

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
PALOS VERDES ESTATES, CALIFORNIA**

June 9, 2009

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palos Verdes Estates was called to order this day at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall by Mayor Perkins.

**ROLL CALL: Councilmembers Bird, Rea, Goodhart, Mayor Pro Tem Humphrey,
Mayor Perkins**

ABSENT: None

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICANT INTERVIEW:

The Council recessed 6:03 p.m. to interview Planning Commission applicant David McGowan.

CLOSED SESSION: Council recessed to Closed Session at 6:20 p.m.

- **CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Agency Negotiators: Joe Hoefgen, Judy Smith, Alexa Davis, Scott Tiedemann

Employee Organizations: Public Service Employees Association and Palos Verdes Estates

Police Officers' Association

RECONVENE: Council reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

**ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Hoefgen, City Attorney Pannone, Assistant City
Manager Smith, Police Chief Dreiling, Public Works Director Rigg,
City Treasurer Sherwood, Administrative Analyst Davis,
Minutes Secretary Monson**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Goodhart recused himself from Item #2 Ordinance 09-692 amending Municipal Code Chapter 8.48 on Nuisances.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Humphrey, seconded by Councilmember Rea and unanimously approved that the following Consent Agenda items be approved. (Goodhart recused Item #2)

- MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 26, 2009
- ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 09-692; RESTATING AND AMENDING MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.48 ON NUISANCES

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Kathy Huben, [PVE Resident], stated that she had previously requested an item be placed on the Council's agenda in regards to the proper running of Palos Verdes Stables. She alleges that there are serious and valid concerns whether the facility is being run in accordance with the Concession Agreement. She had been told by Mr. Hoefgen that there are Liaisons assigned to each concession in the City. She requested a Stable Liaison meeting be scheduled within two weeks so the matter can be placed on the next Council Agenda. She feels strongly that something is wrong at the Stables.

Kaitlin Huben, [PVE Resident], stated that HGS Management said there would be no major changes to the way the barn was run. She said changes have been creeping in which are detrimental to the barn and the boarders are frustrated with their inability to do anything about it. Two of the long-term trainers are being forced to leave and relocate their businesses. The Western riding program has

disappeared entirely. The atmosphere has changed dramatically. The managers are refusing to add dirt to the arena and instead are purchasing video surveillance to monitor the arenas.

Callie Bell, [San Pedro Resident], said that PV Stables was never intended as a full-service training facility that it is rapidly becoming. Numerous boarders have been forced out or fear they may be. There are too many riders, lessons, and horses in the arenas to ride safely. She trusts the Council will do the right thing.

Gudrun Hehl, [Torrance Resident], has seen more than one change of management at the Stables over the last 17 years. Previous changes have resulted in betterment and reasonable accommodations benefitting the community and the City of PVE. HGS Management has put strong emphasis on their own business interests which has resulted in the removal of established Western and English riding instructors. She urged the Council to look into the situation and the practices of HGS Management to ensure the benefits to the community will not be given second priority behind HGS Management interests.

Daniella Guerra, [PVE Resident], supported the statements of the previous speakers. Her daughter used the program at the Stables that was discontinued and she was concerned for all the teenagers that now don't have this positive program to keep them busy.

Jeff Littrell, [Manhattan Beach Resident], said he had asked David McLewee several times to address grammatical errors in the boarders agreement and send him a new copy to sign. Mr. McLewee never sent the contract, but sent out new paperwork showing new fees at the Stables. He said the Concession Agreement requires group and private lessons for Western and English styles at all rider levels and he believes there is no Western program in place. He has had to move his daughter's horse to Burbank since Callie Bell moved to Portuguese Bend. He said that the Concession Agreement states that the management cannot utilize more than 15% of the available ring time to run the required programs. He believes that HGS Management is in violation of this part of the agreement. He thinks someone needs to keep an eye on the Stables.

