

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

March 11, 2008

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 James F. Goodhart.

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 Captain Velez, Public Works Director Rigg, City Treasurer Ritscher, Administrative Analyst Davis, Minutes Secretary Monson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ACTION TO RESCIND AND RECONSIDER RECEIVE AND FILE ITEM 6D OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIONS FEBRUARY 19, 2008.

Councilmember Perkins announced her need to recuse herself from action on this item due to the applicant being related to her son.

Councilmember Rea announced his need to recuse himself from action on this item due to his residence being within 500 feet of the subject property.

Mayor Goodhart moved, Councilmember Humphrey seconded, and it was approved to rescind the Council's prior action to receive and file Item 6D of Planning Commission Actions of February 19, 2008. (3-0 Perkins and Rea recused)

Mayor Goodhart moved, Mayor Pro-Tem Sherwood seconded, and it was approved to receive and file Item 6D of Planning Commission Actions of February 19, 2008. (3-0 Perkins and Rea recused)

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2008

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- RESOLUTION R08-05; AUTHORIZING THE DESTRUCTION OF OBSOLETE RECORDS OF THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY CLERK
- PW-481-04; APPROVAL OF TWO-YEAR EXTENSION TO THE 2004/05 CITYWIDE TREE TRIMMING CONTRACT WITH TRAVERS TREE SERVICE
- GRANT OF EASEMENT TO SOUTH BAY SANITATION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR A NEW SEWER FORCE MAIN

OLD BUSINESS

REPORT ON RESULTS OF THE RESIDENT VOTE AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION R08-06 IMPLEMENTING A RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT ZONE PROGRAM NEAR THE PALOS VERDES HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

City Manager Hoefgen stated that the issue of traffic impacts surrounding Palos Verdes High School is not a new issue. The Staff, City Council, Traffic Safety Committee, and the community have spent a significant amount of time dealing with this issue over the last year. There has been a lot of interaction with the public. He thanked everyone for their work on this issue which is an important milestone for the City.

Public Works Director Rigg displayed three PowerPoint slides, 1) an exhibit from the original LSA report showing a variety of traffic measures put in place around PVHS, 2) an exhibit from Katz Okitsu showing the one-block RPZ, and 3) a list of the critical elements included in the program. Director Rigg shared that on January 26, 2008 the City Council approved the technical components of the RPZ as approved by the Traffic Safety Committee. The Council also approved the entire RPZ program including the balloting procedures, costs, and process for modifications. On January 31, 2008, Staff sent ballots to 154 residents within the proposed RPZ area. The deadline for returning ballots to City Hall was February 29, 2008. Staff made sure the ballots were well worded and were delivered expeditiously to the appropriate residents. Staff received no complaints and the process worked very well. The ballots were opened on March 3, 2008 by the City Clerk's office. Of the 154 ballots mailed, 137 were returned. Of the 137, 116 were in favor of the RPZ and 21 were against. The adopted policy requires that 50% of the residents return an affirmative vote in order for the RPZ to be approvable by the City Council. The finding was made that the 50% threshold would require 77 affirmative votes. The 116 affirmative votes received were just over 75% approval. In order to implement the program Council would need to adopt R08-06 which identifies the streets included in the initial one-block RPZ and also shows the tally of the resident votes for the program. Staff is ready to implement the RPZ on April 7, 2008 which is the day students will return from Spring Break. The RPZ would be publicized by the City and the School District prior to that date. There will likely be impacts in certain second block areas. However, since it is unknown which street segments will be impacted with the added parking, it will be necessary to perform additional monitoring to document, for comparison purposes, the parking patterns prior to implementation of the RPZ. Director Rigg reminded the Council that residents on three additional blocks have submitted petitions for their blocks to be

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included in the RPZ. Staff recommends deferring any additional implementations for a least one month after the initial RPZ has been in place. The process to add these three additional blocks remains as previously approved by the Council and involves, 1) submitting a petition, and 2) a confidential ballot mailing. The City is limited in its ability to restrict parking on Paseo del Mar due to the Coastal Commission regulations. Monitoring of Paseo del Mar for parking impacts will be undertaken and the Traffic Safety Committee will develop appropriate remedies if necessary after the RPZ is in place. Director Rigg understands that the students have developed habits for parking around the school and it will take some time to modify behavior. Staff hopes that after 30 days the zone area parking will have stabilized and at that time additional blocks can be evaluated for inclusion in the RPZ.

