



**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
JUNE 11, 2008
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 201 W. Sierra Avenue**

7:00 PM (CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Gilardi called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Fox, Guardino, Minnis, Orchard and Mayor Gilardi
Staff present: Hayes, Lustig, O'Bid, Pianca, Taylor, Thompson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Gilardi led the pledge of allegiance and called for a moment of silence.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 14, 2008 REGULAR MEETING AND
NOTICE OF WAIVING OF READING OF ALL ORDINANCES INTRODUCED
AND/OR ADOPTED UNDER THIS AGENDA (*Action*)**

This item was approved at the end of the meeting immediately prior to adjournment.

Moved by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Minnis and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2008 Regular meeting and to waive the reading of all resolutions and ordinances introduced and/or adopted under this agenda.

APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

Items 7 and 9 were removed from the agenda.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Dianne Thompson reported the following:

- A new structure was installed at La Plaza Park on Saturday. The project was a joint effort between Public Works staff and volunteers from the Rohnert Park and Rancho Cotati Rotary Clubs.
- A study session to review the fiscal year 2008-2009 budget is scheduled for June 17.
- Assistant City Attorney Elizabeth Pianca was introduced to Council.

CITIZEN BUSINESS

Andre Morrow of Cotati invited everyone to attend the Cotati Jazz Festival on Saturday, June 14 at La Plaza park.

George Barich of Cotati indicated that the Cotati Municipal Code needs to be updated and should be done at one time rather than one ordinance at a time. He indicated opposition to sole-source purchasing and the state purchasing policy.

David Young of Cotati congratulated Steve Nommsen on his retirement and thanked him for his many years of service.

COUNCILMEMBER DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (*Discussion*)

Discussion ensued regarding conveying well wishes from the City Council to Bob Blanchard, who recently resigned as Santa Rosa's mayor due to health issues. Mayor Gilardi explained that a card had been sent on behalf of the Council.

Council requested that a discussion to adopt the Ahwahnee Principles be scheduled. City Manager Thompson responded that staff has researched the Principles and is prepared to place them on the agenda within the next month.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Gilardi announced the following:

The Cotati Farmers Market runs Thursdays through September 11, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in La Plaza Park.

The 28th Annual Cotati Jazz Festival will be Saturday June 14 from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m. in La Plaza Park; for more information visit www.cotatijazz.com.

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

No report.

STUDENT HONORARY MAYOR

Honorary Mayor Rebecca Rugg of El Camino High School was unable to attend the meeting. Mayor Gilardi directed staff to send Rebecca her certificate of commendation.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Council concurred to pull item no. 2 from the consent calendar for discussion.

Mayor Gilardi opened the floor to comments regarding consent calendar items.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Gilardi closed the public comment period.

Moved by Councilmember Orchard, seconded by Vice Mayor Guardino and passed unanimously to approve items 3, 4 and 5 on the Consent Calendar.

2. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 08-19 APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SONOMA FOR ELECTION SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT (Action)

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar. Deputy City Clerk Tami Taylor presented the staff report.

Responding to a question regarding whether the County intends to use electronic voting machines, Deputy City Clerk Taylor explained that she understood that the County did not intend to utilize electronic voting equipment other than would be needed for handicapped accessibility; this would be confirmed with the County and the Council informed.

Mayor Gilardi opened the floor to public comment.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Gilardi closed the public comment period and asked for a motion.

Moved by Vice Mayor Guardino, seconded by Councilmember Minnis and passed unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 08-19 approving an agreement between the City of Cotati and the County of Sonoma authorizing the County to provide election services, supplies and equipment to the City for its municipal elections and authorizes the Mayor to execute the agreement.

3. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 08-25 APPROVING A REQUEST FOR A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION THE LOVMARK/LAPLANTE TENTATIVE MAP FOR 9020 WATER ROAD (Action)

Resolution No. 08-25, recommended by the Department of Community Development, approves a one year extension of the Lovmark/Laplante Tentative Map allowing a 4-lot subdivision on the property located at 9020 Water Road. (P/A #30/03; APN 144-420-001).