Sanjo Bialosky, [RHE Resident], said that the Concession Agreement for the PV Stables states that the concessionaire may utilize no more than 15% of the available ring time. Ms. Bialosky feels that Erin Isom is using a larger percent of the ring time. She feels it is a conflict of interest to allow the concessionaire to also be a trainer. She would like more oversight of this (15%) restriction.

Celia Elmore, [San Pedro Resident], was stunned to hear Callie Bell and her program was being removed from PV Stables. She has been connected with PV Stables since her children were young and they are now in their 40's. Her learning disabled granddaughter has learned to care for horses, accept responsibility, gained self-confidence, and improved her processing of information which has made her successful enough to participate in a trail competition. She believes this is all a result of working with Callie Bell. It is difficult to understand how such a successful program can be eliminated.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

REQUEST TO APPEAL PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL OF NC-1334/GA-1438/M-708-08; NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY, GRADING AND MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATIONS FOR A NEW SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE LOCATED AT 1916 VIA CORONEL. LOT 1, BLOCK 3, TRACT 8045

Mayor Perkins asked if proper notice had been given. Assistant City Manager Smith responded that it had been.

Planning Director Allan Rigg reported that this project includes Neighborhood Compatibility, Grading, and Miscellaneous applications and the proposed total square floor area is 7,935 sq. ft. on a 27,443 sq. ft. lot. The maximum allowable on this lot is 9,983 sq. ft. The project was originally reviewed by the Planning Commission on December 16, 2008 where concerns were raised regarding the view impacts, privacy impacts, the height of the structure, and the overall size of the project. It was before the Planning Commission on April 21, 2009 where it was approved unanimously with several conditions including the second story ridge being reduced by 1.5 ft. The project approval is being appealed by Sanford Davidson on grounds that it would have a negative

impact on the character of the neighborhood and would not be compatible with the existing scale of the homes in the neighborhood. The project is exempt from CEQA.

Councilmember Bird said that in the information provided to Council, there was information that approximately 40 years ago a previous owner had brought in 700 cubic yards of soil to elevate the property level when the home was originally built. He asked if the City had any records to verify this information. Director Rigg said there were no records on grading at the property. Councilmember Bird asked if there were records as to when the home was built. Director Rigg said the City did not have this information, but the Homes Association may.

Mayor Perkins opened the Public Hearing.

Appellant Sanford Davidson, [PVE Resident], said the project violates PVE MC Section 183645.b in that it is not designed in a manner that would be reasonably compatible with the existing neighborhood character in terms of scale of development. He tried to meet with the owner prior to the Council meeting, but he received no response. Mr. Davidson quoted a few of the statements made by the Planning Commissioners regarding their concern with the mass and height of the project. Mr. Davidson feels that these issues were not adequately addressed by the Planning Commission. He said that over 90% of the homes within 300 ft. of the project are single story. He had a petition signed by 26 neighbors within the 300 ft. radius that oppose the project. He feels the project's mass is incompatible with the neighborhood, the floor area is over 200% of the average, the gross floor area is even larger, the height has only been lowered 18 inches, and the ceiling heights are excessive. The lot sits at the top of Via Coronel and rests on an artificially elevated knoll which will make the structure tower above the surrounding properties.

Project architect David Boyd, [Redondo Beach], said he feels strongly that the project is compatible with the neighborhood and the Planning Commission unanimously agreed with this. He said the single story houses across the street are on down-sloping lots. They reduced the size of the house by 15% in December and reduced the height by 18". It was reduced an additional 18" in height at the April meeting. The height of the lot is being reduced substantially with removal of dirt and grading.

Owner Sal Munoz, [PVE Resident], introduced his family and stated that he is a U.S. citizen and a contributing member of the Los Angeles community for 34 years. He feels they have done a good job with the project and have met all the standards. He asked that the Council support the project.

Wayne McNeill, [PVE Resident], said he is in favor of the project. He has reviewed the plans and said they are within the standards set by the City Building and Planning Departments. He read a letter signed by a neighbor of Mr. Munoz, Dr. Cut of 1925 Via Coronel, the letter stated that Dr. Cut and his wife are in favor of the project.

