

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor/Chair Aguirre called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember/Director Richard C. Cook, Councilmember/Director Ray C. Luna, Councilmember/Director John T. Procter, Vice Mayor/Vice Chair Mary Ann Krause, and Mayor/Chair Gabino Aguirre responded to roll call. City Manager/Executive Director Wally Bobkiewicz, City/Agency Attorney Karl H. Berger, City Clerk/Agency Secretary Steven J. Salas, and Deputy City Clerk Josephine G. Herrera were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Procter presented City Attorney Karl H. Berger with a citrus box label to display in his new office at City Hall.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Aguirre recessed the City Council to a Closed Session at 6:12 p.m. to discuss:

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel, Anticipated Litigation – Government Code §54659.9(b). Number of potential cases: One. Claim filed on behalf of Phillip Romney pursuant to the Government Claims Act. A copy of the claim is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office.

Mayor Aguirre reconvened the City Council into Open Session at 6:25 p.m. No action was taken during the Closed Session.

Mayor Aguirre recessed the City Council at 6:25 p.m.

RECONVENE AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Aguirre reconvened the City Council at 6:38 p.m., called the meeting to order, and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember/Director Richard C. Cook, Councilmember/Director Ray C. Luna, Councilmember/Director John T. Procter, Vice Mayor/Vice Chair Mary Ann Krause, and Mayor/Chair Gabino Aguirre responded to roll call. City Manager/Executive Director Wally Bobkiewicz, City/Agency Attorney Karl H. Berger, City Clerk/Agency Secretary Steven J. Salas, and Deputy City Clerk Josephine G. Herrera were also present.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

City Attorney Karl H. Berger reported that no action was taken during the Closed Session.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation – Boys & Girls Club Week

Councilmember Procter presented a proclamation to Carmen Carrillo, Kaci Marinus, Jose Saucedo, and John Stonebreaker proclaiming the week of March 28 through April 3, 2004 as Boys and Girls Club Week. Ms. Carillo thanked the City Council for their consideration.

B. Proclamation Recognizing the Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year

Vice Mayor Krause presented a proclamation recognizing Angel Rodriguez as the Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year. John Stonebreaker accepted the proclamation on behalf of Angel Rodriguez.

C. Update on Santa Paula Citrus Festival

Bill Grant, representing the Kiwanis Club, reported that the 37th Annual Santa Paula Citrus Festival would be held at Harding Park on July 16, 17, and 18, 2004, and asked for the City Council's approval to move the festival to this location. He also noted that the site would be more visible to motorists on the freeway. City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz responded to a question regarding whether the event would interfere with Little League activities by stating that no baseball games are scheduled during this weekend.

D. Update on Revision to Downtown Implementation Plan

City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz noted that the Public Review Draft of the Downtown Implementation Plan was received and would be distributed to the City Council and City Commissioners. He also stated that the document would be available on the City's web page, at City Hall, and at the library, and that the next public workshop would be held on April 7, 2004, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Mensing, 545 Foothill Road, expressed his concern with overgrown bushes at the end of Steckel Road, which obstruct motorists' visibility. He asked for the City's assistance in having these bushes pruned. City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz stated that staff would follow-up.

CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Vice Mayor Krause recognized Steven Graham in the audience, who is working on obtaining a Boy Scout badge, and who is also the son of Planning Commissioner Rita Graham.

Councilmember Procter noted that he and Councilmember Luna attended the Grand Opening of Tresieras Market's Tortilleria. He mentioned that he met Mr. Art Tresieras, the grandson of the founders of Tresieras Market, and also stated that Tresieras Market is a valuable member of the community.

Mayor Aguirre mentioned that he attended a dance convention in Anaheim to support youngsters who receive training through Jill Johnson's Dance Studio. He acknowledged the dance group for their high quality of dance, and commended Jill Johnson for her good work.

APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Vice Mayor/Vice Chair Krause, seconded by Councilmember/Director Luna, to adopt the Consent Calendar as presented. There was no opposition, and the motion carried.

