will be accommodated along Bayshore. Mr. Breault explained that most of the space comes from narrowing the lane closest to the median. He said that where there is insufficient space to excavate along the shoulder of the road, the space next to the median will be narrowed. He added that all of the bikeway will fit within the existing area occupied by the roadway.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault stated that a rumble strip and striping on both sides will warn drivers of the roadway narrowing, and the section next to the 12-foot truck lane will be marked with reflective pavement.

Ms. Salmon asked about provisions for keeping the bikeway clean. She emphasized the importance of keeping the pavement free of rocks and other debris. She recommended making

sure the bike lane along Bayshore is swept regularly. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault confirmed that this section of Bayshore was part of the street sweeping route.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Consider approval of Water and Sewer Rate Increase for Fiscal Year 2008/09

Administrative Services Director Schillinger said that after the July 7 Council meeting, notices were mailed to all water and sewer customers advising them of the rate increase. He recommended taking public comment and then voting on the proposed rate increase.

Administrative Services Director Schillinger stated that the City's goal is to provide safe drinking water and sewer services to customer, while ensuring fair rates and spreading increases over time. He drew attention to his July 7 staff report and presentation for a summary of past rates and projected expenditures. He asked City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault to discuss the proposed rate increases in more detail.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault introduced the staff's team leaders and office engineers. He described the ongoing maintenance, inspection, and security activities needed to keep the City's pump stations and storage tanks functioning properly. He talked about the City's water meter replacement program that will reduce staff meter-reading time and provide more accurate bills. He talked about annual inspection and testing of water valves, weekly water system flushing to maintain the chloramine disinfection system, and unidirectional water-main flushing to prevent sediment buildup in pipes.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault noted that the Public Works Department also responds to citizen about high water bills and potential leaks, low water pressure, and other issues. He said there were eight water main leaks last year, so the City should think about replacing pipes before they fail. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault introduced Jerry Flanagan, the associate civil engineer assigned to the City's potable water system for the past seven years.

Mr. Flanagan said Brisbane's Water Department is committed to complying with all current and future water quality regulations in order to supply a safe and reliable supply of drinking water to customers, sufficient to meet domestic and fire flow demands. He described several key capital improvement projects designed to meet these goals. Mr. Flanagan reviewed regulatory monitoring and compliance activities. He noted the mandatory switch to a chloramine disinfection system has required much more staff attention and monitoring, resulting in significant workload increases for field crews. Mr. Flanagan advised that the City hires a specialized company to annually clean and inspect the interiors of all water storage tanks.

CM Richardson commented that the City's Public Works Department plays an important role in the health and safety of the community, but its services tend to be taken for granted. She expressed her gratitude to all the employees for their hard work and dedication.

Angelo Tarquinio, team leader for the City's sewer drain and street maintenance crew, reviewed ongoing maintenance activities and special projects. He showed slides of the Valley Drive lift station. He noted that video inspection of sewer lines allows the City to spot problems, and he showed examples of clean sewer lines, tree root intrusions, and proactive preventive maintenance activities.

Matt Fabry, associate civil engineer responsible for the sanitary sewer system, discussed the primary functions of the sewer system, regulatory and reporting requirements, ongoing maintenance activities, and infrastructure improvements. He noted that dealing with Brisbane's hilly topography, aging infrastructure, and old private shared sewer lines are constant challenges for the staff.

Administrative Services Director Schillinger indicated that Brisbane has made considerable progress improving its utility system in recent years, but only about a quarter of the work has been done. He estimated the remaining projects will cost an additional \$35 million.

Administrative Services Director Schillinger advised that if rate increases are not adopted, the expenditures of the utility systems will exceed revenues. He added that the City has not set aside any funds for depreciation.

Administrative Services Director Schillinger reviewed the state law definition of what constitutes a fair rate, when the different components of a system pay for the amounts they actually use. He said that under this definition, the proposed 17 percent rate increase would be fair because Brisbane's residential customers and commercial customers would be paying amounts equivalent to what they consumed. He noted that another definition of fairness would be to have the people who use more pay more, and this would also encourage conservation. He observed that the proposed rate structure charges the heaviest users the most per unit of water. Administrative Services Director Schillinger observed that distinguishing discretionary use from necessary use would be another criterion for assessing fairness. He said Brisbane charges higher water rates to commercial customers with landscape meters, but these customers are not charged for sewer. He added that Brisbane offers a rate discount of approximately 30 percent for low-income customers.

