

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING & WORKSHOP
CITY COUNCIL & REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
CITY OF YUBA CITY
JULY 22, 2008
6:30 p.m. – Special Meeting
7:00 p.m. – Workshop**

Call To Order

The City Council of the City of Yuba City was called to order by Mayor Ramirez at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Councilmembers Gill, Maan, Miller, and Mayor Ramirez
Absent: Councilmember McBride

Public Hearings

1. Yuba City Landscape Maintenance District No. 1 – Protest Ballot Proceeding Results [Stabler Lane/Garden Highway]

Mayor Ramirez asked City Clerk Terrel Locke to read the results of the protest ballot proceedings. Ms. Locke stated Landscape District No. 1 had a total of 24.4% ballots voting "yes" and 75.6% ballots voting "no".

Councilmembers asked how we could continue services to this area without an increase in fees. Principal Engineer Diana Langley responded staff will meet with our landscape contractor to see how we can reduce services in this district. There was a discussion on how the City will deal with these landscape districts with shortfalls. City Manager Steve Jepsen responded that staff will bring back a plan to deal with the shortfalls for Council's review.

Councilmember Gill moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-063 approving the Amended Engineer's Report continuing with the current assessment, Yuba City Landscape Maintenance District No. 1; adopt Resolution No. 08-064 declaring the results of the property owner protest ballot proceeding conducted for the levy of an assessment increase, Yuba City Landscape Maintenance District No. 1, commencing in FY 2008-09 and approving certain related actions; and adopt Resolution No. 08-065 confirming the diagram and assessment and levying the assessment for FY 2008-09, pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972, to continue with the existing assessment. Councilmember Miller seconded the motion that passed with a unanimous vote, less Councilmember McBride who was absent.

2. Yuba City Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District No. 2 – Protest Ballot Proceeding Results [Town Center Area]

Mayor Ramirez asked City Clerk Terrel Locke to read the results of the protest ballot proceedings. Ms. Locke stated Landscape District No. 2 had a total of 100% "yes" votes and zero "no" votes. There were 5 ballots in the Town Center area.

Councilmember Gill moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-066 approving the Amended Engineer's Report establishing a new maximum assessment, Yuba City Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District No. 2, and the levy and collection of annual assessments related thereto commencing in FY 2008-09; adopt Resolution No. 08-067 declaring the results of the property owner protest ballot proceeding conducted for the levy of an assessment increase, Yuba City Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District No. 2, commencing in FY 2008-09 and approving certain related actions; adopt Resolution No. 08-068 confirming the increased maximum assessment rate and the assessment diagram connected therewith and ordering the levy and collection of assessments for FY 2008-09, Yuba City Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District No. 2. Councilmember Miller seconded the motion that passed with a unanimous vote, less Councilmember McBride who was absent.

3. Yuba City Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District No. 5 – Protest Ballot Proceeding Results [60 subdivisions throughout the City]

Councilmember Miller recused himself due to a conflict of interest.

Mayor Ramirez asked City Clerk Terrel Locke to read the results of the protest ballot proceedings. Ms. Locke stated Landscape District No. 5 had a total 10.1% "yes" votes and 89.9% "no" votes. There were 3,182 parcels in this district with 33.6% of the ballots returned.

Councilmember Gill moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-069 approving the Amended Engineer's Report continuing with the current assessment, Yuba City Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District No. 5; adopt Resolution No. 08-070 declaring the results of the property owner protest ballot proceeding conducted for the levy of an assessment increase, Yuba City Lighting and Landscape Maintenance District No. 5, commencing in FY 2008-09 and approving certain related actions; and adopt Resolution No. 08-071 confirming the diagram and assessment and levying the assessment for FY 2008-09, pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972. Councilmember Maan seconded the motion that passed with a unanimous vote, less Councilmember McBride and Miller who were absent.

Councilmember Miller rejoined the meeting.

Presentations

City Manager Steve Jepsen noted public safety funding was 58% of the general fund budget last year. For this year, 2008-09, it is 59.5%. Today we will be looking at safety needs. Should a ¼% sales tax increase be approved, it would generate \$2,700,000. A ½% sales tax increase would double that to \$5,400,000.

