

## **CITY OF PITTSBURG**

### **Joint Meeting of the Redevelopment Agency, City Council, Pittsburg Power Company, Southwest Pittsburg Geologic Hazard Abatement District II and Public Financing Authority Minutes**

**December 1, 2003**

Mayor Yvonne Beals called the Joint Meeting of the Redevelopment Agency, City Council, Pittsburg Power Company, Southwest Pittsburg Geologic Hazard Abatement District II and Public Financing Authority to order at 7:00 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Glynn, Kee, Parent, Rios, Beals

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT**  
Assistant City Manager, Nasser Shirazi  
City Attorney, Linda Daube  
City Clerk, Lillian Pride  
Director of the Redevelopment Agency, Garrett Evans  
Director of Economic Development, Brad Nail  
Director of Recreation, Paul Flores  
Director of Human Resources, Marc Fox  
Director of Public Works, John Fuller  
Director of Planning and Building, Randy Jerome  
Police Chief, Aaron Baker  
Executive Assistant to the City Manager, Alice Evenson

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The United Veterans Council presented the Colors and the Junior Level Girl Scout Troop 2432 from St. Peter Martyr School presented Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **CITIZENS REMARKS**

WILLIE MIMS, Pittsburg, representing the Black Political Association (BPA) spoke to the Council's action on the urgency minute order at the last Council meeting related to the Contract Amendment with WRS Infrastructure and Environmental, Inc. in connection with Contract 95-05 State Route 4 Flood Relief Project, and expressed concern that item had not been opened to the public, which he suggested was a violation of the Brown Act. With a unanimous vote at that time and given the excessive amount of the change order to address soils contamination on the site, Mr. Mims suggested that the Council had a prior discussion of the matter which had not been reported, which also represented a violation of

the Brown Act.

Mr. Mims also noted that the claims under the Consent Calendar related to police misconduct, which he suggested was becoming common. He recommended that the City Attorney's budget be increased to address the increasing number of claims and lawsuits and he urged the creation of a Citizen Police Review Commission to address the issues related to the Police Department.

Mr. Mims also offered his farewell to the outgoing Mayor and offered his greetings to the incoming Mayor.

### **MEMBERS REMARKS**

Councilmember Parent thanked Mayor Beals for her exceptional leadership throughout the City's Centennial Year. She looked forward to another year of progress for the City.

### **PRESENTATION**

#### 1. Nutcracker Ballet

The Director and some of the performers of the Nutcracker Ballet were present to thank the City of Pittsburg, the Pittsburg Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Directors and Ken Gray of the City for their continued support of the annual performance of the Theater Ballet of San Francisco's Nutcracker, a division of Pacific Dance Theater. She stated that the company offered a chance for families to enjoy a classic holiday story enabling many to enjoy the arts for the first time at an affordable and local location.

As a thank you to the community, 400 tickets would be distributed to children who would not otherwise be able to attend a performance of the Nutcracker, up from the 300 offered last year. The Nutcracker would be performed on Saturday, December 6 at 2:00 P.M. at the Pittsburg Creative Arts Building. An invitation was extended to the Council to be present on December 6 for an official thank you.

### **CONSENT**

On motion by Vice Mayor Rios, seconded by Councilmember Glynn, and carried unanimously to adopt the Consent Calendar, as follows:

- a. **CLAIMS** #1543 Carlo Vilma and Nicola Passalacqua; #1548 Unice Brown; and #1552 Stanley Buie

Denied Claims #1543 Carlo Vilma and Nicola Passalacqua; #1548 Unice Brown; and #1552 Stanley Buie.

- b. **RESOLUTION 03-9969** Approving a Contract for Interim City Manager

Adopted Resolution 03-9969.

### **REMARKS FROM PRESENT MAYOR/CHAIR**

Mayor Beals highlighted what she described as a wonderful year that had marked the City's history and which had been historic for its 100th Birthday celebrations. She thanked members of the community, organizations and City of Pittsburg staff and the residents who had embraced the City's past, present and future along with the rich diversity that had made the City so great. She added that she had been fortunate to serve as the Mayor during a memorable year offering memories, friendships and experiences that had extended around the globe.

