CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Thomsen called the regular meeting of the Albany City Council to order on the above date.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Council Member Marge Atkinson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL
Present: Council Members Atkinson, Barnes, Maass, Vice Mayor Wile, Mayor Thomsen.
Absent: None
Staff Present: Beth Pollard, City Manager; Craig Labadie, City Attorney; Anne Hsu, Deputy City Clerk; Nicole Almaguer, City Clerk; Jeff Bond, Community Development Director; Ray Chan, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Isabelle Leduc, Recreation Supervisor; Brian Crudo, Battalion Chief; Michael Parenti, IT Specialist.

REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY

CONSENT CALENDAR

4-1. Minutes, December 17, 2012
Staff recommendation: Approve


b. Ratification of Albany Municipal Services JPA net payroll in the amount of $43,273.84; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of $55,138.05. Total payroll in the amount of $98,411.89. Payroll period: December 28, 2012.

d. Ratification of Albany Municipal Services JPA net payroll in the amount of $61,024.95; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of $44,849.66. Total payroll in the amount of $105,874.61. Payroll period: December 14, 2012.

Staff recommendation: Ratify


Staff recommendation: Ratify

4-4. a. Ratification of bills, claims and demands against the City of Albany in the amount of: $39,397.85 (11/1/2012); $31,165.91 (12/1/2012); $538,446.08 (12/7/2012); $933,456.45 (12/21/2012); $27,239.15 (1/1/2013); $95,980.84 (1/4/2013)

b. Ratification of bills, claims and demands against the Albany Joint Powers Authority in the amount of: $156.80 (12/7/2012); $293.00 (1/4/2013)

Staff recommendation: Ratify

4-5. City Council Appointments to Advisory Bodies – Informational Report

a. Council Member Atkinson appointments: Gabriel Baty-Charter Review Committee; Rosalie Gonzales-Library Board; Margie Marks-Social and Economic Justice Commission; Eytan Urbas-Parks and Recreation Commission.


c. Council Member Maass appointments: Sheri Spellwoman-Arts Committee; Jack Kenny-Albany Community Access Committee; Eddy So-Parks & Recreation Commission; Tom Cooper-Sustainability Committee; Robert Lieber-Social and Economic Justice Commission, Rochelle Nason-Waterfront Committee, Karen McKeown-Library Board.

e. Vice Mayor Wile appointments: Claire Napawan-Waterfront Committee; Kaz Mori-Charter Review; Jerri Holan-Civil Service Board; Janet Smith-Heimer-Sustainability Committee.

Staff recommendation: Information only.

4-6. Purchase of network switches for the City’s computer network

Staff recommendation: That Council authorize the City Manager to enter into a purchase agreement with CORE Education and Consulting Services for the purchase of thirteen network switches along with appropriate accessories to replace the existing inadequate switches on the City’s network for an amount not to exceed $61,305.92.

4-7. Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2011-12, and Resolution No. 2013-1 Establishing the Appropriation Limit for the 2012-13 Fiscal Year

Staff recommendation: That Council approve the updated schedule of inter-fund transfers, and adopt Resolution No. 2013-1 Establishing the Appropriation Limit for the 2012-13 Fiscal Year.

4-8. Engagement of legal services for Consent Decree negotiations to address wastewater collection system compliance

Staff recommendation: That Council authorize the engagement of legal services from Meyers Nave and approve the estimated budget for the proposed services.

Mayor Thomsen asked if anyone would like to remove an item. No items were pulled from the consent calendar.

MOTION:
Moved by Vice Mayor Wile, seconded by Council Member Atkinson to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted.
AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Barnes, Maass, Vice Mayor Wile, Mayor Thomsen.
ABSENT: None
NOES: None.
Motion carried and so ordered.

5. GOOD OF THE CITY/PUBLIC FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Thomsen opened the Good of the City/Public Forum/Announcements. Vice Mayor Wile announced that she has received comments supporting a gun buyback program and that Mayor Thomsen will be attending a meeting with Barbara Lee to discuss gun violence in the County.
The following people spoke: Allan Maris, Alexa Hauser.
A summary of comments is as follows: announced Chocolate and Champagne Gala fundraiser on February 9th, Albany High School Group Build On is raising funds to build a school in Nepal; announced the Friends of the Parks Edible Landscape Project work and engaging with residents surrounding the park.

