

MINUTES
JOINT CITY COUNCIL / IMPROVEMENT AGENCY MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009

CALL TO ORDER Mayor/Chair Shoals called the meeting to order at 9:28 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 154 South Eighth Street, Grover Beach, California.

ROLL CALL

Council/Agency: Council/Board Members Bright, Mires, Peterson, Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair Nicolls, and Mayor/Chair Shoals were present.

City/Agency Staff: City Manager/Executive Director Perrault, City Attorney/General Counsel Koczanowicz, City Clerk/Agency Secretary McMahon, Administrative Services Director/Finance Officer Chapman, Interim Community Development Director/Deputy Director Beck, Police Chief Copsey, and Economic Development Specialist Buckingham 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 BUSINESS

CC/IA-1. Authorization to Enter Into an Agreement with Digital West for the Completion of a Technology Master Plan.

Mayor/Chair Shoals read the title to the foregoing item and deferred to staff for a report. City Manager/Executive Director Perrault stated that two key tasks in the City's Economic Development Strategy were the assessment of current technology infrastructure and the development of a plan to improve technology access. He pointed out that improving broadband connectivity in the industrial and commercial areas of the community would assist the City in its redevelopment efforts. He then reviewed an unsolicited proposal submitted by Digital West of San Luis Obispo to complete a feasibility study and a Technology Master Plan, which would include preparation of a grant application for federal stimulus package funds. Funding for consultant services would be through the Improvement Agency and General Fund, since part of the Technology Master Plan would include areas located outside of the Improvement Agency Area. He then introduced Mr. Bob Fasulkey of Digital West, who responded to questions from the Council/Agency.

Brief discussion was held regarding how the assessment could identify integration of available technology resources, leverage technical solutions, and recommend public/private partnership opportunities. Mr. Fasulkey described revenue opportunities developed in other communities through technology infrastructure improvements.

Mayor/Chair Shoals invited comments from those in the audience who wished to be heard on this matter.

Tony Coles, President, Grover Beach Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of the proposal, but requested that the City consider competitive bids for the project.

There were no further public comments received.

Brief discussion was held regarding the potential benefits of the proposal, and the City's usual practice of soliciting and reviewing competitive bids/proposals. It was noted that significant technical expertise would be required for the City to develop a request for proposal, and that Digital West had recently given a presentation at the countywide Mayors meeting. Mayor Shoals acknowledged that he had spoken with Digital West some months ago and subsequent meetings had been held with staff. Additional discussion was held regarding whether there was an urgent need to act on the proposal in order to meet the grant application deadline for federal stimulus funds.

Council Member Bright spoke in support of the concept of developing a Master Technology Plan, but objected to considering the proposal without first soliciting proposals from other firms. She also noted the absence of any reference to a pending deadline mentioned in the proposal which would require immediate action by the Council/Agency.

Action: It was m/s by Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair Nicolls and Council/Board Member Mires to authorize the City to enter into an agreement with Digital West to develop a Technology Master Plan. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council/Board Members Mires, Peterson, Mayor Pro Tem Nicolls, and Mayor Shoals.

NOES: Council/Board Member Bright.

ABSENT: Council/Board Members - None.

ABSTAIN: Council/Board Members - None.

CC/IA-2. Review of FY 09 - FY 10 Goals & Work Program.

Mayor/Chair Shoals read the title to the foregoing item and deferred to staff for a report. City Manager/Executive Director Perrault stated that in adopting a two-year budget, the Council/Agency had approved a list of specific Goals and a Work Program necessary to implement those Goals over the two-year fiscal period. He then outlined proposed refinements to the Work Program in the areas of Economic Development, Public Safety, Planning/Land Use, and Policy/Administration that would assist staff with preparing proposed revisions.

Mayor/Chair Shoals invited comments from those in the audience who wished to be heard on this matter. No public comments were received.

Brief discussion was held regarding proposed refinements to the Work Program, the benefits of having updated information regarding the status of each task and targeted completion dates, and adding a reference to developing a Technology Feasibility Master Plan under the category of Economic Development.

Action: Upon unanimous consensus, staff was directed to incorporate the proposed refinements into the Work Program.

11:00 p.m. Rule: At 10:45 p.m., it was m/s by Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair Nicolls and Council/Board Member Peterson to continue the meeting past 11:00 p.m. The motion carried on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council/Board Members Bright, Mires, Peterson, Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair Nicolls, and Mayor/Chair Shoals.

NOES: Council/Board Members - None.

ABSENT: Council/Board Members - None.

ABSTAIN: Council/Board Members - None.

Recess: Upon consensus of the City Council/Agency Board, the meeting recessed at 10:45 p.m. to reconvene the City Council meeting, which was also scheduled for this same evening.

Reconvene: At 10:54 p.m., the meeting reconvened with all Council/Board Members present.

CC/IA-3. Economic Development Strategy Update.

Mayor/Chair Shoals read the title to the foregoing item and deferred to staff for a report. For the information of those present, Economic Development Specialist Buckingham reviewed the Economic Development Strategy adopted by the Council/Agency in July 2008. He then presented a status report of activities conducted to date and highlighted the focus of future staff efforts. He and City Manager/Executive Director Perrault then responded to questions from the Council/Agency.

Mayor/Chair Shoals invited comments from those in the audience who wished to be heard on this matter. No public comments were received.

Brief discussion was held regarding potential conflicts with developing a Wayfinding Program ahead of a Marketing and Branding Program, formation of an Economic Development Task Force, and installing landscaped medians in the downtown area prior to completion of a West Grand Avenue Specific Plan.

Upon request, Economic Development Specialist Buckingham confirmed that he would provide the Council/Agency with a recently completed land inventory of West Grand Avenue parcels which included a status report of commercial and residential projects since 2006.

Action: The report was received and filed.

CC/IA-4. Update on West Grand Avenue Streetscape Project.

Mayor/Chair Shoals read the title to the foregoing item and deferred to staff for a report. Economic Development Specialist Buckingham reviewed a proposed design for center medians, left-hand turn pockets, center median trees, and pedestrian bulb-outs on West Grand Avenue between Highway 1 and 4th Street. He stated that Council comments regarding the design would be forwarded to the traffic consultant, Omni-Means, and included in the final study. A public workshop would then be held to allow for community input, particularly from the businesses, property owners, and residents located within the project area, before a final decision was made. He also stated that construction drawings were being prepared for the grant-funded streetscape improvements, and that those improvements could feasibly coincide with the construction of medians and bulb-outs.

Brief discussion was held regarding the cost to maintain palm trees and possibly installing lighted crosswalks in certain areas instead of bulb-outs to increase pedestrian safety. Further discussion was held confirming the Council/Agency Board's desire to keep bicycle lanes, and to allow U-turn movements on West Grand Avenue at 2nd and 4th Streets, but not at 3rd Street.

Action: Upon consensus, staff was: 1) directed to forward the Council/Agency Board's comments on the median design and bulb-out locations to the consultant, Omni-Means, and 2) authorized to schedule a workshop to receive public comments on the design.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the City Council / Improvement Agency, Mayor/Chair Shoals adjourned the meeting at 11:42 p.m.

City Council:

/s/JOHN P. SHOALS, MAYOR

Attest:

/s/DONNA L. McMAHON, CITY CLERK
(Approved at CC/IA Mtg 9/8/09)

Improvement Agency:

/s/JOHN P. SHOALS, CHAIR

Attest:

/s/DONNA L. McMAHON, AGENCY SECRETARY
(Approved at CC/IA Mtg 9/8/09)