Mayor Beals stated that she had been honored throughout the year for the accolades set by her position. As a product of the community, she thanked the City and its residents for believing in her, for supporting her and for continuing to encourage her during the past year. She stated that it had been an honor to serve her hometown community and she was proud to have served in the position of Mayor.

Mayor Beals cited the many accomplishments had occurred over the year, none of which could have been done without the Council working as a team. This year, she stated that the Council had regained the dignity of what it meant to be a Councilmember, had regained the respect from other cities to discuss critical issues facing the community and were working together to resolve issues for the benefit of all. The Council had set a standard for moving progressively to promote economic development to bring jobs and revenue resources to the City. The Council had also been fiscally conscientious through its successful completion of the budget offering a sound foundation when facing more challenging times ahead.

Mayor Beals added that the Council had set a list of priorities to continue to reinvest in the community to provide avenues of literacy, higher education and recreation and unlimited opportunities to continue to improve the quality of life of Pittsburg residents.

Further citing the accomplishments of the past year, Mayor Beals thanked the City department heads, staff, City Manager Casey and City Attorney Daube, along with her colleagues, who she thanked for helping the City reach its goals to becoming a better place to live, work and to do business. She also thanked Executive Assistant to the City Manager Evenson for her invaluable help.

Mayor Beals noted that the road leading to this point had not been easy and it was not likely to get better and the City would require strong leadership in the future. She urged the Council to continue to work as a team, stated that respect was a boomerang, and emphasized that the Council was only as good as its staff. She stressed the need for communication, added that it had been a positive, productive and progressive year and she urged the City to continue to set a new standard for Pittsburg benefiting the City first.

## **COUNCILMEMBER/AUTHORITIES REORGANIZATION**

### 1. Selection of Mayor/Chair

On motion by Councilmember Parent, seconded by Councilmember Kee and carried unanimously to select ***Aleida Rios*** as Mayor.

### 2. Selection of Vice-Mayor/Vice-Chair

On motion by Councilmember Kee, seconded by Mayor Rios and carried unanimously to select ***Nancy Parent*** as Vice Mayor.

## **REMARKS FROM NEW MAYOR/CHAIR**

Mayor Rios thanked the former Mayor and presented her with a City of Pittsburg gavel plaque for Outstanding Leadership in the Year 2003.

Mayor Rios stated that she was both excited and humbled to become the first Latina Mayor in the City of Pittsburg and the first Puerto Rican female Mayor in the history of the United States; excited because the City was at a crossroads in its development and humbled because she had achieved what many had thought was not possible.

Referring to the "Energy for Tomorrow" sign visible when entering the City from the west, Mayor Rios sought not the utilization of technical energy, but called upon the residents of the City to create People Energy that would be inclusive, seek strong and functional neighborhoods and a strong recommitment to the City's infrastructure.

Mayor Rios noted that together much could be accomplished. While that would not be an easy road, she suggested that a difficult road was appreciated more by those willing to make sacrifices to reach a new and prosperous future.

As to how to become inclusive, Mayor Rios stated that it would no longer be acceptable to criticize a government if not participating in that government. She stated that she would establish ongoing office hours making herself available to the general public, would provide State of the City addresses to the Chamber of Commerce and to community organizations in all areas. There would be no fundraising attached to the State of the City. She would also reintroduce the legislation authorizing the televising of Council meetings through Comcast Cable since there was no acceptable reason why the business of the City should not be televised to the community. She would also ask staff that all Council actions be publicized throughout the community, to be attached to each Council and staff report clearly indicating the steps taken to ensure public awareness.

Mayor Rios noted that the community had grown significantly over the years and many neighborhoods had suffered from neglect and absentee landlords. For many years the City Councils had been committed to rebuilding the City's neighborhoods. She

emphasized the need to go beyond the report mode and move to the action mode. She urged efforts to develop community policing, utilize technology for improved Neighborhood Watch, continue and improve neighborhood investment, develop neighborhood committees to assist the Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC), make home ownership a priority by creating first time homeowners programs, develop projects that would return funds on investment, and reinvest in neighborhood infrastructure with a scheduled approach based on fairness. She asked the Council to assist her in the process.

Mayor Rios shared in the frustration of the construction during the past two years and stated that she was committed to evaluating the project management aspect of future projects during her term to ensure that projects were on time and within budget. As a result, she requested that a communication component be included on all capital projects, which would require the Project Manager to inform the through news media, flyers or other means of communication the progress of the project.

