

Fairfax Town Council Minutes
Special Workshop Meeting
Fairfax Women's Club
Wednesday, February 27, 2010

Call to Order/Roll Call:

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Bragman
Pam Hartwell-Herrero
John Reed
Lew Tremaine
David Weinsoff

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Rock, Town Manager
Jim Moore, Planning Director
Laurie Ireland-Ashley, Finance Director
Kathy Wilkie, Public Works Director
Judy Anderson, Town Clerk

Mayor Tremaine called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Open Time for Public Expression

Morgan Hall, Bolinas Road, Chair of the Chamber of Commerce, asked that the Town Council remember the Bolinas Road improvement project in their plans.

Town Manager Rock and Vice Mayor Bragman responded that there were plans in the works to conduct a charrette on the proposed project, hopefully in March.

Response to Grand Jury Report- Marin Clean Energy: Pull the Plug – Tremaine

Mayor Tremaine presented the report and requested approval of the draft response.

M/S, Bragman/Reed, Motion to approve of the response to the Grand Jury Report with the addition of language to the response to F1 of the report so that the revised sentence read, "The MEA is a new government agency, but is to be financed with existing ratepayer revenues that do not cost the member agencies or the MEA any general funds ***unless they have voluntarily provided loans or loan guarantees.***"

Town Treasurer's Report for the 4th Quarter of 2009 – Town Treasurer

Barbara Petty, Town Treasurer, presented the report, explained the use of the Local Area Investment Fund (LAIF) and led a discussion about the risks and rates of return on investments and agreed to provide the Council with investment options.

Mayor Tremaine opened the discussion to the public.

Keith Silva, Sequoia Ave., explained that Ginnie Mae investments didn't provide steady rates of return.

Ted Pugh, San Francisco, stated that he wasn't aware of the Town investments but that Ginnie Mae investments went up and down in value but were better than receiving a .275 % return.

Mid-Year Budget Review for Fiscal Year 2009/10 – Finance

Finance Director Ireland-Ashley presented the staff report. She noted that the Town had received 55% of the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) in January and that the \$446,325 was \$67,576 more than projected. She further stated that neither the \$100,000 to be received for the COPS grant nor the \$46,000 of Proposition 172 monies were included in the budget but would help offset other budget losses.

There was a consensus of the Council to retain the goal of securing one million dollars in the dry period fund.

Mayor Tremaine opened the discussion to the public.

Michael Mackintosh, Pastori Ave., stated that he would have liked to have the information being discussed in front of him and asked a question about the Transit Occupancy Tax revenue.

Mayor Tremaine explained that the planned Power Point presentation was not used due to technical failures and that the Occupancy Tax had been put in place by a vote of the people and could not be changed without another vote.

Dan Dawson, visiting City Manager, expressed concern that the public hadn't received the information that had been distributed to the Council at the meeting.

Ingrid Weiss, Chamber of Commerce, reiterated that the measures voted on in Fairfax are for funds to be used in Fairfax.

Various possible revenue enhancements were discussed.

Discussion/Consideration of the Town's Five-Year Financial Strategic Plan – *Town Manager*

Town Manager Rock presented the staff report and noted that the Strategic Plan hadn't been updated since 2006. He presented a document with suggested updates and changes included. He noted that there was a ratio of one staff person to 257 residents in Fairfax, a very high ratio. He led a discussion about parking as a possible revenue stream in Fairfax.

Councilmember Weinsoff suggested that another study be done of possible police consolidation because of the possible savings of \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year that could be realized and then that a measure be put to the citizens to decide on the matter.

Councilmember Hartwell-Herrero stated that she would like to see the information already provided about possible police consolidation and reported that she had met with the Fairfax Police Chief and believed that the Fairfax Police Department embodied the values of the town.

Mayor Tremaine suggested that staff pull together all the information on the possible police consolidation done so far with an analysis of the numbers provided; that the numbers didn't pencil out to provide substantial savings; that San Anselmo didn't want to partner with Fairfax; and that the issue should be discussed at a future meeting to allow the two new Council members to get up to speed on the issue.

