

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 28, 2012 - 6:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Highland was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor McCallon at the Donahue Council Chambers, 27215 Base Line, Highland, California.

The invocation was given by Josh Camping of Immanuel Baptist Church and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem Lilburn.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Lilburn, McCallon, Racadio, Timmer  
Absent: Scott

**REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

No reportable action.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Captain Williams introduced Tony DeCecio as the new Lieutenant for the Highland Sheriff's Department.

**COMMUNITY INPUT**

Ms. Robbie Broedow, Senator Dutton Field Representative, stated she is present this evening to discuss two items in which Senator Dutton would like City Council to consider for support. The first is Senate Bill 986 and it is in reference to the RDA Bonds. Senate Bill 986 meets clarification and would allow the Successor Agency to continue the projects in which have bonds going out.

Mayor McCallon stated both Bills will be added to the next scheduled agenda and will take action at that time.

City Manager Hughes stated if these bills are being supported by the League of California Cities, we will not have to place it on the next agenda. We can have the Legislative Committee approve them for support.

## CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR

**A MOTION** was made by Councilman Racadio, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lilburn, to approve the consent calendar as submitted. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 4-0, with Councilwoman Scott being absent.

1. Waive the Reading of All Ordinances  
Waived the reading of all Ordinances in their entirety and read by title only.
2. Minutes – February 14, 2012 City Council Regular Meeting  
Approved the Minutes as submitted.
3. Claim Consideration – Amber Stuck  
Rejected claim.
4. Warrant Register  
Approved Warrant Register No. 536 for February 28, 2012, in the amount of \$481,825.52 and Payroll of \$80,026.20.

## CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY PUBLIC HEARING

5. Allocation of the City of Highland's Community Development Block Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

Mayor McCallon opened the public hearing.

Mayor Pro Tem Lilburn excused herself from this item due to a conflict of interest as the Highland Senior Center has submitted an application.

Economic Development Specialist Stater stated this is the time of year where the City is requested by the County to prioritize our CDBG funding. The allocation this year is \$394,287. The maximum that can be spent on public service is \$59,143 and the remaining is \$335,144. Of the application you see before you this evening, two are the City's own applications, one for Southwest Highland which includes staff time for Code Enforcement and Economic Development and the second is a pavement rehabilitation project on Vine Street. On pages 16 and 17 of the staff report are two tables which summarize the applications, hopefully for the ease of computing all of the applications and allocations. One other thing she would like to bring to Council's attention is the County who previously administered the Senior Home Repair Grant Program to which the Council had allocated about \$52,000 a year. This program is no longer being administered or provided at all by the County so those funds have come back to us and are included in the \$394,000.

Mayor McCallon stated this year's allocation is 6% less than last years, is this correct?

Economic Development Specialist Stater stated it is. A number of things have happened including the Census have been incorporated into our allocation. They have been redistributed throughout the County, the CDBG funds. The City's allocation was less, even less than the number you see before you because the City had decided last year to stay with the County and its administration of this program. They allowed some additional funds to pass through. She wasn't given an exact number but she was just told our allocation would have been even lower but because we decided to stay with the County we have the \$394,000 that you see.

Councilman Racadio stated in the staff report, it states the CVH has asked that a minimum grant be awarded for construction of \$75,000 and public service for \$10,000. Is that what they would like for us to do or could we do something less?

Economic Development Specialist Stater stated she looked at the letter and on page 6 of the staff report they refer to it under the paragraph titled grant process and funding thresholds. The language reads the minimum threshold is \$10,000 for public service and \$75,000 for construction. She couldn't say exactly what would happen if the Council were to decide to provide less funding. She thinks the County might be willing. She thinks what they are trying to avoid is \$500 here, \$1,000 there and \$1,500 there and 20 programs to administer.

Councilman Racadio stated didn't we award \$5,000 public construction project at one time.

Economic Development Specialist Stater stated yes, we have in the past.

Councilman Timmer stated that was two or three years ago and they put that new threshold in. We as a City have never challenged it yet but we may today.

Economic Development Specialist Stater stated also the County has given to us some our programs that they used to administer so we have taken some burden of them. Currently they are only administering two of our programs, Engineering/Public Works and the Library. We have taken on the Senior Center which we previously did not.

Mayor McCallon stated Council will consider the Construction and Other Community Improvement projects first. We do have an application for rehabilitation monies out of the Highlanders Boxing Club.

