

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

**March 25, 2008**

**A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Palos Verdes Estates was called to order this day at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall by Mayor James F. Goodhart.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**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**

**OPENING REMARKS FROM MAYOR GOODHART**

Mayor Goodhart remarked that the City is now 68 years old and quickly approaching 70 years. He wondered how Mr. Roessler would view the success of the City and the progress made by the City. The current City Council has a strong sense of purpose in sustaining financial responsibility to the residents. The recent Budget meeting was proof positive the City is in very good shape despite the current dilemmas of the State. Proposition 1A has helped to protect cities from the State taking monies. The City Council is also quietly maintaining the environment of the City due to the efforts of the Staff, the Planning Director, the Parklands Committee, the Traffic Committee, and the Planning Commission. A green environment is put into practice at all levels in the City. Public safety is a high priority demonstrated in the installation of a lighted crosswalk in Lunada Bay and the implementation of a Residential Permit Parking Zone around PV High School. These efforts will make walking to school safer and easier for the students. The Planning Director and Chief of Police have done a good job of maintaining public safety around the high school. Mayor Goodhart believes the City Staff have superior skills and tenure in the City. The former City Manager Jim Hendrickson was with the City 17 years, the former City Attorney Stephanie Scher was here 14 years, Assistant City Manager Judy Smith has been here for 12 years, Police Chief Dreiling has been here almost his entire career and Public Works/Planning Director Allan Rigg for many years. This is notable and symptomatic of the environment the City has for the employees which is a benefit to the residents. The residents have a dedication to beautify the City. The Lunada Bay Park and the upcoming Lunada Bay Fountain refurbishment demonstrate this. Palos Verdes Beautiful complements the work of the Planning Commission and the Parklands Committee to beautify the City. The people who volunteer for our commissions and committees have a dedication to the City. An example of our resident's dedication is Lunada Bay resident Jerry Gilman who spent time and energy raising funds to support the Par-course near Palos Verdes Intermediate School.

Mayor Goodhart summarized what he feels the Council has accomplished this year. The City had two new Council members, Ellen Perkins and John Rea, who have demonstrated their commitment to the City. Councilmember Perkins has been actively involved in the legislative activities of the League of California Cities among her other duties. Councilmember Rea prepared an update to the Neighborhood Compatibility guidelines which makes them easier to read and understand. City Manager Jim Hendrickson retired in June. Mr. Hendrickson was with PVE for over 17 years and he did an excellent job - credit is due him, in large part, for where the City is today. The search for an able and qualified city manager was undertaken and we are fortunate to have selected Joseph Hoefgen. Mr. Hoefgen has fulfilled our high expectations. The City celebrated the retirement of City Attorney Stephanie Scher and we were fortunate to have selected Joseph Pannone to replace her. Former Mayor Barbara Culver was honored for the City by the League of Women Voters as a distinguished citizen volunteer. Public Works Director Allan Rigg wrote a paper on sewer laterals that the L.A. County Department of Public Works asked the City if they could use Mr. Rigg's work

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as an example for other cities to follow. Alexa Davis, Allan Rigg and Stacey Kinsella worked with our neighboring cities to conduct a green building seminar that was held in the PVE City Hall. The plans for the Lunada Bay Fountain restoration were presented to the Parklands Committee and the City Council by the Lunada Bay Homeowners' Association. Ruth Gralow is also involved in the fountain fundraising activities. The City met with the School District to work out plans for re-striping the PV High School parking lot to help mitigate some of the parking and traffic issues in the neighborhood surrounding the school. City Manager Hoefgen has been attending meetings with other South Bay cities regarding the noise caused by banner towing aircraft along our coastline. The Bluff Cove landslide area has been evaluated and the Council signed contracts for borings to obtain additional information on the movement of the landslide in order to make plans for stabilizing the roadway. Former Mayor Ed Ritscher and his wife Carol and former Mayor Ruth Gralow and her husband Richard celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries and were recognized by the Council. The Police Department won a trophy for the best vintage car in the Rolling Hills Holiday Parade. Mayor Goodhart thanked Executive Assistant Michèle Monson for making sure he did not miss any events or meetings, Deputy City Clerk Vickie Kroneberger for compiling the Council Agendas, Receptionists Sue Huizdos and Amy Bergant for being so gracious on the phone and at the front counter, City Clerk/Assistant City Manager Judy Smith and her staff for their expert financial reporting, Public Works Director Allan Rigg and Chief Dan Dreiling are also really good at what they do – they always have the right answers to the Council's questions. Mayor Goodhart also recognized the wives and husbands who put up with having a City Councilmember as a spouse. He recognized his wife Ann and son Jeffrey and presented Ann with a bouquet of flowers. He said it has been an interesting and enjoyable year and he is proud to have been the Mayor.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sherwood said that Mayor Goodhart was previously a member of the School Board and served as President for one year. Goodhart also served with Sherwood on the Planning Commission and now as City Council members. Mayor Pro-Tem Sherwood described Mayor Goodhart as a person of community spirit, bright, with high integrity, and no personal agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Sherwood said it has been a pleasure to serve as Goodhart's Mayor Pro-Tem and that he has done an outstanding job as Mayor while also holding down a full-time job. Mayor Pro-Tem Sherwood presented Mayor Goodhart with a gavel plaque in recognition of his service to the City. A gift certificate to a bike shop was also presented from the Council.