Vice Mayor Bragman asked that staff reach out to Ross to offer dispatch services when the current contract expired; that the reimbursement for fire costs from the County was below what Fairfax residents paid for the service; asked if the County would pay the Town for police service in the unincorporated areas of Fairfax; asked if the Fire Service had a two-tiered retirement system; and suggested looking at parking to determine whether or not it would be a positive revenue source.

Councilmember Reed stated that any cuts should be across the board; noted that the Fairfax share of fire costs had gone up from 18 to 25%; that fire requirements were hindering the legalization of

second units; that the Management Analyst position had been successful in securing revenue for the Town; that funding was available from other sources and that such a position paid for itself; that a third siren was still needed in the West side of town; suggested adding cell antennae to the sirens to generate new revenue; noted that changing the zoning of the Fair-Anselm Center from Highway Commercial to Central Commercial would allow for more diversity in the type of businesses that could locate there; that adding classrooms under the Pavilion could create revenue; that parking meters should be explored and referred to a publication entitled, "The High Cost of Free Parking"; and stated that the Marin Town and Country Club was part of the community and that a public charrette should be considered to explore options for that property.

Mayor Tremaine adjourned the meeting for a break from 10:35 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.

Mayor Tremaine opened the discussion to the public.

Chris Lang, Canyon Rd., asked that the Council not continue to squeeze money out of the local businesses and residents and suggested that some of the web-based businesses be located at the old Albertson's and that the Town enforce the rules already in place to generate more revenue.

Ingrid Weiss, Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Council for looking at the economic issues; asked that they not forget about the beautification of Bolinas Road; and stated how important it was to get the local residents to shop in town.

Michael Mackintosh, Pastori Ave., cautioned the Town Council about the need for an Environmental Impact Report if too much was added to the Pavilion; that he was willing to participate in a public charrette about possible uses of Marin Town and Country Club; that he wasn't open to a Specific Plan for the property because of the future obligations that would be imposed on the property owner; that different times created different opportunities; that the Club was the largest untapped asset in the Ross Valley; that he would welcome a partnership with the town; and that some sort of retirement housing could keep the money in town.

Daniel Dawson, City Manager of Del Rey Oaks in Monterey County, spoke about some of the shared issues and stated that the Town should have a Redevelopment Agency. He suggested cost sharing with other cities, charging other cities for our FEMA expertise, having someone on staff to apply for grants, and re-examining the cost formula basis for the fire service. He stated that the Council needed "out of the box" thinking.

Ted Pugh, suggested a statement be included in the document as to why the State takes money from the Town and how it impacts the budget. He described a system of "default parking" where extended parking was paid for but not short term parking that encouraged people to turn over the existing parking more frequently but charged for long term parking.

There was a consensus of the Council to make some edits to the document and to direct staff to make the requested changes.

Discussion/Consideration of the Town's Strategic Plan and Goals – Town Manager

Town Manager Rock presented the staff report.

Public Works projects were discussed. Town Manager Rock noted that the potential Bolinas Road improvements were made more difficult because of the slope of the road and the presence of so many utilities beneath the existing sidewalks.

Public Works Director Wilkie led a discussion about the upcoming paving project on Sir Francis Drake to be done with Federal stimulus funding including crosswalks, striping, school crossings and overhead signals.

Planning and Building Services Director Moore described efforts to establish a standardized Climate Action Plan by a County-wide committee that he contributed to as a member. He also recommended that the Council finish the General Plan before adopting a Climate Action Plan.

Town Manager Rock noted that the Town was saving more than half on utility bills since the installation of solar panels on the Pavilion and that the Marin Energy Authority was developing incentives for solar.

In response to a question about the Association of Bay Area Governments' mandated affordable housing quotas, Planning and Building Services Director Moore described the efforts by the Affordable Housing Committee to create 108 units in a homegrown way and not the way recommended by the State's Housing and Community Development Department. He noted that the mandated numbers didn't have any real teeth in them but that local nonprofit agencies could successfully sue municipalities that didn't meet the requirements.

Mayor Tremaine opened the discussion to the public about the part of the plan that discussed the goal of making the town more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.

