

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Highland was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Racadio at the Donahue Council Chambers, 27215 Base Line, Highland, California.

The invocation was given by Kodie Sibbett, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Troop 226 from Immanuel Baptist Church.

ROLL CALL

Present: Lilburn, McCallon, Racadio, Scott, Timmer
Absent: None

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

No meeting

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Terry Vines presented a brief presentation regarding the Community Day of Service being held on April 26, 2014.

Mayor Racadio stated he and Council Member Lilburn will be on the Ad Hoc Committee to discuss the Community Day of Service to be held at Community Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

A MOTION was made by Councilman Timmer, seconded by Councilwoman Scott to approve the consent calendar as submitted. Motion carried on a roll call vote, 5-0.

1. Waive the Reading of All Ordinances
Waived the reading of all Ordinances in their entirety and read by title only.
2. Minutes – January 28, 2014 City Council Regular Meeting
Approved the Minutes as submitted.

3. Minutes – January 28, 2014 City Council Special Meeting
Approved the Minutes as submitted.
4. Minutes – January 29, 2014 City Council Special Meeting
Approved the Minutes as submitted.
5. Warrant Register
Approved Warrant Register No. 577 for February 11, 2014, in the amount of \$1,340,570.21 and Payroll of \$78,204.71.
6. Treasurer’s Report for December 2013
Received and filed the Treasurer’s Report for December 2013.
7. Easement Acceptance/Valero Gas Station (Amendment to CUP-001-00/DRA-011-003)
 1. Accepted the Grant of Easement for Road and Drainage Purposes; and
 2. Directed the City Clerk to record the Grant of Easement.

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

8. Allocation of the City of Highland’s Community Development Block Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

City Planner Stater stated this is the time of the year that the Council prioritizes what projects will be funded with the CDBG. The City will receive an 8% increase in CDBG funding this year over the last fiscal year which was a pleasant surprise. It will bring the City’s total to \$439,619, and of that the City Council may allocate 15% of that to our Public Service programs so that is \$65,943, and the remainder going to the construction public service type projects. For the Council’s review on page 9 and 10 of the Staff Report, there is a 10 year history of allocations of the CDBG program, and then the following table, on page 12 and 13, that’s a listing of all requests which are made for this fiscal year and the funding available. There was a correction in your Staff Report on page 13, you may receive by email or as a hard copy in front of you tonight, a replacement for page 13 and the last two numbers of the table were amended. On page 12, you will see at the bottom that there has been a request for \$362,997. There’s actually \$373,676 available. So because there is more money available than there are existing applications, what the Council may elect to do is to put that into what the City terms the un-program funds, and that will go back into an overall fund that the City has if any projects are over funded, in the year’s past, it goes back into un-program funds. This would be added to that and then at the start of the fiscal year, in July, the City could come back and reallocate that to an existing construction program such as one of our public works projects for next fiscal year or a previous fiscal year.

Councilman Timmer asked we can't do that tonight?

City Planner Stater stated we cannot do that tonight.

Mayor Racadio stated that is \$10,682.

Councilman Timmer stated \$10,679.

City Planner Stater stated on the revised page 13 you will see that there have been requests by eight different organizations for \$147,380. The funding available is \$65,943.

Councilwoman Lilburn stated she is going to abstain from this item and leave the dais because her agency by which she is employed is an applicant for the CDBG Block Grant.

