

**MINUTES
ALHAMBRA CITY COUNCIL
ALHAMBRA REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Joint Regular Meeting
February 9, 2009
5:30 p.m.**

ROLL CALL: At 5:30 p.m., on Monday, February 9, 2009, the Alhambra City Council and the Alhambra Redevelopment Agency (ARA) met in the Council Chambers of the Alhambra City Hall, 111 South First Street, Alhambra, California.

CITY COUNCIL/ARA BOARD MEMBERS:

COUNCIL: SHAM, YAMAUCHI, PLACIDO, AYALA, MESSINA
ARA: SHAM, MESSINA, PLACIDO, AYALA, YAMAUCHI

Officials Present: City Manager/ARA Executive Director Fuentes, City Attorney/Agency Counsel Montes, City Clerk/ARA Assistant Secretary Moore, Director of Finance Longballa, Deputy City Manager Schultz, Assistant to the City Manager Hayashi, Sergeant-at-Arms Johnson

FLAG SALUTE: Led by Chairman Yamauchi

RESOLUTIONS BY TITLE ONLY

On motion of Dr. PLACIDO, seconded by Mr. AYALA, and carried unanimously (SHAM, MESSINA, PLACIDO, AYALA, YAMAUCHI), the City Attorney/Agency Counsel was instructed to read by title only all resolutions appearing in these minutes which are required by law to be read in their entirety.

Action Taken: Hearing no objections, the Mayor and Chairman so ordered.

AGENCY/COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the Consent Agenda were considered by the Agency Board/City Council to be routine and, therefore, were enacted by one motion.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the January 12, 2009 Joint Regular Meeting of the Alhambra Redevelopment Agency and Alhambra City Council and the Regular Meeting of the Alhambra City Council were reviewed and approved by both the Agency Board and/or the City Council.

Discussion: None.

Action Taken: Agency Board/City Council approved as submitted.

Vote: Moved: AYALA Seconded: PLACIDO
Ayes: SHAM, MESSINA, PLACIDO, AYALA, YAMAUCHI
Noes: NONE
Absent: NONE

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

CLOSED SESSION & CITY ATTORNEY ANNOUNCEMENT re SAME - F2M9-14

City Attorney/Agency Counsel **MONTES** identified those items listed on this evening's agenda which would be discussed in Closed Session as follows:

Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Govt. Code Section 54956.8):

Property: 33 West Main Street, Negotiating parties: David Yost and City Manager/ARA Executive Director Julio J. Fuentes & Director of Development Services Michael Martin, Under Negotiation: Instruction to negotiators will concern price, terms of payment or both;

whereupon at 5:31 p.m., the Agency Board and City Council moved into closed session pursuant to applicable law, including the Brown Act (Government Code Sec. 54950, *et seq.*) for the purpose of conferring with the Agency Counsel/City Attorney.

RECONVENE & ARA RECESS: At 7:00 p.m., the Agency Board and City Council moved out of closed session with all members present, whereupon the ARA Chairman recessed the Agency's meeting until such time as the City Council had completed the public portion of its agenda.

**MINUTES
ALHAMBRA CITY COUNCIL**

**Regular Meeting
February 9, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

RECONVENE & ROLL CALL: At 7:00 p.m., on Monday, February 9, 2009, the Alhambra City Council met in the Council Chambers of the Alhambra City Hall.

PRESENT: SHAM, YAMAUCHI, PLACIDO, AYALA, MESSINA
ABSENT: NONE

Officials Present: City Manager Fuentes, City Attorney Montes, City Clerk Moore, Director of Development Services Martin, Director of Finance Longballa, Director of Public Works Swink, Director of Utilities Chavez, Director of Community Services Jarvis, Chief of Police Hudson, Fire Chief Stedman, Deputy City Manager Schultz, Assistant to the City Manager Hayashi, Library Director Hernandez, Code Enforcement Manager Bisogno, Sergeant-at-Arms Johnson

FLAG SALUTE: Led by Mayor Messina

RESOLUTIONS BY TITLE ONLY

On motion of Mr. SHAM, seconded by Mr. YAMAUCHI, and carried unanimously (SHAM, YAMAUCHI, PLACIDO, AYALA, MESSINA), the City Attorney was instructed to read by title only all resolutions appearing in these minutes which are required by law to be read in their entirety.