Elaine Irick, [PVE Resident], is troubled by the size of the proposed home. It does not fit into the neighborhood and will create the feeling of a very large mass looming over her home. Lowering the house would make a big difference. She asked that the project be denied as proposed.

John Gebhard, [RH Resident], said he was asked to read a letter from a neighbor of the project. The letter, written by Francis and Florence Wang of 1513 Via Arco, was in opposition to the project and asked the Council to protect them from the huge structure.

Connie Semos, [RPV Resident], said she was asked to read a letter from John Babich of 64 Coronel Plaza. The letter was in opposition to the project.

Edwin Caine, [RPV Resident], said he was asked to read a letter from Louis Neuner of 85 Coronel Plaza. The letter was in opposition to the mansionization of Palos Verdes Estates.

Randy Hulbert [PVE Resident], said he was asked to read a letter from Gloria Garcia of 1917 Via Coronel. The letter was in opposition to the project.

Richard Palmer, [RPV Resident], said he was asked to read a letter from Francis Isreal of 1601 Via Margarita. The letter was in opposition to the project and asked the Council to reduce the scale of the project or stop the project. The letter also asked the Council to be equitable and vote to rescind

and eliminate the height restrictions placed on the houses on Via Margarita, Via Arco, and Coronel Plaza if they do not vote to reduce the scale of the project home.

Roya Siouty, [PVE Resident], lives across the street from the project and she has no objection to the project. She believes improvement to the house is good for the neighborhood.

Eugene Carron, [PVE Resident], said that Via Coronel is a collection of neighborhoods not a single neighborhood. The neighborhood around Coronel Plaza has three characteristics that are important for neighborhood compatibility: 1) low profile, 2) natural contours, and 3) homes restricted to single story.

Joseph Sojka, [PVE Resident], said he was asked to speak by Jerry Wilson who is a strong advocate of the project. He has just completed the planning and building process for building his guest house and main house. He said that none of the neighbors opposing the project has built a project or completed a remodel recently saying that they do not appreciate the time, wisdom, and effort put forward to obtain Planning and Art Jury approval. Mr. Munoz is building a smaller home than is allowed by the City.

Richard Peters, [PVE Resident], asked that the Council overturn the Planning Commission decision saying the project negatively affects the neighborhood character. He presented PowerPoint slides showing maps, charts, and the silhouette of the project. He suggested the Council lower the grade/height to reduce the mass of the project.

Architect David Boyd said that Neighborhood Compatibility talks about houses and size on comparable lots – most homes on Via Arco are much smaller. The smaller homes around Coronel Plaza were developed with the idea that they would someday be surrounding a plaza. Comparing Via Coronel lots and Coronel Plaza lots would be comparing apples to oranges. Also, if they lower the grading there will be drainage problems. If the ceilings are lowered, it will change the character of the house.

Owner Sal Munoz said he and his wife have lived in the house for two years and have worked very hard to get here. His girls attend the local schools. Before purchasing this property, he checked with Planning and the Homes Association regarding the set-backs, the lot coverage, and the height limits. His plan has always been to build a two-story house and he was told that he would be able to do this.

Sanford Davidson said the proposed construction blatantly violates the Neighborhood Compatibility ordinance and affects people's lives. He said they have used photos, maps, drawings, and graphs to illustrate the fact that the project violates PVE MC Section 183645b. The opposing parties presented a petition signed by 26 neighbors that all live within 300 feet of the project. They believe the proposed floor area represents 244% of the neighborhood average and would loom over the neighborhood. They believe that 31 of the 36 homes within the 300 foot radius are less than half the size of the project. They believe that 85% of the surrounding homes are restricted to single story. Mr. Davidson read a portion of a letter from neighbor, Mr. Campion, which states that in 1968 the original property owners "brought in 700 cubic yards of soil to elevate their property level resulting in a view of the queen's necklace." He believes the Planning Commission lost sight of the goals and asked that the Council evaluate the project.

