7:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

City Council convenes in the Council Chamber and then adjourns to Closed Session to discuss the following items:

1. Public employee appointment or employment pursuant to Government Code Section 54957. Position to be filled: City Manager

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
   Mayor Thomsen led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. ROLL CALL
   Present: Council Members Atkinson, Maass, Vice Mayor Wile, Mayor Thomsen
   Absent: Council Member Barnes

3. REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY
   Mayor Thomsen reported that Council met in Closed Session and no action was taken.
4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4-1. Minutes, May 20, 2013

Staff recommendation: Approve

4-2.  
   a. Ratification of City of Albany net payroll in the amount of $178,420.12; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of $259,352.89. Total payroll in the amount of $437,773.01. Payroll period: 5/17/2013
   
   b. Ratification of Albany Municipal Services JPA net payroll in the amount of $46,742.50; taxes, benefits & withholdings in the amount of $53,399.29. Total payroll in the amount of $100,141.79. Payroll period: 5/1/2013

Staff recommendation: Ratify.

4-3. Ratification of Police & Fire Pension Plan payments in the amount of $113,425.02 for the month of May, 2013.

Staff recommendation: Ratify

4-4. Temporary Closure of Buchanan Street; Taft Street and Hillside Avenue west of Cerrito Street on July 4, 2013

Staff recommendation: that the Council approve the temporary closure of Buchanan Street west of the I-80/580 freeway interchange and the closure of Taft St. and Hillside Ave. west of Cerrito on July 4, 2013 from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

4-5. Appointment of Archie Stirling and John Megonnigil to the Board of Police and Fire Pension Fund Commissioners as Police Department Board Member and Police Department Alternate Respectively

Staff recommendation: that Mayor Thomsen appoint Archie Stirling as the Police Department Board Member, and John Megonnigil as the Police Department Alternate to the Board of Police and Fire Pension Fund Commissioners

4-6. Contract with the County of Alameda for Additional Library Services, Fiscal Year 2013/14, in the amount of $690,895.

Library Board recommendation: Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the contract.

Staff recommendation: Approve contract between the City of Albany and the County of Alameda for Additional Library Services for Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014.
Mayor Thomsen asked if anyone would like to remove an item. No items were removed from the Consent Calendar.

**MOTION:**
Moved by Council Member Maass, seconded by Council Member Atkinson to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted.
AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Maass, Vice Mayor Wile, Mayor Thomsen.
ABSENT: Council Member Barnes
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. The following people spoke: Amy Smollens, Albany Strollers & Rollers; Brian Parsley; Jeff Bond, Community Development Director; Signe Madson; Del Price, Paul O’Curry; Amber Whitson; Julie Winkelstein.
A summary of comments is as follows: expressed appreciation for organizers, supporters and participants of the Bike Rodeo, Bike to Work Day, Arts & Green Festival and recent bike events; encouraged Council to reconsider current health care benefits for the Council to have the same health care as City employees; Earthquake Engineering Research Institute is conducting a pilot study in Albany and will be surveying buildings to create a database to determine potential hazards in the event of an earthquake; encouraged the Council to expand the Strategic Planning goals to include research into cultural roots and values to identify commonalities; expressed appreciation to Beth Pollard, commented on lack of allocated funding for Pierce Street Park over the past several years, encouraged moving forward with Pierce Street Park; encouraged making the showers at the Community Center available to homeless people; expressed thanks for allowing homeless to camp at the Bulb; the action taken by Council on May 6 setting a deadline for enforcement of the no-camping ordinance on the Bulb is unrealistic and inhumane.

Mayor Thomsen expressed appreciation for Carla Harkness Saint Mary’s High School for her teaching services over the year.
Announced the Trails Challenge being put on by Kaiser Permanente and East Bay Regional Park District.

6. **PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARING**

6-1. Certificate of Appreciation – Friends of Albany Seniors
Council Member Atkinson & Mayor Thomsen presented the certificate to the Friends of Albany Seniors.
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Discussions to create a park at the Albany Bulb and to transfer responsibility for the Bulb from the City of Albany to the State of California, as envisioned in the McLaughlin Eastshore State Park General Plan

Staff recommendation: That Council authorize the Mayor and Vice Mayor to represent the City Council in discussions with the East Bay Regional Park District (District) and State Parks (State) for the purpose of planning the Albany Bulb as a park and planning the transfer of responsibility to the State.

