

**MIINUTES**  
**JOINT CITY COUNCIL / IMPROVEMENT AGENCY MEETING**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor/Chair Shoals called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 154 South Eighth Street, Grover Beach, California.

**ROLL CALL**

Council/Agency: Council/Board Members Bright, Peterson, Mayor Pro Tem/Vice Chair Nicolls, and Mayor/Chair Shoals were present.

City/Agency Staff: City Manager/Executive Director Perrault, City Attorney/General Counsel Koczanowicz, City Clerk/Agency Secretary McMahon, Administrative Services Director/Finance Officer Chapman, Interim Community Development Director/Deputy Director Beck, Police Chief Copsey, and Economic Development Specialist Buckingham were also present.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS** The Mayor/Chair opened the floor to any member of the public for comment on items of interest which were within the jurisdiction of the City Council / Improvement Agency but were not listed on the agenda. No one responded and the Mayor/Chair closed the Public Communications segment for this portion of the meeting.

**IMPROVEMENT AGENCY - CONSENT AGENDA**

**IA-1. Minutes of the Following Meetings:**

- Joint City Council / Improvement Agency Meeting of Monday, May 19, 2008; and
- Joint City Council / Improvement Agency Meeting of June 2, 2008.

**Action:** Upon unanimous consensus, the minutes were approved as submitted.

**JOINT CITY COUNCIL / IMPROVEMENT AGENCY - BUSINESS**

**CC/IA-1. Authorization to Enter Into a Consulting Services Agreement with D. Black Landscape Architecture to Prepare the West Grand Avenue Streetscape Improvement Master Plan.**

Mayor/Chair Shoals read the title to the foregoing item and deferred to staff for a report. City Manager/Executive Director Perrault described the purpose of a Master Plan would be to formally adopt streetscape criteria and ensure a consistent design theme for West Grand Avenue from Highway One to Oak Park Boulevard. The Master Plan would include location and design of streetscape features such as center landscape medians, bulb-outs, enhanced paving, street lights, street trees, and street furniture. The adopted design standards would then be applied to streetscape improvements to be constructed by September 2009 on West Grand Avenue between Highway One and 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Economic Development Specialist Buckingham summarized the policies previously adopted by the Council regarding West Grand Avenue improvements. He stated that there were no formally adopted programs to incorporate traffic calming and pedestrian-friendly enhancements for any other blocks on West Grand Avenue, except in the downtown area between 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets. He added that, at the December 4, 2008 workshop, the Council directed staff to extend Downtown Project improvements on West Grand Avenue between 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets. He reviewed the benefits of incorporating future traffic calming and beautification features into one Master Plan document and outlined the proposed scope of work and estimated costs for a consultant.

Brief discussion was held regarding:

- landscape design work previously completed by the proposed Master Plan consultant, D. Black Landscape Architecture, on the City's Downtown Project;
- design concepts that would be contained in a Master Plan document in contrast to construction drawings, which contained more specific information;

- concerns regarding a Master Plan document designating street tree locations and styles and/or street furniture that might conflict with future developments;
- concerns regarding estimated costs for consultant services, engineering, and traffic-related issues, as well as use of Local Street Rehabilitation funds for a Master Plan document;
- whether developing a Master Plan document might delay completion of two other scheduled projects for West Grand Avenue: (a) streetscape construction from Highway One to 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and (b) a second block of landscaped median in the downtown area, from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to 9<sup>th</sup> Street;
- whether a “phased design approach” for designated street segments might be a less expensive option, with development of a more detailed plan to follow at a later date; and
- the recent design and construction process that was successfully conducted for the South County Transit Hub Project on Ramona Avenue.

Mayor/Chair Shoals invited comments from those in the audience who wished to be heard on this matter. There were no public comments received.

City Manager/Executive Director Perrault confirmed that the City could retain consultant services to focus immediately on constructing West Grand Avenue streetscape improvements from Highway One through 4<sup>th</sup> Street and installing landscape medians between 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Street. He suggested developing conceptual design drawings for just those two street segments for the Council/Agency’s review at the second meeting in January 2009.

