

CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, February 25, 2009
Time of Meeting: 6:15 p.m.
Place of Meeting: Red Bluff Community/Senior Center
Westside Room
1500 South Jackson Street
Red Bluff, CA

Councilmembers Present: Wayne Brown, Mayor
Jeff Moyer, Mayor Pro Tem
James Byrne
Bob Carrel
Forrest Flynn

Staff Present: Martin Nichols, City Manager
Margaret Van Warmerdam, Finance Director
Jo Anna Lopez, City Clerk
Scott Capilla, Police Chief
Scot Timboe, Planning Director
Mark Barthel, Public Works Director
Michael Bachmeyer, Fire Chief
Tessa Pritchard, Human Resources Director
J.D. Ellison, Building Director
Debbie Carlisi, Parks and Recreation

Staff Absent: Richard Crabtree, City Attorney
Donna Gordy, Treasurer

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7. p.m.

Mayor Brown asked Wes Crane to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and the assembly joined in.

CLOSED SESSION:

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS; Executive Session in accordance with Government Code Section 54958.6 for the purpose of instructing the City's designated representatives Martin Nichols, City Manager, and Tessa Pritchard, Human Resources Director, regarding the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits with the Police Unit, Fire Unit, miscellaneous Unit, Mid-Management and Management Employees.

CITIZEN'S COMMENT:

Mayor Brown called for any Citizen's Comments and received none.

Mayor Brown reported that the City Council given direction to staff during the closed session.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. P.A.T.H. FEE WAIVER REQUEST

Martin Nichols, City Manager reviewed staff report and gave staff's recommendation that the City Council provide direction to staff on the funding and fee waivers requested by P.A.T.H. Mr. Nichols stated that staff is against this waiver due to the need for wells and other items. He noted that building activity is way down.

Mayor Brown announced that the people who would like to speak on the P.A.T.H. could now step forward and may have 3 minutes to speak.

Mr. E. C. Ross, P.A.T.H., stated that on Minch Road there is already sewer and water lines. He stated that all they were asking for was fee waivers. The churches have no facilities for bathing or any hygiene. At the Minch Road lot the sewer and water lines would only need to be run from the street to the facility and that the parcel is large enough to accommodate family housing until people get on their feet. He stated that the City Council owes the people of Red Bluff, who have fallen on hard times, safe and clean housing.

Mark Barthel, Public Works Director, stated the sewer and waterlines would need to be replaced due to the large amount of semi truck traffic in that area.

Mayor Pro Tem Moyer asked Mr. Ross for clarification on P.A.T.H.'s objective.

Mr. Ross stated the objective is temporary housing to assist families in getting back on their feet and finding permanent housing.

Gail Locke, Chair of the Tehama County Continuum of Care (to end homelessness), stated a homeless shelter is their number one need.

Melody Chamberlin, former homeless person, is concerned about homeless people with children and their need for shelter.

Dorothy Lindaur, St. Peters Episcopal Church, P.A.T.H. has been housed at their church this past month. Churches are not adequate for dealing with families and hygienic needs.

Steven Bills, concerned citizen, questioned why Minch Road is the site for the shelter, as homeless people do not have cars and questioned why you would want a site that is far from stores.

Gail Locke replied that they want to be on Minch Road, because the City has said we need to be in M2 zoning and this is the most viable. She also stated that the TRAX bus runs to Minch Road and it is within walking distance to Mental Health.

(Letter from Gail Locke and the P.A.T.H. winter shelter rotation schedule of churches can be found in file in the Planning Department).

Mayor Brown closed citizen comments and brought it back to staff.

Mark Barthel stated that there were sewer and waterlines in that area, but none are in working condition and they would all need new piping.

Scot Timboe, Planning Director, explained that M1 is light industrial and would require a use permit, while M2 is medium industrial does not require a use permit.

Martin Nichols, City Manager, stated that the City Council did agree with previous requests from P.A.T.H. to waive the fees but those projects did not proceed.

Councilmember Carrel stated that he felt that this project is very expensive at a time when we are going through a budget crisis. It will be difficult to come up with the money to help at this time. He continued by saying that if money were available he would support this project.