CEREMONIALS

1. PROCLAMATIONS – F2M9-3

Ratified the action of **Mayor MESSINA** in proclaiming **February, 2008** as **AMERICAN HEART MONTH** in Alhambra. **PROCLAMATION** was presented to **DORA GIL, Advocacy Director** for the **AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION**.

CONSENT AGENDA (Item Nos. 2 – 6)

All items, except Item No. 3, listed under the Consent Agenda were considered by the City Council to be routine and, therefore, were acted upon by one motion.

2. JPA: LOS ANGELES RADIO INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (LA – RICS) – F2M9-33, C2M9-3, R2M9-3

Following the events of September 11, 2001, the National 9-11 Commission, in its report to Congress and the President, identified a very serious weakness in our various metropolitan areas' ability to respond to regional crises and disaster-type events: the lack of interoperable communications. As a result, a steering committee was created to further the creation of a "Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System" (LA-RICS) for the purpose of developing and implementing a modern integrated wireless voice and data communications system that will support the needs of more than 34,000 first responders and local mission-critical personnel with the Los Angeles County Region.

Staff requested Council adopt a resolution approving the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System Joint Powers Agreement, thus authorizing the City's membership in the LA-RICS Authority, as more fully discussed in the February 9, 2009 report of the Chief of Police and Fire Chief on file in the City Clerk's Office. The JPA is set up so that no financial commitments will be required of participating Member Cities until such time as the newly established Board of Directors adopts a funding plan identifying short- and long-term capital, operations and maintenance requirements. At any time prior to the adoption of the funding plan member agencies may terminate membership without financial contribution or penalty.

Discussion: None

Action Taken: Adopted **Resolution No. R2M9-3** entitled *A Resolution of the Alhambra City Council approving the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) thus authorizing the City's membership in the LA-RICS Authority; and authorizing the City Manager to execute the JPA Agreement*

Vote: Moved: AYALA Seconded: YAMAUCHI
Ayes: SHAM, YAMAUCHI, PLACIDO, AYALA, MESSINA
Noes: NONE
Absent: NONE

3. APPLICATION: URBAN FORESTRY EDUCATION GRANT -- F2M9-18, R2M9-4

Staff requested that the City Council adopt a resolution approving the filing of an application for *Proposition 40 and 84 Urban Forestry Grant Program* funds in the amount of \$5,680.00. The proposed project would include creating an educational brochure in English, Cantonese and Spanish to provide information for residents about the benefits of an urban forest. Matching funds would come from the Public Works budget from monies already set aside for the Street Tree Program.

Citizen Input:

1. **Lola ARMENDARIZ** asked about the education and tree planting pre-applications, money set aside for the tree program and the replacement of liquid amber trees on North Ethel, to which Director of Public Works **CHAVEZ** responded by stating the City submitted two such applications, and had been asked by the State to submit a formal application for the education grant. The second application for tree planting was for trees within the public right-of-way. For the tree planting grant, staff had yet to hear from the State as to whether the City would be required to submit a formal application. The street tree program encompassed maintenance and administration of the Street Tree Master Plan. Regarding replacement of liquid amber trees, Ms. Chavez reported that the new tree, which she described as a “sister” to the liquid amber, did not cause as much damage or drop spiny seed pods as did the liquid amber trees. Finally with respect to the educational brochure, its purpose was to educate residents as to the benefits of an “urban forest.” That brochure would be given out at the public counters and at City events. Staff also planned to publish an article in *Around Alhambra*.

2. **Craig ATHON**, 1616 West Hellman Avenue, remarked that for the proposed written educational brochure for the *Urban Forestry* should be written in Chinese rather than Cantonese, which was colloquial and a dialect unknown to some Chinese speakers. Written Chinese was a standardized language.

Action Taken: Adopted **Resolution No. R2M9-4** entitled *A Resolution of the Alhambra City Council for funding from the Urban Forestry Grant Program entitled, ‘An Urban Forest for Every City’ as provided through Propositions 40 and 84,*” and authorize the City Manager to sign the documents on behalf of the City.