Councilmember Humphrey suggested that we ask the School District to send several email blasts to the students and parents which would include a map showing the blocks that will be included in the RPZ. She also clarified that the three blocks that had already submitted a petition to be included in the RPZ would not have to re-submit their petition.

Director Rigg said the Staff would anticipate mailing ballots on May 7th for the three additional blocks that have already submitted petitions to be included in the RPZ.

Resident John Redding, [resident], thanked the City Council for listening to the residents and implementing the RPZ. He was extremely pleased with the voter turnout.

Resident Sandy Durko, [resident], said he believes that the School District has made the parking issue a community problem and the problem will just be moved to Paseo del Mar. He believes that 16-17 year old kids will not give up driving their cars to school. He is hopeful that the City will implement something to prevent the problem being moved to Paseo del Mar.

Resident Cee Cooper, [resident], asked if the RPZ would be implemented during summertime. Director Rigg responded that the area north of the high school including Dalton will only be restricted on school days and south of the high school will be restricted year round. Ms. Cooper asked how service people working at her home would avoid receiving a ticket. Director Rigg responded that any vehicle displaying a current Palos Verdes Estates Business License and performing work at a residence would be exempt from receiving a citation.

Resident George Richards, [resident], thought it was important that the residents thank the City for implementing the RPZ. He stated that this has been quite a journey and for any program to be successful all parties need to be involved. He believes, in this case, the neighbors, the City Council, the Traffic Safety Committee, and the Police Department each analyzed and reviewed the program and then let the neighborhood vote their decision. This resulted in a fair finding for all concerned.

Resident Doug Scudamore, [resident], thanked the Staff and City Council for taking the action to implement the RPZ. He feels that the City should wait at least 30 days maybe even 6-7 weeks before adding any additional blocks to the RPZ. He already filed a petition and asked that no action be taken for his block until they see what happens after initial implementation. He suggests that the residents on Paseo del Mar work with those on the first and second block areas to continue to work with the School

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District to ask them to ‘step-up.’ He feels the District is looking seriously at the problem even though they have many other higher priorities.

Councilmember Humphrey stated that, with regards to the Paseo del Mar resident’s comments, the Council really did not want to implement an RPZ. Council would prefer all the cars be parked on campus. She hopes that the School District is looking at some of the available areas on campus for additional parking. The City has exhausted all options and the RPZ is a last resort.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sherwood agreed that everyone and every entity were involved in this decision. He said democracy takes longer than most people would like – going through all the steps and the process to get to the right decision. He said most people appreciate the time and effort everyone went through and he is happy with the decision. It will take time to see if the School District takes any action to increase the parking on campus to relieve the problem.

Councilmember Rea believes that everyone recognizes that the actions taken at this evening’s meeting will not solve the parking problem. The solution has always rested with the high school. Anyone who has been to the high school has seen the large, empty, unused basketball courts that can park at least 100 cars. The school would just need to unlock the gate to allow the students to park there and there would be no more parking problem on the residential streets. He has yet to hear an explanation from anyone as to why the school has not done this. The school also has the power to encourage and incentivize alternative methods of transportation to the campus such as carpooling and buses. The school could also cap enrollment. Councilmember Rea explained that the City Council can only deal with the effects of the parking problem and have chosen the RPZ. The Council is concerned that the RPZ will move cars from one block to another and this is why there is flexibility built into the process so changes and modifications can be made.

