

# PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

## Regular Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, August 5, 2008

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held August 6, 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 July 31, 2008.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Friedman called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Abe Friedman, Vice Mayor Dean Barbieri and Councilmembers Margaret Fujioka and Garrett Keating

Absent: Councilmember John Chiang

Staff: City Administrator Geoff Grote, City Attorney George Peyton, Fire Chief John Speakman, Public Works Director Larry Rosenberg, Finance Director Mark Bichsel, Recreation Director Mark Delventhal, City Clerk Ann Swift, City Planner Kate Black, Assistant Planner Kevin Jackson and Recording Secretary Chris Harbert

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following items were considered under one vote by the Council:

#### **Minutes**

Approves as submitted Council meeting minutes of July 7, 2008

#### **Agreement**

Approves contracts with Saviano Company in the amount of \$157,925 for the construction of two new "floating" courts at the Park Tennis Courts and in the amount of \$16,500 for the resurfacing of the four Recreation Center tennis courts and the two Hampton Park courts and appropriates \$12,800 from the Private Contribution Fund (Piedmont Ladies Tennis Club previously donated funds) toward these tennis court projects

#### **Subdivision**

Approves an extension through April 4, 2010, of the approval of a Tentative Parcel Map subdivision (application #04-0518) at 71 Dudley Avenue

#### **LAIF Statement**

Accepts the June 2008 Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) statement

#### **Resolution 69-08**

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

Moved by Barbieri, Seconded by Friedman

Ayes: Friedman, Barbieri, Fujioka, Keating

Noes: None

Absent: Chiang

(0045/X0088; 1010; 0165)

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

George Childs referenced the Council's pending Closed Session discussion of real estate negotiations regarding 342 Bonita Avenue in urging more public disclosure of the intent of this negotiation. In particular, he requested that if the City is considering purchasing 342

Bonita, it disclose the cost of acquiring the property, whether this historic landmark home will be demolished and is this potential purchase part of the proposed Civic Center Master Plan. He urged that this matter be subject to public review and comment before any Council action or decision is made.

Bill Drum, Co-Chair of the *Harvest Festival*, announced that this annual event showcasing the cooking and produce growing talents of Piedmont residents will be held Sunday, September 21. He invited the community to participate and/or attend the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this popular community celebration, noting that numerous activities for all age groups are planned. He also gave the Council jars of award-winning plum jam.

George Kersh voiced his opposition to the employee salary and benefit increases granted at the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting as well as the significant increase in garbage collection rates under the City's new garbage franchise agreement.

## REGULAR CALENDAR

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

### **Blair Park CEQA Study**

In accordance with pledges made at the Council's June 6, 2008, meeting, representatives from the Piedmont Soccer Club, the Piedmont Baseball/Softball Foundation, Skyline Lacrosse and the North/South Oakland Little League presented the Mayor with a check in the amount of \$45,000 to cover the cost of a CEQA study of the group's proposed sports field development at Blair Park.

**Public testimony** was received from:

George Childs reiterated his June comments that any development of Blair Park not result in any additional City staffing or maintenance costs for City taxpayers.

On behalf of the City, the Mayor and City Administrator thanked field proponents for their CEQA funding, noting that LSA Associates will conduct the CEQA study.

### **Proposed Parcel Map Extension Ordinance**

The City Planner submitted for first reading approval proposed Ordinance 681 N.S. amending Section 19.34 of the City Code to allow for the discretionary extension of the deadline for a Tentative Parcel Map for up to three years under Piedmont's Subdivision Ordinance. Currently, the City Code allows only a one year extension. The time extension request is in recognition of today's realities in the financing and mortgage business.

### **Resolution 70-08**

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the first reading of Ordinance 681 N.S. amending Section 19.34 of the City Code relating to discretionary extensions for tentative parcel maps.

Moved by Barbieri, Seconded by Keating

Ayes: Friedman, Barbieri, Fujioka, Keating

Noes: None

Absent: Chiang

(0705)

**Street Resurfacing**

The Public Works Director recommended that the Council award the contract for the 2008 Street Resurfacing Project to Ransome Company in the amount of \$506,440. Ransome Company was the low bidder and the contract amount is within the \$535,000 budgeted for this project.

**Resolution 71-08**

RESOLVED, that the City Council awards the 2008 Street Resurfacing Project to Ransome Company in a contract amount of \$506,440.

Moved by Barbieri, Seconded by Fujioka

Ayes: Friedman, Barbieri, Fujioka, Keating

Noes: None

Absent: Chiang

(0045)

**Ordinance 680 Re  
Green Building  
Standards**

The Assistant Planner requested second reading approval of Ordinance 680 N.S. amending Chapter 17 establishing green building standards for City projects. The proposed ordinance has been revised per the Council's requests made at the July 7th first reading consideration and approval.

Councilmember Keating suggested that the ordinance be further revised to: (1) lower the proposed threshold for meeting as many LEED credits/GreenPoint Rated measures as practicable to \$100,000 rather than the proposed \$200,000 figure; and (2) include "recreational facilities/fields" under the "Traditional Public Works Project" definition in subsection (xii). The remaining Council acknowledged the importance of adopting Ordinance 680 N.S. tonight so as not to jeopardize continued receipt of grant funding from Alameda County. Therefore the Council was reluctant to support the change in "threshold" funding at this time because the economic implications of such a lowering is not known and there is not time to examine such impact tonight. As to the second suggestion, the Council felt that subsection (xii) as currently worded provided sufficient flexibility with regard to the types of projects covered under the definition. The Council acknowledged that if necessary, Ordinance 680 could always be amended at a later date.

**Resolution 72-08**

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the second reading of Ordinance 680 N.S. amending Section 17.11.10 of the City Code regarding green building regulations for City facilities in Zone B.

Moved by Barbieri, Seconded by Fujioka

Ayes: Friedman, Barbieri, Fujioka, Keating

Noes: None

Absent: Chiang

(0705)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Olympic Recognition – Vice Mayor Barbieri thanked the *Piedmont Post* and everyone responsible for arranging a wonderful reception at City Hall honoring Piedmont resident and Olympian Scott Gault who will participate in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing as part of the quadruple sculls. In addition to recognizing Scott and his teammates, the event also recognized Piedmont resident Ian Turner, who was a member of the Cal 8-man boat that won a gold medal in the 1948 Olympics.

Chamber Medallion – The City Administrator thanked the Recreation Director and Recreation Commissioner Peter Fishel for their efforts in arranging for the attractive City Seal Medallion now currently in place above the Council table.

Condolences – Vice Mayor Barbieri expressed his heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Recreation Supervisor and life-long resident Buzz Redford who died unexpectedly on July 24th. Prior to the 3:00 p.m. memorial service for Mr. Redford on August 7<sup>th</sup> at the Piedmont Community Church, City staff, commission members and Councilmembers will gather at City Hall for a moment of silence and the lowering of the flag in tribute to Mr. Redford, whose loss will be greatly felt by the City and the community at large.

**ADJOURNMENT**

In memory of Buzz Redford, Mayor Friedman adjourned the Council to Closed Session at 8:25 p.m. for the purposes of negotiating contracts with the Piedmont Police Officers Association and International Association of Firefighters, held pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6, and of discussing real estate negotiations regarding 342 Bonita Avenue pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8.