

CITY OF PERRIS

MINUTES: Joint Work Session of the City Council,
Redevelopment Agency,
Perris Public Finance Authority &
Perris Public Utilities Authority

Date of Meeting: 09 January 2007

Time of Meeting: 5:30 p.m.

Place of Meeting: City Council Chambers

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Honorable Mayor Busch called the Joint Work Session of the City Council, Redevelopment Agency, Perris Public Finance Authority and Perris Public Utilities Authority to order.

5:31 p.m. Called to Order

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Council Members Present: Yarbrough, Landers, Motte, Rogers, Busch

All Council Members present

Staff Members Present: Acting City Manager Belmudez, City Attorney Dunn, City Engineer Motlagh, Finance Director Carr, Public Works Director Ansari, Assistant to City Manager Madkin, Community Services Manager Carter, Interim Planning Manager Eckhardt, Real Estate Manager McDermott, Senior Project Manager Morales, and City Clerk Haughney.

Staff Members Present

3. **WORK SESSION:**

A. 2007 Legislative Agenda.

2007 Legislative Agenda

Introduced by: Ron Carr, Finance Director

Director Carr stated that the subject of this Work Session was the 2007 Legislative Agenda. He said that life had changed since the Council had discussed the Legislative Agenda the previous year. He said that earmarks had become much more difficult to get, a result of earmarks getting a lot of bad publicity. In addition, with the change in Congress in November, all the earmarks were placed on hold, including the City of Perris' \$400,000 earmark for hospital equipment, which had been mentioned in two national newspapers as a worthwhile project that had been put on hold. Mr. Carr noted that Staff had met with the City's Washington lobbyist, Thane Young, the previous week and brainstormed, coming up with a list of possible requests. He said they were asking the Council to add or subtract from that list, hopefully coming up with a priority list to be presented to the lobbyist. He then turned the presentation over to Mr. Young.

Director Carr said the purpose of this Work Session was to discuss the 2007 Legislative Agenda, noting that things had changed a lot since the Council had last discussed the Legislative Agenda for the previous year, with some recent restrictions having been put on lobbying and earmarks. He said Staff was asking the Council to review the list of possible appropriations requests, hoping to come up with a priority list to be given to the City's lobbyist.

Mr. Young reiterated that things had changed dramatically in Washington and stated that the status of the appropriations bill, which potentially included the \$400,000 for hospital equipment in Perris, was that the government was operating on a continuing resolution until February 15th, and all indications were that they would pass a clean continuing resolution, without earmarks in it, to fund the agencies of the Federal government through September 2007. He said that did not mean that the money had disappeared; it would simply be provided in aggregate to the agencies, and the agencies would determine how the money would be spent. Depending on what the City's needs were at present and what the potential might be for utilizing those funds for the hospital equipment, there was still a possibility of working with Health & Human Services Department to utilize those funds. He noted that those funds didn't necessarily have to be spent before September 30th, but could survive beyond the current fiscal year. He said the process for 2008 would begin in February when the budget request would be made to Congress. Mr. Young said the new rules and restrictions on lobbying and earmarks did not affect the type of requests that had been made by the City of Perris. Members of Congress were now going to have to identify themselves as being the sponsor of an earmark request. Mr. Young said that Congressman Issa had always made full disclosure of requests he had made. He said they were not saying that there were not going to be earmarks anymore; just fewer of them. He said they anticipated that it would still be a process similar to that of the previous year. He suggested narrowing down the requests to those that the Council felt to be of top priority.

Lobbyist Thane Young reiterated that things had changed dramatically in Washington, commenting on the status of the appropriations bill and what was expected for the coming year. Mr. Young said the restrictions did not really affect the type of requests that had been made by the City of Perris. He said they were not saying that there were not going to be earmarks anymore; just fewer of them.

Following a time of discussion regarding the selection of priority requests, it was decided that the Councilmembers would each submit a list of possible requests and Mr. Carr would compile those lists and come up with a methodology for helping the Council prioritize the requests. Mayor Busch asked the Council to also add their input regarding possible additional suggestions.

It was decided that the Councilmembers would each submit a list of possible requests and Mr. Carr would compile those lists and come up with a methodology for helping the Council prioritize the requests.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

By unanimous consent, the Joint City Council, Redevelopment Agency, PPFA and PPUA Work Session was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

5:56 p.m. Joint City Council, Redevelopment Agency, PPFA and PPUA Work Session was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy L. Haughney, City Clerk