Councilmember Perkins agreed with what her fellow Council members said. The residents’ participation was a very important aspect of the process since an RPZ was not a solution that the Council wanted to resort to. The Council’s obligation is to serve the residents and an RPZ is the best solution to accomplish this. She is still concerned with Paseo del Mar and the impacts the RPZ may cause. Councilmember Perkins would like the City to monitor this area carefully and check into implementing time restricted parking if it becomes necessary. She feels that in addition to the basketball courts, if students are willing to walk two blocks, there is a lot of parking at the Little League field which is owned by the School District.

Mayor Goodhart said this issue started five or six years ago when Palos Verdes High School was re-opened. At that time, it was recognized that there were measured techniques that would be implemented that would mitigate parking issues, but those plans were not followed. The parking problems became intolerable for the local residents. The Mayor feels that this is an excellent example of how local government works. The School District has been slow in addressing and implementing the on-site parking options, possibly for good reason since they are currently undergoing a lot of stress. He feels the School District is now listening and he encourages the residents to continue to work with the School District. He agrees with the sentiments regarding Paseo del Mar, it is a lovely street and the City does not want to create problems there. The solution is to get the School District to open up parking on campus.

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Councilmember Humphrey said that the School District is facing \$4 million in budget cuts over the next few years. The City has offered to help finance the cost of converting the basketball courts to parking.

Councilmember Rea said the basketball courts were used for parking during the 1960's.

Councilmember Perkins said, looking at the aerial pictures, you can see how many cars could be accommodated on the basketball courts.

Councilmember Humphrey said she had heard that the school administration is trying to reserve that area to put in an additional athletic field.

Mayor Goodhart asked if there had been any feedback from the District regarding the resident's vote on the RPZ. Manager Hoefgen has had conversations with both the Principal and the Superintendent. He has spoken to the Superintendent regarding implementing the RPZ on April 7th and he was agreeable.

Mayor Goodhart explained that the Council would like to implement this program now since more students are licensed and driving later in the school year as opposed to in September.

Councilmember Humphrey thought that the percentage of students attending Peninsula versus Palos Verdes High School was even for the upcoming school year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sherwood said that according to the School Board President, Malcolm Sharp, that 60% of the incoming students chose to attend Peninsula versus 40% attending Palos Verdes High School in the Fall.

It was moved by Councilmember Humphrey, seconded by Councilmember Rea, and approved unanimously to adopt Resolution R08-06 implementing a Residential Parking Permit zone Program near the Palos Verdes High School Campus.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Hoefgen said the media report regarding the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the notice of violation sent to many cities, including Palos Verdes Estates, is something that Staff is responding to. PVE did not have a violation within city limits, the City is part of a large jurisdiction that was cited.

DEMANDS

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It was moved by Councilmember Humphrey and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sherwood that the demands, as approved by a majority of the City Council, totaling \$213,557.00 be allowed and it was unanimously approved.

It was moved by Councilmember Humphrey and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sherwood that the demands, as approved by a majority of the City Council, No.512944 to 512948, 512958 to 513031 totaling \$439,239.14 be allowed and it was unanimously approved.

MAYOR & CITY COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

Councilmember Humphrey attended, on March 7th, the retirement party for Janie Williamson, the manager of the Palos Verdes Beach and Athletic Club for the past 14 years. Mayor Pro-Tem Sherwood, City Manager Hoefgen, and Asst. City Manager Smith were also in attendance.

Councilmember Rea met with Assembly members Hector de le Torre and Betty Karnette while he was in Sacramento last week. They told him there will be enormous budget cuts and tax increases – referring to the California's financial crisis as 'the perfect storm.'

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - none

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before Council the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. to Monday, March 24th, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the Malaga Cove Library Community Room.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

MICHÉLE D. MONSON, MINUTES SECRETARY

APPROVED:

JAMES F. GOODHART, MAYOR

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