Ms. Linda Brian, Highland Senior Center, stated she is a volunteer of the Highland Senior Center and has been for the past 12 years. In fact, she had the honor of being named Volunteer of the Year for 2012/2013. She takes great pride in being here this evening with some of her fellow members, as well as Board Members from the Senior Center. As you already know, the Highland Senior Center is recognized for being the largest and most active Senior Center in the Inland Empire. In fact, they have over 3,200 members today and last year they served over a 132,000 seniors. The seniors of the Highland Community are very proud to call the Highland Senior Center their home away from home. Many of them spend more hours there than they do at their own home. The City Council has historically supported the Senior Center with Community Development Grant Funding to help them maintain their programs and their activities. They are not an agency with their hands out all the time asking for handouts. In fact, they take great pride in doing several fundraisers creating programs to increase revenue, and depend a great deal on their Director to write grants and host special events for revenue to sustain their \$560,000 a year budget. Not only are they a high-functioning senior center, they have several groups who volunteer in the community. They are host to the Highland Historical Society group and several other after-hour groups that need a place to meet. They are a small staff with one full time director, four part-time employees, and over 100 volunteers who make it all happen. Tonight she is here to ask that the Council please recognize the value and the importance of our Senior Center, and know that the allocated amount they are asking for is in great need to continue their operations. Each year the Center continues to grow, expand its programs and activities, and serve the seniors the best way possible. She would like to add she is one of those people that spend more time there than at home. She dearly loves the Senior Center and because of two losses due to military actions, she had nowhere to go until the Highland Senior Center. It is a great place and she feels it in her heart.

Ms. Judy Sbardellati stated she thanks the City of Highland for approving funds last year to be designated towards the Library's Literacy Services in our community, as you may know, and for which rallying voice should never stop until literacy in the United States is no longer a concern. The library literacy's mission is to encourage and to assist adults to identify and achieve specific learning goals. Literacy needs include filling out job applications, feeling a part of the world by being able to use a computer and the internet, equipping them to help their children with homework and passing the GED which allows participants to become much more qualified to enter the work force and improve their living status. In San Bernardino County it is estimated that more than 300,000 adults need literacy assistance. They may have attended school but for some reason they never learned to read and write with functional sufficiency. It is no coincidence that Counties with high unemployment rates also have the highest percentage of adults lacking basic literacy skills. She would like the Council to hear from the Literacy Coordinator and Trainer Erin Saltzer about what our statistics are less than six months into the fiscal year.

Ms. Erin Saltzer stated the library's adult literacy program provides unduplicated services with individualized instruction by volunteer tutors. These volunteer tutors are recruited and trained at the library and provided with books and materials to effectively tutor learners. They also provide books that these learners get to keep and workbooks that they can continue working with. The Highland Literacy targets for one year. This year, based on CDBG funding and our service location, was to serve 36 clients. She is happy to let the Council know that thus far into the fiscal year they have served 49 clients, they've offered 146 hours of tutor learner sessions and 138 hours of basic computer instruction. Funding has enabled them to receive a complete series in instructional books that tutors get to use with their learners and that learners get to work on with their tutors and at home. It also has provided additions to their general collection at the Library including the most recent GED study workbook and new level appropriate fiction books to reward our learners in the community for reading. So they are getting to have fun while reading and they are also becoming afloat to society. This is what it means to Highland as a community. We are reaching undeveloped workforce in Highland. We as a County Agency are able to put on a smiling face and welcome folks in what usually would be looked over. They appreciate the service and would like to appeal to the Council to not only continue but increase literacy support while they work beyond target goals to serve the Highland residents.

Mr. Tony CiFuentes stated he would like to say the Highlanders Boxing Club is very fortunate to have a great city like the City of Highland who supports them. They have been out there, they've set a big impact in this community and they are really proud to keep doing this every year. This year it will be 10 years, and all they are trying to do is just be part of this big team in this big City. They have helped many kids, men, women and more than anything they are focusing on those kids that actually need that strong work ethic. This is something that they believe in, which is strong work ethics, and that is something that we are lacking in our kids' futures. They are thankful and we need everyone's help here in the

city and they are really happy that we are part of the team. He would like to present the Council with boxing gloves which were signed by the team. They are having some great impacts out there and speak from the heart. Strong work ethics are their motto.

