

MINUTES

SPECIAL

BUDGET STUDY SESSION

JUNE 6, 2006

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Rolling Hills Estates was called to order at 6:10 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 4045 Palos Verdes Drive North, by MAYOR ZUCKERMAN.

ROLL CALL

City Council Members Present: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

City Staff Present: City Manager Doug Prichard
Assistant City Manager Sam Wise
Community Services Director Andy Clark
Planning Director David Wahba
Interim Finance Director Mike Whitehead
Assistant to the City Manager Greg Grammer

AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA/WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Larry Weeks, President, PV Symphonic Band, requested a \$1,000 grant as their expenses are increasing. He noted that they have served the community for over four decades with concerts in the City as well as throughout the Peninsula.
- B. Kay Finer, President, PVP Chamber of Commerce, was pleased to note that they have achieved many goals over the last year due to their proactive approach. She noted that a request for an increase is not being proposed for FY 2006-07, but will be requesting an additional amount of \$2,000 for FY 2007-08.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the Chamber's expanded membership as well as the success of the Street Faire. The COUNCIL agreed that the Chamber is headed in the right direction.

Barbara Dye, Executive Director, PVP Chamber of Commerce, noted that it is their desire to retain staff with reliable funding that primarily comes from the City.

MAYOR ZUCKERMAN expressed his opinion that, when memberships are increasing, the need for funding should decrease with the goal of being a self-sufficient organization.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

REVIEW OF PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2006-07 BUDGET

City Manager Prichard provided a brief report noting that the proposed budget is essentially the same as last year with the addition of a traffic deputy that will be shared by the regional cities. He was pleased once again to present a zero-based budget. Additionally, he noted that a prioritized “add back” list has been provided for COUNCIL consideration to assist in determining if any or all items should be included in the next fiscal year budget which primarily focuses on capital projects as the operations budget is in outstanding shape.

Brief discussion ensued regarding continued funding of the South Bay Youth Project. COUNCILMAN ZERUNYAN requested the number of Rolling Hills Estates’ students who have been helped by this organization.

Discussion continued regarding the Chamber of Commerce’s request. It was noted that they will be compensated based on their performance for every quarter. It was the consensus of the COUNCIL that the Chamber has done an excellent job thus far.

COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL suggested looking at future sales tax revenues and decide next year whether or not to provide additional funds to the Chamber.

Assistant to the City Manager Grammer noted that the Economic Development Consultant recommended moving forward with a public outreach program to the larger business community. Additionally, the Chamber would then do the same with the smaller businesses.

It was the consensus of the COUNCIL to fund the Chamber of Commerce for the next fiscal year at the present rate and review their performance to decide whether or not an increase would be warranted next year.

After brief discussion, it was the consensus of the COUNCIL to have the Planning Commission meetings available on an audio recording as well as on the City’s website if requested by the public.

COUNCILMAN ZERUNYAN moved, seconded by MAYOR PRO TEM SEAMANS

TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES IN PROVIDING AUDIO RECORDINGS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC.

AYES: Addleman, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman
NOES: Mitchell

It was the consensus of the COUNCIL to fund the community services grant requests in the same amount as the last fiscal year and denied a request from the Palos Verdes High School Pool and RHE Kiwanis as they did not meet the criteria needed for funding.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the 50th City Celebration festivities. It was noted to add more descriptive language in the line item for these funds.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the COUNCIL to fund all “add-backs” as recommended by staff unless otherwise acted upon individually under separate discussion.

Capital Improvement Add-Back Items

Assistant City Manager Wise provided an update on the storm drain capital project. He noted that a six-year plan is being considered as it is a long-term commitment.

It was the consensus of the COUNCIL to utilize \$500,000 in order to continue this important project.

After some discussion, COUNCILMAN ZERUNYAN moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN

TO INCLUDE THE EASTERLY ISLAND AT PALOS VERDES DRIVE NORTH AND SILVER SPUR ROAD IN THE ADD-BACK ITEMS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-07.

AYES: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

Brief discussion ensued regarding the necessity of have a crossing guard at Hawthorne Boulevard and Palos Verdes Drive North. Since the City of Rolling Hills has requested a crossing guard at Palos Verdes Drive North and Rolling Hills Road, it was suggested to transfer the crossing guard from Hawthorne Boulevard to that location.

COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL suggested informing Rancho Vista School of this change.

MAYOR PRO TEM SEAMANS suggested allocating additional funds to trim trees more often.

It was the consensus of the COUNCIL to trim trees every four years and adjust the budget accordingly.

Discussion ensued regarding the Equestrian Center with COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN noting that he would contact Supervisor Knabe in an effort to find out information on the Los Angeles County funds that are still being held for relocation of the stables.

COUNCILMAN ZERUNYAN suggested contacting the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Director to obtain additional information as well. Once a response is received, then a meeting with the Design Committee will be scheduled.

In regards to Quimby fees for the Equestrian Center, it was suggested that a copy of the lease be obtained in order to find out the name of the lessor. It was noted that the City Attorney will investigate this further.

MAYOR ZUCKERMAN noted that the landfill site restoration fund was designated for the proposed golf course. Since the golf course project is not moving forward, he suggested that the Sanitation Districts may still have funds that could be utilized by the City.

Palos Verdes Drive North/Palos Verdes Drive East

Discussion ensued regarding landscaping at the Community Room site on Palos Verdes Drive North and Palos Verdes Drive East. It was the consensus of the COUNCIL to proceed with landscaping only at this location.

COUNCILMAN ZERUNYAN suggested the following items be taken into consideration for revision of the Community Room guidelines: 1) Eliminate the once-a-month usage limit; 2) Advertise its availability in the City newsletter; and 3) Eliminate the proctor and entrust certain individuals with the key and then evaluate whether or not rental of this room should be continued.

In regards to the building on the corner diagonally across the Community Room at Palos Verdes Drive North and Palos Verdes Drive East, it was the consensus of the COUNCIL to have Zoning and Code Administrator Beall investigate the rundown site.

BMC Landscape

Extensive discussion ensued regarding BMC Landscape, Inc's response to the proposed changes to their contract with the City.

It was the consensus of the COUNCIL to have COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN and COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN meet with Bert Ce Dillos in order to reach a conclusion that would be satisfactory to the COUNCIL.

City Hall Kitchen Expansion

After brief discussion, it was the consensus of the COUNCIL to proceed with this project.

Proposed City Hall Interior Lighting Improvements

It was the consensus of the COUNCIL to move forward with the South Bay Energy Center in pursuing grant funding for this project.

City Hall Paint Proposal Results

Extensive discussion ensued with various suggestions on the interior and exterior colors of the City Hall and Chambers.

It was the consensus of the COUNCIL to consider all improvements proposed in the discussion for review at a later date.

It was noted that the paint proposal results will be presented to the COUNCIL at their next meeting.

City Hall Roof Rafter Tails

Extensive discussion ensued with the consensus of the COUNCIL being to retain the beam extensions and cap them.

Brief discussion ensued regarding purchasing computer monitors for the COUNCIL dais. It was the consensus of the COUNCIL to consider this item next year.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:02 p.m., MAYOR ZUCKERMAN formally adjourned the City Council meeting to Tuesday, June 13, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Approved by,

Hope J. Nolan
Deputy City Clerk

Douglas R. Prichard
City Manager