Vote: Moved: AYALA Seconded: PLACIDO
 Ayes: SHAM, YAMAUCHI, PLACIDO, AYALA, MESSINA
 Noes: NONE
 Absent: NONE

4. MARK KEPPEL HIGH SCHOOL: RELOCATION OF SCHOOL AREA CROSSWALK – F2M9-9, R2M9-5

Staff requested that the City Council review the request of the Alhambra Unified School District for the relocation of an existing school crosswalk in front of the Mark Keppel High School as a result of the construction of a new staff parking lot and approve the relocation of the crosswalk to a location east of its existing location, aligning the crosswalk with the eastern curb of Sierra Vista Avenue, as more fully discussed in the Director of Public Works’ February 9, 2009 report on file in the City Clerk’s Office. The City Engineer recommended relocation of the existing crosswalk to east of its original location with school signage and advance warning signage per California Manual of Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidelines for school crosswalks. All work would be done by the School District at its sole expense.

Discussion: None

Action Taken: Adopted **Resolution No. R2M9-5** entitled: *A Resolution of the Alhambra City Council approving the relocation of the School Area Crosswalk in front of the Mark Keppel High School and rescinding all resolutions, or portions thereof, contrary to this Resolution.*

Vote: Moved: AYALA Seconded: YAMAUCHI
Ayes: SHAM, YAMAUCHI, PLACIDO, AYALA, MESSINA
Noes: NONE
Absent: NONE

5. PERSONNEL ACTIONS – F2M9-2

A list of Personnel Actions had been prepared showing the various appointments, classifications, salary changes, etc., since the last City Council meeting. It was appropriate to ratify those actions by the City Manager

Discussion: None

Action Taken: Ratified the actions of the City Manager set forth in that certain Personnel Actions document dated February 9, 2009.

Vote: Moved: AYALA Seconded: YAMAUCHI
Ayes: SHAM, YAMAUCHI, PLACIDO, AYALA, MESSINA
Noes: NONE
Absent: NONE

6. DEMANDS - F2M9-1

Final Check List (104709 thru 104891) in the amount of \$2,146,839.69 and Schedule of Wire Transfers in the amount of \$370,690.41 for the week ended January 15, 2009, Final Check List (104892 thru 105090) in the amount of \$678,163.46 for the period ended January 22, 2009, and Final Check List (105091 thru 10582) in the amount of \$2,008,532.09 and Schedule of Wire Transfers in the amount of \$440,084.90 for the week ended January 29, 2009, were submitted for Council's approval.

Discussion: None

Action Taken: Approved as submitted.

Vote: Moved: AYALA Seconded: YAMAUCHI

Ayes: SHAM, YAMAUCHI, PLACIDO, AYALA, MESSINA
Noes: NONE
Absent: NONE

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: F2M9-4, F2M9-32

1. **Lillian ANAYA** questioned why the special meetings of the Council and Redevelopment Agency were not videotaped and requested that Council and Redevelopment meetings be held during the afternoon when staff was on duty rather than have the special meetings after hours in order to save overtime pay. She also requested that the five minutes allotted to her as a member of the public not be interrupted.
2. **Lola ARMENDARIZ** also requested special meetings of the Council and Redevelopment Agency be videotaped and such meetings be held in the afternoon. She thought the public should have been given an opportunity to speak regarding the adjustment of some of the fees discussed at the February 2, 2009 Adjourned ARA/City Council meeting. She also asked about the City's routine replacement of water meters, to which Director of Utilities **SWINK** stated the City has an ongoing water meter replacement program to ensure the accuracy of the meters which tend to slow down over time.

Responding to both speakers, Mayor **MESSINA** noted that staff was not paid overtime for evening meetings because they were exempt employees. She also noted that in light of the current state of the nation's economy, this year's Jubilee had been cancelled.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS (ANNOUNCEMENTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS) – F2M9-7, F2M9--32, F91-100, F2M4-74, F2M7-108, F2M3-96

Councilmember **YAMAUCHI** announced the names and gave the addresses of those several homeowners in his district to be recognized with a certificate for an excellent job done decorating their houses around the holiday season as follows:

Dena Ybaarra & Family
714 North Electric Avenue

Linda Allison & Family
1412 West Pine

Jose A. Gonzalez
204½ South Marengo Avenue

Rolando S. Cordero & Family
1508 West Commonwealth Avenue
Macro Antonio Bernal & Family