It was noted that the long-term solution to ensure design consistency on West Grand Avenue would be the development of a Master Plan document.

**Action:** Upon unanimous consensus, staff was directed to return for Council/Agency review at the second regular meeting in January 2009 with conceptual design drawings for West Grand Avenue for street segments from Highway One to 4<sup>th</sup> Street and from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Recess:** Upon consensus of the Council/Agency, the meeting recessed at 8:26 p.m.

**Reconvene:** At 8:37 p.m., the meeting reconvened with all Council/Board Members present.

## **CC/IA-2. First Quarter Fiscal Report.**

Mayor/Chair Shoals read the title to the foregoing item and deferred to staff for a report. City Manager/Executive Director Perrault stated that the purpose of the report was to give an update to the Council/Agency and, with respect to the General Fund, present a list of expenditure reduction options to assist in meeting revised revenue estimates. He stated that deviations in revenues were generally related to the state of the local economy and that economic indicators predicted a slow recovery. He reviewed detailed information regarding reduced revenue projections in the General Fund, Building and Planning Fund, and Improvement Agency Fund, and outlined a list of proposed expenditure reduction options. He then stated that the current bidding climate for public works projects, however, was showing significant improvement. A higher number of bids were being received for bid amounts that were less than the estimated project costs. He suggested the Council/Agency review and comment on the list of proposed expenditure reduction options, so that their recommendations could be brought for Council/Agency consideration at the second meeting in January 2009. He then responded to Council/Agency questions regarding the use of Reserve Funds and discussions with City employees regarding proposed expenditure reductions.

Mayor/Chair Shoals invited comments from those in the audience who wished to be heard on this matter.

Sonny Lopez, President of Grover Beach Police Officers' Association, objected to implementing a hiring freeze for any public safety positions or reducing the amount of funds allocated in the budget for upgrading the City website.

There were no further public comments received.

Discussion ensued regarding each proposed expenditure reduction option, with City Manager/Executive Director Perrault responding to questions from the Council/Agency.

The following items were determined to be removed from the list of proposed expenditure reductions:

Section 1: Options presented by staff:

- Planning Department training
- City website upgrades - reduce allocation
- Fire Department training
- City newsletter, *Sea Breeze*
- Police Department training
- Land Use Element

Section 2: Options presented by staff (cost/revenue estimates undetermined):

- Employee Training - Eliminate Per Diem & Travel Reimbursement
- Holiday Pay Reduction Amortized over Entire Year

Additional Council/Agency direction was provided regarding the following:

Section 3: Additional Options Available to Council

- Transfer unallocated Sales Tax Adjustment Revenues from Streets to the General Fund - *only if savings occur with street construction projects.*
- Freeze on Vacant Positions - *not applicable to public safety positions.*
- Use of Reserve Funds - *only as needed, but not for on-going expenditures.*

**Action:** Upon unanimous consensus, staff was directed to revise the list of options presented for reduction in General Fund expenditures and provide estimated cost savings for those items listed as “cost/revenue estimates undetermined”.

**CC/IA-3. Progress Report Goals and Work Program.**

Mayor/Chair Shoals read the title to the foregoing item and deferred to staff for a report. City Manager/Executive Director Perrault reviewed the report regarding progress achieved to date on the City’s Goals and Work Program. He then responded to Council/Agency questions regarding the deferred implementation of the Business Tax Certificate Program due to the current economy, meetings to be held with the development community regarding undergrounding utilities and an in-lieu fee, and another City-owned property located at the corner of South 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Farroll Road that was identified for development of an affordable housing project.

**Action:** Upon unanimous consensus, the information was received and filed.

**ADJOURNMENT** There being no further business to come before the City Council / Improvement Agency, Mayor/Chair Shoals adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

**City Council:**

/s/JOHN P. SHOALS, MAYOR

Attest:

/s/DONNA L. McMAHON, CITY CLERK  
(Approved at CC Mtg 05/18/09)

**Improvement Agency:**

/s/JOHN P. SHOALS, CHAIR

Attest:

/s/DONNA L. McMAHON, AGENCY SECRETARY  
(Approved at Special Joint CC/IA Mtg 05/18/09)