Councilmember Moyer inquired about the cost of the project if the City doesn't provide help and was told 1.5 million dollars (\$1,500,000).

Councilmember Byrne asked if they could apply for a grant next year to finish the project and if they received the grant would they be asking for more waivers.

E.C. Ross stated yes, they can apply for a grant next year and that they would ask for development impact fees and development fees waivers which are approximately \$72,000 and \$11,000.

Gail Locke stated that they will not be able to get the grant without water and sewer, and that they must have occupancy within the first year.

Councilmember Flynn questioned if they would be able to pay the City back.

Gail Locke responded that they would probably not be able to repay.

Margret Van Warmerdam, Finance Director, stated that it would be difficult to split the grant between two years as grants are looking for finished projects.

Mayor Brown requested clarification from E.C. Ross on if they were able to do the waterline, but not able to do the sewer line where would that put them at.

E.C. Ross responded that the sewer line that goes out to the old Minch Slaughter House could be restored and that would provide the sewer service to the facility.

A gentleman from the Sewer Department for Red Bluff stated that the line going to the old Minch Slaughter house did not exist.

M/S/C: Councilmembers Flynn and Carrel that the City of Red Bluff at this time cannot waive any fees or provide any funding for the P.A.T.H. project.

AYES: Councilmembers Flynn, Carrel, Byrne, Moyer and Brown

NOES: NONE

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING: NONE

2. REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE FOR FY 2008-09

Martin Nichols, City Manager, reviewed staff report and gave staff that the City Council provide direction to staff on the Budget Committee's recommendation for FY 2008-09.

Martin Nichols gave Power Point presentation on the basic strategies and underlying economic assumptions.

Mayor Brown asked that the people that would like to speak come forward.

Debbie Morish, representing Blues for the Pool, asked that the City Council table the decision to close the pool until further options are explored and brought back to the City Council at a later date.

John Yingling, Red Bluff-Tehama County Chamber of Commerce, requested to meet with the budget committee and requested that the decisions be tabled to a later date.

Mayor Brown stated that the City Manager would be contacting them to set up a meeting.

Josiah Ferrin, President of the Red Bluff Peace Officers Association, presented a letter and asked that the City Council read it and consider other options before making any decisions.

Art Frolli, Operating Engineers Miscellaneous Unit Representative, stated that he was concerned that the Miscellaneous Unit had been asked to take 7% pay cuts and layoffs. He stated that this unit is made up from Public Works, Engineering, Finance Departments as well as Police and Fire clerical personnel. This Unit does not draw heavily on the general fund as they are funded by various Enterprise Funds. He questioned why there should be any layoffs or pay cuts when this unit is not the problem. He stated that some of the people that should be paid out of the Enterprise Funds are being paid out of the General Fund. He asked that before any layoffs or pay cuts were made that he would recommend that a job use study be completed.

Mayor Pro Tem Moyer inquired how the split between funds are done.

Margaret Van Warmerdam, Finance Director, stated that each department does a cost allocation plan. The last one was done in 2003/ 04. A cost allocation was adopted by the City Council then was adopted into the budget. This process should be updated every 5 years by all Department Heads and then brought back to Council.

Eileen Lampron, City employee, stated that she has been with Finance Department for 14 years. She believes that some departments have not even been looked at for any cuts and that she felt that before you start laying off people all departments and funds should be looked at. She continued by stated that other things like supplies could be cut. This City can not afford to lose any Police Officers or Fire personnel and asked that the City Council look at everything before making any layoffs.

ATTACHMENT A

CITY OF RED BLUFF RECOMMENDED BUDGET REDUCTIONS FREEZE VACANT POSITIONS

M/S/C Councilmember Flynn and Carrel to freeze all vacant positions.

