

MINUTES - MORRO BAY CITY COUNCIL  
CLOSED SESSION – MARCH 22, 2010  
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM - 5:00 P.M.

Mayor Peters called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	Janice Peters	Mayor
	Carla Borchard	Councilmember
	Rick Grantham	Councilmember
	Noah Smukler	Councilmember
	Betty Winholtz	Councilmember

STAFF:	Andrea Lueker	City Manager
	Robert Schultz	City Attorney

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Councilmember Grantham moved the meeting be adjourned to Closed Session. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Smukler and unanimously carried. (5-0)

Mayor Peters read the Closed Session Statement.

**CS-1 GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8; REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS.** Instructing City's real property negotiator regarding the price and terms of payment for the purchase, sale, exchange, or lease of real property as to one (1) parcel.

- Property: 625 Harbor Street; Library.  
Negotiating Parties: SLO County and City of Morro Bay.  
Negotiations: Lease Terms and Conditions.

**CS-2 GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(B); CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL DUE TO ANTICIPATED LITIGATION.** Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9 as to one (1) matter.

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. and returned to regular session at 5:45 p.m.

MOTION: Councilmember Borchard moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grantham and unanimously carried. (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

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VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL - 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Peters called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	Janice Peters	Mayor
	Carla Borchard	Councilmember
	Rick Grantham	Councilmember
	Noah Smukler	Councilmember
	Betty Winholtz	Councilmember
STAFF:	Andrea Lueker	City Manager
	Robert Schultz	City Attorney
	Bridgett Kessler	City Clerk
	Janeen Burlingame	Management Analyst
	John DeRohan	Police Chief
	Genevieve Lehotsky	Associate Planner
	Rob Livick	Acting Public Services Director
	Tim Olivas	Police Commander
	Mike Pond	Fire Chief
	Dylan Wade	Utilities/Capital Projects Manager
	Joe Woods	Recreation & Parks Director

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS &  
PRESENTATIONS

CLOSED SESSION REPORT - City Attorney Robert Schultz reported the City Council met in Closed Session, and no reportable action under the Brown Act was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Keith Taylor stated a lunch was held by the Eastern Star wherein Myrtle Reid [whose husband Stew was a Morro Bay volunteer firefighter] donated a check to the Friends of the Morro Bay Fire Department in the amount of \$15,000.

The following people expressed support for Item D-2 (Authorization to Hire a Second-In-Command for the Police Department) and requested the City Council authorize the City Manager to proceed with the recruitment and rehiring of the Police Commander position: Brian Millard, President of the Morro Bay Police Association, Mel Bernaisse, Peter Candela, Vicki Landis, Randy Ponder, Manny Silva, Claire Grantham, Bob Schwenowa, and Ken Vesterfelt.

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D’Onna Kennedy announced she is a candidate running for City Council in the Primary Election on June 8<sup>th</sup>, and she will be holding a Town Hall meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm to allow citizens to voice their concerns and opinions and suggest what actions they would like to see taken.

Debra Franklin, Morro Bay Beautiful, announced the Morro Bay Yard Sale will be held April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> with 100 or more yard sales in Morro Bay. She also noted Morro Bay Garbage will be providing free hauling the week after the yard sale.

Peter Candela stated the Visitor Center fulfillments are increasing each month, and because of this activity the Visitor Center will be open on Sundays from 10 am – 2 pm. He said the Lady Washington Tall Ship will be coming in November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Melody DeMeritt addressed the primary election process and with only four candidates running for two spots on City Council, she suggested suspending the primary election for council members and continues with the mayor position only.

Jamie Irons shared photographs of the trail clean-up held last week noting there were 30 volunteers which equaled to 90 man hours.

Nancy Johnson addressed the issue of medical marijuana dispensaries in the City, and since state and city government is subservient to federal government, she suggested placing an advisory vote on the November 2, 2010 General Election ballot to get the community’s opinion.

Ken Vesterfelt announced the Cruisin’ Morro Bay Car Show is approaching and he thanked Fundraiser Follies for reducing some of the City fees that are involved.

John Barta addressed Item A-3 (Status Report on Water Usage for February 2010) stating the 5% allocation of State Water has been raised to 15%, and may be raised further to 30-45% before the end of the year. He also addressed the primary election process noting there will be elimination of candidates and the citizens will be able to vote for the run-off candidates at the General Election in November.

