MINUTES
CUDAHY CITY COUNCIL
A Special Meeting held in the City Council Chambers,
5240 Santa Ana Street, Cudahy, California
Tuesday – January 14, 2014 - 7:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Guerrero called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Councilmember Markovich
Councilmember Oliva
Vice Mayor Garcia
Mayor Guerrero

ABSENT: Councilmember Sanchez

Pledge of Allegiance: Vice Mayor Garcia

Invocation: Mayor Guerrero

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Guerrero opened public comments.

Sandra Orozco, Southeast political activist, spoke on the budget for public safety and the Sherriff's Department and requested not to touch that portion of the budget. She spoke in support of the Sherriff's Department pension.

Patricia Covarrubias spoke on the Municipal Enforcement Department and proposed dismantling it in order to save money.

William Tejada encouraged the City to find ways to save money in order to balance the budget. He suggested eliminating the Code and Municipal Enforcement Departments or having them use bicycles rather than automobiles.

Rosario Pacheco commented on the formation of a group that would like a location for a workshop. She was informed that public comment at this time must be budget-related. She stated she understood that there is a budget allocation for same.

Maria Barajas referenced previous discussions regarding the possibility of Code and Municipal Enforcement Officers using bicycles to save money. She asked regarding the status of the matter.

Adelina Garcia spoke regarding using a City facility for a group of girls to meet for ballet practice as well as the possibility of Code Enforcement Officers using bicycles instead of automobiles.

Mercedes Garcia spoke regarding the possibility of using a City facility for Zumba classes. She noted there are various residents interested in participating in the afternoon.

There being no other speakers, Mayor Guerrero closed public comments.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Markovich requested placing the Book Fair on the next agenda as well as the issue of "One City, One Book".

Councilmember Oliva reported speaking with a vendor regarding offering a workshop on FAFSA, college admission and providing college tours to approximately 540 students. It will be held on February 1, 2014, and they are looking for volunteers to participate. Additionally, she commented on a recent Senior Commission meeting were safety concerns were voiced regarding Clara Park. She added that there concerns will be addressed at an upcoming Commission meeting with participation by the Sherriff's Department.

Vice Mayor Garcia recognized Sargent Valencia for his quick response in addressing concerns regarding swap meet issues. Additionally, he commented on a meeting with the Sherriff's Department and looked forward to working closely with them. He added that they are discussing the possibility of implementing an Explorer Academy fifteen (15) week program and that it will be rolled out soon. Vice Mayor Garcia commented on the possibility of residents meeting with the City Manager and establishing a partnership with the City for a ballet class. He added that there are community funds to implement such a program and encouraged the group to develop a proposal to present to the City Manager. He reported attending an AQMD meeting with Councilmember Oliva and commented on a company in the City of Vernon (Exide) which is posing a health risk. Discussions were had regarding placing stringent regulations on that plant and Vice Mayor Garcia noted they will be driven out of the community, in time.

Mayor Guerrero reported attending a meeting with the Sherriff's Captain and that ten (10) positions were identified to participate in the Citizen's Academy. He encouraged residents to apply noting that the idea is to have a better relationship with the Sherriff's Department. Additionally, discussions ensued regarding the possibility of implementing a Youth Program for at-risk youth. He thanked Vice Mayor Garcia and Councilmember Oliva for working on the Exide issue and reported he will be attending a regional meeting to strengthen the relationship and partnership with neighboring cities.

4. BUDGET SESSION

4A. Review of the FY 2013-2014 proposed budget.
(Draft budget attached)

Recommendation: *Motion to receive and file*

Mayor Guerrero introduced the item and addressed related goals. He reported that, because the fiscal year is half-way through, there is less flexibility to "revamp" the budget. He added that what is needed is to get to a responsible position so that the City can finish the fiscal year,

ending in June, and begin the new fiscal year with a balanced budget that is responsible and will work for all stakeholders. He addressed initial General Fund revenues and Expenditures, adjustments and General Fund revenues and Expenditures in the revised budget. He addressed potential re-negotiations of the Legal Services contract and resulting savings as well as potential savings from the Sherriff's contract. He addressed existing deficits, estimated costs for the State audit and expenses related to the prior City Manager's separation, the latter two (2) of which are non-recurring expenses, and by adjusting same, would essentially balance the budget on a pro forma basis. He added that the sub-committee explored a number of short-term solutions and noted that the City will not tolerate a budget that compromises public safety. Besides Legal Services and the Sherriff's contract, the sub-committee reviewed employee organization and considered the possibility of furloughs for City employees. He proposed working with the current budget and looking towards the next fiscal year for making appropriate changes. He believed that the City can arrive at a balanced budget for the next fiscal year.

Vice Mayor Garcia commented on challenges and changes faced by the City and noted the need to find ways to increase revenue and finding key areas of opportunity. He believed that the City can achieve a balanced budget for the next fiscal year and commented on the possibility of increasing and expanding services.

Mayor Guerrero commented on work done in other areas including operations, materials and supplies and other changes made to bridge the gap. He addressed budget increases and decreases. He reiterated that the proposed changes are intended to be a solution for the current fiscal year.

Interim City Manager Henry Garcia noted that the adjusted budget has his full support and commented on the work of the sub-committee. He recommended moving forward for the adoption of the budget on February 4, 2014, and asked Council to set a date, in March, for a strategic workshop to generate a SWOT analysis that will guide the City in setting the next budget. He noted there are many projects in process and that time is of the essence to proceed forward. He added that the budget will be on the City's website for public access.

Mayor Guerrero addressed employee costs, changes and savings as well as other costs associated with employee compensation.

Finance Director Steven Dobrenen commented on positions that were eliminated and not filled. He addressed the repayment of Proposition 1A.

Discussion followed regarding the probability that the Sherriff's contract will be re-negotiated, budget refinements, focusing on the next fiscal year, use of profits from the sale of fireworks by the Youth Foundation and the use of funds by same.

Ensuing discussion pertained to the Proposition 1B local fund, use of Special Revenue funds and Youth Foundation revenues.

Mayor Guerrero addressed next steps in order to have the budget ready for approval in a future meeting in February. There will be another opportunity to discuss the matter at the next City Council meeting. He reiterated efforts to reduce in terms of the Sherriff's contract without

compromising public safety.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The City Council meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

INTERIM CITY CLERK