Chris Lang, Canyon Road, presented a list of items he stated that he was forwarding on behalf of citizens who had spoken to him during the last Council election campaign. The list included making the town more bike and pedestrian friendly by installing more crosswalks; using traffic calming measures and having a gateway at either end of the town; implementing a uniform speed limit on Sir Francis Drake of 30 m.p.h. with more enforcement; installing overhead flashing lights at crosswalks; making Lansdale into "Bicycle Boulevard" by removing the stop signs and installing speed bumps; repairing Bolinas Road sidewalks and installing the bulb-outs one-by-one to limit disruption; and installing a right turn yield to bicycles. He also asked for the justification for raising the Festival fees; stated that monthly events helped draw people to town; that the police department staffing on weekends and evenings seemed too high; that the channel beneath Town Hall should be deepened to help prevent flooding downtown; that more preparation for fire or flood should happen; that the parking requirements for downtown should be revisited to avoid the requirement that every new business seek a parking variance even when the location has never had parking; that the County Health Department requirements were overly strict for small businesses; and that the Town should purchase low emission vehicles.

There was a consensus of the Council to have staff update the document to the current date and to set a date for a meeting to continue the process in late March.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Anderson, Town Clerk

Fairfax Town Council Minutes
Regular Meeting
Fairfax Women's Club
Wednesday, March 3, 2010

The regular meeting was preceded by a special meeting closed session regarding pending litigation, Fairfax v. Berg.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Bragman
Pam Hartwell-Herrero
John Reed
Lew Tremaine
David Weinsoff

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Rock, Town Manager
Ken Hughes, Chief of Police
Jim Moore, Planning Director
Laurie Ireland-Ashley, Finance Director
Jim Karpiak, Town Attorney
Mark Lockaby, Building Official
Kathy Wilkie, Public Works Director
Judy Anderson, Town Clerk

Mayor Tremaine called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Approval of Agenda and Affidavit of Posting

M/S, Bragman/Weinsoff, Motion to approve the agenda and the Affidavit of Posting.

AYES: All

Announcement of Closed Session Action

Mayor Tremaine announced that the Council had met with legal counsel regarding Fairfax v. John and Marlia Berg, that direction had been given to staff and that no action had been taken.

Announcements

Mayor Tremaine announced the openings on the General Plan Advisory Committee, the Youth Commission, the Open Space Committee, the Affordable Housing Committee, the Volunteer Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission and also announced the annual Chamber Brewfest on March 13th, the Little League Parade and Opening Ceremonies also on March 13th and the PARC sponsored annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3rd.

Open Time for Public Expression

Frank Egger, Meadow Way, provided an overview of the history of the Berg property, the subject of the Closed Session; stated that the public had always had access to the subsequently named "Frank Egger Redwood Grove" open space property; that Berg had purchased the property adjacent to the Town limit and had blocked access to the Grove; that it was similar to the situation that the County of Marin faced with property owned by a member of the band Metallica regarding access; and urged the Council to keep the public access to the property.

Jory Prum, 25 Wreden, warned that effective March 14th, the bus schedule would change due to a

shortfall at Golden Gate Transit; that Fairfax bus service would not go past 8:30 p.m.; that it would affect employees who worked at restaurants and bars; that it would be a hardship for the Town because Fairfax was the only town with a nightlife; that currently the last bus ran at 11 or 11:30 p.m.; and asked that the Town Council take action to prevent the loss of service to Fairfax.

Keegan LaPorta, Fairfax, spoke against the June ballot measure to keep small energy agencies from forming in competition with PG&E; noted that the Common Sense Coalition of Marin was a front for PG&E and had been sending out expensive flyers in support of the measure; and asked that the Council consider adopting a resolution in opposition to the measure.

Mayor Tremaine responded that the Council had already passed such a resolution the previous year.

Carl Shapiro, attorney and 65-year resident, stated that he was not speaking on behalf of a client, but on behalf of the people of Fairfax and for an asset of the Town, the Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center; asked that the Council join with all the other people to save it from the Ross Valley School District; stated that the Center was a very valuable thing to have and a terrible thing to lose; urged the Town Council to initiate some kind of communication and to make every effort to keep the Center from being ousted; and to please participate in saving the Center as a Fairfax asset.