Councilmember Ellen Perkins congratulated Mayor Goodhart on a year that saw a number of outstanding accomplishments. Councilmember Perkins worked with Mayor Goodhart on the School Board for four years and said the name Goodhart is definitely the right name because he does have a good heart. She admired his leadership during the discussions of the RPZ surrounding PVHS. Councilmember Perkins said this year was a time of transition not only with a new City Manager, but also with two new City Council members. She thanked the Mayor for his mentoring on the City protocols, policies, and culture and his encouragement during her first year as a Council member and she looks forward to continuing to serve with him in this coming year.

Councilmember John Rea said the City is fortunate to have Jim Goodhart as Mayor. The Mayor's job entails a lot of extra work which Mayor Goodhart fulfilled while holding down a full-time job. Councilmember Rea said this was a significant year in the City's history with the long-time City Manager retiring, the long-time City Attorney retiring, and also having two new Council members. Mayor Goodhart presided over the process of interviewing and hiring new City Manger Joe Hoefgen and new City Attorney Joe Pannone. Councilmember Rea said it has been an extremely smooth transition and Mayor Goodhart has set the gold standard for how the job of Mayor should be done and it has been his privilege to work with him.

Councilmember Rosemary Humphrey said that she and Mayor Goodhart go way back since they were neighbors in Valmonte when they carpooled their kids to elementary school. She said she did not want to be redundant with comments from the other Council members. She said the City had some long and contentious meetings this year and Mayor Goodhart always had his homework done and conducted the meetings fairly and considerately for everyone which she greatly appreciated. She agreed that it has been a year of transition with a new City Manager and City Attorney, but also with the retirement of two Council members and two new Council member come on to the Council all while contending with some heavy-duty issues. She said Mayor Goodhart has developed an agenda and run the meetings with great expertise and now has the experience of Mayor to help him continue as a Council member. Kudos to Mayor Goodhart, wonderful job.

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City Clerk Judy Smith proclaimed the nominations for Mayor were now in order.

Councilmember Humphrey nominated Mayor Pro-Tem Joseph Sherwood as Mayor and it was seconded by Councilmember Rea. The nomination was unanimously approved.

Mayor Sherwood said nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem were in order and asked Councilmember Humphrey if she had something to say.

Councilmember Humphrey explained that she has voluntarily removed herself from the rotation for Mayor as her daughter is going to be a senior in high school next year and Councilmember Humphrey is also going to be President of National Charity League. She explained there is a rotation system in place to elect the Mayor for the upcoming year. She knows how much work it is to be Mayor and she wanted to step out to put her family first and she will come back into the rotation to serve as Mayor at a later time.

Mayor Sherwood thanked Councilmember Humphrey and felt it was important for her to explain her situation. Mayor Sherwood nominated Councilmember Ellen Perkins for the position of Mayor Pro-Tem and it was seconded by Councilmember Goodhart. The nomination was unanimously approved.

Mayor Sherwood said that Jim Goodhart had already mentioned many of the important things that have taken place this past year so he would not repeat them. He thanked the members of the Council for their vote of confidence and assured them it will be an interesting year as there are several big issues to work on. Mayor Sherwood introduced his wife Phyllis Sherwood and explained their sons could not attend the meeting since they were both out of the country visiting their own sons. He thanked the new City Manager Joe Hoefgen for picking up on the job so quickly. Mayor Sherwood introduced several former Mayors: Dwight Abbott, Ruth Gralow, Fred Mackenbach, John Flood, and Barbara Culver. He introduced members of the Planning Commission: Dale Hoffman, George Bird, and Jim VanDever. He introduced Parkland Committee member Charlie Peterson. He also introduced Traffic Safety Committee members: Blake Lamar, Bob Kennedy, and Mike Freidman. He thanked them all for all the hours they have volunteered to be on these committees and commissions and hoped that some would become interested in running for City Council in the future. Mayor Sherwood also introduced PVP News reporter Rebecca Villaneda and said she reports the news honestly and fairly and the City appreciates her work.

Mayor Sherwood said his main goal is to maintain the quality of life in the City – to keep things as they are and get better where they can. He knows that the State is currently going through difficult financial times and the State has a right under Proposition 1A to borrow money from the City, but they do have to give it back within three years with interest. He assured the residents that the City has a strong balance sheet as the Council is a very prudent, conservative group. The City currently has a 50% reserve of the operating budget which is roughly \$5.5 to \$6 million in case the State does borrow money or for some unforeseen emergency not covered by insurance.