209 South Atlantic Boulevard

Ziranda Family
331 North Atlantic Boulevard

Ladi/Afrodicio Ramos & Family
207 North Curtis Avenue

In response to a resident's question earlier this evening regarding the status and possible cancellation of this year's *Summer Jubilee*, he noted that he had been in favor of continuing the *Jubilee*, if at all possible. It was and has been a landmark event in the City of Alhambra. He also announced an ice cream social for City employees, Friday, February 13, 2009 at City Hall. He wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Councilmember **AYALA** stated that, despite the difficult economic times, the City was not as bad off as many other cities. He commended City Manager Fuentes and Department Heads for their efforts in identifying nonvital services that could be trimmed and, in addition, with the budget adopted last week, the affected Departments were able to make up for deficits. He also congratulated those involved in this year's *Chinese New Year Parade*, held last Saturday, February 7, with the parade route along Valley Boulevard from Del Mar Avenue (San Gabriel) to Almansor Street (Alhambra).

Councilmember **SHAM** also spoke regarding the success of the *Chinese New Year Parade*, and the 250 booths with a wide variety of food and entertainment. He thanked the City Manager, the Police and Fire Departments, Public Works and Community Services for their efforts in making the 18th year of the Parade a success. Mr. Sham thought this event, as well as the *Summer Jubilee*, were the ones that put Alhambra on the map.

Vice Mayor **PLACIDO** acknowledged Chief of Police Hudson for the commendable job he is doing as President of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association, and praised Chief of Police Hudson for the great job he did at the recent Independent Cities of Los Angeles County conference in leading the discussion on the war on graffiti. Dr. Placido stated that as a result of the topics discussed at this conference, he observed that many of the communities in Southern California were facing the same problems as Alhambra and all of the participants were able to share their experiences with one another. Dr. Placido also discussed an aspect of recycling the City wished to curtail; i.e., people digging through trash to retrieve recyclable cans. He noted that one proposal was for waste haulers to give coupons to those who recycled, commenting that a partnership with trash haulers may provide a solution. For those cities that have tried the coupon approach, there was a 50% increase in recycling. Regarding progress on the 710 Freeway tunnel, Dr. Placido stated Caltrans had begun borings within the City. Those borings should be done within the year and the 710 Steering Committee's recommendations to Caltrans should begin in the summer and completed by next year. From there, the Environmental Impact Reports and studies would be started and may take another year to complete the process. He remarked that things were now moving on the 710 Project much more quickly than has been seen in the last 30 years.

Mayor **MESSINA** touched on the fee adjustments discussed at the February 2, 2009 Adjourned ARA/City Council meeting. City Department Heads went through their Departments to see where the City could adjust fees. In one case, Council decreased the fees in the Parks and Recreation's after-school program for sports. The rest of the fees were adjusted along the Consumer Price Index schedule. One important new fee was for Paramedic Services. As of March 1, 2009, the Fire Department will charge \$250 for calls to which they respond but do not transport the person to a hospital. This service change was not just in Alhambra, but was being done throughout Los Angeles County. Council was urging residents to sign up for the yearly Paramedic subscription which, at \$48 a year for the entire family, was a much cheaper alternative. Other fees adjustments were just the cost of doing business and not out of line compared with other cities. Regarding the *Summer Jubilee*, Ms. **MESSINA** noted that no one on the Council wanted to suspend the *Jubilee* for the year but in this economy even a down-sized version would cost \$600,000. Council felt it was prudent to suspend the *Jubilee* for one year.

ARA RECONVENE & ADJOURNMENT: At 7:45 p.m., the ARA Chairman reconvened the Agency meeting with all members present and, as there was no further business for the Agency Board or Council to transact, with the unanimous consent of the Agency Board and City Council, the ARA Chairman and Mayor adjourned their respective meetings to 5:30 a.m., on **Tuesday, February 17, 2009**, in the **Community Room** of the **Alhambra Civic Center Library**, 101 South First Street, Alhambra, California, for the purpose of meeting jointly (Notice No. **N2M9-22**).

FRANCES A. MOORE, CMC
CITY CLERK & ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY
and
CRAIG ROGERS, CMC
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK