

**MINUTES
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2010 - 6:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the City Council and Redevelopment Agency of the City of Highland was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Lilburn at the Donahue Council Chambers, 27215 Base Line, Highland, California.

The invocation was given by Reverend Al LeBrun of Immanuel Baptist Church and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem Jones.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jones, Scott, Timmer, Mayor Lilburn
Absent: McCallon

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None

COMMUNITY INPUT

Ms. Beverly Powell, Southern California Edison, stated she wanted to share with the public information regarding programs sponsored by Southern California Edison. They are sponsoring scholarships for High School students, especially those students majoring in science or math, with an application deadline of March 1, 2010. Also, they have a grant program available for donations in which organizations can apply for.

CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR

A MOTION was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jones, seconded by Councilman Timmer, to approve the consent calendar as submitted with the exception of Item #4 being pulled for further discussion. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 4-0, with Councilman McCallon being absent.

1. Waive the Reading of All Ordinances
Waived the reading of all Ordinances in their entirety and read by title only.
2. Warrant Register
Approved Warrant Register No. 499 for February 23, 2010, in the amount of \$970,368.69 and Payroll of \$81,455.56.
3. Treasurer's Report for January
Received and filed Treasurer's Reports for January 2010.

5. Easement Acceptance/Lankershim Avenue Sidewalk Project
 1. Accepted the Grants of Easement for Road and Drainage purposes from Julie Doussett, David Pauley, Alfredo T. and Flora L. Corral, Yolanda Castro and Jose Sanchez; and
 2. Directed the City Clerk to record the Grants of Easement.

ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

4. Easement Acceptance/Olive Street Sidewalk Project

Councilwoman Scott stated an address needs to be checked upon and then brought back to Council for approval.

City Engineer Wong stated before the staff report was turned into the City Manager he had asked contract staff to verify the address and ownership and he was given confirmation of correctness, however, he will verify.

A MOTION was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Scott, to bring this item back to City Council for approval. Motion carried, 4-0, with Councilman McCallon being absent.

CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY PUBLIC HEARING

No public hearing.

CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY LEGISLATIVE

6. Landscaping of Future Median on Base Line between SR210 and Boulder Avenue

City Engineer Wong gave a brief review of the staff report.

Councilwoman Scott stated we need the street widened, granted, traffic is terrible along Base Line and if a median is put down the middle then we are cutting another lane of traffic. What is the purpose of the median?

City Engineer Wong stated two main purposes as indicated in the city's General Plan are as follows: 1) it is an attractive feature from an aesthetic standpoint because we can install landscaping; and 2) the second primary function of a median is traffic management.

Councilwoman Scott stated basically between Seine and Boulder no left turns will be allowed from Seine to Boulder. Was any traffic analysis done on this if it is for traffic management?

City Engineer Wong stated this project is approved by the Federal Government to help the City of Highland to improve traffic safety. This traffic median is a safety feature being proposed.

Councilwoman Scott stated traffic safety based on what reason.

Councilman Timmer stated potential collisions, flow of traffic.

Councilwoman Scott stated so it is not based on any particular accident or anything. It is based on just the flow and if you put something down the center of a road she does not see how this will help the flow of traffic because you are eliminating one lane.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones stated no, you are eliminating left turns.

Councilman Timmer stated actually what is happening is at Boulder and Base Line, the two left hand turn lanes going north are backing up into the regular traffic lanes and it is really creating a big problem for people going east up the hill. It is more often than not that both lanes are backing out into the traffic lanes. So by lengthening the stacking all the way to Stoney Creek, it will allow more cars to get out of the traffic lanes. There is no access being denied for the different projects; they still have other routes to get there. Public Works Subcommittee reviewed this and worked with staff and there is no direct impact on how people can get to businesses or homes.

Councilwoman Scott stated she also guesses there is no impact on anyone living west of Palm where we have the median in the middle of the street and looks terrible. Medians, whether you landscape them, it is going to require maintenance. It is going to be an additional cost on the city unless if you just have the brick or the rock. We are stopping our citizens from shopping and we are killing our businesses that are trying to have businesses along Base Line by having medians.

Councilman Timmer stated this will not delay or stop any one from using any of these businesses.