Mayor Perkins declared the Public Hearing closed.

Councilmember Rea said they heard conflicting testimony as to the nature and history of the one-story restrictions in the neighborhood and asked staff to address. Director Rigg said the one-story restriction is entirely a Homes Association deed restriction. Councilmember asked if the City had any records of the lot being artificially built-up. Director Rigg said that the City does not have original building plans for the home which would be the only way to determine previous grading on the lot.

Councilmember Goodhart asked if the roof ridge height figure has been reduced since the Planning Commission approved the project. Director Rigg said that some of the architect's exhibits showed the roof ridge reduced to 1035.34 which is the height approved by the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Rea felt that the question before the Council was whether the project, as conditioned by the Planning Commission, is reasonably compatible with the existing neighborhood character. Councilmember Rea feels that the project is large compared to the rest of the neighborhood, but the mixed nature of the neighborhood does require some further thought. The neighborhood compatibility analysis is not a mathematical formula, but is used as a tool to help to reach a decision as to whether a proposal is reasonably compatible with the neighborhood. This process judges the property and not the people. Neighborhood compatibility is not a vote of the neighborhood. Councilmember Rea believed there are several key points at issue. The proposal calls for a house of 7,935 sq. ft. which is more than 2,000 less than the maximum allowable. The gross square footage is 9,966, which is a lot, but less than the maximum. Determining neighborhood character is a challenge due to the layout of the neighborhood and the wide variety of lot sizes. The lot size is not unusual for a corner lot in the City. He interpreted the numbers to show the project is 208% of the size of the average house in the neighborhood, but this includes much smaller lots with a one-story restriction. He compared the project to eleven larger lots located in the neighborhood which showed the average house size for these lots is 4,218 sq. ft. which means the project would be at 172% the size of the average house on the larger lots in the neighborhood – which is a concern. He said that one of the proposals to reduce the house with an additional 4 ft. of grading would require roughly about 6,000 cubic yards of grading or 600 truckloads of dirt being exported – which is excessive. Councilmember Rea felt the height could be reduced even more over what the Planning Commission conditioned.

Mayor Pro Tem Humphrey said she used to live around the corner from the project home and is familiar with the property and the neighborhood. Mayor Pro Tem Humphrey visited the neighborhood and said from the Via Arco side the impact is significant. She believed the house could be lowered an additional 18” at the ridge line without any drainage problems or any significance lost towards the enjoyment of the house by the family.

Councilmember Goodhart thanked all the speakers and those that submitted materials – it was very helpful for his deliberations. Councilmember Goodhart felt it was his job to make sure the City process was followed correctly. He felt the issue was a clash of neighborhoods due to the differing size of the lots. The project as planned is within the City’s guidelines. The project home has the largest floor area ratio within the 300 ft. radius. The Planning Commission vote was 5-0 and they followed the process in place. The only finding that Councilmember Goodhart questioned was if the project was compatible with the existing neighborhood style and character. He believes the house is large for the size of the lot and he wanted to hear what the rest of the Council’s thoughts were.

Councilmember Bird also thanked everyone for the materials submitted which he felt were very helpful. He agrees with all the comments that were made – the project is compatible from the Via Coronel side, but from the Via Arco side it looms and stands out and is in violation of the ordinance in his mind. He agreed with Councilmember Rea’s analysis. When he was on the Planning Commission he looked at the project and at that time felt it should be sunk down more into the lot and have the plates heights reduced. He agreed to approve the project if it was lowered at least an additional 18”. He commended the owner and architect for building a beautiful home and said that if the home was one-story it could be bigger and not loom over the neighborhood.

