

## PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

### Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, November 17, 2008

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held November 17, 2008, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on November 13, 2008.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Barbieri called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ROLL CALL

Present: Vice Mayor Dean Barbieri and Councilmembers John Chiang, Margaret Fujioka and Garrett Keating

Absent: Mayor Abe Friedman

Staff: City Administrator Geoff Grote, City Attorney George Peyton, Police Chief Lisa Ravazza, Fire Chief John Speakman, Finance Director Mark Bichsel, Public Works Director Larry Rosenberg, Recreation Director Mark Delventhal, City Clerk Ann Swift and Recording Secretary Chris Harbert

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

The following item was considered under one vote by the Council:

##### Minutes

Approves as submitted Council meeting minutes of November 3, 2008

##### Resolution 90-08

RESOLVED, that the City Council adopts the consent calendar as noted.

Moved by Chiang, Seconded by Keating

Ayes: Barbieri, Chiang, Fujioka, Keating

Noes: None

Absent: Friedman

#### PUBLIC FORUM

Piedmont High School Cross-Country Team Members Erica Laver and Neal Horner encouraged residents to participate in the cross-country team's 7<sup>th</sup> annual *Turkey Trot* fundraiser on Thanksgiving morning.

Hal Feiger, a member of the Kehilla Synagogue, submitted a letter for the Mayor responding to several of the Mayor's comments of October 20 made in connection with the approval of the Fairview Avenue residential parking district. Mr. Feiger reiterated his October 20 comments in voicing strong opposition to the parking district and urged the Council to rescind its October 20 approval of the parking restrictions as well as apologize to the Kehilla membership.

The Fire Chief encouraged residents to give new, unwrapped toys to the annual *Toys for Tots* program, beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>. He also noted the Fire Department's annual participation in the *Turkey Trot* fundraiser sponsored by the PHS Cross-Country Track Team.

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

**Ordinance**

The Recreation Director recommended second reading approval of Ordinance 683 N.S. modifying the Dracena Park Quarry Use Restrictions to address problems/complaints arising from large social gatherings/parties occurring in the park. He stated that the ordinance has been revised in accordance with Council requests made at the November 3 first reading approval.

**Correspondence** was received from: Jeananne Moon, undated.

**Public testimony** was received from:

Jeff Trowbridge of Ricardo Avenue voiced support for ordinance approval but noted the neighborhood's continuing concern that more restrictions may be necessary to remedy the situation. He stressed that as a result of recent park related improvements, Dracena Park can no longer be considered a neighborhood park but has now been transformed into a regional park attracting numerous visitors from outside the community. As a result of this heavy usage, neighborhood parking congestion is a serious problem for area residents, park lawn areas are badly worn and unsightly and overflowing garbage cans are a common occurrence on weekends. The Council advised Mr. Trowbridge that the proposed restrictions will be implemented on a trial basis and re-evaluated as to their effectiveness at the end of the trial. The City Administrator added that the quarry lawn area suffers from poor drainage; however, the solution for correcting this drainage problem cannot be implemented until EBMUD's current drought restrictions are lifted. In addition, staff is aware of the wear and tear on the grass around the new playstructure and is currently evaluating alternative surfaces to improve the situation. In response to Council questioning, the Fire Chief confirmed that Section 3.3.4 of the City Code prohibits the use of BBQ's, small grills and hibachis in the park.

**Resolution 91-08**

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the second reading of Ordinance 683 N.S. amending Section 3.7 of the City Code to include the Children's Play Area and Artuna "Panhandle" in the Dracena Quarry Park Use Restrictions and to prohibit inflatable "jumpees," generators and on-site caterers.

Moved by Fujioka, Seconded by Chiang

Ayes: Barbieri, Chiang, Fujioka, Keating

Noes: None

Absent: Friedman  
(0705)

**Salary Resolution**

The Finance Director recommended Council approval of a 3-year compensation and benefits resolution for the mid-management positions of Police Captain and Fire Captain. The Director stated that the salary/benefits package mirrors that granted on October 20 and November 3, respectively, to the Police Officers Association and Firefighters Association in that it contains special financial contingencies as well as cost sharing provisions for retirement and health care benefits. The Council voiced its appreciation to the City's police and fire personnel in agreeing to this type of contingency contract in light of the current economic uncertainties facing the City.

**Resolution 92-08**

RESOLVED, that the City approves a 3-year compensation and benefits resolution for the mid-management positions of police captain and fire captain for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010 authorizing: (1) a 5.25% salary increase effective January 1, 2008 and a 4.5% salary increase effective July 1, 2008; (2) a 6.25% salary increase effective January 1, 2009 only if the State of California does not borrow or take money from the City of Piedmont at any time between now and the end of calendar year 2008; and (3) a 6% salary increase effective January 1, 2010 only if the City of Piedmont's real property transfer tax revenue for FY 08-09 is \$1.8 Million or higher and the State of California does not borrow or take money from the City of Piedmont at any time during 2009.

Moved by Chiang, Seconded by Keating

Ayes: Barbieri, Chiang, Fujioka, Keating

Noes: None

Absent: Friedman

(0045/X0910)

**Salary Resolution**

The City Administrator recommended Council approval of a 1-year compensation and benefits resolution for management positions of City Clerk, Finance Director, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Public Works Director and Recreation Director and for mid-management positions of City Planner, Parks & Projects Manager and Building Official. He noted that the proposed increases are based on the City's new *Performance Based Compensation Plan for Management and Mid-Management Employees* adopted on June 16. However, he noted that the proposed salary increases are lower than the plan's guideline "for high level of performance" in recognition of current economic uncertainties. The Council voiced its appreciation to the City's management team for its understanding of the City's financial situation and its willingness to accept a lower salary increase than that set forth in the City's new compensation plan. Councilmember Keating also thanked former Mayor Nancy McEnroe for initiating this type of "pay for performance" compensation plan for the City of Piedmont.

**Resolution 93-08**

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves a 1-year compensation and benefits resolution, effective July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009, for management and mid-management positions, authorizing: (1) a 5% salary increase for the positions of City Clerk, City Planner and Finance Director; and (2) a 3% salary increase for the positions of Fire Chief, Police Chief, Public Works Director, Recreation Director, Building Official and Projects Manager.

Moved by Chiang, Seconded by Keating

Ayes: Barbieri, Chiang, Fujioka, Keating

Noes: None

Absent: Friedman

(0910)

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Street Sweeping – in response to recent e-mails, the Council requested staff to prepare a report and recommendation regarding issues related to cars blocking City street sweeping activities. The Council requested that consideration of this issue be scheduled on a future Council agenda.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

StopWaste.Org – Councilmember Keating announced that StopWaste.Org is currently interviewing candidates for Executive Director.

Piedmont Baseball Foundation – Councilmember Keating announced that registration for PBF baseball is underway.

Climate Action Survey – the Vice Mayor encouraged Piedmont residents and business owners to participate in the City’s on-line survey of issues related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions as part of the City’s preparation of a Climate Action Plan.

Flu Shots – the Vice Mayor encouraged residents to get vaccinated against the flu at a discounted price of \$20. Flu vaccines can be obtained on November 21 at the Piedmont High School. Pneumonia shots are also available for \$45. More information is available on the City’s website.

Tree Lighting Ceremony – the Vice Mayor encouraged residents to attend the City’s annual *Holiday Tree Lighting* on December 3 at 7:00 p.m. in Piedmont Park.

Accessibility Meeting – the Vice Mayor announced that the City will hold a public workshop on December 2 to solicit suggestions from individuals with disabilities, organizations representing individuals with disabilities and the general public concerning access to City sidewalks.

Joint School Board/City Council Meeting – the City Administrator announced that on December 1 the City Council will hold a joint meeting with the School Board to discuss possible locations for school portable classrooms when seismic upgrades of school facilities commence next year. The Administrator noted that this joint meeting will also coincide with the Council’s consideration of proposed turf and lighting improvements at Coaches Playfield. Because of the anticipated large public turnout for both issues, he inquired as to whether the Council would prefer the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to be held in the Council Chambers or in the Veterans Building. The Council agreed to hold the meeting in the Council Chambers so that live TV broadcast and streaming video of the meeting would be available as well as avoid the extra expense of filming the meeting at the Veterans Building for later broadcast on KCOM. Councilmember Keating noted that the School Board is holding a meeting tomorrow to consider portable classroom location options.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Mayor Barbieri adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.