Robert Shoemaker, Deer Park neighborhood resident, corrected an error made at the previous meeting about water flow from Bolinas Road and indicated that he had been wrong stating that water to the neighborhood would have to come from Bolinas Road. He also asked who was in charge of deciding to put sidewalks in the area.

Rick Holland commended the Council for taking up issues regarding the Ross Valley Sanitary District; stated that misinformation had been put out by the District in their recent newsletter; that the Executive Director made \$197,000; that millions of dollars of taxpayers' money was being wasted; and that the Sanitary District had refused to collaborate with the other sewer agencies about consolidation.

Presentation on the traffic impact of the Sir Francis Drake Pipe Replacement Project in Ross and Traffic Impact – Marin Municipal Water District Kevin McDonald

Kevin McDonald, MMWD, described the expected impact of the proposed Sir Francis Drake Pipe replacement project on traffic SFD Pipe and the measures being taken to mitigate the problem.

Council Reports and Comments

Mayor Tremaine reported that he and Councilmembers Reed, Hartwell-Herrero and Weinssoff, all attended the recent Marin County Council of Mayors and Council Members dinner meeting at Town expense and had heard a very interesting report on a possible countywide ban of plastic bags and a possible fee to be charged for paper bags.

Mayor Tremaine reported that the Transportation Authority of Marin had decided to move forward to explore a ballot measure to approve a \$10/per vehicle fee to go to local roads that would raise about two million dollars for roads and transit projects in Marin.

Councilmember Weinssoff commented on Mr. Holland's open time remarks and reported that he had sent a letter to RVSD asking about their consolidation efforts, had received a long letter back about a possible town hall meeting on the subject and that Mayor Tremaine had sent a letter encouraging that result; that he and Councilmember Hartwell-Herrero were working on the homelessness issue; and that San Anselmo had reinvigorated their flood committee and had asked for other Council members to attend a meeting the following week in their Council chambers.

Vice Mayor Bragman reported on a meeting on the Affordable Housing Committee at the Lutheran Church by Cascade Canyon School with a couple of architects, one from the Town and one from the Church. He noted that creating a small community of elders and youth at the site was the desired outcome of the proposed project.

Councilmember Hartwell-Herrero stated that she had asked for more reporting from the Council on their activities and was pleased with the result. She reported that she had met with Vice Mayor Bragman about a skate park in Fairfax. As the representative for Fairfax on the Community Block Grant Committee, she described the projects that had been awarded to Fairfax; reported that \$170,000 worth of projects were applied for with only \$60,000 available; and stated that she was delighted to be serving on the committee.

Councilmember Reed noted that his report would be included with an item later on the agenda.

Update on the Ross Valley School District Plans for a new K-5 School at Deer Park Site

Town Manager Rock presented a staff report and stated that the School Board had met on Thursday night after his report was written and that the options had been reduced from eight to four.

Councilmember Reed reported on the Thursday meeting that he and Town Manager Rock had attended and the options put forward and discussed. He described some of the issues still to be addressed including: traffic issues; no teacher input; fifth graders on buses to White Hill; overcrowding at Manor with Fairfax children attending school in San Anselmo; the existence of an established community daycare center at the Deer Park site; and opposition from the neighbors due to safety issues in the Deer Park neighborhood including the location in a box canyon, liquefaction and slide potential. He questioned the ability of the School Board to pass a measure on the June ballot without time for the proper vetting of all the issues related to the options put forth by the School Board and without all the details worked out.

