

MINUTES
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2007 – 9:00 A.M.
LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM, 995 PALM STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA

ROLL CALL:

Council Members

Present: Council Members Paul Brown, Andrew Carter, Allen K. Settle,
Vice Mayor Christine Mulholland and Mayor Dave Romero

City Staff:

Present: Ken Hampian, City Administrative Officer; Jonathan Lowell, City Attorney; Audrey Hooper, City Clerk; Shelly Stanwyck, Assistant City Administrative Officer; John Mandeville, Community Development Director; Bill Statler, Finance Director; Monica Irons, Human Resources Director; Deborah Linden, Police Chief; John Callahan, Fire Chief; John Moss, Utilities Director; Jay Walter, Public Works Director; Betsy Kiser, Parks and Recreation Director; and Support Staff

Facilitator: Don Maruska

Mayor Romero made an announcement regarding the deadline for filing advisory body applications, discussed the format for public comment, and introduced facilitator Don Maruska.

2007-09 FINANCIAL PLAN: COUNCIL GOAL SETTING WORKSHOP

Facilitator Maruska reviewed the agenda and described the process and guidelines for the workshop.

Discussion ensued during which the Council formulated candidate City goals by category and discussed the relationship of goals to current activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jan Marx, San Luis Obispo, discussed the importance of devoting all federal HUD (Housing and Urban Development) funds to developing housing in the City. She suggested that consideration be given to crafting a zoning category for manufactured or mobile homes.

Urban McLellan, Centex Homes representative and resident of San Luis Obispo, reviewed a proposal (on file in the City Clerk's office) suggesting that Council consider establishing a first-time home-buyer's incentive program.

John Ewan, San Luis Obispo, explained why he thought the following goals should be priorities: 1) Completing the Railroad Recreation Trail, particularly funding the acquisition of the right-of-way. 2) Reserving \$2 million for property acquisition for a Police Department and/or Community Center. 3) Coinciding with the first goal, fully funding open space acquisition.

---End of public comments---

Discussion ensued regarding Mr. McLellan's proposal and the housing incentive programs contained in the City's current housing policies and goals. There was not a Council consensus to pursue this proposal further.

Following a lunch break, Council discussed and weighted the goals and prepared a written ballot ranking the goals.

Staff returned after a recess with the following tabulation of the ranking.

1. Major City Goals:

These goals represent the most important, highest priority goals to be accomplished over the next two years, and as such, resources to accomplish them should be included in the 2007-09 Financial Plan.

Public Safety

Public Safety Service Levels. Increase public safety service levels, with emphasis in police services on neighborhood patrols (particularly at night) and traffic safety; and on prevention and training in fire services.

Transportation

Neighborhood Paving Program and Deferred Street Maintenance. Restore neighborhood paving program and catch-up with deferred street maintenance.

Traffic Congestion Relief. Expand efforts to reduce and manage traffic congestion throughout the City, including the Los Osos Valley Road corridor and interchange.

Bicycle Improvements. Continue to work towards completion of the Railroad Safety Trail; improve maintenance of existing bicycle trails, paths and byways; and consider additional bike trails.

Flood Protection. Reduce flooding risk by opening the Los Osos Valley Road/Highway 101 culverts, working on improvements in the Mid-Higuera area and implementing the Storm Drain Master Plan.

Leisure, Cultural & Social Services

Senior Citizen Facilities. Enhance senior citizen facilities through improvements to the current senior center and pursuit of plans for a future senior center.

Roller Hockey and Skate Park Improvements. Complete major upgrades to the existing roller hockey and skateboard park facilities at Santa Rosa Park.

Homeless Services. Work with social services partners to develop improved homeless sheltering and services.

Community Development

Affordable Housing. Strengthen efforts to increase affordable housing, including ways of augmenting existing funding.

Neighborhood Wellness. Increase building and zoning code enforcement to promote neighborhood wellness and community appearance.

Downtown Improvements. Strengthen support for the Downtown in multiple areas, such as maintenance, economic development, public safety, parking, tourism promotion, progress on the installation of pedestrian lighting and comprehensive directional sign program, and other improvements as resources allow.

Open Space Preservation. Restore open space funding to at least \$200,000 per year.

2. Other Important Goals

Goals in this category are important for the City to accomplish, and resources should be made available in the 2007-09 Financial Plan if at all possible.

Public Safety

Public Safety Facility. Continue progress toward a public safety facility by evaluating sites and developing a financing plan.

Community Development

Land Use and Circulation Element Update. Begin update of the Land Use and Circulation Elements, and review ways to address economic development goals and policies.

Leisure, Cultural & Social Services

Laguna Lake. Develop options and decide future of Laguna Lake, and begin implementation of approved plan.

3. Address as Resources Permit

While it is desirable to achieve these goals over the next two years, doing so is subject to current resource availability.

Transportation

Undergrounding Overhead Utilities at City Gateways. Pursue opportunities and funding to place overhead utilities underground on Los Osos Valley Road and other gateways.

Leisure, Cultural & Social Services

Tree Planting and Maintenance. Boost tree planting and maintenance.

Community Partnerships. Review opportunities to expand community partnerships to achieve City goals.

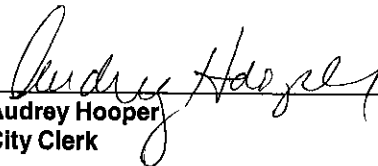
Railroad History Museum. Expand City's role in development of Railroad History Museum to include supporting completion of internal building improvements.

Community Development

Night Sky Ordinance. Develop and adopt night sky ordinance.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the next steps in the 2007-09 Financial Plan process.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor Romero adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m. to a special meeting on Wednesday, January 31, 2007, in the Council Hearing Room, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.



Audrey Hooper
City Clerk

APPROVED BY COUNCIL: 2/20/2007