Ms. Brenda Sillsbury stated she has known Mr. CiFuentes for about five years now. She would like to tell the story of one boy who goes there. This boy who was kicked out of daycare, Chuck E. Cheese, stores, school programs, school districts, and now lives in Highland but has to attend another school in another County because of his issues. He recently has gotten kicked out of the church he has attended for the last six years but he goes to Highlanders Boxing Club. What they do and continue to do for this boy is accepting him, behavior problems, mental issues and all as they have for the last three years. She can guarantee you they won't kick him out because this is the kid they specialize in. No offense meant to anyone, but this is the kid that in the youth that go there, they are not the little leaguers, they are not the soccer players, and for many reasons they probably couldn't and wouldn't play, but they don't fit into those molds. These are the at-risk youth of our City. The youth whose numbers are increasing in our County for reasons she's sure we could all talk about the top ten list that San Bernardino County is on. These are the kids that go to Highlanders Boxing Club and why we need them and why she needs them to keep being there for these youths, because the boy she is speaking about is her son and with the money they get here they can continue to be there for these kids and she for one does not want to see this city without them and their positive influence, their mentoring, their one-on-one time, the real positive and true impact that they are having on these kids and this grant is what they need right now to do that.

Ms. Lorena Pizano stated she has been serving as the Highland YMCA Membership Director for the last seven years. This evening she is here representing both the YMCA facility and YMCA of the East Valley Association in thanking you for your continued support that you have shown us over the past years. This evening she had hoped to have mother and son, Michelle and Arthur Roberson, unfortunately they were unable to make it tonight, but she wanted to share their story with the Council. Michelle and Arthur have been members since 2009 and when she came into the Y originally she was looking for a place where her and Arthur could go have a safe place to be and Arthur enjoys being around people and enjoys playing basketball. So when Michelle came in, she was excited not only because there's a bus stop in front of the Y so she can get home and back and forth, but that they were able to offer a financial scholarship assistance program to help her and Arthur become part of the Y. So Michelle took the application and she's been with them ever since. In 2011, Arthur was able to attend a Clippers basketball game through the YMCA which even though it was in 2011 he still talks about it to this day. It's something he cherished and holds to his heart. Not only does Arthur participate in basketball but he participates in their Teen Zone program, the Y Arts program, and he's able to spend time with his fellow teens. He volunteers for their special events and he

has received homework help and it's a place where he can be creative. Both Arthur and Michelle can always be seen at their community events which are collaborated with the City of Highland such as their Halloween at the Y, Operation Thanksgiving, Breakfast with Santa, Family Fun Nights and of course the Fourth of July event. Over the last few years, Michelle and Arthur have become staple members of the Y. Michelle, this last fall, unfortunately was stabbed in her arm and one of her first calls, right after she got her stitches, was to the Y saying hey I'm going to be out but I'm going to be right back as soon as she can. The thing that makes Arthur and Michelle's story so heartfelt and so passionate is that both Arthur and Michelle suffer from mental disabilities. It has not been quite shared what their mental state age is, but just knowing the two you would fall in love with them right away. So through the support both Michelle and Arthur found themselves not only as a part of the Highland community in which they live but they found themselves as part of the YMCA community and they love to be involved. This is the way they give back to the City of Highland.

Ms. Michelle Williamson stated she is here to thank the Council very much for including them in the CDBG. With the CDBG they are able to fund families to play Little League Baseball. Without the CDBG these families would otherwise not be able to play. In 2013 they ended their season with 235 players, and today they are having try-outs and they are at 233 with registration still climbing. Most of those families do benefit from the CDBG waiver. In 2013, to date, they were at \$4,356 in sponsorships and today they are at \$1,650. Unfortunately they have lost some sponsors due to the City's rule of no banners being hung at their fields, because that was part of their sponsorship program. They have a fundraiser coming up which they do every year and that helps their league greatly, but without the sponsors, the CDBG, and the revenue from the snack bar she doesn't think Central Little League would be here without it. She wants to thank you all and they are still climbing in registration and helping the families. She's been doing this for eight years and she knows without this waiver, with the grant, because they do fund their registration fees they would not still be here.