Administrative Services Director Schillinger said Brisbane combines the cost of water for all ratepayers to arrive at the least average cost for everyone. He discussed the impact of new users

and noted that more customers in the future will help spread the costs out among more people.

Administrative Services Director Schillinger reviewed the budget for the City's water and sewer program, explaining the primary expenditures and revenue sources. He said that over the next year, the staff and Council subcommittee will be looking at alternative pricing structures to shift more fixed costs to service charges. He noted that the intent is to apply the new structure first to new customers, and then phase it in systemwide.

At 9:05 p.m., the Council took a brief recess. Mayor Barnes reconvened the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Mayor Barnes opened the public hearing and invited comments from members of the public.

Terry O'Connell said she understood the water shortages in the state and the need to increase rates. Instead of having customers bear the entire burden, she suggested having developers of new projects make contributions for City infrastructure.

City Attorney Toppel clarified that the City already assesses a substantial connection charge on new customers for the water and sewer system.

Mayor Barnes asked if the subcommittee had looked at alternative funding sources. CM Conway responded that the subcommittee considered a two-tiered rate, a charge on future construction, and ongoing federal funding.

Administrative Services Director Schillinger advised that the City had received approximately \$1.2 million in federal funds for water and sewer improvements over the past few years, plus about \$2.4 million in connection fees from new users.

CM Conway said the subcommittee determined that the administrative costs for the system were reasonable and that a rate increase was the best option.

CM Waldo pointed out that rejection of the freight forwarding project in Crocker Park means losing a significant capital contribution from the developer that could have helped pay for sewer and water improvements.

CM Bologoff indicated that the subcommittee looked at other ways of providing services, including Cal Water and privatization, and all of these alternatives would be more expensive. CM Conway pointed out that having experienced Public Works Department crews to handle emergencies is another benefit to the community.

Ali Eseifan, Brisbane resident, said he owns property in Brisbane, San Francisco, and South San

Francisco and receives water and sewer bills for each building. He observed that Brisbane's sewer rates are a bit higher than San Francisco's. He noted that South San Francisco does not charge separately for sewer service, but the sewer component appears to be less there too. Mr. Eseifan observed that if water and sewer rates do not cover the costs required to maintain the system, it might be a good idea to consider a tax increase or bond measure to help pay. He recommended a more long-term approach to funding to avoid more rate increases in the future.

Debbie Gudmundson, general manager, Homewood Suites, read a letter from De Davis, manager of the Radisson, expressing concern about the proposed water and sewer rate increases. She noted this situation should have been averted years ago instead of levying huge periodic increases that need to be passed on to hotel guests. She cautioned that Brisbane's hotels will lose business if their rates are no longer competitive with those at Oyster Point. Ms. Gudmundson urged the City Council to find better alternatives.

Dolores Gomez, Brisbane, said she appreciated the staff's presentation and understood the need for the water and sewer system improvements. She noted that she and many other homeowners have changed their gardening practices to conserve water. She asked how many more times the rates will be raised.

Mayor Barnes noted that since 2001, the City has been implementing water and sewer master plans and restructuring rates to cover the costs of the system. He said the proposed increase is 17 percent. Ms. Gomez commented that Social Security income increases only about 3 percent per year.

Mayor Barnes asked the staff to discuss the need for future increases. Administrative Services Director Schillinger advised that the proposed increase brings revenues and expenditures into balance based on current water usage. He said water and sewer rate increases over the past several years have been relatively small and insufficient to cover costs. He added that there will be a small deficit this fiscal year for the months before the increase takes effect.

Administrative Services Director Schillinger cautioned that when the Hetch Hetchy capital improvement program has been completed, Brisbane will likely be paying \$10 per unit of water used. He noted that there will be small increases due to inflation in the meantime.

Mayor Barnes observed that although water conservation is a worthwhile goal, as water use decreases, revenues to the system also go down, resulting in higher rates to customers to make up the difference. He added that this is one of the reasons the subcommittee is considering changing the connection fee to better reflect fixed costs.

