

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING NO. 720, MAY 23, 2007

ROLL CALL

Vice Mayor Derwin called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Howard called the roll:

Present: Councilmembers Merk and Toben, and Vice Mayor Derwin
Absent: Councilmember Davis and Mayor Driscoll
Others: Town Administrator Howard, Town Attorney Sloan, Asst. Town Administrator Willis and Assistant Clerk Hanlon

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Beth Rabuczewski, PVCF, said the Hasso Plattner Foundation made a \$2 million donation in support of the community hall for the new Town Center. She said Mr. Plattner felt: 1) the buildings provided the necessary facilities to encourage community gatherings and educational activities for all ages; 2) the buildings were being designed with high levels of green standards; and 3) the facilities themselves would serve as an educational tool for recycling, conservation, and alternate energy use. She noted that the Hasso Plattner Foundation was an international organization based in Germany although Mr. Plattner was a resident of the Town. The donation was considered an offer at this point because the German tax authorities require a fairly significant amount of auditing to prove: a) the money would be used for the community hall; and b) the community hall was used only for non-profit purposes. On June 13, PVCF would bring to the Council the requirements for the German tax authorities, the donation agreement that Mr. Plattner signed, and a contract for an auditing firm in San Francisco. Assuming that this donation was acceptable, the private funding for the Town Center totaled \$14 million.

Councilmember Toben said this was an extraordinary tribute to the work the steering committee had done in the last two years. This was a valued group that had persuaded citizens of the Town to get behind this project.

CONSENT AGENDA

By motion of Councilmember Merk, seconded by Councilmember Toben, the items listed below were approved by a vote of 3-0:

- (3a) Resolution No. 2329-2007 Authorizing the San Mateo County Controller to Apply the Special Tax for the Woodside Highlands Road Maintenance District to the 2007-2008 Tax Roll and Collect the Tax at the Same Time as General County Taxes, per Asst. Town Administrator's memo of 5/14/07.
- (3b) Resolution No. 2330-2007 Authorizing the San Mateo County Controller to Apply the Special Tax for the Wayside II Road Maintenance District to the 2007-2008 Tax Roll and Collect the Tax at the Same Time as General County Taxes, per Asst. Town Administrator's memo of 5/14/07.

REGULAR AGENDA

- (1) Minutes of Town Council Meeting of May 9, 2007 (Removed from Consent Agenda)

Councilmembers Merk and Toben submitted changes to the minutes of the 5/9/07 meeting. By motion and second, the minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 3-0.

(2) Warrant List of May 23 2007 (Removed from Consent Agenda)

Councilmember Merk said he would abstain because of the reimbursement to PVCF.

By motion of Councilmember Toben, seconded by Vice Mayor Derwin, the Warrant List of 5/23/07 in the amount of \$475,087.89 was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Toben and Vice Mayor Derwin
Noes: None
Abstain: Councilmember Merk

COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(4) Proposed Letter from Town Council to County Board of Supervisors in Support of Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD) Providing Ambulance Service

Ms. Howard reviewed the staff report of 5/17/07 and draft letter to the County Board of Supervisors requesting their support in asking the JPA to work cooperatively with the WFPD to review and adjust revenue allocation in order to continue ambulance service. Mr. Willis noted that WFPD Board member Peter Berger advised that at the JPA meeting on May 31, they would probably take action on their budget. If the Council wanted to have a letter to the Board of Supervisors before that date, the Council would need to take action tonight.

Referring to the draft letter, Councilmember Merk suggested changing “the District” to “our District” so that it was clear that the ambulance was being called down to Menlo Park, Atherton, and Redwood City. The ambulance was being used to service those areas, and the WFPD was picking up those costs. He also suggested expanding the third paragraph to talk about the 10-minute rule and how they could meet the 10-minute rule in almost all cases when they were going into the more urbanized areas. It was harder for them to meet that rule out here. If the service was moved farther away, Town residents would end up being that 10% almost all the time.