4. APPROVAL OF IMPROVEMENT AGREEMENT NO. 3 FOR COTATI COMMONS PHASE II AND THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND CALTRANS AND AUTHORIZATION OF MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENTS (Action)

This motion, recommended by the City Engineer, 1) Approves the Improvement Agreement No. 3 between the City and Newman Development for Cotati Commons Phase II; 2) Approves the Cooperative Agreement between the City and Caltrans for Improvements to State Highway 116 from Alder Avenue to Redwood Drive; and 3) Authorizes the Mayor to sign the agreements on behalf of the City.

5. APPROVAL OF IMPROVEMENT AGREEMENT NO. 4 FOR COTATI COMMONS PHASE II AND AUTHORIZATION OF MAYOR TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT (Action)

This motion, recommended by the City Engineer, 1) Approves the Improvement Agreement No. 4 between the City and Newman Development for Cotati Commons Phase II; and 2) Authorizes the Mayor to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. RECEIVE AND FILE REPORT ON THE CALTRANS HIGHWAY 101 WIDENING PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE CITY OF COTATI AND ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 08-24 APPROVING STEPPED-DOWN WALL ON WEST SIERRA AVENUE OVERPASS (Action)

Dianne Thompson, City Manager and Marsha Sue Lustig, Assistant to the City Manager, presented the staff report, including the soundwall designed with a musical motif, tree loss and mitigation, landscaping maintenance, street improvements, and traffic signals proposed by Caltrans for the intersection of Highway 101 and West Sierra Avenue. Ms. Lustig introduced John Maitland with the Sonoma County Transit Authority.

Ms. Lustig responded to questions regarding the proposed signals at Hwy. 101 and West Sierra Avenue, the inclusion of impacts from residents of Sonoma Mountain Village, the proposal for the City of Cotati to maintain landscaping and the impact of the soundwall and freeway noise on nearby residents.

John Maitland responded to a question regarding the likelihood of CalTrans installing dual pane windows, noting that the County has done this, but Caltrans has not and is not likely to, given the number of potential number of residents impacted by the number of miles of highway under Caltrans' jurisdiction. Caltrans' mitigation for sound impacts is to construct a soundwall.

Discussion ensued; it was pointed out that there is no soundwall now with four lanes and the impact would be greater when the number of number of lanes increases from four to six.

Mr. Maitland responded that additional traffic lanes would not increase the sound impact because the measurement is not based on the volume of vehicles; in addition, the paving surface is designed to minimize sound. The sound minimizing aspect of the pavement wears off, but it is not known how long it lasts.

Mayor Gilardi opened the floor to public comments.

Tim Ritter of Cotati asked for a list of trees to be removed.

Steve (last name not discernible) of Cotati expressed concern that the soundwall is proposed to be one foot off his property line. He requests that it be moved farther away from his property line.

Adrian Lauby of Cotati addressed the Council regarding traffic control on West Sierra Avenue, noting that maybe a stop light at the Highway 101 and West Sierra Avenue intersection is needed for pedestrian safety and speed control on West Sierra Avenue.

George Barich of Cotati discussed the impacts of the soundwall and indicated support for the full height soundwall for safety and aesthetic reasons. He noted that at the previously held workshops regarding freeway improvements, citizens favored a Miwok motif for the soundwall. He asked why there was no southbound offramp at West Sierra Avenue.

Robert Coleman-Senghor of Cotati spoke in support of a Miwok motif for the soundwall and encouraged Council to make every effort for sound mitigation on East School Street, which has a wind tunnel effect. He indicated support for the City doing the maintenance of the landscaping, particularly at the northern gateway of Cotati.

Michelle Berman of Cotati spoke in opposition to soundwalls because she believes they are dangerous. She concurred with staff's recommendation to step down the soundwall. She indicated a need for a nice crosswalk at the mobile home park on West Sierra Avenue to permit pedestrians to cross over to the sidewalk.

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

Ramsey Hissen of Caltrans indicated that Caltran has agreed to move the wall closer to the freeway in the vicinity of Steve's so it is not right up to the right of way. The wall was curved way from the freeway to provide a 'green' zone on the freeway. He indicated that he would meet with the affected property owner who spoke earlier about the proximity of the soundwall. He explained that a southbound onramp for West Sierra Avenue would not comply with Caltrans' engineering standards because the interchange would be too close to the Highway 116 interchange and cause a traffic operational issue.

