



ACTION MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE

SPECIAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2008

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers, 300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA

The Council will not begin consideration of any item on this agenda later than 10:00 p.m. unless, by a majority vote, the Council decides to consider an item or items after 10:00 p.m. Any items on this agenda not considered this evening will be continued to a future meeting. It is possible, although not likely, that public hearings will begin at 6:00 p.m. However, it is the policy of the City Council to begin calling public hearing items no later than 7:00 p.m.

Copies of the agenda packet are available for review at the Pacific Grove Library located at 550 Central Avenue and the reception counter at City Hall located at 300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove. The Agenda Packet is also available on the internet at www.ci.pg.ca.us/agendas.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COUNCIL ACTION: Upon motion of Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Nilmeier, and carried, the Council moved approval of the meeting agenda.

COUNCIL AND STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Council Member Miller** referred to a letter dated January 14, 2008 from Jeanne Byrne, former Mayor of the City of Pacific Grove, to the Monterey County District Attorney's Office charging the Pacific Grove City Council with Brown Act violation. He informed the Council that the District Attorney's Office had determined there was no foundation to the allegation.
- **Mayor Cort** informed the Council and audience that the broadcast date and time for tonight's meeting would be Sunday, February 3, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. This would be a one time change from the usual broadcast schedule of the Sunday following a Council meeting due to the fact that tonight's meeting is a departure from the regular Council meeting schedule.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Comments from the audience will not receive Council action. Comments must deal with matters subject to the jurisdiction of the City and the Council and will be limited to three minutes. Comments regarding agenda items, not on the consent agenda, shall be heard prior to council's consideration of such items at the time such items are called. Whenever possible, letters should be submitted to the Council in advance of the meeting.)

- **Joe Brookshier** informed the Council that Friends of the Library is in the process of forming a group for the purpose of putting a tax measure on the ballot for the benefit

of the City's budget. He indicated that further information could be found on the library's website.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider Strategies to Balance the Budget and Restore Financial Health

On December 12th, the City Council began discussing options for aligning ongoing revenues with ongoing costs. At this meeting, staff is seeking direction on the options to implement for the FY 2008/09 budget.

Reference: Director of Management and Budget Jim Becklenberg

Recommended Actions:

1. **Approve the approach to cut \$2,326,000 from the General Fund budget, increase General Fund revenues by \$294,000, and delay implementing a capital maintenance program; and**
2. **Direct staff to include these strategies in an adjusted budget for FY 2007/08 and a framework for the FY 2008/09 budget for Council's consideration in February.**

COUNCIL ACTION:

(1) **Upon motion of Council Member Stilwell, seconded by Council Member Davis, and carried, the Council moved to direct:**

- **Staff to continue work on the recommended Budget and Finance strategies, excluding the Fire Department and Police Department**
- **Council to form a subcommittee to examine the recommendations regarding the Fire Department and the Police Department.**
- **Refer the recommendations to the Budget and Finance Committee**

(2) **Upon motion of Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Nilmeier, and carried, with Mayor Cort and Council Member Stilwell dissenting, the Council moved to consider the installation of parking meters at the next appropriate meeting.**

Public Comment

- **Moe Ammar** thanked the Council for not considering parking meters and said that the Chamber of Commerce was in support of tax initiatives.
- **Richard Stein** spoke in opposition to any cuts in the Police Department.
- **Lillian King** indicated concern regarding combining Fire and Police Department services provided in Pacific Grove with other Peninsula cities.
- **Richard Davis** related his and his wife's experience regarding life-saving response of the Fire Department during a difficult time in her pregnancy. He added his support of the Fire and Police Department and Library.
- **Jean Graham** recommended the use of volunteers, including high school students needing community service hours for graduation, to help alleviate staffing issues.
- **Fred Ruben** spoke in support of the Fire Department and the need to support tax initiatives.
- **Vlas Baroso** expressed concern that the installation of parking meters would impact businesses and tourism.