Emphasizing that infrastructure was vital to the City's economic future both local and regional, Mayor Rios commented that the parking lot known as Highway 4 hindered many of the City's efforts to compete for good jobs. As a region, she stated that the City must reconsider its preference for residential housing. She asked the Council to join with her to call upon neighboring communities to discuss regional economic revenue sharing to develop East Contra Costa as an economic center rather than the satellite it was becoming.

Mayor Rios also committed herself to the development of a percentage of all new funds to the replacement and improvement of infrastructure in the areas of streets, water and sewer, which would be difficult given the budget but necessary to ensure the infrastructure of the City.

Mayor Rios would also seek to utilize the expertise of staff in identifying and competing for federal and State funding to position the City in the marketplace with new technology and infrastructure expansion and maintenance. The City's ability to invest prudently in the community would allow the City to position itself as a job center in the future.

Mayor Rios declared the year 2004 as a year of challenge and success and a year of pride, partnership and position.

Mayor Rios offered a summary of her comments in Spanish and individually introduced the members of her family. Friends and family members read letters of congratulations to Mayor Rios from the Sister Cities of Shimoneseki, Japan and Pohang City, Korea.

MARI CARMEN APONTE, Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Washington, D.C. was present on behalf of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, who had offered her congratulations to the Mayor on behalf of the 3.4 million Puerto Ricans in the United States and the 3.8 million on the Island of Puerto Rico.

ANTONIO HERNANDEZ, representing Congressman George Miller read a letter from Congressman Miller extending congratulations and best wishes to Mayor Rios on her becoming the first Puerto Rican Latina Mayor in the United States. Mr. Hernandez offered his personal congratulations to Mayor Rios in Spanish.

MARY ROSAS congratulated the new Mayor and on behalf of the members of the CAC, thanked former Mayor Beals for her inspiration and leadership and the many hours of public service provided to the community. She also congratulated Vice Mayor Parent. She urged the other members of the Council to meet the expectations set up by the women on the Council.

Ms. Rosas also noted that she had received a call that morning from Senator Barbara Boxer's Office offering congratulations and advising that a letter of congratulations was enroute. She further advised that a proclamation from the State Legislature from State Senator Tom Torlakson and Assemblymember Joseph Canciamilla was being prepared for delivery to the Mayor. She read a portion of the proclamation which acknowledged the fact that Mayor Rios was the first Latina Puerto Rican Mayor in the United States, the first Hispanic woman representative on the City Council, the first Latina Mayor in the City of Pittsburg, and that Mayor Rios had been a community advocate at an early age fighting for women, youth and Latinos becoming through her participation in a number of organizations a respected civic leader and dynamic role model for future generations.

County Supervisor Federal Glover thanked former Mayor Beals for her leadership, determination and representation of the City in a great way. He stated that the Council was a team that had done an outstanding job over the last year.

Supervisor Glover was pleased to see that the diversity of the community had been represented well 100 years after the City had been established. He offered the Mayor a plaque of recognition from the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

Mayor Rios recognized former Councilmember Frank Aiello, former Mayor of the City of Antioch Mary Rocha and former Mayor of the City of Concord Lou Rosas in the audience.

DAN O'CONNOR, Commodore of the Pittsburg Yacht Club, presented Mayor Rios with a birgee from the Pittsburg Yacht Club.

WILLIE MIMS, Pittsburg, representing the BPA, offered official greetings and congratulations to Mayor Rios from the BPA.

At this time in the proceeding, there were a number of performances in honor of Mayor Rios from two young Pittsburg singers who were scheduled to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York in June, a presentation from a dance group that the Mayor had met at an August After Hours event, a dance routine offered by members of Pittsburg Senior Services, and a performance by Casey Pringle from the Los Medanos College Music

Department.

Mayor Rios also took this opportunity to issue a proclamation in recognition of Leon Babsby and Cirkelon Thompson who had faithfully attended City Council meetings for a number of years.

Father Helmut Richter offered a Benediction.

The United Veterans Council retrieved the Colors.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Joint meeting adjourned at 8:29 P.M. to the regular meeting on January 5, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian J. Pride, City Clerk

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