

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

March 10, 2009

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palos Verdes Estates was called to order this day at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall by Mayor Joseph C. Sherwood.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ABSENT: None

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

MAYOR'S REPORT – Matters of Community Interest

Mayor Sherwood congratulated Councilmember Jim Goodhart on his re-election to the City Council. He also congratulated George Bird on his election to the City Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Humphrey, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Perkin and unanimously approved that the following Consent Agenda items be approved:

- MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 24, 2009
- PW-533-08; AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$41,825 TO FLEMING ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE EVR II TANK UPGRADE PROJECT

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - none

NEW BUSINESS

R09-08; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (LA RICS) JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

Police Chief Dan Dreiling introduced Resolution R09-08 which would enter the City into a Joint Powers Agreement granting membership in LA RICS. Chief Dreiling said it is recognized that operable communication between various public safety agencies is the key to survival and recovery in a disaster. The lack of ability to effectively communicate among agencies during a disaster has an impact on the ability to perform properly. Prior to 2003, the PVE radio system operated on a low-band frequency due to better performance in a hilly environment. The City changed over to UHF in 2003 knowing that there would be “dead zones” in the City, but it gave the City the ability to communicate with all other South Bay cities. LA RICS is designed to provide seamless radio communications throughout the entire Los Angeles County. Los Angeles County is the largest county in the nation with 10 million residents, covering 493 square miles, 88 municipalities, and 81 separate public safety agencies with their own radio frequencies. The phase one cost for LA RICS has been in excess of \$100 million so far for feasibility studies and design and was to be paid with grant funds. It is estimated that it will cost, minimally, an additional \$600 million over the next five years. . There are Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant funds currently designated for this project. If the grant funds are not available in the future, municipalities will be asked to share the cost; however, the formula to allocate the costs among the participating jurisdictions has not been determined. If PVE agrees to join the JPA now, the City will have the ability to opt out in the future. Chief Dreiling believes there is no down side to joining the JPA. LA RICS will provide greater safety to the community, but the ultimate question is at what financial cost.

Councilmember Humphrey said the City has struggled with the communications system for a long time.

Mayor Pro Tem Perkins asked if the City has the ability to withdraw from the JPA without incurring any financial liability. As she read the agreement, the City would have to give its notice of withdrawal before adoption of the funding plan. City Attorney Pannone responded that there will be sufficient time for any agency to withdraw.

Councilmember Rea asked how the City would determine the “drop dead” date to withdraw. City Attorney Pannone said there has been constant communication between all the entities regarding the ground rules, performance evaluation, etc. He feels that cities will have plenty of time to make their decisions.

Chief Dreiling said the Police Chiefs meet monthly and discuss this issue. He said there is a 45 day window from the plan development to the date of adoption. He is confident the City will be notified in time.

Councilmember Rea noticed Article 6 of the JPA provides that after the plan has been funded certain types of members could withdraw with 90 days notice and others would need to give a one year notice. If PVE is a member after the funding date and then decide to withdraw, we would be financially exposed to fund the JPA. He said it will be important to focus on the deadline date in order for the City to be able to opt out.

City Manager Hoegen believes the funding plan will be in place in approximately one year. There are currently 48 agencies that have signed the JPA to date. There will be a 17 member Board of Directors to oversee the work of LA RICS with approximately one third representing the County, another one third will be City of Los Angeles representatives, and the remaining one third will be independent cities/municipalities, with one seat each for the Police Chiefs' Association, Fire Chiefs' Association, and the like.

Councilmember Rea asked if there is a downside to PVE signing the JPA at this time. City Manager Hoefgen did not believe there was a downside to signing up, just a downside to not signing up. If the City opts in at a later date, the JPA is talking about cities having to buy their way into the agreement. With the City and County of Los Angeles now signed onto the agreement, LA RICs will definitely be moving forward.

Councilmember Goodhart said the idea is terrific in the sense that the City must be aware of what LA County and LA City are doing. He is most interested in PVE being able to communicate with the Sheriff's Department, the City of Torrance, and the City of Redondo Beach. He said the LA RICS press release states that they anticipate a funding plan to be developed nine months after the Board of Directors is installed on April 2nd. He asked who will be representing the various entities on the Board. City Manager Hoefgen said it will be City Managers, staff, Police and Fire Chiefs, etc.

