

MINUTES OF THE DAVIS CITY COUNCIL
Meeting of April 12, 2011

The City Council of the City of Davis met in regular session beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Chambers, 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, California. This meeting included teleconference participation by one Councilmember (Government Code §54953). The teleconference location was Madera Hotel, 1310 New Hampshire Avenue, Washington, DC 20036. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Krovoza.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Present: Sue Greenwald, Joe Krovoza, Stephen Souza (via teleconference), Rochelle Swanson, Dan Wolk

Councilmembers Absent: None

Other Officers Present: Interim City Manager Paul Navazio, City Attorney Harriet Steiner, City Clerk Zoe Mirabile

Closed Session City Council convened a closed session pursuant to Government Code §54954.5 to discuss the following: Public Employment: City Attorney.

City Council returned to open session at 6:36 p.m. Mayor Krovoza announced there was no reportable action.

Approval of Agenda R. Swanson moved, seconded by D. Wolk, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Ceremonial Presentation The following Proclamations were presented by Mayor Krovoza:
A. Proclamation Designating April 14, 2011 as Poem in Your Pocket Day
B. Proclamation Recognizing April 30, 2011 as Mormon Helping Hands Day

Brief Communications P. Navazio announced Saturday, April 16 is UC Davis Picnic Day.

S. Greenwald attended the Nepalese and Friends New Year Celebration. Also, attended the Yolo County Transportation District meeting wherein proposed funding allocations were discussed. At this time, it is still undetermined whether the city will be awarded any funding for the proposed parking structure at the Amtrak station. Further, stated Council may want to review the distribution of bus stops in Davis and possibly advocate for more in the future.

S. Souza reported he is currently in Washington, DC and lobbying for funding for the Sacramento River intake facility on behalf of the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency and Reclamation District 2035.

Long Range Calendar P. Navazio outlined changes to the April 19, 2011 calendar: two items previously scheduled will be postponed--Solar Farms Update and Management of Former DACHA Units.

J. Krovoza requested the Second Street Striping item be agendized as a regular cal-

endar discussion item to include different striping options (currently scheduled as consent).

Public Comments None

Utility Workshop: Principal Civil Engineer Dianna Jensen summarized the status of projects since 1990, current state of water system, and future efforts—most notably the surface water project anticipated to come online in 2016.

Water Utility System – Current and Future Needs

Public comment:

- Alan Pryor: interested in a plan for conjunctive use study-mix of well and surface water; moving to surface water may be substituting one corrosive agent for another

Councilmembers provided comments, including:

- Main concern should be health of deep water aquifer and subsidence problems if there is an overdraw of well water
- Surface water project will provide reliable, safe, secure and improved water quality sources to allow city to meet regulatory requirements; current path is the environmental and cost superior choice
- Challenge is making sure that the city can both encourage strong conservation efforts and provide revenue stream for projects
- Design a system as flexible and tiered as possible to keep costs down
- Consider working with campus, possible revenue source to purchase our water if citizens conserve enough to be available
- Oppose purchasing additional summer water

J. Krovoza moved, seconded by R. Swanson, as follows

1. The Council will refer to the information in this workshop as it moves forward with water projects
2. The Council agrees to the benefit of an annual water workshop, to be held in January in subsequent years, to help prepare for the changes to the water system
3. Direct staff to pursue development of a water system master plan for the city and return to City Council with an outline for that plan by the end of summer; establish that the first receipt of the plan shall be by next January with subsequent updates in January with the water workshop

R. Swanson proposed a friendly amendment that where possible and applicable staff will include the cost and lifespan of particular items. Accepted by mover.

S. Greenwald proposed an additional friendly amendment to direct staff to bring back every action of the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency to City Council in order for Council to give direction to representatives to the Water Agency. Not accepted by mover.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Souza, Swanson, Wolk, Krovoza
NOES: Greenwald

S. Greenwald moved, seconded by D. Wolk, to direct the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency to bring back any significant action to City Council for a vote.

P. Navazio stated the JPA Water Agency Agreement includes a provision that any action to commit to expenditure of significant funds will be vetted by City Councils prior to final decision. Also, staff will ensure Councilmembers are fully aware of pending actions.

J. Krovoza requested staff to distribute Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency agendas and staff reports for Council review.

Motion failed by the following vote:

AYES: Greenwald
NOES: Souza, Swanson, Wolk, Krovoza

Primer on Utility Rate Setting

Interim Public Works Director Bob Clarke provided information on utility rate projections and revenue needs.

City Attorney Harriet Steiner explained that storm sewer rates are not set in the same manner as other Prop 218 rates. The city's current storm sewer rate has a CPI inflator; any increases would require voter approval or possible assessment of all property owners. B. Clarke stated staff believes storm sewer is an under funded utility and may require a vote in the future.

S. Greenwald requested an update on future costs of storm sewer, likely requirements and upgrades, etc. Also, requested an average total for all utilities.

B. Clarke stated staff will be able to return May with information on storm water rates, but may not be able to bring back potential future costs for all utilities.

Interim City Manager Paul Navazio outlined the timeline for future action: staff will return Council in mid-May with a five-year rate recommendation, prop 218 notice scheduled in June, public hearing on fees agendized for mid-September with rates to be effective December 2011/January 2012.

Mark Northcross, financial advisor, requested Council consider looking at options to smooth rates as far out as possible.

Public comment:

- Alan Pryor: important to have as much transparency in process as possible; broad public outreach needs to be undertaken; support higher quality water even if rate slightly more over time; highest water quality is through appropriate mix of well and surface water; request Council consider year round blending of water and groundwater injection mode

- Elaine Roberts-Musser: staff doesn't yet have a good handle on what surface water project is going to cost; citizens need hard numbers in order to have a better idea of what they are facing

Councilmembers provided comments, including:

- Request staff to look at monthly billing options
- Rates should be as predictable as possible
- Build into rates a tiered structure for water conservation
- Need to come up with a measure to address affordability to the extent possible
- Consider gauging public option via online or telephone polling activities
- Rates should be set so that in later years they may be reduced
- Consider rates to incentivize activities that might save capital costs
- Request staff to provide the city's proposed rates in comparison to other communities who may have a multi-year rate structure
- Request staff to provide example of conservation measures utilized throughout California
- Focus conservation efforts on high peak summer use activities

P. Navazio stated staff will return to Council in May with specifics regarding the proposed rate structure.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Zoe S. Mirabile, CMC
City Clerk