

CITY OF PITTSBURG
Special City Council Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2003

Chair Yvonne Beals called the meeting of the City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 65 Civic Avenue, Pittsburg, California.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager, Willis Casey
Assistant City Manager, Nasser Shirazi
Legal Counsel, Linda Daube
City Clerk, Lillian J. Pride
Director of the Redevelopment Agency, Garrett Evans
Director of Economic Development, Brad Nail
Director of Public Works, John Fuller
Director of Finance, Marie Simons
City Engineer, Joe Sbranti
Director of Human Resources, Marc Fox
Police Chief, Aaron Baker
Recreation Director, Paul Flores
Director of Planning and Building, Randy Jerome
Executive Assistant, Alice Evenson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Brownie Troop 2965 of Pittsburg presented the color guard and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Beals welcomed all in attendance for this special Council Meeting celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Pittsburg. She opened the meeting with a historical perspective of the past 100 years. She also welcomed the visiting delegation from Pohang, Korea, one of the City=s Sister Cities.

The Mayor recited a partial list of former Council Members, giving special mention to Council Members and City employees who had served the City long and well. She mentioned, as one of the many firsts, the fact that it has taken 100 years to see the election of the City=s first African-American, female Mayor.

Mayor Beals paid special tribute to the City=s long-standing history as a sports-minded community and paid tribute to John Henry Johnson, NFL Hall of Famer, as well as current professional football players Regan Upshaw, Joe Tafoya, and Ken Simonton.

Mayor Beals also cited long-time industries (such as USS-Posco) and the oldest

business, Lanza fame Furniture which opened in 1915. She also took this opportunity to mention Pittsburgh's centenarians, Ruth Buchanan, age 104, Raymond Yao, age 103, and Fannie Ann Fisher, age 100, all of whom will hold a special place of honor at the upcoming Centennial Dinner on June 27.

Lastly, the Mayor acknowledged Pittsburgh's Sister Cities: Pohang, Korea (1987), Isola Delle Femmine (1992) and Shimonoseki, Japan (1998).

MEMBERS REMARKS

Vice Mayor Rios welcomed all present and stated that although she was not born and raised in Pittsburgh, being a native of Camden, New Jersey, she and her family have been embraced by the City and would not choose to live anywhere else. She mentioned that moving here was like coming home in that her school colors were also orange and black, with a Pirate mascot, and that she grew up across the river from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She cited Pittsburgh as a truly diverse community where everyone was welcome. She also noted that she is the City's first Hispanic female serving on the City Council.

Councilmember Parent stated she is a native-born Pittsburgh resident. She commented that when she was young the City had approximately 5,000 citizens, and that even now with 12 times that many the City is still a small town in many ways. She welcomed the representatives from Pohang and stated she was especially pleased to see them in attendance. She recalled her trip to Pohang when they became our first Sister City and fondly remembered the warm welcome and graciousness of the Korean citizens during that visit. She thanked the City of Pohang for their gift of spirit poles, which ceremony was held earlier that evening, and explained the meaning of the spirit poles as a tool placed at the commercial gateway to the City which serves to protect the City from evil. Council Member Parent thanked both former Councilmember Bob Lewis and Mayor Beals for working to put together this Centennial celebration, and thanked staff who worked so hard to pull everything together, particularly the Recreation Director and his staff. She also thanked the Pittsburgh Historical Society and Stoneman Elementary School who put on a great play in celebration of the City's history. She cited her relation to the Buchanan family, as Ruth Buchanan is her aunt, and her relation to William J. Buchanan, the first Mayor of Pittsburgh who was born in Nortonville when his family came from Wales to mine coal. She also stated that she had the privilege of being one of the "firsts" in that she and Maralyn Erickson were the first women elected to the City Council, although not until 1982, and that she, herself, became the City's first woman Mayor.

Councilmember Kee echoed the sentiments of colleagues who had expressed their excitement about the evening. He stated it was a distinct honor and privilege to serve the City at this time. He stated that of all the distinguished Councilmembers who have come and gone and are yet to be, none but the five Members seated will be able to say that when the City was 100 years had the honor and privilege of being on the City Council. He thanked the citizens of Pittsburgh for bestowing that honor on him.

Councilmember Glynn stated it was a pleasure to be here on this occasion and welcomed the Pohang delegation. He stated he came from Boston, Massachusetts, and moved to the City of Pittsburgh approximately 13 years ago. He stated the move did not

happen by accident as he was looking for waterfront property. He stated Pittsburg is very much like the area in and around Boston Harbor, which was a very diverse community. He said he was pleased to live in Pittsburg and thanked everyone for coming to join the Centennial celebration.

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Beals read a letter received from the White House, with greetings from President George Bush.

Mr. Antonio Hernandez, representing Congressman George Miller read a letter from the Congressman. He stated he was personally proud to be in attendance and to be the one to read the letter as he has been a resident of the community 21 of 23 years, having attended school in Pittsburg from grammar school to junior college.

Senator Torlakson sent a proclamation in commemoration of our 100th birthday.

District V Supervisor Federal Glover, on behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors also sent a proclamation.

Councilmember Joanne Ward, City of Hercules, brought a proclamation and congratulations on 100 years of incorporation from her City Council and community.

Pete Laurence, Mayor of Clayton, also presented a proclamation and stated he was a former resident of Pittsburg as well.

CITIZENS REMARKS

Former Council Member Bob Lewis read a letter he had prepared for the occasion.

Diane Mukerjee, representing Pittsburg Unified School District wished the City a happy 100th birthday and stated that students at Stoneman Elementary wrote and performed a play portraying the history of the City, and presented the City Council with a video tape of the performance.

A letter was read from the Mayor of Shimonoseki, Japan, congratulating the City on 100 years. Recreation Director Paul Flores mentioned the gift from the children of Shimonoseki of 60 carp kites, a symbol of youth, flying in front of City Hall. He stated the kites would be flying for the Centennial throughout the City at festivals for this year.

Ron Quesada, President of the Chamber of Commerce presented a certificate and gift to each Council Member. He also welcomed the representatives from Pohang and presented them with gifts and thanked them for helping to celebrate.

Mayor Beals presented a Centennial poster to the Deputy Mayor of Pohang, as well as a commemorative coin set and anchor to each delegate.

The Deputy Mayor of the Pohang, Mr. Sung-kil Hwang, stated it was a privilege to be here to take part in this meaningful occasion. He extended heartfelt congratulations on

the Centennial Celebration of the City of Pittsburg. He also presented gifts to the City Council and Chamber of Commerce.

The Pittsburg Historical Society players presented a skit with members portraying various characters from the City's past as follows:

Billie Griffiths - a 15 year old worker from Cumberland Mines (portrayed by Mark Berry)

Antonio Aiello - a commercial fisherman (portrayed by Mark Berry, Sr.)

Rose Bruno - a cannery lady (portrayed by Betty Brown)

1st Sgt. Mike Ledford - a member of the U.S. military (portrayed by Sean Bonnington)

Marlynetta Lautenschlager - a member of the nurses cadet corps (portrayed by Marti Aiello)

Thelmer Tweed - a steelworker (portrayed by Patrick Kenney)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:15 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled meeting set for July 7, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian J. Pride, Secretary