

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL / IMPROVEMENT AGENCY MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor/Chair Versaw called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 154 South Eighth Street, Grover Beach, California.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**FLAG SALUTE** The flag salute was led by Acting Fire Captain Tom Hughey.

**ROLL CALL**

City Council/Agency: Council/Board Members Ashton, Ekbom, Shoals, Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair Lieberman, and Mayor/Chair Versaw were present.

City/Agency Staff: City Manager/Executive Director Perrault, Assistant City Attorney/Assistant General Counsel Donaldson, City Clerk/Agency Secretary McMahon, Administrative Services Director/Finance Officer Chapman, Interim Community Development Director/Interim Deputy Director Hansen, Acting Police Chief Bewick, Fire Chief Fibich, Acting Fire Captain Hughey, Assistant Administrative Services Director Byrd, Public Works Superintendent Ford, and Staff Assistant Cassandra Mesa were also present.

Also present was City Engineer Garing.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS** The Mayor/Chair opened the floor to any member of the public for comment on items of interest which were within the jurisdiction of the City Council / Improvement Agency but were not listed on the agenda. No one responded and the Mayor/Chair closed the Public Communications segment for this portion of the meeting.

**JOINT CITY COUNCIL / IMPROVEMENT AGENCY - PUBLIC HEARING**

**CC/IA-1. Proposed FY 07 Budget.**

Mayor/Chair Versaw read the title to the foregoing item and declared the Public Hearing open.

Prior to the department presentations, Council/Board Member Ekbom distributed copies of his hand-written response to information distributed at the July 17, 2006 meeting from Council/Board Member Ashton, regarding a ten-year comparison of past City budgets and staffing levels. He stated that costs for employee services had increased at less than seven percent per year; costs for workers' compensation, health care, and retirement benefits were beyond the City's control; and six of the new employees during that time period were approved positions when the City Council authorized going from a volunteer to a full-time Fire Department. He also observed that employee services in the proposed FY 07 Budget were within the approved range of cost-of-living increases.

Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair Lieberman added that he had surveyed the cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, and Arroyo Grande for percentage comparisons of costs for employee services relative to each agency's General Fund, displayed the information, and observed that costs in the City's proposed FY 07 Budget were in line with the other four agencies.

There were no further Council/Agency comments at this time and Mayor/Chair Versaw deferred to City Manager/Executive Director Perrault.

City Manager/Executive Director Perrault called the Council/Agency's attention to the amended Wednesday, July 19, 2006 agenda, which had been revised for two purposes: 1) to include a proposed Resolution in support of rail service as directed by the City Council at the July 17 meeting, and 2) to provide the Council/Agency the option of taking action on the Budget at the conclusion of that meeting, if ready to do so. He then gave an overview of the format of department presentations and public comments for the remainder of the budget workshops.

Mayor/Chair Versaw deferred to each department director and/or manager for his or her respective budget presentations.

### **Fire Department**

Fire Chief Fibich, assisted by Acting Fire Captain Hughey, gave an overview of the proposed department budget, achievements, training program, and goals. Discussion was held regarding:

- the code enforcement program – mitigation goals and penalties;
- recommendations for improvement in operations and cost recovery;
- department statistics and response times;
- service enhancements with a full-time Fire Department;
- fulfillment of each agency's obligations under the joint fire management services agreement with the City of Arroyo Grande;
- recruitment efforts to fill the Training Officer/Administrative Captain position, which was an approved and budgeted position; and
- fiscal impacts to the General Fund of a full-time versus volunteer Fire Department.

The Council/Agency thanked Fire Chief Fibich for his presentation, stated the Fire Chief had recently announced his upcoming retirement, and expressed thanks and gratitude for his services to the City of Grover Beach, his contributions towards the agreement for joint fire management services with the City of Arroyo Grande, and assistance in pursuing the feasibility of consolidated fire and dispatch services in the South County.

Mayor/Chair Versaw invited public comments on this portion of the budget presentation.

Don Fielding, Grover Beach, questioned and received information from staff regarding the process of tracking code enforcement efforts.

There were no further public comments received at this time.

Upon question from the Council/Agency, City Manager/Executive Director Perrault responded that initial discussions have been held with the Arroyo Grande City Manager regarding the recruitment for a new Fire Chief, and that the Council would be kept informed and involved in the selection process.

### **Police Department**

Acting Police Chief Bewick introduced Lieutenant Jim English, retired from the City of San Luis Obispo Police Department and retained by the City of Grover Beach on a part-time basis. Lieutenant English assisted Acting Chief Bewick with the PowerPoint budget presentation. Acting Police Chief Bewick gave an overview of the proposed department budget, achievements, goals, and proposed service refinements, and identified specific areas with negative fiscal impacts. Acting Chief Bewick then responded to questions from the Council/Agency.

Brief discussion was held regarding:

- the parking enforcement collection process through the City of Inglewood;
- department statistics and examples of "Part I crimes";
- the high success rate of the City's tobacco retail licensing ordinance to deter the sale of tobacco products to minors; and
- clarification of cost increases for animal control services provided through the County.

Mayor/Chair Versaw invited public comments on this portion of the budget presentation. No public comments were received.

The Council/Agency congratulated the department for its achievements and expressed appreciation for presenting a conservative budget during a fiscally constrained year.

