

**MINUTES
WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL
WHITTIER REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
WHITTIER HOUSING AUTHORITY
WHITTIER PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY
WHITTIER UTILITY AUTHORITY
JOINT BUDGET STUDY SESSION
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 13230 PENN STREET
MAY 8, 2010**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Whittier City Council met in an adjourned regular session on May 8, 2010, in conjunction with the Whittier Housing Authority, Whittier Public Financing Authority, Whittier Redevelopment Agency, and the Whittier Utility Authority. Mayor Nordbak called the joint meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. in the Council Chamber of Whittier City Hall, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California.

2. ROLL CALL:

COUNCIL MEMBERS/HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS/ PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY DIRECTORS/AGENCY BOARD MEMBERS/UTILITY AUTHORITY DIRECTORS PRESENT:	Joe Vinatieri, Council Member/Agency Member/Authority Director Owen Newcomer, Council Member/Agency Member/Authority Director Bob Henderson, Council Member/Agency Member/Authority Director Cathy Warner, Mayor Pro Tem /Vice Chair J. Greg Nordbak, Mayor/Chair
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OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT:	Stephen W. Helvey, City Manager/ Executive Director Kimberly Hall Barlow, Assistant City Attorney/ Assistant Authority Counsel Kathryn A. Marshall, City Clerk-Treasurer/ Secretary-Treasurer
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3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

City Manager Steve Helvey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Dean Harako, 10864 Maybrook Avenue, Whittier Chamber of Commerce President, said as a resident he thanked the City Council for its service. He advised the Chamber of Commerce has reduced staffing and made itself more efficient and, despite a reduction in membership due to the economy, it has a balanced budget. He suggested the City consider them an avenue for outsourcing work and continue to provide the same fee for the services they provide to the City.

5.A FISCAL YEAR 2010-11 CITY, REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, HOUSING AUTHORITY, PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY, AND UTILITY AUTHORITY BUDGETS:

It was moved by Council Member Henderson seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Warner and carried unanimously to move up consideration of Item 8.A, Closed Session.

(See budget discussion page 3.)

8.A CITY COUNCIL CLOSED SESSION:

City Manager Helvey recommended the City Council conduct a Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 to discuss labor negotiations between him and the Whittier City Employees' Association, Whittier Police Officers' Association, and unrepresented employees.

Mayor Nordbak adjourned the meeting to Closed Session at 8:06 a.m.

Mayor Nordbak left the closed session at 8:54 a.m. due to conflict of interest.

The Closed Session was in recess from 9:05 a.m. until 9:11 a.m. at which time it reconvened with all Council Members present.

9. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:

Mayor Nordbak reconvened the meeting in Open Session at 9:55 a.m.

10. CLOSED SESSION REPORT:

None

5.A FISCAL YEAR 2010-11 CITY, REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, HOUSING AUTHORITY, PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY, AND UTILITY AUTHORITY BUDGETS CONTINUED:

(Continued from page 2.)

City Controller/Human Resources Director Hill said the City is facing a deficit of approximately 3.1 million dollars in Fiscal Year 2010-11; however, staff had presented a balanced budget for City Council review which includes elimination of 16 fulltime positions and various part time positions; an increase in franchise fees; revenue enhancements; and program reductions. He reviewed the reserve funds available to be a component of balancing the budget.

Council Members discussed the use of reserve funds to balance the budget but did not reach consensus on a specific level of reserves to apply to the anticipated FY10-11 deficit.

Mayor Nordbak noted he had recused himself from the Closed Session when there was discussion of the franchise fee issue because he has a conflict of interest.

The City Council reviewed the FY10-11 Operating Budget Reduction/Revenue Enhancement Worksheet and accepted staff's proposals with the following exceptions:

- consider restoring funding to keep the libraries open, dependent on the outcome of new financial analysis coming from the City Manager
- consider City facility marketing opportunities or sponsorships on an individual basis but not for revenue as low as \$2,000
- keep Penn Park pond funded
- consider the median mowing contract reduction in concert with analysis of replacing the grass with artificial turf
- keep the park restrooms open
- reduce funding for the Rio Hondo Symphony by 5%
- reduce youth sports affiliate groups funding by 5%
- increase the lap swim fee to match the YMCA lap swim fee
- determine whether to continue absorbing the attendant fees for Pony Baseball's use of York Field after receiving a report of whether the Pony Baseball membership has a majority of City residents
- authorize a five year agreement with the Whittier Community Theater based on them paying them the City 8% of the ticket sales price for the next two years and 9% thereafter
- leave in funding for the WYN School Year Program

- consider the proposal to contract out the Junior Theater Program pending additional information on the number of participants and whether they are Whittier residents

Mayor Nordbak declared a recess at 11:23 a.m. At 11:32 a.m. the meeting was reconvened with all Council Members present.

The City Council resumed review of the proposed budget and concurred staff should research the need for a third person to staff the vector truck when it is operating in an intersection.

City Manager Helvey summarized direction received during the Closed Session which included maintaining the Community Services Officer positions; implementing a shift change for police officers from 10 to 12 hours to eliminate shift overlap; eliminate the Uptown bike patrol with the City considering funding for the Uptown Association to contract for private security; keep the probation officer funded; and that none of the open positions will be cut, they will be left unfunded.

The City Council agreed on the following:

- Pursue increased water and refuse franchise fees
- approved Rio Hondo College's request for \$10,750 for the GO RIO Program to be funded from Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Funds
- extend the Local Economic Stimulus and Business Assistance Plan Program to June 30, 2011
- accepted Staff's plan to complete the Alley Resurfacing Program
- acknowledged that Sewer and Water Master Plan implementation will result in significant projects coming forward in the future
- approved technology projects being funded from AQMD Funds with staff bringing back specific projects for funding in the future.
- received the Historic Resource work plan update

City Manager Helvey left the meeting at 12:04 p.m. and returned at 12:07 p.m.

- review the level of funding for the Chamber of Commerce after receiving the new financial analysis
- supported asking contractors to take 5% cuts in their contract with the exception of the City Attorney
- acknowledged there is a need to begin planning for an update to the General Plan
- continued discussion of City Council sponsored events and out of state travel to the next budget meeting

During the discussions Council Member Henderson asked staff if there was a report showing the payback period for the Calsense program to reduce water use at parks; stating he would support expanding the program if it were supported by the cost effectiveness.

Mayor Nordbak requested the City Council consider funding one or two computers for the Senior Center.

6. COUNCIL/AGENCY/DIRECTOR COMMENTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS:

None

7. ADJOURN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, HOUSING AUTHORITY, PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY AND UTILITY AUTHORITY MEETINGS:

8.A CITY COUNCIL CLOSED SESSION:

9. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION:

10. CLOSED SESSION REPORT:

(See page 2 for Items 8 – 10.)

11. ADJOURN CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010 AT 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Nordbak adjourned the Joint Meeting at 12:15 p.m. and adjourned the City Council Meeting to Monday, May 10, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn A. Marshall
City Clerk-Treasurer/Secretary- Treasurer