Councilwoman Scott stated no, they will only have to go clear down to the other end of the street or they have to go around.

Mayor Lilburn stated can the street be redesigned without installing a median possibly eliminating left turns all together.

City Engineer Wong stated in order to manage the turning movements, you either install a median in the middle of the street or you design your driveway to allow right turns only which is difficult to do in a retrofit situation.

Councilman Timmer stated on the west side of the freeway we have already said we have a certain theme Council wants to create in the Town Center which was landscaping on both the streetscape and the median. To do it on one side of the freeway and not on the other does not make sense. This is the entry to our city, if we are going to make a statement. Yes there will be ongoing costs for landscaping but eventually the businesses are going to be included in the Landscape Maintenance District. This funding will be provided by future businesses.

Councilwoman Scott stated she had asked for any median west of Palm to come back to Council for discussion.

Councilman Timmer stated Council has already taken action on this issue.

City Manager Hughes stated the General Plan calls for a median for the length of Base Line as projects develop, on a case by case basis, similar to Jack in the Box on Sterling, which was required to install a median.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Timmer, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jones, to landscape the streetscape and median on Base Line between SR210 and Boulder Avenue to be improved with landscaping. Motion carried, 3-1, with Councilwoman Scott dissenting and Councilman McCallon being absent.

7. Funding Alternatives for the Plan B Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Program

Community Development Director Jaquess gave a brief review of the staff report.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones stated it would be in our best interest to table this item until after the March meeting and we will have additional information to make a decision.

Councilman Timmer stated there are separate issues and we can take action on one to let them know Council has taken a position on the implementation part of the HCP. He thinks Council should take alternative two which states yes, we should go forward with the process but it really is the responsibility of the Conservation District and the mining companies to fund those ongoing implementation phase. He would like to go on record up front that Council is not in favor of the City of Highland being on the hook to subsidize the mining.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones stated the Conservation District has already put us on notice by the letter we have received that in fact their intent is to pull out.

Community Development Director Jaquess stated he does not think the Conservation District was trying to imply that. He believes they want to revisit how the costs are shared.

City Manager Hughes stated as a reminder at the last meeting the Mayor disbanded the Ad Hoc for Mining. A liaison needs to be appointed at the Mayor's discretion.

Mayor Lilburn stated she would like to appoint Councilman Timmer as a liaison for this item.

A MOTION was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Scott, to table this item until after the March 4, 2010 meeting, and bring this item back to City Council for further discussion. Motion carried, 3-1, with Councilman Timmer dissenting and with Councilman McCallon being absent.

8. County Fire Hazard Weed Abatement Program

Community Development Director Jaquess gave a brief review of the staff report.

Ms. Julie Hernandez, Supervisor of Fire Hazard Abatement, stated we are looking for combustible debris which includes weeds, grasses, and dead or dying vegetation, for residential, commercial and vacant lots. We also work with city code enforcement staff as well. We have 90 days to complete a clean up process which include surveys, send notices, post the warrants and have the abatement done.

Councilwoman Scott asked does the city have an option to receive funds from the abatement process.

Community Development Director Jaquess stated that is part of the County of San Bernardino's program as it a revenue source for them.

Councilwoman Scott stated when the contract comes up for renewal she would like to request a comparison of what the county has received as far as lien monies and what the county receives from us.

A MOTION was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jones, seconded by Councilwoman Scott, to authorize increase in reimbursement to San Bernardino County from \$6,000 to \$34,209.29 to offset city cost for the Fire Hazard Weed Abatement Program, and to approve a budget adjustment in the amount of \$34,210. This amount will be transferred from 029-2100 (fire dept. fund-unreserved, undesignated) to 029.2100.4545 (Contract Services-Weed Abatement). Motion carried, 4-0, with Councilman McCallon being absent.

9. Update on SANBAG, SCAG, Omnitrans, Work Program and Regional/Legislative Issues/Development Issues/Subcommittees/AB 1234 Updates

None

10. San Bernardino International Airport Authority and IVDA

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Lilburn adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m. in memory of Clyde D. "Mac" McCallon.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Betty Hughes, CMC
City Clerk

Penny Lilburn
Mayor