

CITY OF PITTSBURG
Joint
Redevelopment Agency
Pittsburg Power Company
Southwest Pittsburg Geologic Hazard Abatement District II
Public Financing Authority and
City Council

December 4, 2006

Mayor Michael Kee called the meeting of the Joint Redevelopment Agency, Pittsburg Power Company, Southwest Pittsburg Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GHAD) II, Public Financing Authority and City Council to order at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 65 Civic Avenue, Pittsburg, California.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Casey, Glynn, Johnson, Parent, Kee

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT City Manager, Marc Grisham
Assistant City Manager, Matt Rodriguez
City Attorney, Ruth Ann Ziegler
City Clerk, Lillian Pride
Deputy City Clerk, Alice Evenson
Director of Engineering and Building, Joe Sbranti
Director of Economic Development, Brad Nail
Director of Redevelopment, Randy Starbuck
Director of Human Resources, Marc Fox
Director of Public Works, John Fuller
Director of Recreation, Paul Flores
Director of Finance, Marie Simons
Chief of Police, Aaron Baker

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council led the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS/REMARKS

Councilmember Parent urged everyone to attend the Pittsburg Community Theatre's holiday show "Aladdin." She reported that she had attended the Police Appreciation Dinner on December 2. She thanked the Rotary, the Kiwanis and the Soroptimists for sponsoring that event in thanks to the Police Department for its outstanding work.

Councilmember Parent also reported that she had attended the Opportunity Junction, formerly Optic, 21st graduation offering East County citizens technological training to get and secure improved positions. She also reported her attendance at a Dow Chemical Company Community Advisory Panel which had offered a substantial donation to the Ferris Wheel at Small World Park project. She further noted that Cal had won the Big Game.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS/REMARKS

City Manager Marc Grisham made the following announcements:

- December 8 - Holiday Night on Railroad Avenue - 5:30 to 7:00 P.M. with music, singing, refreshments and Santa's visit;
- December 9 - Highlands Ranch Park Grand Opening - 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. with a dedication at 12:00 P.M. and refreshments, soccer games, and fun jump;
- December 9 - Holiday Parade – 4:00 P.M. in Old Town area with 60 entrants to date;
- December 9 - Rides on the Delta - 6:00 P.M. Pittsburg Yacht Club Lighted Boat Parade; and
- December 16 - Santa at the Museum - 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the Pittsburg Historical Museum with puppet show and Santa's visit.

City Manager Grisham also identified a press release which stated that "The City of Pittsburg Chosen to Showcase Innovative City Ideas at National Conference of Municipal Leaders." He thanked staff for working on that effort, a project which highlighted "shouting surveillance cameras." He noted that cameras would be placed in a series of locations in the City where illegal dumping had occurred and where audible announcements in English and Spanish would record the person, the vehicle involved and the dumping. Coupled with school programs, code enforcement activities and the Rental Inspection Program, he stated that the City had been very successful in reducing illegal dumping, graffiti and litter in the community.

CITIZENS REMARKS

There was no one to speak at this time.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Kee read a proclamation honoring Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity on December 4, 2006 on the occasion of the fraternity's 100th anniversary, having been founded on the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York on December 4, 1906 where the seven founding members sought to create an organization which would promote scholarship, fellowship and the uplifting of humanity and which had a long-standing commitment to civil rights, voter registration, youth education, scholarship and community involvement.

Ms. Forsyth suggested that the trees on the west side of the soccer field would offer shade to spectators. For the west side, she suggested that the trees be retained with trees removed only for the placement of lights, where necessary. For the east side, she acknowledged that a number of trees would have to be removed to accommodate parking and reconfiguration of the soccer field. In that case, she asked that the weakest trees be removed and that the strongest be retained. Of the 93 trees, she noted that 18 were palm trees, 14 were small trees and 61 were mature eucalyptus trees that were beneficial, giving off oxygen and housing raptor and wildlife.

Ms. Forsyth suggested that the City Council encourage a staff member to become a certified arborist and that the park maintenance department be provided more staff to ease the burden on the maintenance staff. She suggested that the periphery fence would prevent people from running into the trees. She commented that the area was historically a graceful park and she asked that the trees be saved, with only the minimum to be removed.