The following individuals spoke against the use of the Deer Park site for a new school for the District:

Heidi Tomsy, Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center (FSACC) Director; Erik Schweneger, Program Director at FSACC; Marie Brougham, San Anselmo resident, Board President of FSACC, Misty Moreno, Park Road, Joseph Odom, Porteous Ave., Valeri Hood, Dominga Avenue; Shiloh Cocines, Fairfax resident and graduate of FSACC; Kelly Lowry, Meernaa Ave., Helen Fauss, Fairfax Open Space Committee; James Brougham, FSACC graduate; Roberta Sandees, Snowden Lane; Melan Machette, Deer Park Neighbor; Pilar Thomas, Cascade Drive; Diane Hoffman, Porteous Ave.; Jamie Carney, Fairfax native; Cassandra Morales; Jessica Tomsy, Alumni of FSACC; Tony Yudice, Forrest Terrace; Karen Alfaro, FSACC Graduate; Rachel Acord, Alumni of FSACC; Guillermo Segovia, FSACC instructor/Alumni; Trevor Hughes, Porteous Ave.; Janet Garvin; Mark Bell, Dominga Ave.;

The following individuals spoke in support of the use of Deer Park as the site of a new school for the District:

Sharon Sagar, Ridge Road, School Board President; Conn Hickey, School Board member; Camille Esposito, FOCAS; Rick Holland.

The following individuals also spoke on the issue: Sierra Salin, Cascade Drive, urged cooperation to solve the problem and Mimi Newton, Fairfax Open Space Committee who asked the Council to maintain access to the open space at Deer Park.

M/S, Weinsoff/Bragman, Motion to appoint Mayor Tremaine and Councilmember Reed to serve on

a committee with the Ross Valley School District Trustees to develop a solution to the problem of limited classroom space and anticipated large increases in students in the District before the November election.

AYES: All

Mayor Tremaine adjourned the meeting for a break from 10:00 to 10:18 p.m.

M/S, Bragman/Weinsoff, Motion to continue the following items to the next regular meeting: a report on the joint meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission with San Anselmo; the facility use policy (from the Consent Calendar); the telecommuting and telecommunications policies; Second Unit Amnesty Program; smart meter discussion; and the fence height ordinance discussion.

AYES: All

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Town Council minutes of January 13 and February 3, 10 and 22, 2010– Town Clerk

Report on the status of the General Plan Update – Planning

Approval of Notice of Completion for Glen Drive Culvert Project – Public Works

Adoption of a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax Approving the Administrative Assistant II position and Establishing the Salary Range, and deleting the Administrative Assistant I position – Town Manager

Approval of a budget amendment for \$8,000 to hire a part-time Accountant for the Finance Department – Town Manager

Report on the status of the perchlorethylene (PCE) spill at the Fair Anselm retail center – Bragman

M/S, Weinsoff/Bragman, Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar with the continuation of the item on the proposed facility use policy and the removal for discussion of the item regarding the perchlorethylene (PCE) spill at the Fair Anselm retail center.

AYES: All

Comments on the Consent Calendar

George Bianchini, Broadway Video, expressed his opinion that just because all the agencies were involved didn't mean that the spill would all get cleaned up and asked that someone on the council stay involved to make sure that the necessary clean up was done.

Vice Mayor Bragman volunteered to be the liaison on the project and stated that he would keep the Council informed.

Councilmember Reed commented on the draft minutes of the February 3rd Council meeting and asked that wording be included in the discussion of the possibility of a paid person being hired to help with the Fairfax Festival to reflect his remarks about the possible problems that would be created and the possible resentment of the many volunteers who worked on the Festival.

Adoption of a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax approving a Garbage and Recycling Service Rate Increase of 3.18% beginning May 1, 2010 – Town Manager

Town Manager Rock presented the staff report.

M/S, Bragman/Hartwell-Herrero, Motion to Adopt a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax approving a Garbage and Recycling Service Rate Increase of 3.18% beginning May 1, 2010.

AYES: All

Discussion/Consideration of Web-casting Town Council meetings – Public Works

Public Works Director Wilkie presented the staff report.

Barbara Thornton, San Anselmo Council Member and representative to the Marin Telecommunications Agency; stated that the Town already had fiber to connect to Marin IT; that real time audio or video could do the webstreaming video and audio through the existing internet access; and that the Town could extend the connection to the Women's Club and use the TH connection but would need to purchase equipment for the Women's Club. She further stated that the Town was a little ahead of the new Media Center's ability to accommodate the Town's needs but that they would be providing the Town with comparative costs within the next month.