Michele Salmon, Brisbane, acknowledged the difficulty of the decision before the City Council,

and she commended the City for the progress made so far in upgrading water and sewer infrastructure. She said California will be facing a severe water and sewer crisis in the future, and these improvements will help Brisbane be better prepared. Ms. Salmon commented that more development is not the answer because more development means more water usage, which will be detrimental to California.

Ms. Salmon asked about the possibility of collecting the non-potable water used regularly to flush the system and reusing it for landscaping and dust control.

Ms. Salmon said she supported the rate increase as a necessary measure to protect public health and the environment. She thanked the City for its work on behalf of the community.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault advised that the staff has been investigating reuse of the water used to flush the system. He said the primary challenge is capturing the water. He noted that one possibility might be to transport surplus water by truck to holding tanks at Sierra Point where it can be stored for irrigation purposes.

CM Conway observed that Brisbane has one of the lowest per-capita rates of water usage in San Mateo County, reflecting the importance citizens place on conservation. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault noted that another factor is lot size; he said small lots in Brisbane require less irrigation than big, rolling lawns, for example.

Mayor Barnes recalled seeing a San Francisco Public Utilities Commission presentation regarding baseline water usage without irrigation, and Brisbane is not far from that lower limit. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault estimated that a typical person in Brisbane uses about 62 gallons per day. He commented that cutting back further would be difficult for most households.

Ali Eseifan pointed out that Brisbane's rate structure favors people with single-family homes and penalizes multi-family dwellings. He noted that multi-family buildings typically have single water meters, and having so many units on one meter triggers higher rates, approximately four times what single-family customers pay.

Mayor Barnes asked if separate meters in apartment buildings would resolve this issue. Administrative Services Director Schillinger said apartment buildings are billed at the residential rate. He suggested comparing what four families living in apartments would pay for the same amount of water as four families living in single-family homes. He pointed out that single-family residences have to pay connection fees that apartment dwellers do not. Mayor Barnes and Councilmembers recommended that the subcommittee consider this issue as part of its examination of alternative rate structures.

There being no other members of the public who wished to address the City Council on this matter, CM Waldo made a motion, seconded by CM Conway, to close the public hearing. The motion was carried unanimously by all present and the public hearing was closed.

CM Richardson asked if the City had any special discount programs for people whose medical condition requires high water usage. Administrative Services Director Schillinger replied that the City had not considered a medical discount. He observed that there may be issues with respect to volume of water flow into City sewers, how medication eligibility would be verified, and the security of sensitive information. He advised that the City has worked out payment plans for people who have temporary difficulty paying their utility bills.

CM Richardson made a motion, seconded by CM Conway, to approve the rate increase as proposed.

CM Conway acknowledged the difficulty of the decision. Councilmembers encouraged the subcommittee to explore better rate structures for the future.

The motion was carried unanimously by all present.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Receive Petition for Removal of Parking Space on Glen Park Way at Ross Way

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault reported that the City received a petition to remove a parking space on Glen Park Way at Ross Way. He noted the staff report contains graphics and photographs of the intersection. He said the petitioners claim the cars parked at the corner limit the downhill sight distance for drivers approaching the intersection. Using a diagram, City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault pointed out the 16-foot parking area the petitioners would like removed. He said the staff determined that it would be safer to remove about 100 feet to eliminate parking on that uphill side.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault said he recalled that the City considered making Ross Way a one-way street several years ago. He noted that this change could calm traffic along Ross, but it would also cut down on the sight distance for vehicles coming down Glen Park Way at its steepest part. He recommended authorizing removal of the 100-foot area identified by the staff.

CM Richardson said she had heard reports that a high hedge also obstructed drivers' views. City

Engineer/Public Works Director Breault stated that the hedge was entirely on private property. He noted there is still a high wall, so cutting the hedge would not completely resolve the problem. He expressed his opinion that eliminating parking from the 100-foot stretch would be a more effective way of improving safety.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault noted there are few accidents at the intersection, probably because most drivers realize the danger. He observed that the petition presents an opportunity to take a proactive approach to preventing accidents.

