



**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF COTATI
OF THE CITY OF COTATI
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9, 2009
7:00 PM REGULAR SESSION**

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Staff present: Administrative Services Director Jone Hayes, Assistant to the City Manager/Acting Community Development Director Marsha Sue Lustig, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Damien O'Bid, City Attorney Rich Rudnansky, Chief of Police Robert Stewart, Deputy City Clerk Tamara Taylor, City Manager Dianne Thompson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Harvey led the pledge of allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2009 SPECIAL MEETING AND NOTICE OF WAIVING OF READING OF ALL RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES INTRODUCED AND/OR ADOPTED UNDER THIS AGENDA (*Action*)

Moved by Councilmember Orchard, seconded by Councilmember Landman and passed 4-0-1 (Councilmember Harvey abstaining) to approve the minutes of the November 18th, 2009 Special Meeting with minor corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The City of Coati is participating in the Holiday Partnership Toy Drive. Donations of cash and toys are being accepted at the Cotati Police Department, the Rancho Adobe Fire Department and City Hall.

Cotati Creek Critters will hold Creek Stewardship days on the second Saturday and the last Sunday of every month from October to May. The Cotati Creek Critters also hosts the Inside/Outside Nature Education Series. Contact the Cotati Creek Critters by phone at 792-4422 or on the web at CotatiCreekCritters.info for details on these programs.

PRESENTATION

Jenny Blaker and Wade Belew of the Cotati Creek Critters provided a verbal report to Council and requested a letter of support for the Cotati Creek Critters to present to the Sonoma County Water Agency. Councilmembers commented briefly and encouraged citizens to volunteer with the group.

HONORARY MAYOR

Honorary Mayor Lindsay Coates of Technology High School provided a verbal report to Council and responded to questions from the Council.

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Sonoma State University Student representative Jesse Schwartz provided a verbal report to Council.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Dianne Thompson provided an update on the Old Redwood Highway rehabilitation project and reported the following:

- The Cotati branch of the Exchange Bank was chosen as branch of the year.
- Congregation Ner Shalom is preparing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their building and would like to have a Council member be involved in the planning of the event in unofficial capacity
- City Hall will be closed from December 17, 2009 through January 3, 2010.

APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

Moved by Councilmember Gilardi, seconded by Councilmember Orchard and passed unanimously to add a closed session (Conference with legal counsel- existing litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9a)), City of Cotati vs. Gilman Ranch, LLC; et. al. (Sonoma County Case # 244542) and item no. 2A (SCAYD endorsement) to the agenda because the need for action came to the Council's attention after the agenda was posted:

Moved by Councilmember Harvey, seconded by Councilmember Gilardi and passed unanimously add item no. 4A (support for collaborative energy efficiency grant) because the need for action came to the Council's attention after the agenda was posted.

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

CITIZEN BUSINESS

Joyce Garcia discussed the City Council's code of ethics and the federal government, and submitted a written complaint.

Professor Arthur Warmott addressed the Council regarding the possible creation of a local economic recovery plan.

Chris Diaz of the Cotati Police Department announced that he has taken a position with the Santa Rosa Police Department.

Mark Soiland and John Bly announced the formation of the Construction Coalition and provided background for the group's efforts to advocate for sustainability and jobs in the north bay.

Jan Kravitz discussed a fiscal emergency and a petition that is being circulated to put a sales tax on the ballot.

Tony Adler commented on his experience assisting people with the criminal justice system and spoke in support of the Police Department.

George Barich addressed Councilmember Harvey regarding the City's budget.

Adrienne Lauby asked for clarification on the hiring of a new Police Chief.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor closed Citizen Business.

Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor requested, and Council concurred, to move item 7 (Council Reorganization) to immediately after Citizens Business.

City Manager Thompson announced that the Police Chief Stewart will be retiring in January and has agreed to stay on as a contract employee while the process to hire a Police Chief is determined. She briefly summarized the revenue measure and the citizen initiative.

Councilmember Gilardi commended Chris Diaz and asked that her best wishes be conveyed to him; she said that he was a good officer and will be missed.

Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor called a recess at 8:10 p.m. and reconvened at 8:19 p.m.

Item no. 7 (Council Reorganization) was heard at this time.

DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Moved by Councilmember Gilardi, seconded by Vice Mayor Orchard and passed unanimously to adopt item 2 and 2A Consent Calendar.

2. ENDORSEMENT OF THE CITY OF COTATI'S APPLICATION FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2010-2011 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS (City

Manager's Office) (Action)

Resolution No. 2009-78 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTATI TO ENDORSE THE CITY OF COTATI'S APPLICATION FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2010-2011 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS

2A ENDORSEMENT OF THE SONOMA COUNTY ADULT AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (SCAYD) APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING TO HELP SUPPORT THE HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAM (City Manager) (Action)

Resolution 2009-79 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTATI ENDORSING THE SONOMA COUNTY ADULT AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (SCAYD) APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING TO HELP SUPPORT THE HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAM

REGULAR AGENDA

3. USE OF CITY FILE CABINETS IN THE COTATI HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM (City Manager) (Action)

City Manager Dianne Thompson presented the staff report.

Mayor Coleman-Senghor opened the floor to public comments.

George Barich expressed opposition to the use of City equipment by non-profit groups.

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

Moved by Councilmember Gilardi, seconded by Vice Mayor Orchard and passed unanimously to approve the use of City file cabinets by the Cotati Historical Society.

4. PEDESTRIAN ISLAND SAFETY REPORT (Public Works/Engineering) (Action)

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

Mayor Coleman-Senghor opened the floor to public comment.

Eric Kirchmann thanked the City for fixing a traffic light and commented on the report and the safety of the pedestrian island and of the intersection of Hwy 116 at Madrone.

Jan Kravitz thanked the City for the report and commented on the use of the island by pedestrians and the judgment of drivers and the use of stop signs.

Neil Hancock indicated that he uses the pedestrian island every day and that he believes it is a vast improvement over the previous situation.

Jenny Blaker spoke in support of the pedestrian crossing and discussed ways to encourage drivers to slow down.

Discussion ensued, with Councilmembers indicating that they have had positive responses about the island from citizens.

Responding to questions, from the Council, City Engineer O'Bid Damien said other cities' islands have fewer safety measures.

Chief of Police Robert Stewart reported on the collisions that have occurred at the island and at the nearby intersection and pointed out that yellow striping would enhance the visibility.

Mayor Coleman-Senghor asked Mr. O'Bid to consider adding the yellow striping and commended him for the report

Moved by Vice Mayor Orchard, seconded by Councilmember Gilardi and passed unanimously to direct staff to add yellow striping to the island and to receive and file the report.

4A SUPPORTING AND AUTHORIZING A COLLABORATIVE APPLICATION WITH THE TOWN OF WINDSOR FOR THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT (EECBG)

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Damien O'Bid presented the staff report.

Mayor Coleman-Senghor opened the floor to public comment; there being no one wishing to speak he closed the public comment period.

Moved by Councilmember Gilardi, seconded by Councilmember Harvey and passed unanimously to adopted Resolution No. 2009-80 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTATI SUPPORTING AND AUTHORIZING A COLLABORATIVE APPLICATION WITH THE TOWN OF WINDSOR FOR THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT (EECBG)

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 convened the joint meeting to order at 9:53 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Moved by Councilmember Gilardi, seconded by Vice Mayor Orchard and passed unanimously to adopt items 5 and 6 on the Consent Calendar.

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

This motion receives and files warrants and audited claims for November 13th, 2009 – December 1, 2009

6. INVESTMENT REPORTS (Administrative Services) (Action)

This motion receives and files Receive and File City Investment Report for Quarters Ending March 31, 2009, June 30, 2009 and September 30, 2009.

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

Mayor Coleman-Senghor adjourned the joint meeting and convened the regular meeting to order at 9:54 p.m.

7. REORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCIL

This item was heard immediately after Citizen Business.

Vice Mayor Coleman Senghor asked the City Manager to preside over this portion of the meeting.

City Manager Thompson opened the floor to public comment.