### **Public Works / Utilities**

Referencing a PowerPoint presentation, Public Works Superintendent Ford gave an overview of the division's proposed budget, achievements, goals, and work plan for the next fiscal year. He then responded to questions from the Council/Agency.

Discussion was held regarding:

- cost savings realized as a result of in-house employee skills;
- ongoing repair and rehabilitation of local streets (note - the Council/Agency at this

- point in the meeting requested a list of street projects accomplished over the past five to six year period, which they received during the meeting recess);
- the role of Public Works in the West Grand Avenue Storm Drain Project and the Meadow Creek Bridge Project;
  - the desalinization plant study;
  - mosquito abatement efforts and tick infestation in the area of Nacimiento Avenue and Fourth Street;
  - Oak Park Boulevard Street Widening Project, road conditions, deterioration, and anticipated additional costs for project completion; and
  - methods of estimating fuel costs.

Mayor/Chair Versaw invited public comments on this portion of the budget presentation.

Don Fielding, Grover Beach, requested and received information on specific account information contained in the budget document and spoke regarding funds allocated for street maintenance and construction.

### **Improvement Agency**

Interim Community Development Director/Interim Deputy Director Hansen introduced Staff Assistant Cassandra Mesa, who assisted him with the PowerPoint presentation of the proposed Improvement Agency budget. He gave a brief historical overview of the agency, location of the agency's two redevelopment areas, achievements, and goals for the next fiscal year. He then responded to questions from the Council/Agency.

Brief discussion was held regarding:

- the housing set-aside fund, requirements for using the monies once the fund reached a certain threshold level, and potential project sites already identified;
- clarification that staff would refocus the Agency's efforts to utilize various existing studies and economic marketing information rather than retain the services of a federal lobbyist; and
- various components of a proposed affordable housing acquisition program.

Mayor/Chair Versaw invited public comments on this portion of the budget presentation.

Jerry Rioux, Executive Director of San Luis Obispo County Housing Trust Fund, thanked the Council/Agency for its ongoing support of the Housing Trust Fund. He outlined the organization's plans to partner with the City of Grover Beach during the next fiscal year, specifically regarding financing to facilitate the development of affordable housing within Grover Beach.

Council/Agency discussion followed regarding the funding period and reporting requirements for affordable housing programs, and identifying potential projects. The Council/Agency then identified the following items as high priority items in the coming year: 1) repairs for the Meadow Creek Bridge Project, and 3) completed projects in Agency Area One. Additional discussion was held regarding design and funding for the Meadow Creek Bridge Project.

**Recess:** Upon consensus of the City Council / Improvement Agency, the meeting recessed at 8:40 p.m.

**Reconvene:** At 8:47 p.m., the meeting reconvened with all Council/Board Members present.

### **Capital Improvement Plan Projects and Special Activities**

City Manager/Executive Director Perrault gave an overview of the Capital Improvement Plan and the list that was attached to the staff report presented at the July 17, 2006 City Council/Agency meeting entitled, "FY 07 Major Capital Facility Projects". He differentiated between capital projects and capital programs, and emphasized the importance of dealing with capital facilities. He stated that the list identified capital facility projects recommended for consideration over the next fiscal year, which were not listed in order of priority. He also observed that one item had been inadvertently omitted from the list – the video and cleaning of wastewater lines.

Public Works Superintendent Ford and Administrative Services Director/Finance Officer Chapman gave an overview of Special Activities. Staff, along with City Engineer Garing, then responded to questions from the Council/Agency.

Discussion was held regarding:

- wastewater trunk system – contingency for lining the system;
- illegal trunk line connections – identifying areas that might have been damaged and requesting compensation for illegal connections;
- Water Conservation Program – clarification on removing the reference to consultant services;
- business tax certificates – scheduling a ballot measure for the November 2008 General Municipal Election, potential revenue enhancements if the City required business tax certificates for all rental properties, and reconsidering the request for consultant services for this program;
- workers' compensation "tail claims";
- West Grand Avenue Storm Drain Project – cost estimates, request for a status report on funding sources, and revising the project description in the budget document;
- Meadow Creek Bridge Project – a historical overview of the bridge, its current condition, budgeting funds for design costs in FY 07, estimated costs for project completion, request for a status report on funding sources, and revising the project description in the budget document;
- South County Family Education and Cultural Center (or Central Coast Exploration Station) – request for a status report on improvements required by the City to the former Fire Station on Ramona Avenue currently being used by the Exploration Station; and
- South County Transportation Hub at Ramona Garden Park – costs and funding for improvements planned for the.

Further discussion was held with staff and the City Engineer committing to provide cost estimates at the next budget meeting for the West Grand Avenue Storm Drain Project and the Meadow Creek Bridge Project in order to have funds allocated in the FY 07 Budget.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the City Council / Improvement Agency, Mayor/Chair Versaw adjourned the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

### **City Council:**

/s/ LARRY VERSAW, MAYOR

Attest: /s/ DONNA L. McMAHON, CITY CLERK

(Approved at CC Mtg 8/21/06)

### **Improvement Agency:**

/s/ LARRY VERSAW, CHAIR

Attest: /s/ DONNA L. McMAHON, AGENCY SECRETARY

(Approved at IA Mtg 10/02/06)