SPECIAL MEETING
of the
CITY OF RIALTO
CITY COUNCIL

May 27, 2008

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Rialto was held in the City Council Chambers located at 150 South Palm Avenue, Rialto, California 92376, on Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

0o0

This meeting was called by the presiding officer of the Rialto City Council in accordance with the provisions of **Government Code §54956** of the State of California.

0o0

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

0o0

The roll was called and the following were present: Mayor Pro Tem Hanson and Council Members Scott, Robertson and Baca Jr. Also present were City Administrator Garcia and City Clerk McGee. Mayor Vargas was absent. Interim City Attorney Tilford was absent.

0o0

Council Member Joe Baca Jr. led the pledge of allegiance.

0o0

WORKSHOP

Two year budget for fiscal years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010

City Administrator Garcia states the meeting today is a Workshop for the two year budget. He states that the City Council advised to balance the budget. The 2008/2009 budget has an overall size of $251 million dollars. He says the Bond Proceeds of over $100 million have been added and the General Fund budget is $57.7 million dollars.

0o0

June Overholt, Chief Financial Officer, presented the next two year budget cycle. She discussed the Regional Impact of the slowing economy and challenges that come with the changing economy. The budget reflects a reduction in property tax because of assessment changes. She gave a presentation of the General Fund Financial Overview and highlights of financial items from other funds.

0o0

WORKSHOP – (continued)

June Overholt, Chief Financial Officer, stated the General Fund Goals and Objectives for the City Administrator/Council office.

She described the City Clerk's office goals for both fiscal year 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.

June Overholt stated the City Treasurer's office is always striving to maximize their investments and specifically, review CIP projects.

She indicated the Finance Department is researching the ACH payment option and is looking for ways to stabilize the city's finances and assist with the financial condition.

0o0

Wayne McAfee, Human Resources Director, stated his department is committed to making sure that requests for open vacancies are closely monitored. He described the new program that has been instituted in his department, NeoGov, for potential employees to apply for positions online.

The other database being utilized is Liberty Net. This program has been useful in electronically scanning files and giving the department more space, being able to search for documents quickly and become more efficient.

His department has improved Labor Relations with bargaining groups especially the Rialto Fire Management Unit.

He described new programs and training development programs that Human Resources would like to accomplish over the next twelve months.

0o0

Council Member Scott asked if the Human Resources Director has prepared a report stating turnover in the different departments over the last three years.

0o0

Wayne McAfee states that they do not keep those statistics, but will put together a report to give to Council.

0o0

Mike Watson, Battalion Chief stated that they are committed to meeting the needs of the citizens of Rialto. He described expenditures, personnel issues and other ways of capturing revenue.

0o0

WORKSHOP – (continued)

Police Chief, Mark Kling, discussed overview of goals and objectives for the next two years in the police department.

He hoped to become more efficient and move forward with the rebuilding effort of the department. He stated the police department will cut overtime, manage current fleet and maintain current staffing levels. He stated he would like to address the graffiti issue and monitor areas with cameras.

Chief Kling stated he would like to consider grants and state reimbursement for funding.

0o0

Council Member Ed Scott stated that commercial vehicle parking and violations have increased with the 210 freeway opening.

He asked if there is any federal money available to protect the Tank Farm and the water supply.

0o0

Chief Mark Kling stated his department will increase commercial enforcement. Yes, monies will be allocated for security of the Tank Farms.

0o0

Mike Story stated that the Development Services Department has seen budget cuts. He stated the goals and objectives for planning, building, engineering and code enforcement administrative division reflect customer service, internal and external, can be improved.

He stated that his department is suffering from revenue and he will continue to stay within the budget and still meet the department's vision statement by eliminating the contract services of two full time building inspectors and one permit technician.

Mike Story indicated that the payment for the completion of the General Plan Update. The remaining $300,000 that was to be paid from the Planning Division Account will be paid from RDA. He stated adjustments were made to the General Fund portion of Code Enforcement. RDA will fund board-up projects from foreclosures rather than Code Enforcement.

0o0

Council Member Scott stated that he hoped the Development Services Department will streamline customer service.

0o0

WORKSHOP – (continued)

Council Member Robertson stated she attended the ICSC meeting and she received very complimentary comments about the Planning and Development Department.

Council Member Robertson stated that even if the budget is flat, there are areas of interest and customer service that should not change.

0o0

Council Member Baca Jr. stated that with the changes in budget and income, it is a good time to reevaluate some projects. He believed that the city needs to take advantage of any revenue that might have a regional draw.

He stated the County of San Bernardino has adopted a brochure describing a green incentive for builders that he feels would work well in Rialto.

0o0

Richard Scanlan stated the Waste Management Department is going to make some changes next year. He says that the department would like to bring a proposed construction and demolition ordinance that will help direct debris away from the landfill.

He would like to address the issue of plastic bags collecting in the trees and shrubs and an automated trash pickup service.