Councilmember Toben agreed the letter could use some beefing up. In the third paragraph, he suggested “All calls originating outside of the WFPD...” The Town did not possess the District, and he felt “our District” was somewhat ambiguous. Additionally, he understood that the District was prepared to continue subsidizing a portion of the costs; they were just unable to shoulder the entire load. If the ambulance service was preserved, others outside the District would continue to benefit from the willingness of the District to subsidize the ambulance unit at the local firehouse. It was useful to convey the notion that something of value was still being offered to the Board of Supervisors’ larger constituencies. Also, if the service was discontinued, he assumed that there would be a net loss of ambulance units in the County. The burden would be redistributed among the remaining units. That should be conveyed. He also felt The Sequoias should be encouraged to barrage the Board of Supervisors with letters of concern in the next day or two. He suggested staff contact Bob Augsburger tomorrow. Time was of the essence if the JPA would be taking their final action at the meeting on May 31.

Ms. Howard said staff would: 1) incorporate Councilmembers’ comments in the letter, which would be ready for Vice Mayor Derwin’s signature tomorrow; and 2) contact Mr. Augsburger at The Sequoias.

(5) Not-for-profit Agency Funding Requests

Ms. Howard reviewed the not-for-profit agency funding requests for FY 07/08. Responding to Councilmember Merk, she said the Bay Area Recycling Outreach Coalition was funded for two years prior to last year, but not last year. Referring to their letter, Councilmember Merk noted that the group indicated it

met AB 939 education requirements and asked if that had been of value to the Town. Ms. Howard said last year, the Town helped pay for a Countywide campaign that involved posters on buses, billboards, etc., encouraging people to recycle and telling them where they could recycle. That was basically what this group did.

Councilmember Merk said he was sorry to see that the Shelter Network had not submitted a request. He said it was a good organization for the County that helped battered women in particular. He suggested staff find out why there had not been a request for funds. Additionally, he felt the report put out by Sustainable San Mateo County was very good, but their request was double what the Town donated to them last year. He was also curious about a two-thirds increase in San Francisquito Watershed Council's request. With the addition of the Shelter Network, he was comfortable with the list but not comfortable with all the numbers.

Councilmember Toben said he felt some criteria should be articulated against which the Council could measure the requests and make some decisions. For example, there should be some connection to policy goals of the Town. CERPP obviously related to the policy concerns about emergency preparedness. Sustainable San Mateo County related to the concerns about environmental stewardship and enabled the Town to benchmark itself against others. He had trouble finding that connection with Jobs for Youth. Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC) related to the Town's interest in fostering better relations among residents and helping to lubricate problem solving. The San Francisquito Watershed Council clearly had a connection to the Town's interest in riparian protection. The other criterion was whether the money made any meaningful difference to these organizations; \$500 seemed marginal. He also had some difficulties with the increases that some of the organizations were requesting such as doubling the donation to Sustainable San Mateo County. He was reluctant to go beyond a 10% increase over what was done a year ago. He noted that several of these groups had a "fee for service" quality about expenditures. With CERPP, the Town was buying emergency preparedness and getting value back as opposed to doing pure philanthropy. He proposed: CERPP at \$5,000; Sustainable San Mateo County at \$2,000 (a 33% increase); exclude Jobs for Youth; PCRC at \$1,288; Watershed Council at \$4,000 (33% increase); and the Recycling Outreach Coalition at \$500. The total would be \$12,788, which was within the 10% increase range.

Councilmember Merk said he could support those numbers if the Shelter Network could be added if they wanted to be included. Vice Mayor Derwin said she had worked with the Shelter Network and felt they should be included. Council agreed on \$500 for the Shelter Network.

By motion of Councilmember Toben, seconded by Councilmember Merk, the funding authorizations for not-for-profit agencies for FY 07/08 were approved by a vote of 3-0.