CM Conway recommended that the staff discuss the recommendation with the petitioners.

CM Waldo proposed agreeing to the 16 feet requested in the petition and then considering more.

Mayor Barnes observed that none of the petitioners were people living in the houses with the parking spaces in front, and he expressed interest in hearing from those people. He noted these neighbors would be most impacted by elimination of the on-street parking. CM Bologoff pointed out there is a nearby public parking lot for guests and visitors.

CM Bologoff commented that there are only a couple portions of this main arterial street that have parking, and eliminating it in this one section would enhance safety. He said he had no objections making Ross a one-way street. He agreed with CM Waldo that the Council should approve the 16-foot request.

Mayor Barnes expressed support for consulting with the most impacted neighbors about eliminating parking from the 100-foot section.

Mayor Barnes asked if installing a mirror at the intersection would be helpful. City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault said he was not sure how well a mirror would work with such a steep angle. He clarified that the real problem was the limited sight distance for cars coming downhill, and a mirror would not address that.

CM Waldo made a motion, seconded by CM Richardson, to approve elimination of the 16 feet requested by the petitioners and further discuss the remainder.

City Attorney Toppel advised CM Bologoff to abstain because of the proximity of his own residence to the subject site.

The motion was carried, 4 – 0 – 1 (CM Bologoff abstaining).

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault asked if the Council would like the staff to notify

all nearby property owners advising them of the City's plans. He suggested sending the notice in time for citizens to attend the Council meeting at which the project is discussed. Councilmembers expressed support for this approach.

STAFF REPORTS

A. City Manager's Report on upcoming activities

City Manager Holstine said the staff had not yet assessed the impact of state budget cuts on the City's redevelopment funds.

CM Richardson asked about the status of AB 1546, pertaining to DMV fees. City Manager Holstine said Governor Schwarzenegger stated he would refuse to sign any bills until the state budget bill was signed.

B. Public Works Update

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault referred to his written report for a summary of ongoing projects.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault noted that the purpose of the Safe Routes to School program is to encourage children to walk and ride bicycles to school. He reminded the Council that planning steps included sending flyers to all school parents soliciting their feedback, and then developing two maps showing the most used routes and the trouble areas. He said the Safe Routes to School projects were specifically designed to address the problems identified by the parents, taking a proactive approach to removing obstacles and impediments to encourage more children to walk and bike to school.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault acknowledged that it was difficult for the public at large to understand the construction plans, and this frustration has led to questioning and criticism. He said the staff has been exploring ways of creating artist's renditions of projects to help people visualize what the results will look like.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault noted that 170 citizens responded to the residential parking survey the Council approved in July, and the staff will work with the Traffic Advisory Committee to compile the results and identify key themes. He said the Traffic Advisory Committee may then want to prepare recommendations for the Planning Commission to pursue and eventually bring to the Council for approval.

City Engineer/Public Works Director Breault reported that City crews met with landowners,

volunteers, and experts to work out arrangements for manual removal of invasive species from V-ditches and storm drains.

CM Conway commended Mr. Breault and the staff for the attractive new retaining wall along Humboldt Road.

MAYOR/COUNCIL MATTERS

A. Subcommittee Reports

Mayor Barnes reported that he met recently with Congresswoman Jackie Speier's office about obtaining federal funds for local projects. He noted the Congresswoman does not approve of earmarks and wants all cities requesting financial assistance to work with Bryan Perkins, District Grant Specialist.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS NO. 2

There were no members of the public who wished to address the City Council.

CLOSED SESSION

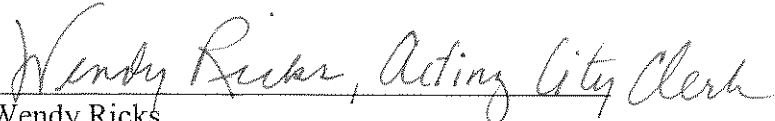
There being no further business, at 10:25 p.m., the City Council adjourned to Closed Session.

A. Liability Claims; Claimant: Richard Scott, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.95

ADJOURNMENT

At the conclusion of the Closed Session at 10:28 p.m., the meeting was adjourned with no announcements.

ATTEST:


Wendy Ricks
Acting City Clerk
10.06.08