4. Public Safety – Fire Department

Fire Chief Marc Boomgaarden reviewed the assumptions that the City would continue to collect funds from community facilities districts and development impact fees. He reviewed facility, staffing and equipment needs. Fire Station 2 is 29 years old and needs a \$2.4 million upgrade. Fire Station 1 is 47 years old and it will cost \$6.2 million to meet the City's needs. The new Fire training site at the new Station 4 will cost approximately \$5.4 million but has a potential to generate revenue by offering training to other jurisdictions. The empty water tank needs to be removed at Fire Station 1. By replacing it with a mono pole antenna, there will be revenue generating capabilities.

Personnel needed include: a fire training officer/OES trainer, fire safety inspector, public education clown show funding, and additional firefighting personnel. The bottom line is that \$15 million is needed to complete these projects. Annual costs would be \$1.514 million for 20 years.

5. Public Safety – Police Department

Police Chief Richard Doscher said the norm for police personnel is to have 1/3 of staff committed to duties and 2/3's uncommitted. In Yuba City, it is reversed. The Police Department has 90-100,000 incidents per year.

To put together a gang unit, it would cost \$431,434 for a sergeant and four investigators; \$54,000 in overtime; \$165,700 for three vehicles; and \$116,900 for vehicle replacement costs, fuel and maintenance. The total for the gang unit for the first full year would be \$768,034.

Chief Doscher then reviewed the needs of the Police Department if they were to take over areas now serviced by the Sheriff's Department. Total cost for the first year would be \$1,678,934.

A new expanded police facility would cost an estimated \$59 million for a 90,000 sq. ft. facility, assuming the use of adjacent property. Even if Council approved all of these items, the Police Department would still be below the General Plan's recommended staffing.

Public Communication on Items on the Agenda

6. Appearance of Interested Citizens

Ray Janssen, 1721 Mitch Court, Yuba City suggested hiring Tramutola, a firm from Oakland, to direct the City in passing a sales tax increase.

Tony Blackwell, 772 Village Court, Yuba City believes the answer to gangs is prevention. He asked if he could come to the next meeting and present his plan. Mr. Jepsen responded we allow 5 minutes for advanced requests.

Kavin Connor, 972½ Market Street, Yuba City said parents, neighbors and friends have to change the cycle of the gangs.

Mayor Ramirez said Yuba City is dealing with the realities now. We need to formulate a plan that includes short-, mid- and long-term goals to fight gangs. Levee protection costs are needed now too. We are not in a position to put a sales tax increase on the ballot at this time. Mayor Ramirez read a letter he sent to the governor and legislators regarding the California state budget. He expressed concern that the state may raid City coffers.

City Manager Steve Jepsen said that in the past two years, the City has been facing frustrating tasks including gangs, levee repairs and Hillcrest Water. People have a limited capacity for increased taxes. We will need the public's support to be able to raise taxes.

Councilmember Miller said he is Chairman of the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency. The Agency will be coming to the taxpayers with an initiative to fund levee repairs. Gangs are also a huge issue. He would like to ask staff to see what could be done to fight gangs that would result in an immediate positive effect.

Councilmember Gill stated that the key to passing a tax has to do with the education of the public. Levee and gang issues are equally important. The City must have a plan before putting a tax increase on the ballot.

Councilmember Maan commented it is good to see passionate citizens. The City has to prioritize its needs for the public's safety. If a tax increase was added to the November ballot, it would not pass. The citizens would not even approve a \$20/year increase on their lighting and landscape districts tonight. We will only have one chance to obtain a tax increase.

Mayor Ramirez said we have a lack of community involvement at this point. He asked the seven citizens in attendance tonight to contact their legislators to request that the state not appropriate City funds. The Mayor asked the City Manager to look for funds in the budget to finance a short-term project that will make a difference with the gang problem. He also requested that Mr. Jepsen make contact with the company Mr. Janssen mentioned. Mayor Ramirez said he will meet with Mr. Blackwell and Mr. Connor.

Adjournment

Mayor Ramirez adjourned the regular City Council meeting of the City of Yuba City at 9:03 p.m.

Rory Ramirez
Mayor

ATTEST:

Terrel Locke
City Clerk