

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
CONVENED THIS 26TH DAY OF APRIL, 2009 7:00 P.M.
AMEDEE O. "DICK" RICHARDS, JR., COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND
MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM, 1424 MISSION STREET**

ROLL CALL

The special meeting of the City Council and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) was convened at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Mayor/CRA Chair Sifuentes. City Councilmembers/Agency Members present: Cacciotti, Putnam, and Ten; Mayor Pro tem/CRA Vice Chair Schneider; and Mayor/CRA Chair Sifuentes. Councilmembers/Agency Members absent: None. Other official present: City Attorney/Agency Counsel Adams. Prior to adjourning to Closed Session, Mayor Sifuentes invited members of the public to speak on both Closed Session and Open Session items.

PUBLIC COMMENT**Open Session Item: South Pasadena Unified School District's 7-11 Committee Report**

Odom Stamps, 318 Fairview Avenue, former Councilmember and Mayor, provided background on the previous Council's intentions related to the School District property on Mission Street. He said that since the City was losing commercial businesses on Fair Oaks with the closing of Rollin Street for the Middle School expansion, the Council believed it was fair for the School District to "replace" businesses by making the District property along Mission Street available for development. This was discussed by Councilmembers and School Board members at a number of meetings of the Ad Hoc City Council/School Board Committee, he said. It was envisioned, he said, that the Senior Center could move to the School Administration Building, freeing the Library for expansion.

Tom Houg, 1640 Spruce Street, former member of the Real Property Advisory "7-11" Committee, provided four reasons why the School District should sell the entire El Centro facility block: the value of the entire site is more than just part of the site; School District administrative functions fit badly in the existing buildings; a cohesive overall site plan for the block will be best achieved if the entire block is sold; and the point that not making the entire block available forecloses on the possibility that a developer might propose an innovative solution. He submitted his comments in

written form.

Gary Pia, 530 Martos Drive, Chair, Board of Directors, Chamber of Commerce, former member of the Real Property Advisory "7-11" Committee, said the outcome was sealed when the committee convened. It failed to look at what could be done to benefit the entire City in a holistic way, he said. The District offices are inadequate for its purpose and are not suited for modern use, he said. He recommended that the District surplus the property for development utilizing thoughtful, adaptive reuse. The property can be used to generate income, to beautify Mission Street, and to tie two sections of Mission Street together, he said. He urged working collaboratively with the District on developing the property.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Closed Session item: City
Manager interviews

Philip Guiral, Battalion Chief, South Pasadena Fire Department, 317 Mound Avenue, provided public comment about the Closed Session item, City Manager interviews. Chief Guiral made reference to a report provided to the City Council by the bargaining units and stated that the next City Manager should be respectful of the employees and accessible.

CLOSED SESSION

The City Council recessed into Closed Session at approximately 7:20 p.m. to conduct City Manager interviews, assisted by City Attorney Adams and Senior Management Analyst Tom Cody.

OPEN SESSION

Because a number of members of the public were in attendance for the Open Session item, the City Attorney announced that the Council would move from the Mayor's Conference Room to the Council Chambers in the same building. In response to a question from the City Attorney, the City Clerk said that three members of the public had submitted speaker cards on the item.

REPORT OUT FROM
CLOSED SESSION

At 9:25 p.m., when the Council reconvened in the Council Chambers for Open Session, City Attorney Adams reported that the meeting of the City Council and Community Redevelopment Agency convened at approximately 7:00 p.m. After taking public comment, he said, the City Council recessed into Closed Session to discuss the item, Public employee appointment, City Manager interviews, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1), and conducted City Manager interviews.

In addition, pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2), there was a motion made and seconded to add two items to the agenda.

By a unanimous vote, the Council found that a matter related to pending litigation came up after the posting of the agenda and that it required immediate action, he said. Two items were added to the Closed Session agenda: the first was the 710 freeway litigation and new litigation with the MTA concerning the CEQA compliance on Measure R.

In regard to City Manager interviews, interviews were conducted, he said, and there is nothing further to report.

In regard to the pending litigation matters, the Council met with legal counsel on pending and potential litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a), City of South Pasadena et al., v. Federal Highway Administration: CA Department of Transportation et al., [United States District Court CV 98-6996]—proposed 710 Freeway extension. They met with legal counsel on pending litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a) City of South Pasadena v. Metropolitan Transportation Authority Case No. BS 116620. In regard to both items, City Attorney Adams reported that the Council discussed the items and that they will be recessing back into Closed Session to discuss the items further.