Mr. Tony CiFuentes stated the program speaks for itself. For the people who know who he is, he is the Founder of the Highlanders Boxing Club. It's obvious we are doing some great things in the neighborhood. We are not only trying to change the neighborhood, but we are also trying to change the world one step at a time. The kids that are there, they are changing their lives dramatically. They are learning people skills, they are learning strong work ethics, and they are changing their lives. We can't continue to keep doing this ourselves; we need everyone to get involved. He totally believes because of this program, not only are we known all over the world, we are known in other Countries. The success starts in the gym, to the City, to the kids. It's a big team effort. We want to paint the building, get some equipment, and try to sponsor more kids.

Mayor McCallon inquired as to who owns the building.

Mr. Tony CiFuentes stated Mr. West. He is trying to obtain a rent to own agreement so maybe one day we could have that building for the program.

Mayor McCallon stated he knows Mr. CiFuentes has been looking for other facilities.

Mr. Tony CiFuentes stated correct.

Mayor McCallon asked does it make sense for Council to give \$75,000 to renovate this building that you don't own.

Mr. Tony CiFuentes stated no, it doesn't make sense but he would like maybe a smaller donation to get some equipment and to paint the building. \$75,000 would be great but we could use that for a bunch of things but something smaller would be great too. We have been at the bottom and there's only one way to go and that's going straight to the top but we need people to get involved. The more people there are and more hands make light work. We need people to see how great this program really is and because of this program we are ranked #2 in the whole United States. It's not New York, it's not Los Angeles, it's Highland. He thinks that is a great accomplishment.

Mayor McCallon stated Mr. CiFuentes will have an opportunity to talk more, Council wanted to cover the rehabilitation of the building in which he has asked for.

Councilman Racadio inquired if he has looked into United Way funding?

Mr. Tony CiFuentes stated no, he has not.

Councilman Racadio stated we have talked about the neighborhood initiative program which is a very important program for revitalizing our neighborhoods. The other one is a street project. These are all important projects. The trouble is we are doubly hit by the fact that as of this month we lost redevelopment which affects our capital projects too. This is a tougher year than most years. Not only has it been reduced by 6% but in addition we lost a lot of our funding. He is not in favor of the full \$75,000 because that will take away from our neighborhood revitalization in Southwest Highland as well as our street improvements on Vine.

Mayor McCallon stated the other issue is that if we decide to do something with the Boxing Club in terms of rehabbing the building, it would have to be in conjunction with the building owner. He doesn't know what the owner is willing to do.

Councilman Timmer stated he thinks the issue that is really paramount is we only have \$335,000. If we take \$75,000 right off the top of that that means we can't do some of the street improvements or we cut staff and some other sections. When he heard they don't own the building, he has a little concern of putting money into a building they may not be in.

City Attorney Steele stated the other issue what that and this is the first he has heard about the applicant not owning the building. The other question is whether the building owner qualifies to get CDBG funds which is probably doubtful. So he is not sure we could apply these funds to a rehab of a building owned by somebody who is not the applicant for the funds and probably doesn't qualify for the funds. It may be that if Council is interested in, as the speaker spoke about, some kinds of equipment or things that would be taken with them if they move to a different location but improvements to a building owned by somebody who is not applying for the funds is a problem.

Councilman Timmer stated another component is that since these are Federal dollars they would be limited with Davis Bacon and prevailing wage issues and stretching those dollars to meet those requirements. They would be better off getting donated money and getting labor donated. \$75,000 sounds like a lot of money but when you start getting into some of the Union issues and some of the prevailing wage issues and all those things, it becomes quite cumbersome. He would recommend we fund the 38007 for the full amount of \$123,997 and the remaining monies go to 38008 in the amount of \$211,147. That would be it at this time with the understanding we have some ability under the other part of the public policy grant to address some of the concerns on equipment and some of those things.

**A MOTION** was made by Councilman Timmer, seconded by Councilman Racadio, to allocate the Community Development Block Grant in the amounts as follows: \$123,997 for application number 38007, City of Highland Neighborhood Revitalization Southwest Highland and to allocate \$211,147 to application number 38008, City of Highland Street Improvements on Vine Street between Tippecanoe and Fairfax. Motion carried, 3-0, with Mayor Pro Tem Lilburn abstaining and with Councilwoman Scott being absent.

Mayor McCallon stated onto the Public Service projects. We have an allocation available funding of \$59,143 and we have requests for \$115,500. So we have twice as much in requests as we have money to allocate. There are several speakers who want to speak to the Council and will now call the speakers one by one.