AYES: Councilmembers Flynn, Carrel, Byrne, Moyer and Brown

NOES: NONE

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING: NONE

ATTACHMENT B:

**CITY OF RED BLUFF
RECOMMENDED BUDGET REDUCTIONS
REDUCTION OF OPERATING COSTS**

M/S/C: Councilmember Flynn and Byrne to approve attachment B reductions

AYES: Councilmembers Flynn, Byrne, Moyer, Carrel and Brown

NOES: NONE

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING: NONE

M/S/C Councilmembers, Byrne and Flynn to put on the March 3, 2009 agenda for the Council to forgo their salary.

AYES: Councilmember Byrne, Flynn, Carrel, Moyer and Brown

NOES: NONE

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING: NONE

ATTACHMENT C

PROGRAM REDUCTIONS

Martin Nichols stated the Chamber would like to wait on this item until they can meet with the budget committee and resolve this in the next 2 or 3 weeks. He continued by saying that there was also a request to table the Pool by the Blues for the Pool Committee for a few weeks.

Councilmember Carrel and Byrne would like to have the above tabled until a 3 or 4 week period.

AYES: Councilmembers Carrel, Byrne, Flynn, Moyer and Brown

NOES: NONE

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING FOR: NONE

ATTACHMENT D:

LAY OFFS ROUND ONE

Asking that the Council to look over the letter provided by staff and research the funds as it must be exact in case there is an audit by the Federal and State, as this will not help this fiscal year.

Spokes person for the Police Officers Association asked if they could hold off the layoff of the CSO position in the Police Department.

Councilmember Flynn stated this was two separate issues, one issue is the talk of layoffs, and the second issue is the reduction in wages.

Josiah Ferrin from the Police Officers Association asked that the CSO position not be laid off at this time and not be in the category as the other layoffs as his salary is the one of the least amount for this year. So we are asking to have this Item tabled until the end off the fiscal year, and then see what happens for next year.

Eileen Lampron, Finance Department, stated that the Finance Department didn't even get this letter until Friday so they had no time to go through this line by line. Ms. Lampron said she would be glad to take her own time and go through this. She stated that when they wrote this letter they figured it out for the fiscal year and it should not have been figured that way. She also felt that we are standing as a team that's why we are all there, but we need the Councilmembers to get in and help figure out what we can do before layoffs start.

Councilmember Byrne stated he agreed and stated that this needs to be done by all working together.

M/S/C Councilmembers Flynn and Carrel to move on with the layoffs except for the CSO position.

Mayor Brown asked Councilmember Flynn how he came to this decision.

Councilmember Flynn stated that he was going with what the people seem to want.

AYES: Councilmembers Flynn and Carrel
NOES: Councilmembers Byrne, Moyer and Brown
ABSENT OR NOT VOTING: NONE

Josiah Ferrin stated that right now the the Assistant Engineer and the Planner are not needed due to the the building and growth of Red Bluff has slowed way down. But the CSO is needed a lot in the community as they help the Officers with evidence and they take care of animal complaints etc.

M/S/C Councilmember Flynn and Carrel to approve the layoffs included in Attachment D will occur with the exception of the CSO position, which will be go back to the Budget Committee for review.

AYES: Councilmember Flynn, Carrel and Moyer
NOES: Councilmembers Brown and Byrne
ABSENT OF NOT VOTING: NONE

M/S/C Councilmember Carrel and Byrne asking the employee organizations to agree to a salary and benefit reduction.

AYES: Councilmember, Carrel, Byrne, Flynn, Moyer and Brown

NOES: NONE

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING: NONE

ADDITIONAL LAYOFFS

Mr. Nichols, City Manager, reviewed staff report and gave staff's recommendation that this process be done by March 20, 2009, allowing the Budget Committee to decide what additional action will be needed.

Concerned Employee stated that the March 20, 2009 deadline just isn't enough time and they asked for at least another month.

M/S/C Councilmembers Flynn and Moyer to extend the deadline to April 20, 2009 to allow the employee group's time to meet and respond back to the Budget Committee.

AYES: Councilmembers Flynn, Moyer, .Byrne, Moyer and Brown

NOES: Councilmembers; NONE

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING: NONE

There being no further business Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:54 p.m. until the meeting of March 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

s/b Wayne Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

s/b Jo Anna Lopez, City Clerk