



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING
January 29, 2007

FAULKNER GALLERY, MAIN LIBRARY, 40 E. ANAPAMU STREET

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Marty Blum called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Brian B. Barnwell, Iya G. Falcone, Roger L. Horton, Grant House, Helene Schneider, Das Williams, Mayor Blum.

Councilmembers absent: None.

Staff present: City Administrator James L. Armstrong, City Attorney Stephen P. Wiley.

NOTICES

The City Clerk has on Thursday, January 25, 2007, posted this agenda in the Office of the City Clerk, on the City Hall Public Notice Board on the outside balcony of City Hall, and on the Internet.

WORK SESSIONS

1. Subject: Stand-Alone Election (110.03)

Recommendation: That Council:

- A. Receive an overview from staff related to plans to conduct a stand-alone election;
- B. Hear presentations from consultants and officials involved with stand-alone elections;
- C. Consider the pros and cons of a poll vs. an all mail-in ballot election; and
- D. Provide direction to staff on preferences and next steps.

Documents:

- January 29, 2007, report from the Administrative Services Director.
- "The Advisability and Feasibility of Adopting Vote-By-Mail in Whatcom County," dated July 2004.
- "Santa Barbara City Election Reform," dated January 19, 2007, submitted by Brian Olson.

(Cont'd)

1. (Cont'd)

Speakers:

- Staff: Administrative Services Director Marcelo A. Lopez, City Clerk Services Manager Cynthia M. Rodriguez, City Attorney Stephen P. Wiley, City Administrator James L. Armstrong.
- City of Burbank: City Clerk Margarita Campos.
- Members of the Public: David Wass, Patricia Hiles, Emily Allen, David Pritchett, Brian Olson, Ana R. Rizo.

Discussion:

Staff outlined three options for the conduct of its 2007 general election and explained services to be provided by consultants in the event the City holds its own election. Mrs. Campos described her city's decision to conduct elections via a vote-by-mail system and discussed the benefits and drawbacks of that system.

Motion:

Councilmembers Williams/Barnwell to defer the choice between a poll election versus a vote-by-mail election, pending Staff's research into the effect on voter turnout of using an all-mail balloting system.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

Motion:

Councilmembers Horton/Schneider to direct Staff to submit a report on a future Council agenda regarding the transition from odd- to even-year elections, which report should include all options for the required Charter amendment.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

Motion:

Councilmembers Williams/Schneider to direct Staff to conduct the City's 2007 general municipal election as a stand-alone election, unless agreement can be reached with the County of Santa Barbara wherein the County will hold the City's election for an approximate cost of \$300,000.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Blum adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

SANTA BARBARA CITY COUNCIL

CYNTHIA M. RODRIGUEZ, CMC
CITY CLERK SERVICES MANAGER

ATTEST:

MARTY BLUM
MAYOR

LORI COLE
DEPUTY CITY CLERK