

# PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

## Special Budget Work Session Minutes for Saturday, May 19, 2007

A Special Budget Work Session of the Piedmont City Council was held May 19, 2007, in the Police Department EOC Room at 403 Highland Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) the agenda for this special meeting was posted for public inspection on May 17, 2007.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor McEnroe called the session to order at 9:10 a.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

*Council:* Mayor Nancy McEnroe, Vice Mayor Abe Friedman and Councilmembers Dean Barbieri, John Chiang and Garrett Keating

*Administration:* City Administrator Geoff Grote, City Clerk Ann Swift, KCOM Operations Manager Kenya Davis and Recording Secretary Chris Harbert

*Police:* Police Chief Lisa Ravazza

*Fire:* Fire Chief John Speakman

*Finance:* Finance Director Mark Bichsel and City Accountant Cindy Camillieri

*Public Works:* Public Works Director Larry Rosenberg, City Planner Kate Black, Parks & Projects Manager Mark Feldkamp, Public Works Superintendent Dave Frankel and Building Official Chester Nakahara

*Recreation:* Recreation Director Mark Delventhal

### **BUDGET REVIEW**

The Council reviewed the proposed FY 07-08 budgets and during the course of discussion requested the following:

- Council consideration of FY 06-07 Year-End Appropriations be scheduled for June 4. Consideration to be given to earmarking some of the surplus funds for: Civic Center Master Plan; Community Pool and Blair Park;
- FY 07-08 Budget contain the following special fund categories:
  - *Equipment Replacement Fund*
  - *Master Street Fund* – all street related and sidewalk, curb & gutter expenditures to be included under this fund;
  - *Facilities Maintenance Fund*
  - *Capital Improvement Project Fund*
- Money be set aside for community pool repair and operations should the City not renew the Piedmont Swim Club lease;
- *Oil and Gas* proposed expenditures for all departments be based upon the last 3 months' expenditure calculated on an annual basis with a 5% cost increase.

- FY 08-09 Budget: proposed line-item expenditures be “rounded out” to the nearest dollar rather than the current practice of indicating exact amounts.

#### **KCOM**

- Staff to provide priorities and duties for the proposed new “Station Manager” position for the period following the transition of KCOM operations to digital technology;
- Staff to revise its submitted \$222,108 minimum base cost estimate for installation of mandatory digital hardware to reflect those line-item expenditures which are in the Equipment Replacement Fund;

#### **Administration**

- Add the following to the City Administrator’s *Goals & Objectives*:
  - Develop strategy for providing more playfield access for community sports groups;
  - Develop a Citywide purchasing process;
  - Implementation of the City’s management compensation program, working with the City Council and the City’s management compensation consultant (Koff & Associates, Inc.) regarding any desired changes to the current management compensation program;
- Development of a policy addressing privacy issues related to public access to orthophotos;
- As a cost saving measure, request City Attorney opinion as to whether e-mail notification in lieu of U.S. Postal Service mailed notices is permissible for Citywide mailings when residents have agreed to receive e-mail notices;

#### **Capital Projects**

- *Sewer Fund* – provide financial scenarios with no increase in the sewer tax rate and a 5% decrease in the sewer tax rate;
- *Capital Improvements Budget* – Since there were many questions raised as to the readability of the Capital Projects section of the budget, Councilmember Chiang has agreed to work with the Finance Director in improving the format/layout of the Capital Projects section of the budget binder, in addition to more clearly delineating the total amount proposed and comparisons to the amounts expended in prior years;

#### **Recreation**

- Staff to provide information behind the proposed increase in Overtime expenditures;
- Staff to provide a 5-year history of capital outlay costs for Schoolmates. Given that the existing three Schoolmates

buildings or potable structures have been in place for about 20 years and were all installed in the 80's within a four year time period, they are all approaching the end of their useful lives. Staff to provide an estimate of the remaining useful life of all three Schoolmates buildings and their estimated replacement costs, to determine the adequacy of the existing building fund reserves;

- Staff to provide data regarding the use of the Hampton Sports Field basketball courts;
- Finance Director to provide Council with a 5-year history of the sub-category breakdown of the Recreation Department's *Other Expenses*

**Fire**

- Staff to consider scheduling the proposed Fire Prevention Fair to coincide with the Harvest Festival

**PROPOSED BUDGET  
CHANGES**

**Administration**

- *Oakland Avenue Bridge Opening*: increase funding to \$6,500;
- *E-Waste Disposal*: delete \$1,000 funding allocation and investigate if Republic Services will dispose of such waste at no charge;
- *League of California Cities Meetings*: delete \$1,000 allocation;

**Public Works**

- *Recycling Franchise Agreement Consultant*: reduce allocation to \$20,000;
- *Sidewalks, Curbs & Gutters*: increase allocation to \$325,000;

**Capital Projects**

- *Guilford Tennis Court Replacement*: increase funding by \$50,000;
- *Survey Monuments*: move this \$15,000 expenditure item to Facilities Maintenance Fund;

**Fire**

- Even though no changes are being recommended or required, the Chief was asked to re-examine the need for increases, even though many are small, in many if not most of the department's individual expense line items.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

George Kersh: voiced objection to the proposed Station Manager position and the digital upgrade of the station during 07-08 and supported the Recreation Director's proposal for a 10% increase in Schoolmates fees;

George Childs: voiced support for the on-going maintenance and funding of street resurfacing;

Margaret Fujioka: Chairman of the CIP Committee presented and reviewed the Committee's final report and project funding recommendations for FY 07-08.

Cameron Wolfe: urged Council approval of the requested funding for the Exedra Plaza Phase III Renovation Project, noting that the Piedmont Beautification Foundation has pledged \$160,000 toward this project as a memorial to former PBF member Barbara McGee.

David Cooper, Keith Mill & Ian Issac: representatives of the Piedmont Basketball Foundation urged the Council to re-examine the need to spend approximately \$1 Million on the renovation of Hampton Sports Field. They emphasized that the proposed Master Plan Development will eliminate the only "full court" basketball facility in the City as well as relocate the park's tennis courts to a shady, undesirable location for tennis. They emphasized the long tradition and popularity of "drop-in" basketball which has occurred at Hampton Park for decades and the fact that the proposed court reconfiguration and loss of 4 of the 6 basketball hoops will significantly impact community basketball. They stressed that former basketball courts at the high school have been converted to a parking lot, public access to school basketball gyms is very limited and the seismic upgrade activities at Havens School has eliminated basketball from that playground. They felt that the benefits of the \$1 Million renovation in terms of improving soccer opportunities at the park are outweighed by the disadvantages that would be suffered by the park's tennis and basketball users. They supported proposed drainage improvements at the park but urged the Council to reconsider the appropriateness and economic sense of the proposed Master Plan Renovation as recommended by the CIP Committee.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor McEnroe adjourned the special budget work session at 1:30 p.m.