Ms. Jessica Sutorus, Highland Branch Library, stated on behalf of the Highland Sam J. Racadio Library and Environmental Learning Center she would like to thank Council for the years of support for literacy in the community. With funding during 2010/2011 they were able to assist 75 learners in the Literacy Program. The Literacy Program has assisted a large number of learners who have lost their jobs during the economic downfall in the construction industry and the Literacy Program has also helped many community members learn to read, attain their GED, and rejoin the work force. She hopes for the continued support.

Mr. Rob Hinderer, Highland Family YMCA, stated first off he would like to thank the Council for the support over the years. Since 2009 up to present day, they have seen an increase of the community involvement and with membership 104%. Within 2009 to current day, they have seen an increase of financial assistance of 32% of total membership which 100% of the CDBG monies goes towards Highland residents. Again, because of the support they have been able to impact this community. They ask for the continued support in the matter.

Mr. Marty Steinbrecher, Highland Senior Center, stated he has been the Board President for the past two years and a couple years before that of the Highland Senior Center. As Board President, he would like to take the opportunity to update the City Council on the Center's current and ongoing activities that have been supported through the CDBG funds. Knowing the shortcomings of our State and their fiscal responsibilities, they know how valuable CDBG funds are to the City and the recipients. Historically the City Council has and continues to financially support the Center with these funds. As you know the Highland Senior Center receives no funding through the City of Highland's General Budget, therefore, making these funds even more extremely vital to the Center. With that being said the Center continues to be recognized as the largest and most active Senior Center around and was just named 2011 Business of the Year through the Highland Chamber of Commerce. This is due to the many quality of life programs the Center continues to offer. We have such programs as Quality of Life programs, physical fitness classes, social events and activities and our transportation assistance service where we provide transportation for seniors to doctor appointments, pharmacies, hair appointments, grocery shopping, and many other vital appointments. In addition to the above mentioned other services and programs offered are visitation and phone pal programs, senior nutrition daily lunch program, senior university classes. During this past year the Center has had over 112,000 seniors participate in these many activities between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Senior Center has over 350 new members this year alone. In order to keep each Council Member abreast of our activities and programs, a monthly newsletter is mailed directly to you. Of course we ask that you take that opportunity to read all the wonderful programs and

activities that your Senior Center has to offer. We know there are a number of Senior Centers in the surrounding communities, however, our Center remains the most active, the largest participated Senior Center in the Inland Empire and the only Senior Center who offers a transportation assistance program and friendly visitor program. Also, these CDBG funds are really important to us because, as you know, our seniors get no other support from the City of Highland. In closing, some of his board supporters are here with him. We would like for Council to continue the support that you have given in the past and is much needed for the funds being requested.

Ms. Michelle Williamson, Central Little League, stated last season in 2011, Central Little League was able to fund 190 income qualifying families. This season so far in 2012 we have started registrations in November and to this date we have funded almost 200 children. That means the players in our Central Little League boundaries are coming to them and getting the Little League experience that they otherwise wouldn't get without their funding. Through the CDBG, every single dollar goes back to the kids. We pay for the insurance, their uniforms, and their equipment. Last season their baseball bats were recalled and no longer allowed in little league baseball. They had to replace the bats and all along asking why are these bats so expensive but it's because of the quality of the bat as some bats range to \$300. They were able to get that equipment and the field maintenance all year long are used by other travel ball teams, soccer and come little league season they have to re-do the fields and do the field maintenance on them. This year we have some of the dirt donated which is very expensive. With the registration the children receive pictures because most of the children don't get pictures to remember little league baseball and also get a trophy at the end of the season. They buy snack bar equipment that is much needed and the field equipment as needed. Our teams are already formed and at the fields practicing. Opening Day is March 17, 2012, and we are still registering kids with \$1,200 left and even then we don't ever turn away a child.

Councilman Racadio stated you assisted 200 players.

Ms. Michelle Williamson stated yes, so far this year.

Councilman Racadio stated he noticed only 258 participate, is that a correct number?

Ms. Michelle Williamson stated it is approximate. Last year we were about 196. This season we have over 200 children and we have 20 paying families.

Mayor McCallon called for Mr. CiFuentes to speak and inquired if he understood why his application for construction was not approved.

Mr. Tony CiFuentes, Highlanders Boxing Club, stated yes. He tried to aim high because there were two grants.

Mayor McCallon stated the biggest reason we could not consider it was because the owner of the building probably could not income qualify for CDBG monies.

