

PALM SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2007  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Oden called the meeting to order at 6:14 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Councilmember McCulloch led the Pledge.

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Foat, Councilmember McCulloch, Councilmember Mills, Mayor Pro Tem Pougnet, and Mayor Oden.

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager Ready, City Attorney Holland, City Clerk Thompson.

**HISTORICAL SITE PRESERVATION BOARD ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Board Member Nelson, Board Member Riley, Board Member Strahl, Board Member John Williams, and Chair Sidney Williams.

**ABSENT:** Board Member Hayton.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION:** Prior to recessing into Closed Session the City Council made the finding that an Item came to the attention to the City after the posting of the Agenda, and there was an immediate need to hear the Item, then added one additional Item to the Closed Session Agenda under G.C. Section 54956.9(a) Existing Litigation, titled the City of Palm Springs v. Desert Water Agency, Case No. INC 067313, by a unanimous vote.

City Attorney Holland stated at 4:30 P.M. the meeting was called to order, and the City Council recessed into Closed Session to discuss items on the Closed Session Agenda. No reportable actions were taken.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:**

**ACTION:** Accept the Agenda as presented. **Motion Councilmember Mills, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Pougnet and unanimously carried on a roll call vote.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

HAROLD MEYERMAN, requested the City Council fund a grant in the amount \$70,000 for the Palm Springs Art Museum.

TOM STANSBURY AND DIANE ROSS, announced the public safety activities of the Deepwell Neighborhood Organization.

WILLIAM KOPELK and PHILIP SMITH, requested financial support for the Modernism Week event, and provided an overview of the event and the activities.

VIC GAINER, Palm Springs, commented on the current litigation between the City and the Desert Water Agency, and requested the City Council look at dissolving the Desert Water Agency.

JOY MEREDITH, Palm Springs, provided an update on the activities of MainStreet and requested funding for public restrooms in the Downtown area.

DANA STEWART, Palm Springs, requested the City Council address the loud military jets taking off from Palm Springs International Airport, and address water and environmental issues in the City.

JOHN BALINGIT, Palm Springs, requested funding for repairs to the basketball courts.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND REQUESTS:** None.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** None.

**1. STUDY SESSION:**

**1.A. JOINT STUDY SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION BOARD FOR DISCUSSION AND TO PROVIDE DIRECTION ON HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION CHAPTER 8.05 OF THE PALM SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE:**

Ken Lyon, Associate Planner, provided background information as outlined in the Memorandum to the City Manager dated March 9, 2007.

Discussion was held regarding modifications to the definition of a class 3 site, review of applications, alternations, and/or demolitions on properties on any City approved survey, as eligible for historic classification at the local, state or national level, education and notification programs, authority for the final decision of class 1 sites, designations due to age of property, rights of private property owners, the responsible party to approve a "stay of demolition," resources and tools requested by the Board to protect properties on the City survey.

**ACTION:** 1) Direct staff to draft modifications to the ordinance that address a time period that a property would remain on the survey which can affect the property, an accelerated process for corporative property owners, a potential "opt-out" process to remove a property off the survey list and potential designation; and 2) Direct the Historic Site Preservation Board to develop comprehensive education and proactive notification programs. **By consensus of the City Council.**

The City Council recessed at 7:47 P.M.  
The City Council reconvened at 7:53 P.M.

Discussion was held with respect to modifications and increases for violations to non-permitted demolition and alteration of historic structures and denial or delay of future building permits.

**ACTION:** Direct staff to review and propose increases to fines within reason, and aggressively enforce the vacant building ordinance. **By consensus of the City Council.**

Discussion was held with respect to the modifications and funding of the Plaque Program.

**ACTION:** 1) Continue to fund the purchase and installation of historic markers for Class 1 historic sites; and 2) Direct the Historic Site Preservation Board to further review and recommend other fundraising and sponsorship activities. **By consensus of the City Council.**

Discussion was held regarding potential site visits by members of the Historical Site Preservation Board.

**ACTION:** Not to legislate site visits and allow the Board the flexibility by their own practice. **By consensus of the City Council.**

Discussion was held to expand and provide for 400 foot radius for noticing.

**ACTION:** Direct staff to prepare amendments requiring 400 foot radius notification, or as otherwise consistent with other notification requirements of the Code. **By consensus of the City Council.**

The Historic Site Preservation Board adjourned at 8:25 P.M. and the City Council recessed.

The City Council reconvened at 8:32 P.M.

**1.B. CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-08:**

City Manager Ready and Craig Graves, Director of Finance, provided background information as outlined in the Fiscal Year 2007-08 Annual Budget document dated May 23, 2007.

Councilmember Foat requested a process for funding of the special events and community promotions, and additional information on return of investment on special events.

Mayor Pro Tem Pougnet commented on the community assistance and special events, and requested all events be added to the list, and recommended a process be developed to assist in the decision making process of funding events.

Mayor Oden also requested that staff provide the amount of in-kind services the City provides to the special and community events.

Councilmember McCulloch stated he previously requested a plan for funding charitable events and commented on the funding of special events and charitable events, and requested a detailed discussion on the use of taxpayer funds for charitable events.

Councilmember Mills stated we should create a line item for special events and a maximum level of funding each year.

No action taken.

The City Council recessed at 8:47 P.M. and convened as the City of Palm Springs Community Redevelopment Agency.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS:**

The City Council commented on the recent ICSC Conference in Las Vegas.

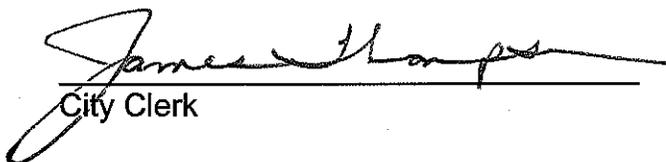
**ADJOURNMENT:** The City Council adjourned at 9:18 P.M. to a Regular Meeting, Wednesday, June 6, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, preceded by a Closed Session at 4:30 p.m., Small Conference Room, City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs.

**APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE PALM SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2007.**



MAYOR

ATTEST:



City Clerk