Mayor Perkins thanked all the speakers for the great amount of detail provided. She visited the site and agreed with fellow council members that the impacts are greatest from the Via Arco side of the project. She quoted the Neighborhood Compatibility ordinance that they “must find that the proposed development is designed and developed in a manner which will be reasonably compatible with existing neighborhood character in terms of scale of development.” With the restrictions on Via Arco, there will never be any projects that balance out the size of this project. She liked the suggestion to lower the home although she struggled with overturning the Planning Commission decision. She asked the City Attorney if the Council could impose additional conditions or could they send the project back to the Planning Commission.

City Attorney Pannone said, based on the information before the Council, they have sufficient grounds to determine the project be lowered.

There was discussion on process at a Council meeting versus a Planning Commission meeting and how to word a modification to the conditions set at the Planning Commission meeting.

Councilmember Rea asked if the roof pitch could be reduced. Director Rigg said they architect would have to work with the Art Jury on that. He added that the architect has already lowered the project 18” and it is close to the low point for grading – within 6” to a 1’ – the remaining would have to come out of plate heights or roof pitch.

Councilmember Bird said he was persuaded by the information that there had been imported dirt when the original home was built which changes where the natural grade actually is. Councilmember Rea said that the Council does not know for certain if this is a fact – he would rather call for an additional foot of grading and adjust the plate height and roof pitch.

There was discussion on the total amount the Council would like to see the project lowered in addition to what the Planning Commission conditioned.

Councilmember Bird compared numbers where the silhouette flags stood. Director Rigg confirmed that they stood at 1036.84. Councilmember Bird suggested they go to 1032.84. Director Rigg said he was asked for his opinion on the ability to drain if the grading was lowered. He said positive drainage from the first floor is important. To take the finished floor much below 1007 he felt it would get difficult. He said six inches could be taken in grading and six inches off each plate height if they were not able to work with the roof pitch. If the Council wanted 2.5 feet, they would likely need to take one foot out of each plate height. This would give the project an 8.5” first floor and 9.5” second floor.

Councilmember Bird clarified that if they wanted to take an additional two feet over what the Planning Commission conditioned it would total 3.5 feet.

It was moved by Councilmember Bird, seconded by Councilmember Goodhart, and unanimously approved to deny the appeal and confirm the Planning Commission’s approval of NC-1334/GA-1438/M-708-08; Neighborhood Compatibility, Grading and Miscellaneous applications for a new single family residence located at 1916 Via Coronel with standard and the following modified additional conditions: 1) All nonstandard encroachments are to be removed, including, but not limited to the nonstandard walkways and boulders; 2) The portion of the curb and gutter in disrepair along Via Arco is to be replaced; 3) All structures within the setback adjacent to the right-of-way are not to exceed 42 inches in height; and 4) That the maximum ridge height shall not exceed 1033.34 feet.

RECESS: Mayor Perkins asked for a short recess at 9:20 PM.

RECONVENE: Council reconvened at 9:30 PM.

REQUEST TO APPEAL PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL OF NC-1350/GA-1449/M-705-09; NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY, GRADING AND MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATIONS FOR A NEW SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE LOCATED AT 2228 VIA GUADALANA. LOT 13, BLOCK 1632, TRACT 7330

Mayor Perkins asked if proper notice had been given. Assistant City Manager Smith replied that it had been.

Planning Director Allan Rigg reported that the project included Neighborhood Compatibility, Grading, and Miscellaneous applications for a new single family residence for a total proposed floor area is 4,565 sq. ft. on a 9,597 sq. ft. lot. The maximum allowed floor area is 4,629 sq. ft. Total grading proposed is 1,664 cubic yards. The maximum building height proposed is 16.5 ft., well within the maximum of 30 ft. The plan was originally reviewed by the Planning Commission on March 17, 2009 where concerns were raised regarding the chimneys, tower height, and the ridge height. It was again before the Planning Commission on April 21, 2009 and was approved 4-1 with conditions. One of the conditions set was that the maximum ridge height would be at an elevation of 856.25. The decision is being appealed by the property owner who purports that the house is designed with a low ridge height and the condition of the maximum ridge height will result in additional grading. The appellant is asking that the condition be removed from the Planning Commission approval.