Amber Alwine, Christina Lefevre and Laura Slauter from San Luis Obispo County Tobacco Control Program, addressed the California Tobacco Retailer License Ordinance and requested Council agendaize the consideration of adopting this Ordinance in Morro Bay to decrease and prevent youth tobacco use.

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Joan Solu, PTA President, stated the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Auction and Barbeque held at Del Mar Elementary School was a great success. She also addressed the proposed combining of the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) Advisory Board, Community Promotions Committee and Visitor Center, and noted the TBID is formed of hotels and the assessment on the hotels by adding an additional percentage on top of the transient occupancy taxes for use by the TBID Advisory Board to promote the hotels through advertising and in other ways. Ms. Solu stated the TBID by-laws are approved annually by those that are assessed and the City should be careful if considering changes to the TBID by-laws. She also requested Council allow the new Police Chief to determine if the Police Commander position should be filled.

Mayor Peters closed the hearing for public comment.

Mayor Peters called for a break at 7:11 p.m.; the meeting resumed at 7:21 p.m.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

Unless an item is pulled for separate action by the City Council, the following actions are approved without discussion.

A-1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2010; (ADMINISTRATION)

**RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.**

A-2 AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR FUNDING TO ADD CLASS II BIKE LANES TO NORTH MAIN STREET; (PUBLIC SERVICES)

**RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the Acting Public Services Director to enter into an agreement with the California Department of Transportation for funding to receive \$480,000 of American Resource and Recovery Act funding to add Class II bike lanes to North Main Street.**

A-3 STATUS REPORT ON WATER USAGE FOR FEBRUARY 2010; (PUBLIC SERVICES)

**RECOMMENDATION: Receive for information and file.**

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A-4 PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2010 AS “MONTH OF THE CHILD” AND “CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH” AND APRIL 10, 2010 AS “DAY OF THE CHILD”; (ADMINISTRATION)

**RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Proclamation.**

A-5 PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL AS “FAIR HOUSING MONTH”; (PUBLIC SERVICES)

**RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Proclamation.**

Councilmember Smukler pulled Item A-2 from the Consent Calendar; Councilmember Grantham pulled Item A-3; and Mayor Peters pulled Item A-4.

MOTION: Councilmember Grantham moved the City Council approve Items A-1 and A-5 of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Winholtz and carried unanimously. (5-0)

A-2 AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR FUNDING TO ADD CLASS II BIKE LANES TO NORTH MAIN STREET; (PUBLIC SERVICES)

Councilmember Smukler thanked the Public Services staff for their efforts on this Class II Bike Lane Project on North Main Street.

MOTION: Councilmember Smukler moved the City Council approve Item A-2 of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Winholtz and carried unanimously. (5-0)

A-3 STATUS REPORT ON WATER USAGE FOR FEBRUARY 2010; (PUBLIC SERVICES)

Councilmember Grantham referred to the water report and asked staff if citizens on dialysis should be concerned, and if reverse-osmosis systems should be considered.

Utilities/Capital Projects Manager Dylan Wade responded those people on dialysis should be aware of the blending of chloraminated water supply and take precautions.

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MOTION: Councilmember Grantham moved the City Council approve Item A-3, and direct staff to contact the San Luis Obispo County Kidney Dialysis Services and have them notify Morro Bay dialysis patients of the City's use of chloraminated water to reduce taste and odor, and what the potential risks to kidney dialysis patients could be. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Winholtz and carried unanimously. (5-0)

A-4 PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2010 AS "MONTH OF THE CHILD" AND "CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH" AND APRIL 10, 2010 AS "DAY OF THE CHILD"; (ADMINISTRATION)

Mayor Peters pulled this item in order to make a presentation.

MOTION: Councilmember Grantham moved the City Council approve Item A-4 of the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Winholtz and carried unanimously. (5-0)

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS, REPORTS & APPEARANCES**

**B-1 CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED TRANSIT SERVICE CHANGES;  
(PUBLIC SERVICES)**

Management Analyst Janeen Burlingame stated since fiscal year 2007/2008, Morro Bay Dial-a-Ride (MBDAR) has lost more than \$171,000 in Local Transportation Fund (LTF) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds with which to operate MBDAR service, which includes the most recent news of an additional \$24,607 reduction to LTF this fiscal year. As the City begins the budget development process for FY 2010/2011, it must look at what funding will be allocated from the State to determine whether or not existing MBDAR services can be provided beyond the current fiscal year, and if not, what type of transit services can be provided with the available funding. With a current MBDAR operating budget of \$379,154, \$204,009 anticipated LTF for FY 2010/2011 and \$38,000 estimated fares, MBDAR would be short more than \$137,000 to operate existing service levels before additional increases to the operating budget are contemplated for the annual Consumers Price Index increase per the contract for services and fuel as the price per gallon is higher now than when the budget was prepared for this fiscal year. As such, it is apparent that current MBDAR service levels cannot be maintained for FY 2010/2011. Ms. Burlingame recommended the City Council conduct a public hearing on the proposed changes in transit service for MBDAR and trolley, and approves said changes to be effective October 4, 2010.

