

MINUTES

of a joint special meeting of the City Council and Redevelopment Agency of the City of Redlands held in the Council Chambers, Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street, on June 6, 2011 at 5:04 P.M.

PRESENT

Pete Aguilar, Mayor
Paul Foster, Mayor Pro Tem
Jon Harrison, Councilmember
Jerry Bean, Councilmember
Bob Gardner, Councilmember

ABSENT

None

STAFF

N. Enrique Martinez, City Manager; Dan McHugh, City Attorney; Teresa Ballinger, Deputy City Clerk; Carl Baker, Public Information Officer; Jim Bueermann, Police Chief; Jeff Frazier, Fire Chief; David Hexem, Chief Information Officer; Rosemary Hoerning, Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director; Fred Cardenas, Quality of Life Director; Tina Kundig, Finance Director/City Treasurer; Oscar W. Orci, Development Services Director; Deborah Scott-Leistra, Human Resources Director

Mayor Aguilar called the special meeting of the City Council to order and provided an opportunity for the public to comment on the subject on the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Crossing Guards – Several speakers urged City Council to find the money to save this program. All noted that children need help crossing our busy city streets. Laura Palmer noted three solutions if the crossing guard program could not be saved; use of Citizen Volunteer Patrol personnel, obtaining Office of Traffic Safety Grant monies or the Police Reserve unit personnel.

Market Night – Bill Cunningham noted he was speaking to a very personal and parochial note and preferenced his remarks by stating he has no desire to, or interest in, the tax payers subsidizing anything he does. Market Night constitutes approximately 80% of the Downtown Redlands Business Association budget and produces net revenue of about \$70K per year. Market Night pays its way, is the primary source of funds for the downtown promotions, it brings thousands of visitors to the downtown, it supports local farming and provides jobs to our local economy. Before slaughtering the fatted calf, try some hard numbers on what the City's investment really is.

Budget – Dennis Bell commented on several items. Although he is not a financial expert, the budget seems to be a good honest one and thanked everyone for their efforts. What is the new police chief's salary and benefits, citizens cannot afford taxpayer give aways. Dennis used the bike classic as an

example of fee waivers, talked about the loss of crossing guards and all the layoffs. All non-essential expenditures should be curtailed.

Budget – Arlen Einertson is disappointed with the attempt at a balanced budget. The budget is no more than a placeholder, given the need for future cuts as stated by City Manager. The leave buy-back reduction, postponed vehicle purchases, holiday closures, garage charge reductions and tree trimming issues are no more than a cost avoidance. Why add people when cuts are being made? His solution – close a fire station, improve safety and really save money, approximately 1.5 Million. The efficiencies received by closing a fire station will result in well rested personnel on duty to protect our City.

Trolley – Leonard Goldman encouraged the Council to apply for a grant and bring the Trolley back to Redlands.

Crossing Guards – Bob Scarface reviewed salaries and benefits for the management employees from the City’s website and commented that if these salaries and benefits were cut by one-fourth and health insurance reduced by half, there would be enough to money to save these services that are being cut.

PRESENTATIONS

Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget - Finance Director/City Treasurer Kundig reviewed the memorandums distributed over the previous weekend which contained the additional information to answer Council’s questions from the meeting on June 1, 2011. Information included 3 year loss rate relating to claims from City trees, the citywide ADA status and needs, a 2 year fee waiver study with net costs, the Downtown Redlands Business Association (Market Night) issue relating to the general government surcharge and police security charges, the crossing guard contracts and the general fund bond obligations and their due dates. Councilmembers discussed each of the items at length. Council agreed that City Manager should find the revenue to restore priority No. 1, crossing guards and contract tree trimming as priority No. 2. Councilmember Bean also discussed saving one of two part-time positions in the city clerk's office stating that this office is the place where people who are coming to City Hall stop first. Bean said, “It seems like we need to at least have someone to answer the phone at least most of the time. Currently, when someone is out of the office the only alternative is to close the office.” The cost is only \$16,194 to restore the part-time position. There was no consensus to add the City Clerk position to the priority list. However, Council agreed to discuss with Mr. Irwin possible other options for his office. Councilmember Harrison asked to have added to the priority list, the fee waiver approvals being reduced to 50% of the costs. There was no consensus to add to the list. Councilmembers agreed to come back in the fall via workshop to discuss Downtown Redlands Business

Association (Market Night) and the Fee Waiver issues. Councilmember Foster moved to adopt the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget with direction and authority to City Manager to find a revenue source to restore priority No. 1, crossing guards and contract tree trimming as priority No. 2 and bring back to Council by September, or to bring back in July if there are hiccups. Motion seconded by Councilmember Gardner and carried unanimously. Councilmember Foster thanked staff and the subcommittee for a job well done.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Crossing Guards – Bob Scarface urged council to not wait so long to find the revenue to restore the crossing guard contract as people’s lives are affected.

City Clerk Staffing – Leonard Goldman said you have an excellent City Clerk and one with the most integrity and he cannot believe that only Councilmember Bean sticks up for him.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the joint meeting adjourned at 6:43 P.M.

City Clerk