Mayor Sherwood had the pleasure of taking Conrado Gempeshaw, the new Dean of Business and Economics from the University of Delaware, his alma mater, on a tour of the City. It was nice to see the City through a visitors eyes and how impressed he was with our ocean views, canyon views, the parklands, the Golf Club, the library, the Beach Club, the Tennis Club, the Stables, and the pristine beaches. Dean Gempeshaw said he would like to live here. Mayor Sherwood has lived here for 38 years and each time someone comes to visit he remembers not to take the City for granted.

Mayor Sherwood said one of the things that make the City so wonderful is all the volunteer organizations – maybe 25 to 30 in addition to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the church organizations. There a lot of people giving their time and treasure to this City. Mayor Sherwood said that Palos Verdes Estates is the best place on earth to live in his opinion and he is very happy to live here. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and it is nice to see so many people in attendance.

City Manager Joe Hoefgen read letters sent by both of Mayor Sherwood's sons. Jay Sherwood wished his father the best in his second tour of duty as Mayor. He wrote that while PVE is blessed with natural beauty and an outstanding climate, the people are what make the community so special;  
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particularly people like his dad. Rusty Sherwood wrote a list of his dad's attributes: 1) you might not like what Joe Sherwood has to say, but you will never wonder if what he is saying is what he is meaning, 2) patience is not his Dad's greatest strength, but you can always expect an open and honest ear, 3) if you shoot straight, if you are honest, if truth is the basis of your words, if you care, if you believe that freedom is not free, you will have his Dad's rapt attention. Rusty Sherwood wrote that Palos Verdes Estates is one of God's true treasures on this green planet of ours; do anything to permanently soil its pristine landscape and expect a most convicted variety of disapproval from his dad. He said that his dad believes that the key to any successful organization is a group of individuals who come together for a common cause, who become a team focused on leaving things far better than when they entered on to the scene. Appreciate Joe Sherwood and all those who have come before him and all those who will follow – those who serve with honor because they believe it is an honor to serve.

## CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Humphrey, seconded by Councilmember Goodhart, and unanimously approved that the following Consent Agenda items be approved:

- MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2008
- CITY TREASURER'S REPORT – FEBRUARY, 2008
- MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – FEBRUARY, 2008
- SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION FOR PALOS VERDES ART CENTER'S "HOMES TOUR EXTRAORDINAIRE" ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 18-19, 2008, FROM 10:00AM TO 4:00PM.
- SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION BY LUNADA BAY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TO HOLD THEIR ANNUAL MEETING AND FAMILY PICNIC ON SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2008, FROM 4:00PM TO 6:00PM AT LUNADA BAY PARK
- PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIONS OF MARCH 18, 2008

**ML-628-06:** Consideration of a Miscellaneous Application for non-standard encroachments located in the public right-of-way adjacent to the single family residence located at 1120 Palos Verdes Drive West. Lot 13, Tract 11620  
Applicant: Southern California Edison Company  
Approved with conditions

**NC-1316-08;** Consideration of a Neighborhood Compatibility Application for a new single family residence located at 2132 Chelsea Road. Lot 3, Block 2102, Tract 7331.  
Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Boyle  
Approved with conditions

**NC-1301/GA-1419-07;** Consideration of Neighborhood Compatibility and Grading Applications for a new single family residence located at 2228 Via Guadalana. Lot 13, Block 1632, Tract 7330.  
Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Ratan Lalchandani  
Denied

**NC-1321-08;** Consideration of a Neighborhood Compatibility Application for a new single family residence located at 204 Via Colorin. Lot 6, Block 6312, Tract 7143.  
Owner: 204 Via Colorin LLC  
Approved with conditions

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**NC-1279R/GA-1407R-08;** Consideration of revised Neighborhood Compatibility and Grading Applications for revisions to the previously approved new single family residence located at 412 Via Media. Lot 13, Block 1513, Tract 6886.

Owner: Walburga Meschuk

Approved with conditions

**M-661-08;** Consideration of a Miscellaneous Application for non-standard encroachments located in the public right-of-way adjacent to 2525 Via Campesina. Lot 1, Tract 31753.

Owner: Villa Forenza HOA

Approved with conditions

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - none**

**DEMANDS**

It was moved by Councilmember Rea and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Perkins that the demands, as approved by a majority of the City Council, totaling \$202,646.34 be allowed and it was unanimously approved.

It was moved by Councilmember Rea and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Perkins that the demands, as approved by a majority of the City Council, No.513032H to 513035H, 513045 to 513125 totaling \$486,084.11 be allowed and it was unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before Council the meeting was adjourned a 7:45 p.m. to Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall for the purpose of a regular meeting.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

/s/

MICHÉLE D. MONSON, MINUTES SECRETARY

APPROVED:

/s/

JOSEPH C. SHERWOOD, JR., MAYOR

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