Ms. Vanessa Perez stated she would like to hand out packets to each Council Member. Time for Change Foundation provides much needed programs and services to homeless women and children throughout the Inland Empire. In the City of Highland alone this year, they have actually served 15 homeless women and 12 children. Ten of these 15 women have actually been placed into permanent housing. Their programs and services include, but are not limited to, housing, case management, independent living skills, leadership development, money management, transportation, employment readiness training, health, nutrition, wellness education, drug and alcohol counseling and mentoring. Their Homes of Hope program is actually funded through the US Department of HUD, and with this program it actually places homeless families directly into their own apartments. So coupled with intensive case management and supportive services, our families are able through this program to thrive and maintain permanent housing. They have actually developed relationships with different landlords in the community to allow the women to gain access to their own

housing. After facing many challenges with stabilized housing after their rehabilitation, their women finally have a place to call home. They operate by using evidenced-based programs that have been proven in ending homelessness. This means our program structure has been nationally recognized and is actually used as a national model structure. In the packets she has provided, you will see success stories, award recognitions and information on the ways they are fighting to end homelessness throughout the County of San Bernardino. It is imperative that Time for Change Foundation receives this funding in order to continue to provide these essential programs and services to homeless women and children in our area.

Ms. Ann McMahon stated she is the President of the Board of Family Service Association of Redlands. Family Service Association of Redlands is over 100 years and it's now in its 115th year. They have two major programs. They have family support which helps working families with basic needs and support services. There is a growing class of working poor and they struggle to make ends meet daily and when they are faced with unexpected expenses such as medical bills or car repairs they are forced to choose between fixing their car and buying food. That's one of the services they can provide in their family support. They can provide food and clothing for them. So they can use their money to fix their emergency. They also have the housing advocacy program which offers homeless or families that are housed unstably which means they may be living with relatives or friends which are temporary situations. They help them to make life changes so they can have permanent housing, employment and self-sufficiency. It's a comprehensive, long-term program clients must participate in to continue to be eligible for financial services. All their clients and families before they receive services need to see a case manager. They also have counseling, money management, parenting, basic life skills training and educational programs. At Holiday time they have a lot of holiday programs for their families. The funds they are requesting tonight are for personnel costs to administer the following homeless prevention services, rental assistance, utility assistance and motel vouchering. Last year, in 2013, they served 1,543 families and of those families 216 were from Highland, and 28 of those families received rental assistance and seven of those were actually homeless to permanent housing. The housing dollars that were distributed to Highland residents was \$23,371. Their request is for \$10,000 tonight and they would appreciate the support.

Mayor Racadio called for any other speakers. Seeing none, the public hearing is now closed.

Mayor Pro Tem McCallon stated as usual we have more requests than we have money and that's always unfortunate because all of the organizations that come before us are excellent organizations and are in need of funding. He would like to propose the following as a point of discussion. The Senior Center has requested \$25,000; he proposes we fund them at \$25,000. The Branch Library has proposed \$10,000 and he proposes we fund them \$10,000, he would continue our funding of Central Little League at the \$10,000 level which is what

we have done in the past. He would propose we fund the Highlanders Boxing club \$7,000 and the remaining \$13,943 to the YMCA.

Councilman Timmer stated he is real close to that. The only difference he had is Central Little League \$11,500. He increased it to \$1,500 over last year and he decreased the YMCA to \$12,443 and Highland Senior Center is the same as Mayor Pro Tem McCallon proposed and the Boxing Club the same and the Library at \$10,000.