- **Cesar Lara** indicated the need for a tax initiative and expressed concern that the installation of parking meters would impact business and tourism.
- **Children** addressed the Council in support of retaining the DARE program in schools by relating the positive effect it had in their lives and the lives of their classmates.
- **Don Redgewick** spoke in support of the Fire Department and expressed concern over the quality of response if it were combined with another city. He is in support of the installation of parking meters.
- **Mike Ballard** said he felt that the installation of parking meters would put the downtown area in competition with the “big box” stores. He recommended putting separate tax initiatives on a ballot rather than combined as one tax measure.
- **Mitchell Castro** spoke in support of the Fire Department.
- **Steven Ibrahim** spoke in support of the DARE program and the Fire and Police Departments. He expressed concern that reduction in these areas may result in young recruits using them as a stepping stone to better paying jobs.
- **William O’Claire** recommended keeping two hour parking on Central Avenue with the exception of Sundays and holidays to enhance business.
- **Amy Lonsinger** stated that reduction in the Police Department would affect safety and criminal investigations.
- **Fred McAllister** said that reduction in full-time Firefighters would increase emergency response time.
- **John Bosser** supported reduction in Library services and the installation of parking meters in order to sustain current Fire Department status.
- **Justin Cooper** noted that the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association guidelines indicate the requirement of adequate staffing of the Fire Department.
- **Melody Stein** spoke in support of the Police Department.
- **Brett Young** thanked the Council for not considering the installation of parking meters and suggested raising the Aquarium’s rent, increasing the TOT and extending the hours for serving alcohol in local establishments. He also expressed support for a farmers market.
- **Cindy Mitchell** spoke in support of the Police Department.
- **Ashley Wright** expressed concern regarding cuts to the Library and felt this would destroy the future of Pacific Grove.
- **Emily Weinberg** requested parking be kept to two hour zones and thanked the Council for not considering the installation of parking meters and recommended stricter parking enforcement.
- **Linda Bailey** asked consideration of the city employee furlough plan for one year and the elimination of vacant positions.
- **Nader Agha** spoke in support of the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments, the installation of parking meters and expedient approval of revenue producing projects. He recommended the City look to other Peninsula cities as examples of healthy budgets.

- **Jennifer Morris** reminded the Council they owe their positions to the voters and spoke in support of the Police Department.
- **Loren Keith Phillips** related the story of the murder of his child and praised the Police Department for the work they did in investigating the crime. He expressed the need to preserve the Department as is.

COUNCIL ACTION: Upon motion of Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Miller, and carried, the Council moved to consider the following item after 10:00 p.m.

- B. Consider the Elimination of the Golf Advisory Committee, Ad Hoc Campaign Finance Reform Committee, Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee and Ad Hoc Crespi Pond Oversight Committee, and the Conversion of the Ad Hoc Budget and Finance Committee from an Ad Hoc Committee to a Permanent Committee

Staff is recommending the elimination of the Golf Advisory Committee in recognition of the fact that two of the three Council appointed seats are about to be vacant and no applications have been received for these positions. In addition, the Recreation Board, which could oversee golf issues in the absence of the Golf Advisory Committee, currently has one vacancy that could be filled by the remaining council-appointed Golf Advisory Committee member. The other members of the Golf Advisory Committee are appointed by the golf clubs, and they could continue to provide input into golf issues through the Recreation Board.

Reference: City Manager Jim Colangelo

Recommended Actions:

1. **Approve the elimination of the Golf Advisory Committee and the following ad hoc Committees: Campaign Finance Reform, Charter Review and Crespi Pond Oversight; and**
2. **Convert the ad hoc Budget and Finance Committee to a permanent committee.**

COUNCIL ACTION: Upon motion of Council Member Davis, seconded by Council Member Bennett, and carried, the Council directed staff to prepare the necessary documents to make the recommended changes.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann D. O'Rourke

Ann D. O'Rourke, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED BY MAYOR: _____ Date _____

ATTEST BY CITY CLERK: _____ Date _____