Ms. Forsyth also suggested that granite blocks at the Marina had sharp edges and should be ground down for safety purposes.

City Clerk Lillian Pride offered a historical fact provided to her by the late Jack Aiello who had explained that the trees had originally been bound for San Francisco, although since the full freight had not been paid on those trees, they had been offloaded in Pittsburg and planted close together in City Park in the 1800s.

City Manager Grisham noted that the trees would be thinned but there would be a significant number retained. Since falling eucalyptus trees were a major safety concern in the park, reducing the trees was considered to be an appropriate approach to lessen the danger and improve the maintenance of the remaining trees.

Councilmember Parent commented on her understanding that eucalyptus trees near streets were dangerous because the oil generated by the trees created concerns with slick roadways. She asked how many trees would be replanted, reported by Mr. Grisham that 39 trees would be planted. He noted that some of the trees to be removed, such as the palms, were not useful and had no salvage value. Five redwood trees would be included in the trees to be replanted to replace those trees that would be removed.

As to whether or not the City had a tree replacement policy in response to the Mayor, Mr. Grisham stated that the City had no set policy other than the replacement of individual trees of a specific diameter.

Councilmember Johnson noted that the City had at one time been a City of Trees. He questioned whether or not the proposal would affect that designation.

Mr. Grisham commented that trees would be replaced where removed.

Mr. Grisham also noted that there were several new park projects under construction

or completed and that the City was constantly creating more park space and more trees. He agreed with the suggestion for more staff for the parks department and urged serious consideration of landscaping and lighting district issues in the future.

On motion by Councilmember Parent, seconded by Councilmember Casey and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution 06-10683.

REMARKS FROM PRESENT MAYOR

Mayor Kee took this opportunity to review his year as Mayor, noting that he had challenged staff to find new ways and new possibilities to address the challenges faced by the City. He commended staff for its excellent job of addressing problems, building parks, planning for schools and other facilities, putting in miles of work, new roads with the extension of Leland Road, developing closer ties with the Sister Cities with trips to Japan, China, Korea and Italy and established business connections in those areas that would benefit Pittsburg for years to come, and helped to improve the lives and status of living for Pittsburg residents.

Mayor Kee again commended staff and his colleagues, highlighted the successful Farmer's Market, the well-attended Car Shows, and the interest from the business community in locating in the City creating a bright future for the City. He offered a special thanks to Vice Mayor Glynn for covering him on those occasions where he could not attend meetings or events. He urged and encouraged residents to participate in their government.

Mayor Kee emphasized that over the past year much had been accomplished, progress had been made, the quality of life of Pittsburg residents had been enhanced, and many new programs had been developed to benefit the citizenry.

Referring to the Youth Golf Tournament that he had held to raise funds for the youth of Pittsburg, Mayor Kee reported that over \$60,000 had been raised from that event. Advising where that total had been used, he reported that \$14,000 had been expended for expenses, allowing \$46,000 for programs for children. Of that \$46,000, \$1,000 had been used for the Soroptimist Child Spree Program, \$1,000 to the Ferris Wheel fund, \$80 to send a group of disabled kids from Hillview Jr. High to a swim session, \$1,500 to the Eddie Hart All in One Foundation for its track program, \$5,000 to the Junior Golf Program in Pittsburg to keep golf lessons free for all children, \$5,000 to each of the Sister Cities (Shimoneseeki, Japan, Pohang, Korea, and Isola della Femmine, Italy) so that kids would be able to receive a discount on future trips, \$5,000 each to Central Jr. High and Hillview Jr. High Schools to help children work on their grades and do cultural activities, and \$5,000 to the City's Recreation Department to work with younger children and provide them with cultural and other activities. Another Youth Golf Tournament would be held in May 2007.

Mayor Kee emphasized great success over the last year and commended the group

effort. He thanked all for the support and comments and stated that there were many great things to come.

RECOGNITION

Vice Mayor Glynn commended Michael Kee for his great year as the Mayor and stated that he was thrilled with what the Council had been able to accomplish over the last four years. He offered a plaque of recognition and thanks to the Mayor at this time.