Councilwoman Scott stated she has \$10,000 for the Library, the request that the Boxing Club made, because she agrees there are a lot of kids that don't swim and they don't do other things but the boxing is something they can do, \$7,380 is what they've requested and Central Little League requested \$20,000 and she knows its \$10,000 more than last year but the City has really put a hardship on the Little League with their no posters. This is one of the things they would give to sponsors. They would allow them to put signs up and the City says you can't put the signs up so we are cutting these kids out and not helping. There's only so much you can do with those little buckets you pass around and with the concession stand, especially when the light bill is \$3,000 a month. She would go the whole \$20,000 for Central Little League; Highland Senior Center the \$25,000 and that would leave \$3,553 for the YMCA. Now she knows you guys are going to scream on that one, but she did give you a list of some serious questions about the audit that she received. One of the biggest money makers is \$5,700,000 that the Y reported for their afterschool program and she just wonders how much of that comes from the Highland after-school programs from Cram, Arroyo Verde and Grove. Also the Highland citizens that are members of the Highland Y cannot use the Redlands Y, but Redlands Y members can use the Highland Y and she thinks that is very unfair. There are other questions, and you can see them on here but anyway that's her take on the funds.

Mayor Racadio stated his take on it is he doesn't want to cut an existing program like that because there are a lot of children and a lot of adults. He would support Councilman Timmer's proposal.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Timmer, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McCallon, to disburse the Community Development Block Grant Funds in the following allocations: Log Number 40038 Highland Branch Library in the amount of \$10,000; Log Number 40043 Highlanders Boxing Club in the amount of \$7,000; Log Number 40049 Central Little League in the amount of \$11,500; Log Number 40053 Highland Senior Center in the amount of \$25,000; and Log Number 40069 Highland Family YMCA in the amount of \$12,443. Motion carried, 3-1, with Councilwoman Scott dissenting and with Councilwoman Lilburn abstaining.

Councilwoman Scott stated she is going to oppose, as she feels \$11,500 is not enough for the Little League as they too serve a lot of families and they don't have grants and things that the Y has. They are Highland kids and need to have Highland's support.

Councilman Timmer stated he does want to point out, however, the allocation to the Little League did increase with this motion.

Councilwoman Scott stated yes it increased, but it increased \$1,500 with a \$3,000 a month light bill. Maybe we can work on lifting the signage ban during the months of play; that would help.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Timmer, seconded by Councilwoman Scott, to disburse the Community Development Block Grant Funds in the following allocations: Log Number 40026 City of Highland Street Improvements on Eucalyptus Drive, Cypress Avenue and McKinley Street in the amount of \$239,000; Log Number 40027 City of Highland Neighborhood Revitalization Southwest Highland in the amount of \$123,997; and the remaining funds in the amount of \$10,679 go into the un-programmed funds. Motion carried, 4-0, with Councilwoman Lilburn abstaining.

CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE

9. Update on SANBAG, SCAG, Omnitrans, Work Program and Regional/Legislative Issues/Development Issues/Subcommittees/AB 1234 Updates

Mayor Pro Tem McCallon stated at SANBAG's last meeting they went through the Measure I ten year delivery plan and they are projecting the Measure I revenue 2023 as \$1.6 billion. There are two projects in that ten year delivery time that are of interest to Highland. One is the 210 widening which they will start construction on 2017 and completion at 2020. The 210/Base Line Interchange will be completed in 2019. They have officially named him as the replacement for Pat Morris at Metro link.

10. San Bernardino International Airport Authority and IVDA

Mayor Racadio stated on February 26, they will be having their final study session on the goals for the future and what they hope to have as accomplishments with the airport. On February 27, there will be a ribbon cutting at the terminal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 6 League of California Cities Dinner Meeting

Mayor Pro Tem McCallon stated he would like for the Council to review the possibility of doing action-only minutes. He would like for this item to go to the Finance Subcommittee and bring a recommendation back to Council.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:01 p.m., the City Council convened into closed session regarding the following:

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding the following properties:

Property: APN: 1201-331-01; 1201-341-08, 09

Negotiating Parties: Joseph Hughes, City of Highland
TREH Partners, LLC

Under negotiation: Instruction to City's negotiator concerning price and/or terms of payment.

At 7:16 p.m., the City Council adjourned closed session making no announcements.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Racadio adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m. in memory of Lucille Robinson.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

Betty Hughes, MMC
City Clerk

Sam J. Racadio
Mayor