Councilmember Goodhart wondered how the system will work with everyone talking on the radio at the same time. Chief Dreiling explained that the system uses cloning. Cloning is the process of taking two separate radio frequencies and simulating both to create a third "clone" frequency that both parties are able to access and use.

Mayor Sherwood asked what the City will miss out on if they chose not to sign onto the JPA. Reserve Police Officer Lou Warnick, who is the police department's radio expert, responded that the LA RICS system will provide the City with more versatility than it has currently. The new system will allow PVE to communicate with the local agencies more directly.

Mayor Sherwood felt that most cities will tend to take care of themselves first during any major countywide incident. Chief Dreiling said the system is more beneficial for the fire department in a countywide scenario. If the disaster is just in PVE, the system will be very beneficial in supplying mutual aid. He said the City's new District Disaster Plan will be most beneficial in a countywide scenario as we will have to be self-sufficient for a time. He said the ability to clone our radio frequency and communicate with everyone in LA County is what LA RICS will bring to PVE.

Mayor Sherwood said he agrees that PVE will be on its own if there is a countywide incident. He is not opposed to being involved with LA RICS as long as the City can opt out if need be.

Councilmember Goodhart asked if the cost ends up being too expensive for PVE, would the City have the opportunity to purchase equipment that would be compatible and allow the City to have additional communication ability. Chief Dreiling said the South Bay Regional Communication Authority located in Hawthorne already has this ability. By joining LA RICS, PVE would have the additional ability to communicate with the CHP, FBI, and other federal agencies.

There was a brief discussion of the use of the Ham radio repeater located on Catalina Island. It was clarified that Ham radio frequencies and public safety frequencies are two different systems.

Councilmember Goodhart moved, it was seconded by Councilmember Rea, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution R09-08; approving the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA RICS) Joint Powers Agreement.

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager's Report

City Manager Hoefgen announced that a Budget Workshop is scheduled for March 30th in the Council Chambers at 8:30am.

City Manager Hoefgen reported that a significant amount of roadwork is being completed over the next two weeks on PV Drive North, Via Campesina, and Via Valmonte. Residents have been notified.

City Manager Hoefgen updated the Council and residents on prior Council action to approve changes in some speed limits. The new speed limit signs will be placed next week and will now be enforceable on PV Boulevard at the entryway, on PV Drive West at Paseo Lunado to the south City limits, and Paseo del Mar from Via Arroyo to PV Drive West.

DEMANDS

It was moved by Councilmember Rea and seconded by Councilmember Goodhart that the demands, as approved by a majority of the City Council, totaling \$218,991.46 be allowed and it was unanimously approved.

It was moved by Councilmember Rea and seconded by Councilmember Goodhart that the demands, as approved by a majority of the City Council, No. 514216V, 515007H to 515009H, 515010H to 515011H, 515022 to 515101 totaling \$184,577.49 be allowed and it was unanimously approved.

MAYOR & CITY COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Perkins reported the final numbers from the SBEC Lamp Exchange. There were 2,436 customers and 8,873 lamps exchanged; which will provide a savings of 732,929 kilowatt hours.

Mayor Pro Tem Perkins asked residents to participate in Earth Hour on March 28th at 8:30pm. Around the world people are being asked to turn out lights for one hour to make a statement concerning climate change.

Mayor Pro Tem Perkins also reported the Legislative Analysts' office analysis of the State budget and propositions has been published and the League of California Cities has not taken any positions yet on

any measures. She provided copies of written materials to the City Manager which would be available for Council review.

Councilmember Humphrey said the Palos Verdes Unified School District had voted to go for a parcel tax of \$165 per parcel. They had planned to consolidate the election with LA County in June, but their share of the cost of the election was too high at approximately \$600,000. A special board meeting has been called for March 11th to reconsider placing the parcel tax measure on the ballot.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before Council the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. to Tuesday, March 18th, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

MICHÉLE D. MONSON, MINUTES SECRETARY

APPROVED:

JOSEPH C. SHERWOOD, JR., MAYOR