Mayor Kee commended Vice Mayor Glynn for his work on the Council and prior to that several years on the Planning Commission. He presented a plaque to honor William "Bill" Glynn for four years of dedicated service to the City of Pittsburg as a Councilmember and Vice Mayor, 2002 to 2006. He again thanked Vice Mayor Glynn for filling in for him on numerous occasions, stated that the Vice Mayor's dedication to the City was unmatched and explained that he would be missed.

Mayor Kee also recognized outgoing City Clerk Lillian Pride and presented a plaque to Lillian J. Pride, City Clerk 1991 to 2006, City of Pittsburg, in honor of 15 years of service.

Councilmember Parent noted that Ms. Pride had begun her involvement with the City during the Model Cities program and had worked in the City for 34 years. She described her ability to accomplish a myriad of tasks, among them being a commendable grant writer, and who was a willing and good advice giver and could advise residents how to best serve the community.

Newly elected City Clerk Alice Evenson presented a plaque to Ms. Pride with a poem written by James McLaughlin, retired City Clerk, City of Belmont, a published author and poet, entitled "City Clerks P.S." She read the poem at this time.

KEVIN PRIDE, Ms. Pride's son, stated that he was proud of his Mom who had worked for the City as long as he had been alive. He presented his Mom with flowers.

Ms. Pride introduced the rest of her family.

FANI HANSEN, Pittsburg, stated that she was fortunate to work with Ms. Pride for five years. She presented flowers to Ms. Pride and stated that she had been an inspiration for many. She thanked her for all her work.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOE CANCIAMILLA offered a Certificate of Recognition and a Proclamation from the State Legislature to honor Ms. Pride for all her work and on the occasion of her retirement.

Assemblymember Canciamilla also took this opportunity to congratulate Salvatore

Evola on the occasion of his election to the City Council, and congratulated Michael Kee and Nancy Parent on their re-election. He also presented a Certificate of Recognition from the State Legislature in honor of Vice Mayor Glynn's service on the City Council and for all his other contributions to the community.

SUPERVISOR FEDERAL GLOVER stated that he had the pleasure of working with Lillian Pride over many years and recognized her as a proven leader in the community for her work on the Los Medanos Community Hospital Board, as Assistant City Manager of the City, as the City Clerk, as a member of her church and as a mother. He recognized her for all her great works and noted that Sunne McPeak had also sent her best wishes but had been unable to attend the meeting. He stated that the City of Pittsburg had been much served by having Ms. Pride with the City for so many years. He congratulated her on her work and on her retirement.

Supervisor Glover took this opportunity to commend City Manager Grisham for making a difference in the community. He stated that Mr. Grisham had been nominated by members of the City Council for Bridging the Gap. He recognized Marc Grisham for his leadership within the City Manager's Association as a proven leader in the community and stated that he was very proud to have him as the City Manager of the City of Pittsburg.

Supervisor Glover also took this opportunity to recognize Vice Mayor Glynn who had been a strong advocate for Pittsburg, particularly in the transportation arena, to ensure that Pittsburg's interests were recognized. He also acknowledged Vice Mayor Glynn's service to veterans in the community.

Supervisor Glover recognized those newly elected; Alice Evenson as the newly elected City Clerk and Sal Evola as the newly elected member of the City Council. He acknowledged Mayor Kee's leadership over the year and noted the Mayor's comment that the work had been a result of teamwork with other members of the City Council. He commended the members of the City Council for all his and her accomplishments.

Supervisor Glover further recognized Ben Johnson as the incoming Mayor for the Pittsburg City Council.

TOM LEWIS, Creative Arts Building Corporation, took this opportunity to thank City Manager Grisham and each member of the City Council for its support of the restoration of the Creative Arts Building and for the contribution of over \$200,000 for the restoration of that facility. He stated that Supervisor Glover had also been instrumental in that project.

EDDIE HART, Pittsburg, recognized Lillian Pride as a political and spiritual leader of the community and Stewart Memorial Church. He also took this opportunity to thank City Manager Grisham, Assistant City Manager Matt Rodriguez and Federal Glover for the work being done.