(6) Status of Town Center Project

Ms. Howard said the Romeo and Juliet trees had been moved, and the arborists thought there was a good chance of survival. There were some remaining issues about the stain for the maintenance shed, and Mr. Strain would be providing some samples to ASCC members. The building pads were almost done, and the utilities were going in. The geologic trenches had to be re-compacted because they were underneath some foundations. Additionally, all the piping underneath had to be removed. The pad for the playground was also completed. There was more discussion about the creek issue. It would be agendized for July 11, and the consultants had been asked to prepare a proposal including a list of agencies that would need to be contacted for permitting. Councilmember Toben added that the documentary was well underway, and he had seen some rough footage. He described a film made with the Ormondale kindergarten teacher. The idea was to convey the connection between the environmental programming of the School District and the green design of the Town Center.

(7) Reports from Commission and Committee Liaisons

(a) Parks and Rec

Councilmember Toben said the meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum on Monday.

(b) Trail Use Discussion Group

Councilmember Toben said he was putting together the report, which would be presented at the June 13 meeting. There was a great deal of material that he felt should be assembled in one place so that the Council and public were aware of what the Council was looking at.

(c) Climate Protection Task Force

Councilmember Toben said he was discussing the recommendations from the Building, Emergency and Transportation subcommittee with Mr. Vlasic and Ms. Lambert. There was a lot of content, and he wanted to make sure that the planning and building staff had input. Local architects would also be asked for input.

(d) Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC)

Councilmember Merk said there was a disconnect between the Council and EPC. The EPC expected the Council to ask them to prepare something for the Council, and the Council expected the EPC to present something for the Council to do. Agendas for the 5th Wednesday meetings needed to be coordinated. Councilmember Toben said it was his understanding that the EPC would prepare the agendas for these special meetings; they knew emergency preparedness far better than the Council did. Mr. Willis said he told the Committee that the Council felt emergency preparedness was an important issue and that the Council looked to the Committee to bring forward emergency preparedness items for consideration, information, education, etc. For the last two meetings, he had submitted the schedule and asked the Committee to talk about possible agendas. He felt the message had been relayed about the Council's desire for the Committee to bring things forward. Councilmember Merk said he would lean on the Committee. Ms. Howard noted that at one time the Committee felt they had not had an opportunity to involve the Council and were looking for a way to accomplish that.

Councilmember Toben felt there should be an exercise at least once a year. Councilmember Merk said his expectation was that during the 5th Wednesday meetings, someone could train the Council on NIMS, etc. CERPP members could organize exercises, but he was not sure the EPC members had the expertise.

Councilmember Toben said the revised emergency preparedness manual needed to be revisited every so often. That was another useful exercise. Councilmember Merk agreed noting that the flashcards that Mr. Willis made up had been very useful in the exercises. Mr. Willis added that a number of things were going on. For example, a wireless connection had been installed between the Schoolhouse and the offices and internet connection was possible.

Mr. Howard suggested that at the next meeting, there be some training on the radios. The chapter in the manual that had to do with radio communications could also be reviewed. If it started at 5:30, an hour would be appropriate. If no one on the committee had the expertise, someone could be invited to do the training.

At the last EPC meeting, Councilmember Merk said there had been a presentation from the Sheriff's Dept. on the San Mateo County alert system. People who were first-line responders could receive messages that could be sent out very easily by the Town, County and State to whatever portable device you were carrying with you. It was very easy to sign up with the County. Mr. Willis said it was a web-based system with two components: a secure system and an unsecure system. The secure system was designed to page first responders. The paging system was text only. A cell phone, pager or e-mail address that could receive text messages, would receive those messages. The unsecure system could be used by anyone who signed up.

Councilmember Merk noted that Councilmember Toben brought forth an urgency item that was added to the EPC's agenda. The Committee had been asked to endorse the Lanes' contribution for the emergency preparedness room. He read the EPC's endorsement and strong support for outfitting the emergency operations center in the new Town Center.

