

"Approved by the City Council/Redevelopment Agency Board on June 28, 2006."

CITY COUNCIL/ AGENCY MINUTES
MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING

WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA
May 18, 2006

The City Council/Agency Board of the City of Westminster, California convened on May 18, 2006 at 6:08 p.m. in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Conference Room, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

6:00 P. M.

OPENING

PRESENT: RICE, FRY, MARSH, QUACH
ABSENT NONE

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: City Attorney

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Darrell Nolta, resident of Westminster, spoke about a lady that fell in the Civic Center area last evening, requesting details on the emergency response to assist her.

1. PRELIMINARY BUDGET STUDY SESSION FOR FISCAL YEARS 2006-07 AND FISCAL YEAR 2007-08 (Paul Espinoza)

Finance Director Paul Espinoza gave a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the City Manager's recommended budget for Fiscal Years 2005-06 and 2006-07. Questions and concerns arose regarding the following department budget items:

City Manager's Budget

Council Member Marsh asked why cable cameras need replacement as indicated in the City Manager's Office Budget Highlights. Lavada Cordasco, Video Production Coordinator, responded that the cameras, purchased in 1996, are outdated and cannot be replaced if broken. Ms. Cordasco said she could have the engineer provided a comparison on remote control cameras and their life expectancy. Council Member Marsh said that any inventory that deteriorates over time should be incorporated into budgetary assumptions.

The Interim City Manager said staff will get more information on the camera and provide it to Council.

Finance Budget

Council Member Marsh inquired about the additional person being requested in the budget. Information Systems Manager James McAuliffe responded that the request is for a Systems Administrator to replace a part-time position. He explained that a full time position is needed to provide the expertise needed to work on and maintain the servers and support the applications in the City. He

said that approximately 50% of Information Systems work is for the Police Department.

Discussion ensued relative to separate IS Management for the police department in the past, and how staff is attempting to bring the systems support together to share the resources and knowledge.

Council Member Marsh questioned the 11% increase to the department for this position. Acting Police Chief Waller said the Police Department will have the opportunity to share a person dedicated to work at the Police Department and City Hall, as the two systems are tied together and integrated. He explained the separation for security purposes, but that all systems work off the same network.

Mayor Rice stated she is surprised the Information Systems Department has been able to do their job with the staff they currently have.

Public Safety Budget

Council Member Marsh expressed concern with the training and meetings, budget increase that is 50% over the prior year. He noted that \$25,000 is explained by the supplemental request, but why is the training and meeting expense, not counting the supplemental, being increased by \$40,000.

Acting Police Chief Waller explained that during this fiscal year, the Council had approved a budget adjustment that reduced training funds by \$20,000. It was understood that this was a short term request, and therefore training was curbed during that period of time. In addition, the prior year's budget reflected that actual expenses ran higher than what was budgeted, so actual numbers are being brought into alignment.

Council Member Marsh asked why the uniform expense has increased from \$47,000 to \$81,000.

Acting Police Chief Waller noted that rolled into the increase is a supplemental request of \$22,000. The submitted request was for \$59,000; a \$14,000 increase over the previous year. He explained that it is being proposed over the next fiscal year to re-uniform the officers and civilian staff. The uniforms are currently wool and have been around for years. More durable, lighter weight (cooler) uniforms are being tested, anticipating a change out to provide personnel with a more comfortable uniform. He added that they will go through the competitive bid process, and that this will be a one-time expense.

Council Member Marsh asked why tasers are valuable.

Acting Police Chief Waller explained that when officers are dealing with combative individuals, this gives them a tool that is less lethal that can be used.

Council Member Marsh stated that he remains weary of tasers, but that he will defer to the Acting Police Chief's judgment, if he thinks it is going to be critically valuable. Council Member Marsh stated that he believes the push towards tasers in metropolitan departments is an attempt to move us to the English system, having our officers on the line, not carrying a traditional handgun. He said he is very much opposed to a reduction in the protection of the officers, and he views tasers as a lost leader for the attempt to get us to do away with side arms.

Council Member Quach expressed his support for tasers as an excellent add on tool for officers.

Acting Police Chief Waller stated that he appreciates and echoes Council's concerns for the safety of officers. Officers are trained to use tasers as an option, and not in lieu of a firearm.

Mayor Rice stated that some of the training budget is for the use of tasers.