- A. Minutes – Adopted the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of March 1, 2004.
- B. Minutes – Adopted the Minutes of the Special City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting of March 15, 2003.
- C. Minutes – Adopted the Minutes of the Redevelopment Agency of January 20, 2004.
- D. Sixteen-foot Flat Bed Dump Truck Purchase – 1) Appropriated \$42,000 from the water enterprise reserve fund for the purchase of a pre-owned 16-foot flat bed dump truck to replace the existing 1980 dump truck; and 2) approved the purchase of a 2000 Chevrolet pre-owned dump truck from Hauser Truck of North Hills, California, for \$35,440.76. Public Works Director/City Engineer Clifford G. Finley's report dated March 23, 2004.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Police Management Audit Implementation Plan

City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz and Police Chief Robert S. Gonzales' report dated March 24, 2004, City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz shared an article from the March 18, 2004 edition of the *Ventura County Star* with the headline, "Crime rates show increase around county. Only Santa Paula has a decrease in percentages." Police Chief Robert S. Gonzales provided a Power Point Presentation with his responses to the Police Department Management Audit Implementation Plan.

RECESS TO A BREAK

Mayor Aguirre recessed the City Council to a break at 8:36 p.m.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Aguirre reconvened the City Council at 8:46 p.m.

City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz noted that Police Department staff have provided their feedback on the Police Management Audit and suggested the addition of the following items: 1) continue to seek grants; and 2) consider recovery of fees. He also noted that the City Council has received the status report on the implementation of the Police Management Audit and asked for direction on the implementation of Recommendations No. 1 and 2 from the Police Management Audit.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Krause, seconded by Councilmember Procter, to support staff's recommendation to initiate the process in the timeframes identified. There was no opposition, and the motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Procter, seconded by Vice Mayor Krause, to appoint a new public advisory committee, with one appointee per Councilmember, for the implementation of the audit. There was no opposition, and the motion carried.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Krause, seconded by Councilmember Cook, to direct the City Manager to return with an update on July 6, 2004. There was no opposition, and the motion carried.

B. Issues and Options – Proposed November 2, 2004 Public Safety Funding Ballot Initiatives

Jess Victoria, 134 Moultrie Place, commended Police Chief Robert S. Gonzales for his leadership. He also stated that in order to bring the Police Management Audit to a conclusion, the City Council needs to determine how much funds will be needed to fully fund the recommendations. He also spoke in favor of a management audit for the Fire

Department and bringing either a bond issue or tax district in order to fund the Police and Fire Departments.

RECESS TO A BREAK

Mayor Aguirre recessed the City Council to a break at 9:10 p.m.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Aguirre reconvened the City Council at 9:17 p.m.

City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz's report dated March 22, 2004.

It was moved by Mayor Aguirre, seconded by Councilmember Procter, to direct the City Manager to issue requests for proposals for a public opinion poll on a proposed public safety funding ballot initiative and return to the City Council on May 10, 2004 for further direction. There was no opposition, and the motion carried.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Krause, seconded by Councilmember Luna, to adopt a calendar for review and approval of a proposed ballot initiative. There was no opposition, and the motion carried.

The City Council discussed including the Fire Department on any ballot measure, and exploring options such as the creation of a public safety district.

COUNCIL CONSENSUS TO EXTEND THE MEETING

As business had not concluded at 9:40 p.m., and pursuant to Section 11 of the City Council's Rules of Procedure, it was moved by Councilmember Cook, seconded by Vice Mayor Krause, to extend the meeting for one hour. There was no opposition, and the motion carried.

The City Council discussed the possibility of a utility user tax charged against utilities or solely the electric utility. City Attorney Karl H. Berger responded to the discussion by stating that if the City Council is considering a utility user tax and wishes to tax one specific utility, he would need to research whether the City Council could be that specific in establishing a utility user tax.

The City Council discussed the options of a utility user tax, parcel tax, sales tax increase, and assessment district. It was the general direction of the City Council that staff research these and any other options and report back to the City Council.

C. Police Service Update

Police Chief Robert S. Gonzales provided an oral update on police services and activities.

D. We-Tip Program Update

Police Chief Robert S. Gonzales provided an oral report, and acknowledged Anita Pulido, Cynthia Dunbar, and Casa del Mexicano for their efforts. He also noted that since January 2002, 33 tips have been made resulting in three arrests.

