

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION  
MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 21, 2008**

The Study Session was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Cannella with the following in attendance.

**PRESENT:** Vice Mayor Vierra, Council Members Lane, Ochoa, Durossette and Mayor Cannella.

**1. Measure H committee formation.**

Staff explained the organization, duties and responsibilities of the Citizens Oversight Committee established by Ordinance 2007-975, which imposed a one-half cent local sales tax for police and fire. The purpose of the committee is to provide continuing independent verification that revenues collected by the one-half cent local sales tax are expended only for the purposes authorized by the Ordinance.

The committee will consist of five (5) citizens selected by the City Council, none of whom can be current City employees, officials, contractors or vendors of the City. Members will serve for a three year term with a limit of two terms.

The State will commence collection of Measure H sales tax revenues in April, 2008. The Finance Department advises that some initial revenues will be received in July, 2008. The Ordinance requires that Committee members attend a training and orientation session prior to its first regular meeting. Staff suggested that the selection process be completed not later than the end of May, 2008, so that the training and orientation can be completed by the end of June 2008.

Council Recommendation

The City will provide notice to the public that they are accepting applications for the five positions on the committee. Once the filing period deadline passes, the Council will hold a meeting to review all the applications and, as a group, select those they wish to interview at a following meeting.

If there are a significant number of candidates, Council will hold a special meeting to conduct the interviews. The Council also needs to decide if they will make their selections at the second meeting or hold that over to another regular meeting.

Application Process:

- A. Staff to revise the PC application for the Measure H Committee.
  - a. Add a section that asks the applicant to describe why they want to be on the committee.
  - b. Check to see whether there are any special qualification requirements that need to be added to the application.
- B. Provide a 39-day filing period from Monday, March 17 to Friday, April 25, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. (no postmarks).
- C. Announce the openings in a press release. Advertise in the Courier and the Modesto Bee, City newsletter and post on City website.

## 2. **Costa Fields Renovation RFP.**

Staff explained that there is a need to replace or renovate the restroom, concession stand, and storage building and announcer's booth at the Cost Ballfields Complex and upgrade the electrical service and install a new sewer pipeline with a lift station. The project will consist of preparing several alternatives for consideration by Council. Should Council decide to move forward with one of the alternatives, following steps would include the preparations of plans and specifications by the architect and a call for construction bids.

### Council Recommendation

Council recommended moving forward with the RFP and directed staff to include lights in the proposal.

## 3. **Truck traffic study and enforcement policies.**

Fred Choa, representing Fehr and Peers, presented the Draft Goods Movement Study for SR99/Mitchell Interchange Project. The report evaluated the exiting and future year 2035 traffic volumes that use the Mitchell Road Interchange to deliver goods throughout Stanislaus County.

- State /Route 99/Mitchell Road interchange is a major truck route servicing the City of Ceres, city of Modesto and Stanislaus County;
- Fifteen (15) percent of all traffic using the SR99/Mitchell Road interchange is truck traffic, resulting in 4,500 heavy vehicles entering and exiting State Route 99 from Mitchell Road, with the majority of truck traffic traveling along the entire length of Mitchell Road between SR 99 and Hatch Road.
- Compared to other interchanges in Ceres and the rest of Stanislaus County, both the number and percentage of heavy truck traffic are significantly gather than an average of five to ten (5-10) percent. This results in higher design standards for an STAA truck route, thicker pavement design to handle the weight of heavy vehicles and increased wear and tear on Mitchell Road.
- The Countywide Travel Demand Model also shows that up to 5,500 heavy vehicles will use the SR 99/ Mitchell Road/Service Road interchange under Cumulative Conditions, with the majority of truck traffic traveling along the entire length of Mitchell Road between SR 99 and Hatch Road. This represents about 30 percent of all traffic that will use either the northbound off-ramp or southbound on-ramp from Mitchell Road.
- Based on the heavy truck traffic using the interchange, the regionally preferred alternative required both a new interchange at SR99/Service Road to serve projected growth of the City of Ceres west of SR 99, and retaining the northbound SR99 off-ramp and southbound SR 99 on ramp at Mitchell Road.

### Council Recommendation

The report was accepted and Fehr and Peers is to provide a proposal for expanding this study to also include Hatch Road in the analysis and include alternative solutions to improve the traffic situation on Mitchell Road.

**4. Construction Management Process.**

Staff gave an overview of the staff report outlining the recommendation that Council consider providing the responsible Department Manager with the authority to sign change orders on City projects. Given the vast number of variables that can necessitate the need for a change order on any given project, it is not always practical to stop construction for minor problems. The amount authorized would be dependant on the amount of the contract.

Council Recommendation

The staff recommendations were accepted and staff is to prepare a resolution for their consideration adopting limits for change orders shown on the attachment from the City of Modesto.

**5. Current Major Project List.**Council Recommendation

The Mayor had questions regarding status of Crows Landing well. Staff responded that it is proceeding, but may not be operational in time for this summer. Staff is working with consultants on expanding our existing capacity by retrofitting some existing wells with portable treatment systems and drilling a new well at the site of the future Lions Park. Council accepted report.

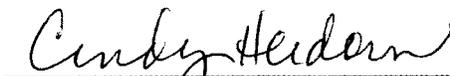
**6. Schedule Future Study Session Items.**Council Recommendation

Council accepted report.

There being no further business, Mayor Cannella adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

  
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Anthony Cannella, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Cindy Heidorn, CMC, City Clerk