



MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, JOINT MEETING AND STUDY SESSION OF
THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF COTATI
WEDNESDAY MARCH 24, 2010
6:30 PM CLOSED SESSION, 7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 201 W. Sierra Avenue

6:30 PM CLOSED SESSION CALL TO ORDER (CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

Mayor Coleman-Senghor called the closed session to order at 6:40 p.m.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Coleman-Senghor adjourned to closed session in the City Manager's office.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION (CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE)

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54957.6)

City Designated Representative: City Manager or designee

Employee Organizations: (1) Cotati Employees Association (2) Cotati Police Officers Management Association (3) Cotati Police Officers Association

7:00 PM REGULAR SESSION

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Coleman-Senghor called the Regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He announced that there was no report out of closed session.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Gilardi, Harvey, Landman, Vice Mayor Orchard and Mayor Coleman-Senghor.

Staff present: Sergeant Steve Bourns, Administrative Services Director Jone Hayes, City Engineer/Director of Public Works Damien O'Bid, City Attorney Rich Rudnansky, Deputy City Clerk Tamara Taylor, City Manager Dianne Thompson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Mark Landman led the pledge of allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2010 REGULAR MEETING AND NOTICE OF WAIVING OF READING OF ALL RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES INTRODUCED AND/OR ADOPTED UNDER THIS AGENDA (*Action*)

Moved by Vice Mayor Orchard, seconded by Councilmember Harvey and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2010 Regular meeting as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caltrans will conduct a ground-breaking ceremony for the Highway 101 Widening Project April 26th at 1pm. The ceremony will take place at the Caltrans Park and Ride lot on the east side of 101 off Old Redwood Drive.. Links to Caltrans' project information are on the City's website: ci.cotati.ca.us.

HONORARY MAYOR

No report.

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Sonoma State University Student representative Jesse Schwartz provided a verbal report to Council and responded to questions regarding activities at Sonoma State University.

PROCLAMATION

Cory Veltman, Homeless Prevention Specialist with Sonoma County Adult And Youth Development (SCAYD) accepted the proclamation honoring Dr. J.T. Henley, 25-year president of the Board of Directors and thanked the Council on his behalf.

PRESENTATION

SONOMA COUNTY ADULT AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (SCAYD)

Cory Veltman, Homeless Prevention Specialist with Sonoma County Adult And Youth Development (SCAYD), provided the Council with a verbal report of SCAYD's ongoing activities and federal grant funding application.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

Mayor Coleman-Senghor

City Attorney Rudnansky announced that due to a need for action that came to Council's attention after the agenda was posted, a closed session item, Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Title: City Manager. He noted that it would require a 2/3 vote to place this item on the agenda.

Moved by Councilmember Harvey, seconded by Councilmember Landman and passed unanimously to add the following closed session item:

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (California Government Code Section 54957)

Title: City Manager

Moved by Councilmember Gilardi seconded by Councilmember Harvey and passed unanimously to approve the final agenda.

CITIZEN BUSINESS

Jan Kravitz addressed the Council regarding Measure A and economic recovery.

Greg Karraker expressed concerns regarding the lack of a flag on the flagpole across East Cotati Avenue from the fire station and submitted a request for information regarding this issue.

Emily Straub commended the Police Chief and Sergeant Wallach for their response to her concerns and their efforts to monitor the high risk sex offender that lives in her neighborhood.

Ken Coleman discussed the Code of Ethics and inquired about his letter submitted on September 9, 2009 regarding his concerns about violations of the Code of Ethics.

Kathryn Wickstrom addressed the Council regarding Measure A and suggested various fundraising activities and commented on their residency in the unincorporated area of Cotati.

George Barich commented on Ken Coleman's September 9 letter and discussed comments made by Mayor Coleman-Senghor at the February 24, 2010 City Council meeting.

Adrienne Lauby requested information regarding the status of the affordable housing projects in Cotati and announced that she is in need of a wheelchair to send to Haiti.

Councilmembers commented briefly on statements made during Citizen Business.

City Attorney Rudnansky commented on the request to address Mr. Coleman's ethics complaint.

DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council concurred to schedule the formation of a subcommittee to address ethics complaints on a future agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY (PG&E) SMARTMETERS

City Engineer/Director of Public Works Damien O'Bid presented the staff report and responded to questions from the Council.

Councilmember Gilardi announced that she is a shareholder of PG&E but would participate in the discussion.

City Attorney Rudnansky indicated that given the size of PG&E and depending upon the size of Councilmember Gilardi's investment it would be difficult to determine the economic impact on PG&E.

Councilmember Gilardi indicated that the Council would not be taking action other than writing a letter to the California Public Utilities Commission she would participate in the discussion.

Mayor Coleman-Senghor opened the floor to public comment.

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the installation of Smart Meters until further studies are done:

Nancy Hubert of EMF (Electro-Magnetic Field) Safety Network

Bridget Breese of EMF (Electro-Magnetic Field) Safety Network.

Karen Hudson.

Adrienne Lauby

Greg Karraker

Cindy Steffy

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Coleman-Senghor closed the public comment period.

Discussion ensued relative to accuracy, safety, usage control, health risks, privacy, security and job losses by PG&E employees, costs assigned to shareholders instead of rate payers and opting out of the Smartmeters.

City Attorney Rudnansky summarized the status of the lawsuit brought about in Bakersfield pending investigation regarding inaccuracies regarding the smart meter readings.

Additional discussion ensued regarding concerns about including mention of job losses in the letter. Council concurred for the letter to request information regarding job losses.

Moved by Councilmember Gilardi seconded by Mayor Coleman-Senghor and passed unanimously to authorize the Mayor to write a letter to the California Public Utilities Commission requesting a moratorium be placed on the installation of additional PG&E SMART meters within the City of Cotati until an independent third party review of the following issues has been conducted: inaccuracy of the meters, fire safety, PG&E control of usage, health risks due to radiofrequency transmissions, privacy, and data security, and requesting additional information on how the SMART meter program will impact jobs at PG&E.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND CALL TO ORDER OF JOINT MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mayor Coleman-Senghor adjourned the Regular meeting and called to order the Joint meeting at 8:40 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Moved by Vice Mayor Orchard, seconded by Councilmember Susan Harvey and passed unanimously to approve item 3 on the Consent Calendar.

3. WARRANTS AND AUDITED CLAIMS (Administrative Services) (Action)

This motion receives and files warrants and audited claims for February 25th, 2010 – March 10th, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT MEETING; RECONVENING OF REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Coleman-Senghor adjourned the Joint meeting and reconvened the Regular meeting at 8:41 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PENDING LEGISLATION (Discussion and possible Action)

None.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS (Discussion)

Councilmembers reported on recent and upcoming activities, including reports from meetings attended at City expense.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION (CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE)

Mayor Coleman-Senghor adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m. to closed session in the City Hall conference room.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (California Government Code Section 54957)

Title: City Manager

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tamara Taylor, Deputy City Clerk