Mr. Hart also recognized Bill Glynn for all his support of the Pittsburg Creative Arts Joint Redevelopment Agency
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Building restoration, which would include a plaque on a chair of his choice in the Creative Arts Building.

Mr. Hart further expressed appreciation to each member of the City Council for the Council's generous support of both the Pittsburg Creative Arts Building restoration and for the Eddie Hart All in One Foundation.

COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

1. Oath of Office:

City Clerk Lillian Pride assembled Michael Kee, Nancy Parent, James Holmes, Salvatore Evola, and Alice Evenson and presented the oath of office concurrently for each.

Alice Evenson	City Clerk
Salvatore Evola	Member of the City Council
James Holmes	City Treasurer
Michael Kee	Member of the City Council
Nancy Parent	Member of the City Council

2. Selection of Mayor/Chair

On motion by Councilmember Casey, seconded by Mayor Kee and carried unanimously to select **Ben Johnson** as the new Mayor/Chair of the City of Pittsburg.

3. Selection of Vice Mayor/Vice Chair

On motion by Councilmember Kee, seconded by Councilmember Evola and carried unanimously to select **Willis Casey** as the new Vice Mayor/Vice Chair of the City of Pittsburg.

4. Remarks from New Vice Mayor

Vice Mayor Casey stated that he had immensely enjoyed his service on the City Council. He looked forward to the next year as Vice Mayor.

5. Presentations/Comments

Councilmember Evola thanked his parents, family, friends, and supporters, as well as the voters who had entrusted him to keep Pittsburg moving forward. He stated that he would serve the City with pride. He especially recognized his grandmother, Pearl Belleci, whose husband Joe Belleci had served the Council as Mayor in the late 1960s. He stated that he would proudly carry on his grandfather's legacy.

6. Remarks from New Mayor/Chair

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Mayor Johnson recognized the members of his family and thanked his family for their support, along with offering thanks to all his supporters. Commenting that it had taken him thirteen years to reach this point, he stated that as Mayor he would continue to work towards all the goals he had set forth two years ago when he had been elected to the City Council; better roads, transportation, Highway 4 widening, quality of life, working with the School District to serve the community and ensure all students had the same opportunity to get an education to create high quality students, ensure City youth had great facilities to perform sports and student activities, including a continuation of former Mayor Kee's Youth Golf Tournament, and support of non-profit organizations that worked to improve the community and the City's image.

Mayor Johnson also stated that he would support and work with the Council to ensure the completion of all projects in process. He stated that the Council had an obligation to ensure the maintenance of the General Fund in a sound manner and to balance the budget and ensure no overspending. The Council, as the Redevelopment Agency, had many projects currently in process and the Council must ensure the completion of those projects before allocating funds for new projects and avoid overburdening redevelopment funds and staff. As the Mayor, he stated that he had the responsibility to ensure that the Council worked as a team to accomplish all that had been started, to work as one strong body, and to work with the City Manager, City Attorney and staff to meet all the responsibilities and needs of the City.

Mayor Johnson added that he would continue to produce his weekly television show on Comcast Channel 26 to keep the community informed. He emphasized that it was each resident's responsibility to ensure a great city. He asked residents to think of what each could do to improve the quality of life for their families and for the City. He suggested that 2007 would be a great year if everyone took a moment to help one person which would improve the quality of life for all. He thanked everyone for their support and kindness and expressed his hope that 2007 would be a great year of accomplishments, particularly in Old Town.

Councilmember Parent thanked Bill Glynn for his service, particularly in transportation, and thanked all those who had helped in her reelection, particularly Mary Erbez. She commented that Soroptimist International was a great asset to the community and its members had been supportive of her and of the whole community. She welcomed Mr. Evola and thanked former Mayor Kee for his leadership and innovations and for being such a willing leader willing to listen to all Councilmembers and keep the Council together. She looked forward to next year.

When asked to make a statement, City Clerk Alice Evenson called for adjournment of the meeting and reminded the assemblage that refreshments were available on the first floor of City Hall.

Mayor Johnson invited all present to enjoy in the refreshments and the celebration.

ADJOURNMENT

The City Council adjourned at 8:12 P.M. to December 18, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian J. Pride, City Clerk

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