Mayor Peters opened the hearing for public comment.

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Joan Solu offered Option D, which would take the bus fleet that the City has that are in good operating service, and put the entire process out to bid for a private company to come in and run the business as a private service, and not reducing the ridership and service capabilities. She said the City could make money on the rental of the buses and continue to provide the service to the community probably for less than what is being proposed. Ms. Solu also requested Council consider the community's ridership when considering a fixed route system.

Janet Gould, Del Mar Elementary School Principal, stated Dial-a-Ride is a valuable service for students and families. She said a fixed route would not be an option for the student riders who require door-to-door service.

John Barta stated there is a human element to this and this is a valuable service for the elderly in our community.

Barbara Doerr stated Dial-a-Ride users should be issued a notice of pending elimination. She said this is a vital service provided to senior citizens and those who are handicap. Ms. Doerr stated Council should look at demographics and parking in-lieu funds to fund this service.

Nancy Johnson stated Council should consider contracting this service out as suggested by Joan Solu.

Mayor Peters closed the public comment hearing.

Mayor Peters addressed the lack of transit funding county-wide. She said the Cambria district has a senior bus service that is operated by 35 volunteer drivers, Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm; they have a subsidy from the Regional Transit Authority for fuel and vehicle maintenance, however the vehicles are owned by the volunteers.

Councilmember Grantham stated he is not supportive of using accumulation funds for non-essential services. He said he is supportive of considering contracting with outside services or utilizing volunteer services for the City's transportation use.

Councilmember Smukler stated he is very uncomfortable in prioritizing the trolley concept over the Dial-a-Ride concept. He said a closer look needs to be taken at the Cambria Community Bus service that is operated somewhat like the City's Dial-a-Ride service and has been organized by community groups and operates with some TDA funds from the state and a once a year mail-out fundraiser. Councilmember Smukler stated he does not see the concept of abolishing a demand-based service.

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Councilmember Borchard stated she agrees with Councilmember Smukler, and would rather not run the trolleys and maintain the Dial-a-Ride service.

Councilmember Winholtz stated she agrees, this is not a service to cut and it is an essential service. She said a fixed route will not work for the handicap and seniors in the community.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Smukler moved the City Council direct staff to negotiate with the current contractor or go out to bid and investigate alternative Dial-a-Ride program delivery and service level models including public and private partnerships and volunteer-based concepts while identifying a funding option not utilizing accumulation funds and prioritizing demand response service over the trolley service with the funding to come from the sale of the 1999 trolley to fill the \$24,000 gap for funding in this current year. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Borchard and carried with Councilmember Grantham voting no. (4-1)

**B-2 DRAFT ANTENNAS AND WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ORDINANCE; (PUBLIC SERVICES)**

City Attorney Robert Schultz stated this draft ordinance was excerpted from the Zoning Ordinance update approved by City Council in 2005. On January 11, 2010, the City Council gave direction to staff to separate the wireless telecommunications facilities portion of the update and bring it forward as an ordinance which can be reviewed and approved. The document required minor revisions to ensure compatibility with the current Zoning Ordinance but no substantial changes were made. Staff has reviewed the proposed ordinance with the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and has determined that the ordinance remains in conformance. Mr. Schultz recommended Council review the proposed ordinance and direct staff to return with the ordinance as proposed or with modifications for first reading and introduction.

Councilmember Winholtz addressed amendments to Chapter 17.27 – Antennas and Wireless Telecommunications Facilities. She said she is not in favor of allowing anything above the height limit. Councilmember Winholtz stated she is concerned with issues such as location and the definition of visual, which is nebulous.

Mayor Peters opened the hearing for public comment.

John Barta stated radar antennas should be included in the discussion due to the potential danger they may cause.

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Mayor Peters closed the public comment hearing.