(e) ASCC

Councilmember Merk said the ASCC discussed the Roberts Market application. The applicant wanted to get the process going before the issues of the back lot and additional parking were resolved. There were also some noise issues about the air conditioning and refrigeration units on the roof.

(f) Conservation Committee

Councilmember Merk said the Committee was concerned about moving the Romeo and Juliet trees at this time of year. Additionally, their recommendation to the Council on the dogs/trails issue was to maintain the status quo. There was also concern expressed about the mowing, for the second year in a row, of the edging strip between the paved path and Alpine Road at Ford Field. That whole area had been seeded with wild flowers. The wildflowers had been mowed and could not reseed. There needed to be better communication between the company that did the right-of-way mowing and someone on the Conservation Committee. They also asked that spraying or mowing not be done on Toyon Trail, which was a pedestrian only trail, because there were so many orchids coming up along the side of the trail.

(g) HEART

Councilmember Merk said annual reports were available. In the past, the Town paid \$1,076 for membership. At the meeting held this afternoon, they wanted a 4.2% increase in the Town's dues. The Town's dues went for operating expenses. This group had done an amazing job and leveraged their money twenty to one. The County initially funded HEART with \$75,000 for management expenses, which would run out at the end of this year; next year they would need to come back to the cities with a 16-18% increase in dues. After discussion, it was decided that an 8% increase would be necessary. For the Town, it amounted to \$136 more or \$1,841 for next year.

(h) Council of Cities Meeting

Vice Mayor Derwin said the speaker at the meeting was Dr. Paul Stockton, Center for International Security Cooperation-Stanford, who discussed: 1) the nature of the terrorism threat in San Mateo County; 2) what the Bush administration had done thus far; and 3) a city's role in homeland security.

(i) Friends of the Library

Vice Mayor Derwin said they did not have enough members to select their officers at the last meeting. She noted that Jean Lane would be the honorary chair for their campaign. They hoped to add new members.

(j) School District

Vice Mayor Derwin said she attended the Founders' Day celebration for the schools; those who had given extraordinary service to the District were honored.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

(8) Town Council 5/11/07 Weekly Digest

(a) Letter from General Counsel for Californians Aware

Councilmember Toben referred to the 5/2/07 letter from Californians Aware on behalf of William Henderson about his complaint that he was denied his right to address the Council at the June 28, 2006, Council meeting on the budget. Ms. Sloan said she had responded to the letter and included the minutes of the council meetings to show that Mr. Henderson had spoken at both meetings. Responding to Vice Mayor Derwin, she read a description and mission statement of Californians Aware from an article in the *Public Law Journal*.

(b) Donation of Play Yard Equipment

Referring to Mr. Willis's memo of 5/11/07 about the donation of the existing play yard equipment, Councilmember Merk said there had been some discussion about re-locating the equipment to one of the Town's fields. Mr. Willis said that had been discussed by the Parks and Rec Committee and they decided donating the equipment was appropriate. Councilmember Toben added that there would have been significant cost involved in dismantling, relocating, and re-setting it up as well as loss of the warranty. Mr. Willis said the estimate to relocate the equipment to Ford Field was \$35,000.

(c) Signs for Bikers to Ride Single File

Referring to the e-mail of 5/4/07 asking for bike signs, Councilmember Merk suggested the recommendation be forwarded to the Traffic Committee. Ms. Howard said the message and other correspondence regarding bicyclers had been passed to the Committee, and they would be addressing the entire issue. Ms. Sloan noted that this issue had been discussed in the past. The law did not say that people must ride single file. The Town could ask them to. If the Traffic Committee was going to look at this, they should have the minutes when this was discussed before. There had been a lengthy discussion and the background information would be important to ensure the Committee did not propose solutions that were not easily implemented.

(9) Town Council 5/18/07 Weekly Digest

(a) San Mateo County Sheriff's Area Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security

Referring to the notice from OES, Councilmember Merk requested a copy of the booklet.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Mayor

Town Clerk