

**MINUTES OF A
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF CORONADO
Coronado Golf Course Clubhouse
2000 Visalia Row
Coronado, CA 92118
Wednesday, December 8, 2004, 10:00 a.m.**

Mayor Smisek called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilmembers Monroe, Tanaka, Downey, and Mayor Smisek

Absent: Councilmember Tierney

Also Present: City Manager Mark Ochenduszko
City Attorney Morgan Foley
City Clerk Diane Shea

2. CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS:

a. Presentation of Proclamation – “Nancy Burt Day.” Mayor Smisek presented a proclamation to Nancy Burt of the Woolley Group noting her years of service as the City’s legislative advocate in Sacramento and wishing her well upon her retirement.

b. State Legislative Briefing with City’s Lobbyist, Nancy Burt of the Woolley Group. Nancy Burt of the Woolley Group, the City’s legislative advocate at the State level, reported on the legislative activities of the past year. She tracked approximately 50 bills of interest to the City and monitored legislative and administrative activities involving the Coastal Commission, redevelopment, ERAF, design-build, CEQA, retirement issues and regional governance. She reported that it had been a very successful year despite unsuccessful efforts to establish a 25 mile-per-hour speed limit on the bridge corridor.

Ms. Burt noted that housing will be a main issue in the upcoming session. There continue to be members in Sacramento trying to get more affordable housing by doing draconian things to cities. This will have to be watched closely. She noted the issue that has caused the most difficulty in her tenure is redevelopment due to the unique nature of Coronado’s redevelopment agency. City Manager Ochenduszko acknowledged Ms. Burt’s comments.

Ms. Burt gave a brief retrospective of her involvement with the City beginning with the late seventies. Former Mayor Mary Herron asked her to become involved with the bridge toll matter and she subsequently became the City lobbyist.

Ms. Burt noted other issues that will continue to be of concern are CEQA and NEPA, state-mandated costs, and BRAC.

Director of Community Development Tony Pena asked if Ms. Burt foresaw the trend continuing whereby the state continues to interfere in local affairs, e.g. land use issues. She

stated it would continue and that the state will continue to “fiddle” with CEQA forever. She didn’t know if the Governor had any thoughts about this issue.

City Manager Ochenduszko noted that Prop 1A will help cities to a certain extent but not for redevelopment. He noted that another topic has arisen, at Caltrans, concerning relinquishment. They are talking about relinquishing highways to local jurisdictions so they would be responsible for maintenance. Ms. Burt indicated there is a new head of Caltrans and possibly negotiations could be opened again in terms of the 25 mph speed limit as well as the issue of relinquishment. However, Caltrans has no funds and relinquishment will have to be worked on.

Councilmember Monroe noted Assemblyman Vargas has indicated he would try again on the 25 mph speed limit if we had a different tactic. Mr. Monroe felt the Council needs to keep it on the agenda and wondered if we had worked the Caltrans side enough. Ms. Burt suggested if Mr. Vargas is willing, we should go ahead. However, we must move quickly; the legislature is already sworn in and many bills have been submitted already. Gail Brydges, Senior Management Analyst, cautioned that the City will need Caltrans’ support for long term operation and maintenance of the tunnel. She felt the City needed to look at its priorities with Caltrans. Caltrans staff is making recommendations up the chain of command regarding the highways to be relinquished. Word has also come from Caltrans’ local office that we need to be working at the headquarters level to educate them about the tunnel project.

Councilmember Tanaka wondered if asking for the 25 mph speed limit could impede tunnel issues. Director of Engineering and Project Development Jim Benson noted that Assemblyman Vargas has been given a full briefing on the tunnel and that staff would plan on doing the same thing for Senator Ducheny. Councilmember Monroe noted that this would be discussed further in the Tunnel Action Committee.

Councilmember Monroe noted that the housing element says that 50% has to be new low and affordable housing. For built-out cities, this was not well considered. He has spoken with Senator Ducheny about this who agreed that tearing down existing and building new doesn’t meet the element requirement. Ms. Burt agreed and noted any changes would be through a housing bill and this should be monitored closely.

In response to a question from Councilmember Tanaka as to suggestions for Ms. Burt’s replacement, she felt it would be most useful to have a lobbyist whose focus is on Coronado and no other city, particularly in this region. It doesn’t serve the city well to have a firm that handles many cities. It should be someone with ties in the “building” (in Sacramento). It helps to have other clients completely different from the city who can be used as entrée to help support bills offered in our name. Also, it is important to have someone with integrity. She also stressed it is important that the lobbyist for the city read every bill and amendment – it is essential.

Assistant City Manager Willis thanked Ms. Burt for her help with redevelopment. She acknowledged that redevelopment was not the issue that caused the city to hire her but when it became a problem, Ms. Burt became educated very quickly and her efforts have been very much appreciated.

Mayor Smisek expressed his and the Council’s appreciation to Ms. Burt for her work on behalf of the City.

c. **Review and Update of City's Legislative Policy Guidelines.** City Manager Ochenduszko noted the legislative guidelines had been circulated to all present. The changes being suggested are underlined. Management Analyst Andrew Potter noted Section I, A, Item 4, which addresses supporting legislation that protects local government revenue, is being recommended for inclusion. In Section IV, A, deletion of Item 9 is being recommended as the Transnet ballot measure passed.

Councilmember Tanaka asked that Section I, E Local Educational Funding be monitored. Councilmember Monroe raised the issue of housing redevelopment (Section VI, A) and the possibility of changing the law on the 50% requirement. Mayor Smisek felt the Council would need to discuss this issue as he felt it could be a problem and draw unwanted attention to Coronado. Ms. Willis agreed that it would be good if the law changed but Coronado would have to be careful not to introduce the legislation. Councilmember Downey noted there has been a request for affordable housing for the disabled. She felt that could be a justification for tearing down a building and rebuilding.

Ms. Burt noted that the head of the department at the state level is Lucy Dunn, a former client of hers. She suggested that the group of local built-out cities (Coronado, La Mesa, El Cajon, Solana Beach, National City) talk with her about this issue.

Ms. Burt stated that having the Legislative Policy Guidelines had helped her many times. It enabled her to give the City's opinion without having to call the Council. Mr. Ochenduszko stated that all the departments had reviewed the guidelines.

The Council directed that the City's Legislative Policy be updated and brought back to the City Council in January 2005 for adoption.

3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

a. Councilmember Downey stated it had been brought to her attention that she erred in thanking her husband at the previous day's City Council meeting.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** The Special City Council meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Approved: January 4, 2005

Tom Smisek, Mayor

Attest:

Mary L. Clifford
Interim City Clerk