MOTION: Councilmember Winholtz moved the City Council direct staff to take into consideration comments made by Council and public, and return with an Ordinance for first reading and introduction. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Borchard and carried unanimously. (5-0)

B-3 INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA REPEALING ORDINANCE 551 AND ENACTING AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 10.76.035 TO CHAPTER 10.76 TO PROVIDE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE MORRO BAY SKATE PARK REQUIRING ANY PERSON RIDING A PERMITTED COASTING DEVICE AT THE MORRO BAY SKATE PARK TO WEAR A HELMET, ELBOW PADS, AND KNEE PADS; (RECREATION & PARKS)

Recreation & Parks Director Joe Woods stated in August 2009, the City Council adopted Ordinance 551, which requires any person riding a permitted coasting device to wear a helmet, elbow pads and knee pads. Unfortunately, Ordinance No. 551 references and amends an outdated version of Chapter 10, and must be rectified for proper enforcement. Ordinance No. 554 repeals Ordinance No. 551, and amends the newly adopted Chapter 10, specifically 10.76. Council's adoption of this Ordinance is a formality for filing and should not constitute an additional burden on the City. Mr. Woods recommended the City Council open the hearing for public comment, and approve the first reading and introduction of Ordinance No. 554 by number and title only.

Mayor Peters opened the hearing for public comment; there were no comments, and Mayor Peters closed the public comment hearing.

MOTION: Councilmember Winholtz moved the City Council approve for introduction and first reading of Ordinance No. 554 Repealing Ordinance No. 551 and Enacting an Ordinance Adding Section 10.76.035 to Chapter 10.76 to Provide Rules and Regulations for the Morro Bay Skate Park Requiring any Person Riding a Permitted Coasting Device at the Morro Bay Skate Park to Wear a Helmet, Elbow Pads, and Knee Pads. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grantham and carried unanimously. (5-0)

City Manager Andrea Lueker read Ordinance No. 554 by number and title only.

Mayor Peters called for a break at 9:09 p.m.; the meeting resumed at 9:21 p.m.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE.

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D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH MV  
TRANSPORTATION; (PUBLIC SERVICES)

MOTION: Mayor Peters moved the City Council continue this item to the April 26, 2010 City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Winholtz and carried unanimously. (5-0)

D-2 AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE A SECOND-IN-COMMAND FOR THE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT; (ADMINISTRATION)

City Manager Andrea Lueker stated the second-in-command provides highly complex staff assistance to the Chief of Police. This work requires considerable experience and judgment in the interpretation and application of rules, regulations, policies, laws and ordinances. The second-in-command is also an important link to the Sergeant and Corporal supervisory staff at the Police Department. The position is responsible for improving operations, decreasing turnaround times, and streamlining work processes by working cooperatively and jointly to provide quality seamless customer service to the community and allied agencies. The second-in-command is also very important for retention and recruitment of staff. As well, the second-in-command is expected to have an open door policy and to possess strong mentoring and coaching skills. These attributes are used to monitor morale and implement opportunities for employees to experience career development and advancement within the command structure of the department. Ms. Lueker stated staff is keenly aware of the financial constraints that are affecting all cities at this time, including the City of Morro Bay. As a result, an extensive review of the second-in-command position has been made to determine the best recommendation to the City Council with the anticipated vacancy. Staff is aware of the financial constraints that are affecting all cities at this time, including the City of Morro Bay. As a result, an extensive review of the second-in-command position has been made to determine the best recommendation to the City Council with the anticipated vacancy. While it does not appear that the substitution of the second-in-command position with a non-management Sergeant or Admin. Sergeant position saves funding, based on comments received, it is clear the City Council may have some further apprehension in regard to the refilling of the position. Based on the discussions that have taken place and the concerns other than fiscal savings, staff presents the following options for the Council to consider: 1) Amend the Commander title to that of a Captain. Routinely, the Captain position is below that of a Commander; 2) require the second-in-command position to live within the same mileage constraints as the new Police Chief. This will be restricted to driving to no more than 30 miles or 30 minutes for purposes of commuting to residence to city limits;

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3) have the second-in-command position report to work in uniform at least two days each week and respond outside the office when there are multiple incidents or a shortage of patrol officers; and/or 4) have the second-in-command alter his/her work schedule periodically to work during the weekend. While staff believes there is a significant need for a second-in-command in the Police Department, it is certainly possible to make some amendments to the existing position in order to respond to the concerns voiced by the City Council. Those options presented above would certainly change the position of second-in-command, not result in additional General Fund costs as well as address the concerns of the City Council. Ms. Lueker recommended the City Council review the information presented along with the options including title, proximity from home to work, patrol time and scheduling, and direct staff in regard to those options and authorizes the hire.