There was a discussion of the Granicus program and other ways to provide streaming and the comparative costs. There was a consensus of the Council to delay the discussion until the Town received a more qualified quote from the Media Center.

Vice Mayor Bragman requested data on the real cost of the energy used by the Town excluding electricity for the light poles to ascertain the savings to the Town since the installation of the solar panels.

Public Works Director Wilkie stated that SPG Solar, the company that installed the solar, was going to do a complete audit of the energy before and after solar installation.

There was a consensus of the Council to direct staff to go ahead with the trenching to allow for the laying of fiber by Marin IT to connect to the Women's Club and to continue to work with the Media Center to move toward web streaming the Council meetings.

Discussion/Consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Marin Energy Authority and the Town of Fairfax regarding Loan Guarantee - Tremaine

Town Manager Rock presented the staff report.

Town Attorney Karpiak reported on the documents that were still being reviewed as part of the proposed MOU.

Dawn Weisz, Marin Energy Authority reviewed the steps taken to date and explained the need for a guarantee for the loan.

Mayor Tremaine ascertained from Ms. Weisz that the benefit to the Town would be a \$7500 discount per year for five years on energy costs.

Town Manager Rock noted that the Council had not yet made a decision about the level of green energy they wished to use and suggested that the level choice be included on the April 7th Town Council agenda.

Mayor Tremaine led a discussion on the topic and stated that Fairfax had volunteered to contribute

to the Authority, and had not been asked to contribute.

Dawn Weisz, Marin Energy Authority, clarified that the risk diminished with time as the ratepayers started paying, that the money from the Town would be used as a loan guarantee, not as collateral, that the agreement was for two years but could extend to five years, and suggested that the Council approve the agreement subject to the revisions requested.

Councilmember Weinsoff asked if the Town could recover the money used if it was needed for an emergency and was assured by Ms. Weisz that it could be released if necessary.

Vice Mayor Bragman expressed his support for the Marin Energy Authority but stated that he wanted to do it smartly and carefully and didn't want to rush into an agreement that wasn't clearly defined.

Mayor Tremaine opened the discussion to the public.

The following persons spoke in support of the agreement: Hannah Duress, Porteous Ave., Tony Yudice, Forrest Terrace; Mark Bell, Dominga Ave.; and Rebekkah Collins, Monte Vista (as long as the documents were fixed).

Vince D'Amico spoke against using the Town's money.

Vice Mayor Bragman stated that he had received a request from the Town Treasurer to delay the decision until she could review the final documents.

M/S, Hartwell-Herrero/Reed, Motion to approve the loan guarantee in concept up to \$100,000 with direction to the Town Attorney to continue to work with the Marin Energy Authority Counsel to bring back revised documents for approval by the Town Council, with a friendly amendment to the motion by Councilmember Reed to have the Town Treasurer review the documents before presentation to the Council.

AYES: All

Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 749, an Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax, adopting by reference a revised Animal Control Ordinance fee schedule, Marin County Ordinance No. 3532 – Town Clerk

Town Clerk Anderson presented the staff report.

M/S, Weinsoff/Reed, Motion to waive further reading and to read the title only of Ordinance No. 749, an Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax, adopting by reference a revised Animal Control Ordinance fee schedule, Marin County Ordinance No. 3532.

AYES: All

M/S, Bragman/Weinsoff, Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 749, an Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax, adopting by reference a revised Animal Control Ordinance fee schedule, Marin County Ordinance No. 3532.

AYES: All

Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 750, an Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax Amending the Contract Between the Town of Fairfax and the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System to Reflect the change to 2% at 55 retirement for Newly Hired Miscellaneous Members – Town Clerk

Town Clerk Anderson presented the staff report.

M/S, Weinsoff/Hartwell-Herrero, Motion to waive further reading and to read the title only of Ordinance No. 750, an Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax Amending the Contract Between the Town of Fairfax and the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System to Reflect the change to 2% at 55 retirement for Newly Hired Miscellaneous Members.

AYES: All

Mayor Tremaine opened the discussion to the audience.