Discussion ensued regarding Ms. Lustig noted that the City could research opportunities for grants to fund a crosswalk on West Sierra Avenue that would help people move safely from the mobilehome park side to the sidewalk side of the street. She addressed the design discussion that led to a music motif. Regarding the proposed signals at Highway 101 and West Sierra Avenue, Ms. Lustig indicated that City staff has been working with Senator

Migden's and Assemblyman Huffman's offices regarding the issue and the representatives have been helpful in communicating with Caltrans. The City is requesting that Caltrans delay installation of the signals until planned improvements to the Highway 101/Railroad Avenue interchange are completed and traffic analyzed at that time. The planned Railroad Avenue improvements are likely improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety on West Sierra Avenue because there would be an alternate access to Highway 101.

Ms. Lustig responded to further questions regarding irrigation and the tree mitigation plan, explaining that Caltrans policy is to commence mitigation plantings after construction is completed.

Mr. Hissen and Ms. Lustig responded to additional questions regarding the soundwall height. Caltrans will construct a soundwall at a 14-foot height only. It may step up or down at either end; there is no in-between height. Mr. Hissen clarified the decibel range reductions of the various configurations of soundwall, stepped-down soundwall and no soundwall.

Council discussion followed. Council commended staff on their work and the compromises and benefits that have been accomplished and generally support the musical motif.

Councilmember Orchard indicated support for a crosswalk on West Sierra Avenue as well as a possible left turn lane from West Sierra Avenue onto Cypress Avenue.

Mayor Gilardi expressed support for the stepped down soundwall. She acknowledged traffic/pedestrian issues on West Sierra Avenue but indicated that a signal would not help; she noted that the County has future plans to improve the interchange at Railroad Avenue.

Vice Mayor Guardino expressed concern that he might not have enough information regarding the impacts of reducing the soundwall height from 14' to 3'. He asked whether there is a compromise that might reduce the view of cars looking to the freeway and requested additional information about dual pane windows for impacted properties. He indicated support for a motion to receive and file the report but could not support the resolution approving a stepped-down soundwall.

Brief discussion ensued about voting on the soundwall.

Moved by Councilmember Orchard, seconded by Councilmember Minnis and passed unanimously to receive and file the report on the Caltrans Highway 101 widening project improvements within the city of Cotati.

Moved by Councilmember Orchard, seconded by Mayor Gilardi to adopt Resolution No. 08-24 approving a stepped-down wall on West Sierra Avenue overpass. The motion failed 2-3 (Fox, Guardino and Minnis voting no).

The City Council directed staff to reschedule consideration of the soundwall on a future agenda and to include additional information regarding soundwall configuration options and funding for mitigation impact.

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

Mayor Gilardi adjourned the regular meeting and called the joint meeting to order at 8:21 p.m.

Mayor Gilardi announced that items 7 and 9 were removed from the joint meeting agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Gilardi opened the floor to public comment regarding items on the Joint Consent Calendar.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Gilardi closed the public comment period and called for a motion.

Moved by Councilmember Orchard, seconded by Councilmember Minnis and passed unanimously to adopt item 8 on the Consent Calendar.

7. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 816 SUPERSEDING ORDINANCES NO. 575, NO. 584 AND NO. 602 AMENDING THE CITY OF COTATI MUNICIPAL CODE AND ESTABLISHING A CITY PURCHASING PROCEDURE AND AN ALTERNATE PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS

This item was removed from the agenda.

8. WARRANTS AND AUDITED CLAIMS FOR APRIL 24, 2008 – MAY 28TH, 2008 (Action)

This motion, recommended by the Department of Administrative Services, receives and files warrants and audited claims for April 24, 2008 – May 28th, 2008.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 08-26 ESTABLISHING A CITY PURCHASING POLICY

This item was removed from the agenda.

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

Mayor Gilardi adjourned the joint meeting and reconvened the regular meeting.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMENTS

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

Mayor Gilardi re-opened the floor for public comments.

Donna Gallagher of Rohnert Park spoke in support for honoring Bob Blanchard at a Council meeting and sending him the minutes to the meeting.

Council discussed recognizing Bob Blanchard by adjourning in his honor. Mayor Gilardi indicated that there were individuals in whose memory she would adjourn the meeting; Bob Blanchard would be recognized at a future meeting.

Michelle Berman of Cotati pointed out that no one will be on the freeways anyway because of the price of gas.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Gilardi adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m. in the memory of Naomi Chang and Daniel Garcia.

Respectfully submitted,

Deputy City Clerk