In the Rialto Airport area, the Waste Management Department is implementing the plan for Renaissance Rialto and redevelopment of the airport area. Some of the duties will be blending with the redevelopment department for relocation of tenants.

Council Member Baca Jr. asked with the renegotiations with EDCO, what are some key points that the city of Rialto will be looking for in relocation of disposal.

0o0

Richard Scanlan stated that the AB939 and HHW fees that were reduced will be discussed with EDCO.

0o0

Larry Thornburg stated that the Parks and Recreation Department will be focusing on program and facility enhancement. He states that Special Events resources will be redirected to the Halloween Event and Holiday Parade.

He stated that the Parks and Recreation department will try to increase class offerings. He says that marketing will be extremely important to benefit facilities and programs.

WORKSHOP – (continued)

Larry Thornburg, Recreation and Community Services Director indicated the department will be developing a way to monitor the standards of excellence for the After School Program. He hopes to stay on track with the Proposition 49 program. He stated that he would like to establish a non-profit arm for the city. He mentioned there are many individual who would like to donate money and in-kind services to receive a tax write-off. They hope to establish a tax deductible non-profit to provide businesses and private groups to donate.

Facility enhancement projects are being coordinated with Ahmad Ansari and the public works group. Larry stated that there is always an effort to improve facilities.

0o0

Council Member Baca Jr. asked what the status is for the non-profit.

0o0

Larry stated the Interim City Attorney's staff is working on drafting Articles of Incorporation.

0o0

Council Member Baca Jr. asked what space per capita is currently for parks.

0o0

Larry Thornburg stated that the city is at approximately one acre per thousand. The standard plan is three acres per thousand.

0o0

Council Member Robertson asked if the per capita number mentioned, includes the parks that are not built out yet.

0o0

Larry Thornburg stated yes, that is included in the number.

0o0

June Overholt, Chief Financial Officer, stated there will be a survey sent out to residents of Rialto asking if they would be interested in paying for a portion of the monthly expenses to supplement Proposition 49, After School Program.

0o0

Larry Thornburg recommended that the city keep the new facility open for adult sports to generate revenue.

0o0

City Administrator Henry Garcia stated the Redevelopment Agency has experienced a phenomenal amount of growth since 2001. He says the tax revenue has increased 73%.

The RDA tax bond allocations increases are going to prepare the city for the next stage of development. The City Administrator state the Capital Improvement Projects are extremely important and indicate tremendous assessed evaluation opportunities that are coming up in the next fiscal years.

He assured the City Council that the City Administrator and June Overholt, Chief Financial Officer, are optimistic regarding the future budget and the challenges it presents.

0o0

City Council Member Scott stated he agrees with the City Administrator on the tax increments but states the long term vision is lacking in a few areas, primarily sales tax.

He would like to see development in the area that can generate more revenue for the city.

0o0

Council Member Baca Jr. stated he agrees with Council Member Scott. He would also like to see more revenue generated for the city.

0o0

Council Member Robertson stated she would like to see increased marketing of the City of Rialto. She suggests that it is time to reassemble economic demographics. She proposes a demographic study be done from the regional area surrounding the city.

0o0

Ahmad Ansari, Public Works Director, gave an overview of his department and what the goals and objectives are for the future.

He indicated the Facilities group will continue with the ongoing roof replacement and HVAC throughout the city facilities. Facilities have also been giving assistance to the citywide security assessment project. Frisbie Park and Ferguson Park lighting will be refurbished, the ball fields and he is seeking grants to supplement the CIP projects that were approved through the RDA bonds.

Ahmad stated the Environmental Compliance Program includes the MS4 compliance through industrial and commercial inspections. The Engineering division will continue with the pothole repair.

Ahmad Ansari, Public Works Director stated that the Storm Drain Master Plan is underway and should be completed by summer of 2008. Traffic Signal detector loop replacement with video detection on truck routes and commercial thoroughfares are being installed.

The Public Works Department does a monitoring system on a monthly basis with other departments and keeps track of all the CIP projects. Ahmad gave City Council an update and report on completed projects and projects that are in progress.

0o0

Council Member Robertson asked if voting to defer mitigation incremental increases, will that impact revenue that would be generated.

She mentioned that at the Transportation Commission Meeting there was a presentation from SANBAG and the Deflection Study was discussed. She asked if the study should be included in the Capital Improvement Plan.

0o0

June Overholt answered that the incremental increases have not been factored into the budget.

0o0

Ahmad Ansari answered in regard to the 210 route, Deflection Study, that there will be effort on behalf of the staff to manage the project and he thinks it should be included in the CIP report.

0o0

City Administrator Garcia recommended that the Budget Resolutions be presented at the **June 17, 2008** City Council Meeting.

0o0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Baca Jr., second by Council Member Robertson and carried by a 4-0 vote to adjourn the Workshop. Mayor Vargas was absent.

The City Council adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

0o0

MAYOR PRO TEM WINNIE HANSON

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK BARBARA A. McGEE, CMC