Mayor Thomsen announced that the Council received a letter from Alameda County expressing appreciation for the City’s support of Measure B1.

City Manager Beth Pollard announced the Advisory Body Training scheduled for January 29, 2013 from 7-9pm at the Community Center.

6. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARING

6-1. Resolution No. 2013-3 in appreciation of Brian Crudo’s Service to the City of Albany
Mayor Thomsen presented the Resolution to Brian Crudo.
Brian Crudo expressed his appreciation to the City, Council, his family the Fire Department and to the community for the support.

The following people spoke: Allan Maris, Peggy McQuaid.
A summary of comments is as follows: expressed appreciation for Brian Crudo’s service to the City of Albany, his work on disaster preparedness and his responsible handling of the H1N1 vaccination clinic.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: appreciation for Brian Crudo’s service to the City, and his work on disaster preparedness.

MOTION:
Moved by Council Member Atkinson, seconded by Vice Mayor Wile to approve Resolution No. 2013-3 in appreciation of Brian Crudo’s Service to the City of Albany.

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Barnes, Maass, Vice Mayor Wile, Mayor Thomsen.
ABSENT: None
NOES: None
Motion carried and so ordered.

6-2. Homeless Task Force Interim Report

Staff recommendation: That Council receive a progress report and provide any additional direction to the Homeless Task Force.
Recreation Supervisor Isabelle Leduc introduced Homeless Task Force Members Lisa Kleinbub and Sharon Pipkin to deliver the presentation. The Homeless Task Force (HTF) has held six meetings since July 2012. The HTF has been learning and discussing concepts regarding homelessness. The next steps for the HTF include 1) encouraging the Albany City Council to fund a survey of persons who are homeless living at the Bulb to assess needs and provide information to assist the HTF in formulating options; 2) exploring the creation of a tool to survey those persons who are homeless and living in areas of town other than the Bulb; 3) compile three to four policy options and strategies to end homelessness in Albany to present to the City Council; 4) begin development of a draft survey instrument and methods to survey Albany’s general public regarding the proposed policy options.

The following people spoke: Allan Maris, Gordon McCarter.
A summary of comments is as follows: support for the work of the task force, recognition that the homeless issue is not restricted to just the Albany Bulb. Homeless at the Bulb is a land use issue.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: concern over number of homeless camping at the Bulb, interest in analysis of environmental impacts, encourage utilizing the survey framework developed by the County, requested the recommendations to Council include options and pro/con analysis, and expressed interest in putting an item on a future agenda to discuss funding surveys as requested by the Homeless Task Force.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

8-1. Appointments to the At-Large seats of the Arts Committee and the Sustainability Committee, and to the Berkeley/Albany Mental Health Commission

Staff recommendation: That Council take action on the at-large appointments to the Arts Committee and the Sustainability Committee, and a nomination for appointment to one of two Albany seats on the Berkeley/Albany Mental Health Commission.

City Manager Pollard clarified that the application received from Brian Loveland is intended for consideration by the Albany Unified School District Board of Education for appointment to the Arts Committee. To date the following nominations by Council Members for the at-large appointments to the Arts Committee and the Sustainability have been received:
Jules Kobelin, Arts Committee – Nominated by Council Member Atkinson.
Dan Lieberman, Sustainability Committee – nominated by Vice Mayor Wile.
In addition, Vice Mayor Wile nominated Richard Austin-Castillo to serve on the Berkeley/Albany Mental Health Commission.

The following people spoke: Allan Maris, Richard Austin-Castillo.
A summary of comments is as follows: announced he will be nominating Brian Loveland to be appointed by the Albany Unified School District Board of Education to the Arts Committee; expressed interest in serving on the Berkeley Albany Mental Health Commission to ensure programs and services are provided to Albany.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: Council Member Atkinson provided an overview of Jules Kobelin's experience regarding the Arts Committee. Vice Mayor Wile provided an overview of both Dan Lieberman and Richard Austin Castillo’s experience.