Frank Egger, Meadow Way, asked if the fire and police employees were also taking a reduction; determined from staff that the police had already agreed to a two-tiered retirement contract; and stated that the other employees should also be sharing the pain.

M/S, Weinsoff/Hartwell-Herrero, Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 750, an Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax Amending the Contract Between the Town of Fairfax and the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System to Reflect the change to 2% at 55 retirement for Newly Hired Miscellaneous Members.

AYES: All

Oral Report and Discussion of applying for the "Google Fiber for Communities" program, and assignment of an individual to represent Fairfax in the application. This program is designed as a pilot program, and would result in connectivity speeds of up to 100 times the country average, at a comparable cost to what currently exists - Reed

Councilmember Reed described a pilot program that Google was proposing to lay fiber to individual homes and businesses in different communities and requested authorization to apply on behalf of the Town.

Public Works Director Wilkie reported that the MTA with Barbara Thornton was going to take a lead role in a consolidated countywide effort to apply for the same program.

Barbara Thornton reported that the Marin Managers had already approved of the plan and that MTA was set to talk to the County Public Works Directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

MINUTES
FAIRFAX TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING

Fairfax Town Hall
Wednesday, March 10, 2010
8:15 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Convene in Open Session

Vice Mayor Bragman convened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call:

TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT: Larry Bragman
 Pam Hartwell-Herrero
 John Reed
 David Weinsoff

TOWN COUNCIL ABSENT: Lew Tremaine

STAFF PRESENT Michael Rock, Town Manager
 Jim Karpiak, Town Attorney

Vice Mayor Bragman adjourned the meeting to Closed Session on the following matter:

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL pursuant to Government Code Section 4956.9(a),
PENDING LITIGATION, Marin Superior Court No. CV 086177, Town of Fairfax v. John and
Marlia Berg

Vice Mayor Bragman Re-Convened the meeting in Open Session

Announcement of Closed Session Action

Nobody from the public was present and no announcement was made.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Rock
Town Manager

Fairfax Town Council Minutes
Special Workshop Meeting
Fairfax Women's Club
Saturday, March 20, 2010

Call to Order/Roll Call:

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Bragman
Pam Hartwell-Herrero
John Reed
Lew Tremaine
David Weinssoff

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Rock, Town Manager
Ken Hughes, Police Chief
Jim Moore, Planning Director
Laurie Ireland-Ashley, Finance Director
Kathy Wilkie, Public Works Director
Joanne O'Hehir, Minutes Clerk

Vice-Chair Bragman called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Open Time for Public Expression

No one from the public stepped forward to speak.

Discussion/Consideration of the Town's Annual Strategic Plan and Goals – *Town Manager*

Town Manager Rock presented the staff report. He noted that the time had run out at the previous special meeting and that discussions on Public Works projects would continue. He noted that the goals were listed in priority.

Mayor Tremaine arrived at 9.23 a.m.

Public Works Director Wilkie led a discussion on Pastori Avenue and requested additional funding to incorporate landscaping. Vice-Mayor Bragman noted that the landscaping on Center Blvd was not exceptional and that he would recommend discussion on the use of native plants for Pastori Avenue.

In response to a question on sidewalks, Public Works Director Wilkie stated that the type of materials used would depend upon available funding. Councilmember Reed suggested that funding might be available from "Safe Routes to Schools" for curb and crosswalk improvements.

Planning Director Moore led a discussion on the Bolinas Road improvement project, parking issues and the Downtown Plan. There was general consensus amongst council members to invite Professor Donald Shoup to address the Town Council on paid parking.

Town Manager Rock led a discussion on carbon emissions and energy savings and he noted that significant energy savings had been made. Mayor Tremaine noted that energy savings would be available to everyone when Marin Clean Energy (MCE) became available in May.

There was general consensus amongst council members that additional goals could be added to the list.

Town Manager Rock led a discussion on the Strategic Financial Plan. Finance Director Ireland-Ashley explained the differences between financial strategic plan and fiscal sustainability.

Mayor Tremaine opened the discussion to the public.

