

NEW MONTEREY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes

++++++

November 9, 2009

7pm

I CALLED TO ORDER by Howard B. Fosler at 7pm

II SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: As asked, Council member Jeff Haferman spoke about the budget and its current status noting that TOT & Sales Tax revenues are down from expectations. Property Taxes, the third leg of the revenue stool, are on pace, but there is a likelihood that reevaluations will reduce or flatten them in future years. He pointed to the 10% “overhead” revenue received from the military for work done by the City as a significant new source of revenue. Pointing to the \$100 million City budget as ‘lean’ on a per capita basis, he was challenged because a third of that revenue is from the military connection and skews the figures when comparing the City to others. One of his big concerns is how to fund essential sewer maintenance and repair. Many sewers are old and in need of replacement. This is expensive and there is insufficient money available and the likeliness of a bond passing the 66 2/3 requirement is small. He pointed out that the Pacific Grove library bond initiative recently failed by fractions.

His comments were followed by an hour of Q&A. Asked what the City is doing to encourage small business and fill all the vacant stores around the area, he said nothing is being done specifically. Every City employee (and volunteer) is expected to do all they can to promote business. No one is being hired and no promotional programs are foreseeable. He said he promotes a “buy local” campaign, even though he, like many of us, often buys from the internet.

In response to a question about raising the TOT rate, he responded that the City’s rate is in the middle of the pack and likely to stay there. He said the accommodations industry here would fight hard against an increase.

Although the Hartnell Gulch Pathway project was funded by NIP for engineering development nothing has happened. Haferman said there are some difficult issues about right of way and prescriptive rights that slow the project.

Asked about the status of Area Plan Updates, he said staff has revised their priority due to budget constraints and while he understands the importance of them and our anxiousness to get on with it, Staff has other issues it considers to be priority.

Two members of the public in attendance asked about the status of Bay View School. Haferman said he was not very involved in the question other than with his concerns about traffic problems around Monte Vista School, about which he has received complaints. He suggested we contact our two local MPUSD representatives and talk with them.

Executive salaries, he agreed, are hard to evaluate, and harder to cut. They are not public, comparisons are difficult, and management responds poorly to the topic. Follow up questions pursued the issue saying it is inappropriate for management to slide along unaffected while the rest of the City staff suffers cuts and reduction of hours while the citizens adapt to a lower level of service. He said it is a “difficult” matter.

Asked about the status of budget process changes such as Outcome Based Budgeting, he said he didn’t know how that was coming along. Asked about the new Quarterly Reporting he said it appears to be functioning inasmuch as he has received two reports in the last six months.

The board expressed concern that the City is ignoring the bigger questions facing it as it wrestles with the budget, thus leaving critical planning unattended. He agreed that the budget has taken most of the Council's time this year.

III PUBLIC COMMENTS- Steve Steigman and Kevin Gomes addressed Mr Haferman and the board concerning their desire not to disrupt Bay View School with budget impingements. They reviewed the options offered so far and refuted all of them primarily with neighborhood based reasons why change would be detrimental. After conferring, the board directed the president to develop a letter, submit it to the board for approval and send it to MPUSD stating our position that Bay View School should not be closed and children should neither be bused nor expected to find their own transportation to other schools.

IV OLD BUSINESS

A. Area Plan Update – Waiting for Council Approval. Haferman said it is locked in the budget moratorium.

B. Membership

- a. Status. Fosler said he would have a report next month.
- b. Bay View Harvest Fair Booth- Report. Wemheuer said it was a worthy experience as he and Kelly were able to talk to about 14 people and handed out several membership brochures.

E. Newsletter

- a. Distribution – Not including email: 800 November, 800 October, 800 September, 800 July, 600 June, 400 May, 500 April
- b. Circulation - Shall we expand? With the loss of our two leading delivery people, an alternative distribution system becomes a requirement. Fosler will look into it.
- c. Content - Suggestions, criticisms. Generally good reviews.

V NEW BUSINESS

A. City Action Items-

1. ARC Code Revisions- Needs review. No one capable has time.
- B. Board Vacancy: Secretary, board members (at least 2)
- C. Proposal to have board review mailing list and contact nonmembers was briefly discussed with cool response.
- D. Scope of Activity- Trash cans complaints. Satisfied with present positioning.
- E. Annual Membership Meeting – a subcommittee will address these items:
 - d. Agenda
 - e. Accomplishments
 - f. Goals
 - g. NIP priorities
 - h. Invitees- Someone who can draw membership

VI REPORTS

- A. Secretary – Minutes Approved (July, September, October)
- B. Treasurer- Approved
- C. Airport Liaison – No meetings, no report
- D. NMBA, CRBID- Discussion of joint board membership (Crist) failed due to lack of time.
- E. CERT- Nothing new
- F. NIP- Wemheuer resigned. Waiting for new report.
- G. CITY BUSINESS REPORTS
 1. City Council- No report
 2. Planning Commission- 414 Larkin appeal denied
 3. HPC- No report

4. ARC- See above re: Code Revisions. No qualified member has time to review this.

IV. COMMENTS

A. Members & Public

B. Board Members- Robert Wemheuer resigned from board due to increase in responsibilities
in other areas.

Adjourned at 9:15pm