Councilmember Grantham stated in times past there were positions in the Police Department that are no longer on the books. He said there will be a morale issue if there is no upward mobility in the department. Councilmember Grantham stated he is a strong supporter of maintaining a second in command to allow the Police Chief to put his footprint on his department and allow him to do his job.

Councilmember Borchard stated she will support maintaining this position; however, she would like to wait for the new Police Chief to take over and see what his needs might be in filling this position.

Councilmember Smukler stated while trying to stabilize the budget, he is not comfortable to authorize the hiring of this position immediately. He said he would prefer the new Police Chief assume his new role, and then he would be interested in a POST evaluation.

Councilmember Winholtz stated she is sensitive to the budget issues and she is open to a second in command position; the question is when.

Mayor Peters stated morale is a tremendous issue with the Police Department. She said the recruitment period will give Council plenty of time to decide whether or not to proceed with this. Mayor Peters stated the title should remain the same which will affect future hires, and/or a position that current officers could aspire to. She said this is a responsibility the City owes the community.

**MOTION:** Mayor Peters moved the City Council authorize the City Manager to proceed with the recruitment and rehiring of the Police second-in-command position with the following options: 1) require the second-in-command position to live within the same mileage constraints as the new Police Chief. This will be restricted to driving to no more than 30 miles or 30 minutes for purposes of commuting to residence to city limits;

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2) have the second-in-command position report to work in uniform at least two days each week and respond outside the office when there are multiple incidents or a shortage of patrol officers; and, 3) have the second-in-command alter his/her work schedule periodically to work during the weekend. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grantham and carried with Councilmember Smukler and Councilmember Winholtz voting no. (3-2)

Councilmember Winholtz stated she feels Council steps away from the reality of the topic when there are emotional pleas. She said she is discouraged this has become an emotional issue rather than a factual issue. Councilmember Winholtz stated she voted no because she felt rushed and needed more time to discuss this issue.

Councilmember Smukler stated although he appreciates Chief DeRohan and Commander Olivas as well as the whole department, his vote was based on his severe concerns with the budget which will need to be addressed.

Councilmember Borchard stated her comments were not based on the emotions of the speakers but based on the facts of the position.

D-3 SELECTION OF TWO COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE CHORRO AND MORRO VALLEY WATER RIGHTS AD-HOC COMMITTEE; (CITY ATTORNEY)

City Attorney Robert Schultz stated because of the degradation to the water quality and the changes in regulations, the City no longer has the ability to both maintain the pumping of wells in the Chorro Groundwater Basin as well as provide water that meets all state and federal standards to customers in the basin. In order to both provide water to the customers outside the City limits and maintain the Chorro Groundwater resource for the benefit of the customers within the City limits, major modifications to the City's infrastructure would be required. These modifications would be needed to effectively deal with the nitrate contamination while also providing disinfection of the occasional bacteriological contamination events that impact the Chorro Groundwater Basin. These issues are further complicated by Water Right Permits that limit the City's ability to pump water from its wells. In order to fully understand the water issues facing the City, staff recommends the City Council appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee to help develop strategies and solutions to the City's Water Rights issues in the Chorro and Morro Valley. If the City Council decides to form an Ad Hoc Committee, then it should determine which two Council Members should serve on the committee.

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MOTION: Mayor Peters moved the City Council appoint Councilmember Borchard and Councilmember Winholtz to serve on the Chorro and Morro Valley Water Rights Ad-Hoc Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grantham and carried unanimously. (5-0)

D-4 SCHEDULE INTERVIEW DATE TO FILL VACANCIES ON TOURISM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD AND CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE; (ADMINISTRATION)

The City Council scheduled an interview date for May 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to be located at the Veterans Memorial Building.

E. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Smukler requested to agendize a discussion on General Fund and Risk Management Reserve use; Council concurred.

Councilmember Smukler requested to agendize a discussion on policy relating to City Council input on hiring/evaluation of department heads; Council concurred.

Councilmember Winholtz requested to agendize the consideration of sending a letter to Congresswoman Lois Capps opposing farm fish legislation (Winholtz will prepare report); Council concurred.

Councilmember Winholtz requested to agendize the consideration of sending a letter to State Parks regarding campground fees; Council concurred.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Recorded by:

Bridgett Kessling  
City Clerk