In response to a question, Finance Director Ireland-Ashley stated that Measure I did not take effect until July 2010 and had not, therefore, been added to the list of goals.

Finance Director Ireland-Ashley led a discussion on financial planning.

Public Works Director Wilkie led a discussion on FEMA projects that were due for completion later in the year, which included Creek Road Bridge. She said that the Town was working with the Water Board to address their issues and she noted that the permit process was long.

General discussion took place on water detention, which Public Works Director Wilkie stated should be addressed in the new Storm Water Ordinance.

Town Manager Rock led a discussion on helping the business community. He noted that there were few vacancies in store fronts but that tax revenue was flat.

Councilmember Hartwell-Herrero noted that the plan did not address home-based businesses, which led to a discussion on how non-regulated businesses could be encouraged to take out a business license.

Planning Director Moore led a discussion on the Town General Plan and he noted that the elements were coming together.

Councilmember Reed led a discussion on the need to publicize chipper days and volunteer efforts to clear trails. Finance Director Ireland-Ashley suggested that the Town's Website could be better utilized to publicize such events.

Town Manager Rock led a discussion on the need for more funding if sale tax and property tax failed to increase. He stated that further staff cuts would otherwise be necessary. Finance Director Ireland-Ashley stated that she was working on projections for retirement and healthcare funding needs through 2014.

Town Manager Rock noted that professional training for staff had been a dilemma with budget cuts.

Vice-Mayor Bragman explained his concern that there was insufficient space in Town Hall and he led a discussion on the possibility of securing space in the Fire Department building, which Town Manager Rock confirmed was owned by the Town. There was general consensus amongst council members that the option should be further explored.

Planning Director Moore led a discussion on affordable housing units. Vice-Mayor Bragman noted that an inventory on affordable housing was needed and Planning Director Moore stated that a survey on rent would be useful.

General discussion took place on non-profit organizations that helped the homeless.

Town Manger Rock led a discussion on the possibility of creating a historical district. Planning Director Moore explained what would be entailed in planning terms to preserve the character of a building or district. It was noted that the General Plan addressed the need for a historic building to be rebuilt in its previous footprint.

Mayor Tremaine led a discussion on the best use of funds from Measure I should they become available for teenage programs and he suggested that kids should be invited to give their opinion. Vice-Chair Bragman suggested that the Youth Center could be updated and improved.

Town Manger Rock led a discussion on public safety and he noted that the town would be holding a safety day in May, where safety personnel would be available to speak with the public. There was general consensus amongst council members that Town Hall could be opened and staff could be available to answer queries by residents.

Town Manager Rock led a discussion on sirens and he said that there was a need to investigate a suitable site, which would then be brought before the Town Council for its consideration.

Vice-Chair Bragman led a discussion on the ambulance service and he noted that the Fire Department was in need of an ambulance. General consensus was reached that this should be a long-term goal.

Vice-Chair Bragman led a discussion on a policy decision that should strike the Bush administration from the town's political goals. There was general consensus that the language could be changed to better reflect Fairfax's goals.

M/S, Weinsoff/Bragman, Motion to establish Fairfax as a peace community.

Weinsoff:	Yes
Hartwell-Herrero:	No
Reed	No
Bragman:	Yes
Tremaine:	No

Motion failed.

M/S, Bragman/Tremaine, Motion to establish Fairfax as a peace community in opposition to the destructive and illegal domestic and foreign policies of the Federal Government.

Weinsoff:	No
Hartwell-Herrero:	Yes
Reed	Yes
Bragman:	Yes
Tremaine:	Yes

Motion passed.

Discussion/Consideration of the Town's Annual Strategic Plan – Town Manager

Town Manager Rock stated that he would add the new goals and suggested additions to the Strategic Plan for the Council's discussion at the next special meeting.

Finance Director Ireland-Ashley suggested that a financial sustainability plan should be created that would dovetail with the Strategic Financial Plan, which should include reserve and purchasing policies, to which there was general consensus amongst council members.

Town Manager Rock led a discussion on forthcoming budget meetings and workshops.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne O'Hehir, Minutes Clerk