Mr. Tony CiFuentes, Highlanders Boxing Club, stated yes, he understands. Someone had told him to try the other grant for lesser minor things such as equipment. We service multiple kids and the kids they deal with are kids who want to play baseball, do things like that. Some of these kids they service are kids who want to do some rough stuff. He thinks most of these kids are being left behind. He thinks their program is trying to make sure everybody gets a shot. Kids want to play baseball that's great or play football but they are looking for the kids who are out there doing bad things but also good kids who need direction. The kids, who are going there, some have bad attitudes and have done minor things and now they are being changed due to the program. He has heard everyone come up and talk about how great it was and how many times they have been helped. They are looking for that same help. We want to be self sufficient but haven't got that help yet. He totally believes they are doing a service as well. They have trained thousands of kids. They have been open for seven years and have accomplished a lot of great things. No matter what happens here today, they are going to continue because he totally believes if you get knocked out, you got to get back up and keep fighting. Those are the kids they are servicing, kids who need discipline, kids who could be in your home robbing you but by them being at the gym they are going to learn discipline and respect that they really need. He understands about the \$75,000 but like he said maybe he will get another building, one he can rent to own. To him, \$75,000, if we have done something without anything, can you imagine if we did have something, how much change we could do and how many people we can affect. He's heard I've done this and I've done that and I come from a bad neighborhood. Those are excuses; to him there are no excuses. It's not where you are from, it's how you come and that's what they are trying to show these kids. Self discipline self motivation and strong work ethics. You got to work in order to be the best and you have to sacrifice. They don't look at this like a hand out; they look at this as help. We are all community and we should help each other out. Their purpose is 110% and whatever you do in life, do it at 110%. They are trying to develop champions not only in the ring but in life.

Ms. Brenda Sillsbury stated she is speaking in support of the Highlanders Boxing Club. She is a single mom with two sons who have been in the club for over a year. The Club teaches children respect and discipline, turning the children to good young men. Her sons have shown a great deal of improvement since being involved in the Club. It is an amazing program and is truly helping the children in the community.

Mr. Al Robles stated he is speaking in support of the Highlanders Boxing Club. He is retired law enforcement and has found a place to invest his time. The Club is dedicated to rebuilding kids who are in need of this. The Club is dedicated to quality and has never asked for anything in return.

Mr. Juan Cruz stated he is speaking in support of the Highlanders Boxing Club. The Club has made a significant impact on his life. He has three brothers and the Club sponsored all of them and the Club gave them a chance. Not everyone gives someone a chance. He comes from East Los Angeles and travels 58 miles two to three times a week and gives 110%. This Club is nothing short of a miracle. They don't have money but whatever they do, they do it for the kids.

Mr. Victor Castillo stated he is speaking in support of the Highlanders Boxing Club. He currently resides in Montebello and drives to the Boxing Club two to three times a week. The Club instills strength, respect and leadership. Highlanders Boxing Club is used to promote human development and physical education by providing youth with sports, training and supportive service programs.

Mr. Tommy Hojos stated he is speaking in support of the Highlanders Boxing Club. He wants to thank everyone for the opportunity to participate in the Club. He has been taught to work hard for the things he has.

Mr. Anthony Solorio stated he is speaking in support of the Highlanders Boxing Club. He has learned how to respect others and how to train hard every day.

Mr. Danny Solorio stated he is speaking in support of the Highlanders Boxing Club. He has been training for two months has learned discipline, respect and staying out of trouble as well as bringing up his grades.

Mr. David Olmos stated he is speaking in support of the Highlanders Boxing Club. He has been attending for over two months and he feels as if he is being treated like family. The Club is teaching him not only to box but how to be a stronger person in life.

Mr. Rafael Sanchez stated he is speaking in support of the Highlanders Boxing Club. The Club is a good place to learn discipline and respect. He is now getting good grades in school and is becoming a better person.

Mr. Louie Mendoza stated he is speaking in support of the Highlanders Boxing Club. He believes in the Club. The kids attending had attitude problems, issues at home, struggling with behavioral issues, getting in trouble with the law. When he met the coaches they offered to give full sponsorships and to make it worth his while, as he is driving from Los Angeles. The Club offered sponsorships for as many as he could bring. This Club made it possible for these kids to make improvements in their lives.

Mr. Santiago Avina stated he is speaking in support of the Highlanders Boxing Club. He is a Correctional Sergeant and recently joined the Club. He started working out but now is a Team Leader because he sees the passion for helping the kids. The Club is like a family and the kids find family morals there.