**MOTION:**
Moved by Council Member Atkinson, seconded by Vice Mayor Wile to appoint Jules Kobelin as the At-Large Appointment to the Arts Committee, and Dan Lieberman as the At-Large Appointment to the Sustainability Committee, and nomination of Richard Austin-Castillo for appointment to one of two Albany seats on the Berkeley/Albany Mental Health Commission.

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Barnes, Maass, Vice Mayor Wile, Mayor Thomsen.
ABSENT: None
NOES: None
Motion carried and so ordered.

Council Member Atkinson announced that there is a vacancy on the Berkeley Albany Mental Health Commission for a resident who has received mental health services or is a family member of someone who has received mental health services.

8-2. Complete Streets Policy

Staff recommendation: That Council approve Resolution No. 2013-4 adopting a Complete Streets Policy for the City of Albany

Community Development Director Jeff Bond delivered the staff report. The Alameda County Transportation Commission and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission are requiring local jurisdictions to adopt a complete streets policy in order to receive local transportation sales tax funds, vehicle registration fee funding, and One Bay Area Grant funds. The Traffic & Safety Commission reviewed the draft policy and approved recommending the City Council approve
the policy. To date, the City has been utilizing innovative planning to incorporate complete streets concepts on related projects to the maximum extent practicable.

The following people spoke: Allan Maris.
A summary of comments is as follows: expressed interest in the City coordinating with the School District on projects.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: clarified whether repair of sidewalks is included within the policy; interest in removing second Whereas statement on page 2.

**MOTION:**
Moved by Vice Mayor Wile, seconded by Council Member Barnes to approve Resolution No. 2013-4, with removal of lines 8-10 on page two, adopting a Complete Streets Policy for the City of Albany.

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Barnes, Maass, Vice Mayor Wile, Mayor Thomsen.
ABSENT: None
NOES: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

8-3. **Speak Up/E-Comment Media Options**

Staff recommendation: That the Council:
1. Receive information regarding the potential for a pilot program of City-sponsored social media platforms “AlbanySpeaks” and “e-comment”; and
2. Provide direction to staff regarding next steps, including identification of any additional research needed regarding “AlbanySpeaks and “e-comment”.

City Manager Pollard introduced the item and noted that staff continues to seek ways to enhance community engagement in accordance with Council goals. City Clerk Nicole Almaguer delivered the staff report. The City utilizes traditional methods for engaging with the public including public meetings, workshops, study sessions and other events. In addition, the City has begun to utilize supplemental communication tools including the City’s website, e-notify, around your block, Facebook, Twitter, streaming of public meetings, and Nextdoor.com. The City’s web streaming service provider Granicus, Inc. has offered additional services including e-comment and SpeakUp at no additional cost to the City. E-comment would allow for members of the community to comment online on agendas and the comments would be assembled into one PDF document. SpeakUp (or AlbanySpeaks) is a communication tool that would provide a platform for online dialogue, allow public to post ideas regarding particular topic areas defined by the City, vote on items of interest, and contribute feedback regarding City
planning efforts or projects. Introduction of either of these communication tools would be conducted via a pilot program to ensure functionality and utility.

The following people spoke: Alan Eckert; Peggy McQuaid; David Sanger; Sharon Pipkin.
A summary of comments is as follows: expressed interest in identification of residents, and concern with amount of time needed to moderate, suggested researching what other cities are doing, interest in ensuring that anonymous/assumed names could be managed.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: expressed hesitation and interest in taking a slow approach, expressed concern with legal issues including Brown Act and public records retention; expressed concern with amount of staff time that may be needed to moderate site; expressed concern with voting mechanisms with a preference for feedback as opposed to direct voting on items.

City Manager Pollard suggested staff conduct more research, and report back on the potential policy and use of the e-comment feature only at this time.

9. OTHER BUSINESS, REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED, ANNOUNCEMENT OF EVENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

Council Member Barnes announced that he and Council Member Maass attended the New Mayor and Council Member Training in Sacramento. Barnes noted that grant funding provided by OneBayArea may be slowed by the requirement to conduct CEQA analysis, and distributed a news article from the New York Times regarding CEQA, and also an article on analysis of legal issues with cell towers.

10. ADJOURNMENT
9:16 p.m. There being no further business before the City Council it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Nicole Almaguer, City Clerk.

Peggy Thomsen
Mayor

Attest:

Nicole Almaguer
City Clerk