E. Alcohol Consumption at City Parks

Community Services Director Brian J. Yanez reported that alcohol consumption is only allowed at Mill Park and Recreation Park, and that enforcement is done by the Police Department while on patrol.

The City Council discussed their concerns with alcohol consumption at Recreation Park due to its proximity to Little League Fields and the Boys and Girls Club.

Community Services Director Brian J. Yanez noted that special permits could be issued that allow alcohol consumption.

Police Chief Robert S. Gonzales shared photographs of the signs posted at parks prohibiting alcohol consumption. He suggested that the City not allow alcohol consumption at any City parks.

It was moved by Councilmember Cook to amend the City's rules and regulations and specify no alcohol consumption at Harding Park due to its proximity to the Boys & Girls Club and Little League Field. He responded to a question regarding whether he would include Mill Park in his motion by stating that he would amend his motion to specify no alcohol consumption at all City Parks. Vice Mayor Krause seconded the motion. Councilmember Cook, Councilmember Procter, Vice Mayor Krause, and Mayor Aguirre were in favor. Councilmember Luna was opposed. The motion carried.

F. Narcotics and Gang-Related Crime Eviction Program

City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz suggested that this report be brought back at a later date due to questions from the City Council and lack of clarity.

G. Extension of Exclusive Negotiation Agreement with New Group LLC for Development of 970 Ventura Street (City Hall/Police Department Complex)

Economic Development Director Charmaine Stouder's report dated March 24, 2004. She responded to a question regarding whether New Group approached the City/Redevelopment Agency for an exclusive negotiation agreement by stating that New Group approached the City/Redevelopment Agency and that there were no other developers vying for this idea. She further stated that the exclusive negotiation agreement does not bind the City or Redevelopment Agency to ultimately go forward with the project, and that it enables the developer to freely engage in negotiations knowing that the property will not be made available to anyone else.

The City Council discussed recent public comments made during City Council Meetings that indicated that the City Council had decided to sell City Hall. City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz responded to the discussion by stating that this issue has been discussed by the City Council for the eleventh time since February 3, 2003, with the general idea that the City Hall complex is part of the City's redevelopment efforts and part of the City Council's goals and priority projects. He also noted that the City Council approved the exclusive right to negotiate on November 17, 2003.

COUNCIL CONSENSUS TO EXTEND THE MEETING

As business had not concluded at 10:32 p.m., and pursuant to Section 11 of the City Council's Rules of Procedure, it was moved by Vice Mayor Krause, seconded by Councilmember Cook, to extend the meeting for one-half hour. There was no opposition, and the motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember/Director Cook, seconded by Vice Mayor/Vice Chair Krause, to authorize the City Manager/Executive Director to execute a one-time extension of up to 120 days to the Exclusive Negotiation Agreement with New Group LLC for development of 970 Ventura Street and surrounding properties. There was no opposition, and the motion carried.

H. Options for Fourth of July Celebrations

City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz's report dated March 22, 2004.

It was moved by Councilmember Cook, seconded by Councilmember Luna, to support staff's recommendation for a Concert in the Park, Pancake Breakfast and Commemoration of the 125th Anniversary of the Moreton Bay Fig Tree, and Fireworks at Harding Park. There was no opposition, and the motion carried.

CITY/AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz noted that a Special City Council Meeting would be held on Saturday, April 3, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., for a goal-setting session for Fiscal Year 2004/05, review the Economic Development/Redevelopment Plan, and identify projects for a One-year and a Six-year Capital Improvement Program. He also noted that a Regular Meeting would be held on April 5, 2004, and the Downtown Implementation Plan Meeting would be held April 7, 2004.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

It was moved by Vice Mayor Krause, seconded by Councilmember Cook, for a report on addressing mandatory garage parking for tenants who live in apartment complexes with garages. There was no opposition, and the motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Cook, seconded by Councilmember Procter, for a report on enforcing parking violations at the Rite-Aid location. There was no opposition, and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council/Redevelopment Agency, Mayor/Chair Aguirre adjourned the meeting at 10:43 p.m.

ATTEST:

Steven J. Salas
City Clerk