Council Member Marsh questioned the expense of \$125,000 for a Technical Services Manager for fiscal year 2007-08.

Acting Police Chief Waller explained that the recommendation in the Thayer Report presented to Council when they were exercising the option of looking at going to Westcom for the dispatch center, was to provide the dispatch center with a managing position. They expanded upon the Thayer Report's recommendation so that this position would oversee the dispatch center and civilian call takers at the front counter. This position will also oversee, and help maintain and manage the computer information systems within the department, of which dispatch is the focal point.

Council Member Marsh noted that this position is the same range as a police officer. He asked the Acting Police Chief if he believes this position is more valuable than one additional police officer. Acting Police Chief Waller stated that this is the department's need at this time.

Council Member Quach stated he would like for bilingual officers and field training officers (FTO's) to get more pay. He said that currently bilingual officers and FTO officers are very low paid, and he does not want to lose any officers or affect the training of newly recruited officers from having non-qualified FTO's in the field.

Mayor Rice agreed with Council Member Quach that it should be considered, but noted that it is a negotiated item.

Council Member Marsh expressed concern about the reference to paying people more because they are bilingual, as he doesn't want us to open the problem that the school district had when they had a revolt of their teachers over this issue a few years back.

Community Services Budget

Council Member Marsh questioned senior transportation. The Director of Community Services explained this request has to do with requested changeover of some of the day-to-day operations of the Senior Center that have been taken over by the Senior Center Foundation in the past. The Senior Center Foundation has asked that this be switched back to a City function in the City budget, so that the Foundation could focus on their mission of fundraising to enhance the programs at the Senior Center.

Discussion ensued regarding this program and the collection of monies, and whether the Foundation was initially set up to collect monies and organizes senior trips, etc., with City employees running and promoting the trips and tours, accepting monies. Concerns were expressed with the role of City staff relative to the acceptance of monies.

Owen Eames, on behalf of Senior Center Foundation, spoke to this issue.

The City Attorney noted that this will be a policy discussion.

Council Member Marsh stated that this needs to be addressed in the future, and is not going to be incorporated into this budget.

Community Development Budget - Economic Development

Council Member Marsh asked why a proposed increase of \$12,000 is being requested for traffic counts. The Director of Public Works/City Engineer responded that many developers ask for traffic counts at various locations.

The Director of Community Development said he feels that this expense for traffic counts is reasonable, as it equally benefits engineering and economic development. He stated that developers want the latest traffic count information.

Council Member Marsh said he is not troubled by expense, but that he is concerned with where the funds should be allocated. He asked the Finance Director to include a notation when the budget comes before Council for

approval, with options for Public Works or Community Development, or split between the two departments.

Public Works Budget

Council Member Marsh expressed concern with entries in Contractual – Other of the Budget Detail Worksheet for Engineering Services, (Pages 253 and 255) of the City Manager Recommended Budget. The Finance Director said the \$70,000 in Contractual - Other for Engineering Services needs to be reduced to \$10,000. This was missed in the preparation of the budget. He clarified for Council Member Marsh that the 2006-07 and 2007-08 entries will be reduced from \$70,000 to \$10,000.

The Director of Public Works/City Engineer and staff members responded to questions raised by Council Member Marsh in regards to the Public Works Budget.

Council Member Marsh questioned the Park Maintenance Budget Detail Worksheet (Page 262), Contractual – Other relative to landscaping maintenance costs at the Vietnam War Memorial site in comparison with the costs for the Rose Center site.

Public Works Manager Jeff Howell explained that the mowing, edging and cleaning of the Sid Goldstein Freedom Park site are \$37.08 per week. He said the charge is per acre, and Sid Goldstein Freedom Park is about an acre in size. The Rose Center is proposing \$100 a week, as more work will be done.

Mayor Rice said she feels the maintenance cost for the Rose Center is too much. Mr. Howell said that other bids can be obtained, if so desired.

2. REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2006-07 FEES AND CHARGES

Mayor Rice said she feels the cost for agenda mailing service should be increased; it is currently \$35.00 per year. The City Clerk responded that most individuals go to the website where the agenda is posted.

3. MATTERS FROM COUNCIL/AGENCY MEMBERS - None

COUNCIL/AGENCY ADJOURNMENT: At 8:54 p.m.


Marian Contreras
City Clerk/Agency Secretary