Councilmember Goodhart asked if the project was approved by the Art Jury. Director Rigg said as of April 21st it had not been submitted for approval.

Mayor Perkins opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Ratan Lalchandani, appellant/owner of the property, said that he and his wife have lived in PVE for 25 years and purchased this property for its view. He has spent the last two years trying to design a house to satisfy the neighbors. The final Planning application was for a single story house with little increase in elevation and no chimneys. He presented PowerPoint slides showing the neighboring homes and the slope behind his home. Mr. Lalchandani felt his home was dwarfed by neighbors on both sides and they each have higher elevations than his proposed project.

Michael Vernick, [PVE Resident], said his home is to the rear, uphill, and ½ lots off-set from the project and he would like to preserve, as much as possible, his view. He is concerned with the view of the roof ridges and the turret on the project. He asked the Council to confirm the Planning Commission's decision.

Debbie Steffe, [PVE Resident], asked the Council to support the Planning Commission's decision.

Ronald Rosso, [PVE Resident], has lived in PVE for 46 years and feels he is most affected by the project. He has attended five City meetings to discuss the project. He said the view from Acalones is down slope and not out. He believes that Mr. Lalchandani is not comparing apples to apples in his appeal. He asked the Council to uphold the Planning Commission's decision to hold the ridge height to 856.25.

Mr. Lalchandani responded that he and his wife have gone out of their way to provide a view for the neighbors. They have dropped the height and reduced the size of the project which has decreased his view and increased the cost of grading. They would like a custom home – they now have a one story house with a towerlette that is 1.5 feet higher than the ridge for a chandelier. They are allowed to have a height of 30 feet and at 17.5 feet the project is less than 60% of the allowed height. He does not believe his house affects the neighbors view unless you come to the edge of the property and look down. The project follows the guidelines of the Municipal Code and making him drop the house an additional foot would violate the City's own Code.

Mayor Perkins closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Bird applauded the applicant for designing a beautiful home, but it has an impact on existing views for the neighbors. In reviewing the discussion by the Planning Commission, he felt the Planning Commission did strike a balance between the project and neighbors most affected. Councilmember Bird supported the Planning Commission's decision.

Councilmember Goodhart appreciated the amount of time, four or five meetings, that has been spent on this application to come to a decision. The height of the house is acceptable, but the ceiling plate heights are 10 feet on both floors which has not been considered by the applicant for reduction of height. He felt the Planning Commission considered all the alternatives and supported their decision.

Mayor Pro Tem Humphrey spent time at the project site and read through all the literature provided. She supported the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Rea said the house is a 'cutting edge' house – it is the first house without chimneys, which may become more common due to proposals to eliminate wood burning fireplaces. It is the first time he has heard the argument that, due to the Planning Commission's decision, the house is too small to be compatible with the neighborhood. He did not see a basis to disturb the Planning Commission's decision. He also believed the reduction in height could be taken out of the plate heights.

Mayor Perkins also did not see a basis to overturn the Planning Commission's decision. She visited the project site and was able to see the view impacts. She commended the effort given in trying to achieve a good result.

It was moved by Councilmember Bird, seconded by Councilmember Goodhart, and unanimously approved to deny the appeal and confirm the Planning Commission decision to approve NC-1350/GA-1449/M-705-09; Neighborhood Compatibility, Grading, and Miscellaneous applications for a new single family residence located at 2228 Via Guadalana as conditioned.

PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2009-10 BUDGET

Mayor Perkins asked if public notice had been given. Assistant City Manager Smith responded that it had been.

City Manager Hoefgen reported that the public hearing is an additional opportunity for public input following two budget workshops held earlier in the year. The situation at the State level has not improved over last year and there are signs of a tightening economy. This year's budget is balanced and maintains the City's 50% General Fund contingency. The City's budget may be negatively impacted by the actions of the State. The State is facing a deficit of more than \$24 billion without a budget in place. The State is looking at diverting property tax dollars which would be a \$530,000 impact on PVE. Additionally, the State may re-direct gas tax monies for another potential loss of \$300,000 to the City. Many other cities are looking at lay-offs and staff reductions – PVE is not in that situation yet. There were two minor revisions following the budget workshops: 1) accounting for the increased cost of street sweeping, and 2) a downward adjustment in the Fire and Paramedic contract costs. The budget will come back for official adoption at the next meeting.