**REVIEW, DISCUSSION
AND ACTION
RELATING TO THE
CITY'S
RECOMMENDATION
REGARDING THE
SOUTH PASADENA
UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT'S 7-11
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mayor Pro tem Schneider said that Open Session items should not be taken up on a Sunday evening. It is inappropriate, he said, and the item should be continued to the next regular meeting. Councilmember Cacciotti said he seconded the motion to add this item to the agenda of the 05-06-09 agenda, not to tonight's agenda. Councilmember Putnam also said there should be no public meetings on a Sunday evening.

City Attorney Adams noted several speaker cards have been submitted on this item.

Councilmember Ten said he requested that this item be agendaized tonight to provide direction to the School District Board. He said that due to the arrangement of meetings of the Council and the School Board, it has

been difficult to provide the Board with direction. The Board wanted “some indication of language last week” for its meeting on April 21. Since the Council did not have a meeting, and since the Council has not discussed the “7-11” Committee Report— with the exception of a “receive and file” report, he could not communicate Council direction to the Board in time for the Board meeting. Since the status of the School District property is important to the Board, it wanted direction as soon as possible. Any delays from the City affect the School District, he said. He wanted to present guidance and thoughts from the Council, but the issue was not discussed when last agendaized. If the Council postpones discussion until May 6th, any further discussion among School Board Members will have to wait until the next School Board meeting—which may not take place until June.

Councilmember Cacciotti asked if there was a time consideration on the District’s part. Councilmember Putnam and Mayor Pro tem Schneider did not object to taking up the issue; they objected to holding a meeting on a Sunday evening.

Mayor Sifuentes asked which Councilmembers were in favor of taking the issue off the agenda and postponing it to a future date. Councilmember Ten suggested that speakers be permitted to speak since three members of the School Board and the Superintendent of Schools were in the audience.

Mayor Sifuentes asked the audience to indicate if there was any urgency in addressing the issue tonight—by a show of hands. No hands were raised with the exception of some indication that Dr. Richard Sonner, a School Board member, wanted to address the question. When he began to speak from the audience, the City Attorney cautioned that if comments were to be made, they should be made at the microphone and the person identified for the record.

Mayor Sifuentes said that allowing a person to speak would open the conversation. The possibility of setting a special meeting was discussed. Councilmember Putnam noted that there is a question as to whether the “7-11” Committee Report has any linkage to the Rollin Street

vacation issue, which will be taken up May 6. The District wants to know if this is the case before the Council takes up the Rollin Street vacation, he said. It would, therefore, be good to have this heard prior to the May 6 meeting. Discussion took place about meeting prior to the May 6 meeting.

By roll call vote (4 ayes; 1 no, Councilmember Ten), the Council approved removing the issue relating to the City's recommendation regarding the South Pasadena Unified School District's "7-11" Committee Report from tonight's agenda and continuing it to another meeting.

(Schneider, Cacciotti)

Discussion took place about setting a special meeting vs. moving this to the regularly scheduled Council meeting of May 6. City Attorney Adams said it could be added to the May 6 agenda, but if schedules allow, an earlier special meeting could be arranged.

City Attorney Adams commented that at the time Rollin Street was approved, there was a thought that the City and District would work together to discuss reuse of the District property. He said that Councilmember Ten wants to bring closure to this, and the "7-11" Committee Report is a big step toward that. If the Council has any thoughts about the "7-11" Committee Report, it can give them to the School District prior to discussing Rollin Street.

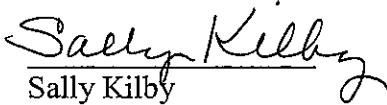
By consensus, the Council determined that the item would be added to the May 6 agenda, and that it would be heard prior to the Rollin Street agreement issue.


The Council recessed to Closed Session at 9:37 p.m., and returned to the Mayor's Conference Room.

**REPORT OUT FROM
CLOSED SESSION
ADJOURNMENT**

City Attorney Adams reported that the Council adjourned at 10:05 p.m. after discussing two items with legal counsel: pending and potential litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a), City of South Pasadena et al., v. Federal Highway Administration: CA Department of Transportation et al., [United States District Court CV 98-6996]—proposed 710 Freeway extension; and pending litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a) City of South Pasadena v.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority Case No. BS 116620. Discussion took place on both items and no action was taken, with nothing further to report, he said.


Sally Kilby
City Clerk
Secretary, CRA


David Sifuentes
Mayor
Chair, CRA