Mr. Mauricio Rojas stated he is speaking in support of the Highlanders Boxing Club. The Club is a place to be motivated and to learn values. The Club is a place where kids can stay out of trouble and learn how to be a better citizen.

Councilman Timmer stated this process gets more difficult each year and it's already been said that the funding has been cut recently. We've had some historic organizations we've supported and have good comfort factor. However, we've heard a group of young men today that certainly sounds like they have a wonderful project. He would propose Central Little League \$10,000, Highland Senior Center \$23,000, Library \$10,000, YMCA \$10,000 and the remainder which is \$6,143 to Highlanders Boxing Club.

Mayor McCallon closed the public hearing.

Councilman Racadio stated he would kind of go along with Councilman Timmer's proposal but he would recommend we give the Highland Boxing Club \$5,000 and the Highland YMCA at \$11,000.

Councilman Timmer stated he thinks the organization that spoke on Highlanders Boxing Club whether its \$5,000 or \$6,100 it gets them in the door and in the system. Hopefully that will generate more community outreach and more sponsors coming from the community since they have some dialogue going and hopefully more businesses will get involved with them.

Councilman Racadio stated his interest is in the YMCA. He's been there a long time; they have serviced 4,700 people in the community and this is where we get the scholarships. It's up 48%, there's a need for that out there too. This is why he's recommended we give the boxing club \$5,000 and the \$11,143 to the YMCA.

Mayor McCallon stated he's in favor of the first motion.

Councilman Timmer stated like he said this is getting very difficult to do this. Really what we are talking about is \$1,143 which is the difference in the two. Why don't we just split the difference, whatever that comes out to be.

Councilman Racadio stated his motion stays the same.

Councilman Timmer asked what are you proposing Mayor, the first motion of allocations.

Mayor McCallon stated he can support Councilman Timmer's motion but cannot support Councilman Racadio's motion.

Councilman Timmer stated well then why don't the three of us get together and make up the difference between the two personally.

Councilman Racadio stated he can do that.

Councilman Timmer stated that's \$1,100 between the three council members. He wants to see these programs succeed and if you get too small sometimes it is kind of a waste.

Mayor McCallon stated his only concern is going back to the \$5,000; it might not be successful at the County in getting them to agree to that. Having it up higher they might be a little more willing to agree to it.

A member of the public stated if he may, he would like to be the fourth contributor to the balance of \$1,100.

Councilman Timmer stated then we will go with Councilman Racadio's recommendation and will fund the difference to make up the total of \$6,143.

**A MOTION** was made by Councilman Timmer, seconded by Councilman Racadio, to allocate the Community Development Block Grant in the amounts as follows: Application 38041 Central Little League \$10,000, Application 38042 \$5,000 with \$1,143 being split between six private parties, Application 38045 Highland Senior Center \$23,000, Application 38058 Highland Branch Library \$10,000 and Application 38064 Highland Family YMCA \$11,000. Motion carried, 3-0, with Mayor Pro Tem Lilburn abstaining and with Councilwoman Scott being absent.

## **CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY LEGISLATIVE**

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

Mayor McCallon stated SCAG has had a lot of comments on the EIR and they have made substantial changes to the EIR in response to those comments. They have taken all the local suggestions to mitigation and put them into an appendix and made them suggestions as opposed to making them mandatory. The other issue in the SCS is the growth forecast and the distribution of the Traffic Analysis Zones. SCAG is keeping the individual inputs at the City level as the same as presented but redistributed to try to achieve the 14% target.

Councilman Racadio stated the Inland Empire Legislative Task Force is supporting SB 986, the Redevelopment Bill from Senator Dutton.

### **7. San Bernardino International Airport Authority and IVDA**

Councilman Racadio stated SBD Properties has lost the franchise with Million Air. A budget increase of \$30,000 was approved for legal expenses.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

February 29, 2012	1st Annual Walk to School Day at Cypress Elementary
March 15, 2012	League of California Cities Dinner Meeting - Ontario
March 22, 2012	Citrus Harvest Festival Baking Contest
March 24, 2012	Clean up for Citrus Harvest Festival – Historic District
March 26, 2012	Blood Drive at Jerry Lewis Community Center
March 29 -30, 2012	City County Conference – Lake Arrowhead
March 31, 2012	Citrus Harvest Festival

## **CLOSED SESSION**

None

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Mayor McCallon adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

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Betty Hughes, MMC  
City Clerk

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Larry McCallon  
Mayor