Councilmember Goodhart commented that in the budget workshops there was discussion about the State taking the property tax money. He asked if there had been discussion that the gas tax would also be a possible reduction. City Manager Hoefgen responded that the City became aware of that possibility on the day of the last workshop. Councilmember Goodhart said that since the City had not anticipated the additional reduction in funds from the State, what other areas of State revenues the City should be considering that the State may reduce. City Manager Hoefgen said that the COPS money, \$100,000, is being discussed at the State level. He commented that the State budget is not complete and there may be other areas for reduction that the City is not aware of yet. Councilmember Goodhart said that everyone is surprised by the State's actions and he would like the staff to look at the worst case scenario in order for the Council to plan accordingly.

Mayor Perkins opened and then closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Pro Tem Humphrey reported that during a community meeting in support of Measure V, the parcel tax for the School District, Superintendent Walker Williams was asked why the four peninsula cities had not donated to the School District. Superintendent Williams pointed out that the cities support the district in many ways such as PV Transit.

Mayor Perkins reported that at the SBCCOG legislative meeting there was the same concern regarding what to expect and how to anticipate what is happening at the State level.

It was moved by Councilmember Rea, seconded by Councilmember Goodhart, and unanimously approved to approve the necessary adjustments to the FY 2009-10 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

PW-556-09; AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR FIRE SAFETY AND WEED ABATEMENT MAINTENANCE FOR FY 2009-10

Director Rigg reported that the Fire Safety and Weed Abatement services for City-owned property were contained as a small portion of the Parklands and Right-of-Way maintenance contract until

FY07-08. The City decided it would be more functional as a separate contract. The specifications for services are based on requirements contained in the L.A. County Fuel Modification Guidelines and L.A. County Fire Code which are extensive. The lowest bids were incomplete and the remaining bids were significantly high. All bids were rejected and the City went back out to bid. The low bid was for \$96,294.00 from Oakridge Landscape Inc. which was \$38,671 lower than the previous contract. This is mainly due to two factors: 1) the City mandated clearances in the previous contract which now only need maintaining, and 2) the state of the economy has created a competitive environment. Oakridge has completed contracts of similar size and scope throughout the State. All references conveyed a positive perspective regarding the firm.

Councilmember Goodhart, Mayor Perkins, and Mayor Pro Tem Humphrey discussed the contractor's understanding of the scope of the contract.

Director Rigg complimented Forester Carl Moritz for the excellent detail in the RFP.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Humphrey, seconded by Councilmember Rea, and unanimously approved to award a contract in the amount of \$96,294 to Oakridge Landscape, Inc. for the completion of the FY 2009-10 Fire Clearance and Weed Abatement Maintenance.

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager's Report

City Manager Hoefgen advised that the next Council meeting will include reports on the Disaster District Plan and the City's Carbon Footprint Analysis.

DEMANDS

It was moved by Councilmember Rea and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Humphrey that the demands, as approved by a majority of the City Council, totaling \$212,714.92 be allowed and it was unanimously approved.

It was moved by Councilmember Rea and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Humphrey that the demands, as approved by a majority of the City Council, No. 515435V, No. 515524H to 515525H, 515526 to 515579 totaling \$455,069.59 be allowed and it was unanimously approved.

MAYOR & CITY COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

Councilmember Bird reported he attended the newly elected City Council member training offered by the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority and found the program very informative.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before Council the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m. to Monday, June 15, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting City Commission and Committee member interviews.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

MICHÉLE D. MONSON, MINUTES SECRETARY

APPROVED:

ELLEN PERKINS, MAYOR