George Barich expressed opposition to Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor as Mayor

Linell Hardy expressed support for Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor for selection as Mayor.

Joyce Garcia expressed opposition to Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor as Mayor.

Jenny Blaker expressed support for Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor for selection as Mayor.

Neil Hancock expressed support for Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor for selection as Mayor.

Jan Kravitz expressed support for Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor for selection as Mayor.

There being no one else wishing to speak, City Manager Thompson closed the floor to public comments.

7.1 ELECTION OF MAYOR

Moved by Councilmember Orchard, seconded by Councilmember Gilardi and passed 4-0-1 (Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor abstaining) to select Vice Mayor Coleman-Senghor as Mayor.

7.2 ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR

Moved by Councilmember Gilardi, seconded by Councilmember Harvey and passed unanimously to select Councilmember Orchard as Vice Mayor.

Mayor Coleman-Senghor presented a certificate of appreciation to former Mayor John Guardino, who commented regarding his time in office, thanking the Council, staff and community.

Councilmembers commented and commended Mr. Guardino for his service to Cotati.

7.3 COMMENTS FROM NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR

Mayor Coleman-Senghor thanked Mr. Guardino, Councilmembers Gilardi and Orchard, the City Manager and the City Attorney for their assistance while he was Vice Mayor. He commented further on facing the challenges to the City.

City Manager Thompson thanked Mr. Guardino and noted how much

8. COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS AS REPRESENTATIVES AND LIAISONS TO VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS (City Manager) (Action)

City Manager Thompson presented the staff report.

Mayor Coleman-Senghor opened the floor to public comments; there being none, he closed the public comment period.

Discussion ensued relative to the various committees and assignments..

Moved by Councilmember Orchard, seconded by Councilmember Gilardi and passed unanimously to make appointments and assignments as follows:

Ad Hoc Committees

Civic Center & Museum Subcommittee

Standing Committees/Boards

AB 939 Local Task Force

Assoc. of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

Note: ABAG Alternates have voting rights

County-Wide Bicycle Advisory Committee

Economic Development

Library Advisory Board(*Library Advisory Board Citizen Liaison, Janet Kurvers*)

Marin/Sonoma Mosquito Abatement Dist.

REMIF Board of Directors

Russian River Watershed Association

Solar Sonoma County

Sonoma Co. Transportation Authority (SCTA)

Member(s)

Pat Gilardi/Susan Harvey

Member

Linda Christopher

Janet Orchard

Ben Ford

Janet Orchard

Robert Coleman-Senghor

Henry Fuhs

Jone Hayes

Susan Harvey

Susan Harvey

Pat Gilardi

Alternate

Marsha Sue Lustig

Mark Landman/Dianne Thompson

Marsha Sue Lustig

Robert Coleman-Senghor/

N/A

N/A

Dianne Thompson

Damien O'Bid

Robert Coleman-Senghor

Mark Landman

Sonoma Co. Waste Management Board (SCWMB)
Subregional Wastewater Policy Advisory Comm.
Water Advisory Committee

Dianne Thompson
Susan Harvey
Mark Landman

Marsha Sue Lustig
Mark Landman
Susan Harvey

Mayors' and Councilmembers' Association

City Selection Committee

Mayor

Vice Mayor

Legislative Liaison

Robert Coleman

Janet Orchard

League of California Cities' Voting Delegate

(assigned by meeting)

County Ag. Preservation/Open Space District Advisory
Committee

Janet Orchard

North Bay Div., League of California Cities' Executive Board

Pat Gilardi

N/A

Liaisons

Chamber of Commerce

Mark Landman

Susan Harvey

Community and Environment Commission

Janet Orchard

Planning Commission

Susan Harvey

Design Review Committee

Mark Landman

9. 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 OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Rudnansky announced the closed session topic and Mayor Coleman-Senghor invited comments.; there being no one wishing to speak, he regular meeting to closed session at 9:08 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION (CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE)

(Conference with legal counsel- existing litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(a))

City of Cotati vs. Gilman Ranch, LLC; et. al. (Sonoma County Case # 244542)

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tamara Taylor, Deputy City Clerk