City Manager Beth Pollard delivered the staff report. The Albany Bulb Waterfront Park was previously a construction debris landfill site. The park is owned by the City and is open for the public. The State of California incorporated the Albany Bulb into the General Plan for Eastshore State Park in 2002 (now McLaughlin Eastshore State Park). The East Bay Regional Park District (District) operates and maintains McLaughlin Eastshore Park in an arrangement with State Parks. Discussions regarding transitioning the Bulb to the State have recently arisen via the City Council Strategic Planning, and at the City Council meeting of May 6, 2013 when a report from the Homeless Task Force was presented to the Council.

The current agenda item is intended to clearly and properly notice City Council action on designating the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City manager to meet with District and State Parks officials about making the Albany Bulb a park, and the possibility for transfer of responsibility from the City to State Parks per the Eastshore State Parks General Plan.

The following people spoke: Mack McCurdy; Bill Dann, Vice President Citizens for Albany Shoreline; Francesco Papalia; Norman LaForce, Sierra Club; Patricia Jones, President Citizens for Eastshore State Parks; Edward Bennett; Lisa Kleinbub; Tony Cestak; Steve Granholm; Catherine Codeine; Peggy McQuaid; Clay Larson; Brain Parsley; Signe Madson; Brian Johns; Caryl O'Keefe; Paul O'Curry; Julie Winkelstein; Rochelle Nason; Brian Parker; Robert Cheasty; Amber Whitson.

A summary of comments is as follows: asked the Council to rescind previous action to enforce no-camping ordinance at the Bulb, and to allow a campground; expressed support for the staff recommendation for transition of the Bulb to State Parks; noted four obstacles to the transition of the Bulb including encampments, off-leash dogs, art, and construction debris safety issues, and potential costs involved with the transition; expressed interest in public usage of the park; encouraged respect for homeless at the Bulb; noted art on the Bulb and importance to take care of the art; encouraged a transparent process; noted East Bay Regional Park District may have additional concerns regarding land management, asked City Attorney to review the Lease Agreement to determine validity; expressed concern regarding timing for
transfer of the Bulb; suggested follow up report include cost details regarding issues at the Bulb; expressed concern with homeless moving from Bulb to other areas of the City; establishment of shoreline protection measures took many years to develop; expressed interest in better support for the homeless.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: acknowledged transition of the Bulb to State Parks has been an expressed goal for a number of years and is referenced in the City’s General Plan as well as the Eastshore State Park General Plan, expressed interest in pursuing transition of park to the State as well as connecting homeless with service providers.

MOTION:
Moved by Council Member Atkinson, seconded by Vice Mayor Wile to authorize the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Manager to represent the City Council in discussions with the East Bay Regional Park District and State Parks for the purpose of planning the Albany Bulb as a park and planning the transfer of responsibility to the State.

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

8-2. Albany Wayfinding Plan for Bicyclists and Pedestrians

Staff recommendation: that the Council approve the attached Albany Wayfinding Concept Plan and provide policy direction regarding the proposed entranceway/service organization signage

Transportation Planner Aleida Andrino Chavez delivered the staff report. The City participated in a coordinated process with the cities along the 1-80 Corridor to develop concept plans for pedestrian and bicycle wayfinding. The City’s Traffic & Safety Commission has publicly processed the development of this concept plan. In addition, an entryway and service organization sign is proposed in connection to the wayfinding project to ensure consistent branding. A policy will also be developed regarding placement of service organization signage for Council consideration. Grant funds will be sought to implement the signage project.

The following people spoke: Clay Larson, Tony Cestak, Julie Winkelstein. A summary of comments is as follows: expressed concern with bicycle boulevard signage and cost of project; expressed interest in the signage; requested signage be designed to accommodate people with vision issues; requested the Arts Committee be involved in review and design of the entranceway signage, encouraged development of a clear policy regarding organizations allowed to post signage.
A summary of Council comments is as follows: asked about the possibility of creating an electronic sign for the service organization signage and announcements; expressed appreciation for the project, expressed concern with cost, and interest in a well designed welcome sign with separate signage for the service organization signage, suggested a phased approach to the project; asked about ability to remove graffiti, encouraged seeking grant funding for the project, noted the electronic signage may be a safety issue if located at an entryway, expressed support for the service organization signage to include service organizations located within Albany, noted the signage in El Cerrito as a good example.

MOTION:
Moved by Council Member Maass, seconded by Vice Mayor Wile to approve the Albany Wayfinding Concept Plan, seek grant funding for implementation, and ask staff to research service organization qualifications.

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

8-3. Agreement with CGI Communications, Inc for Community Showcase Video

Staff recommendation: that Council authorize the City Manager or designee to enter into an agreement with CGI Communications, Inc to feature Albany in the Community Showcase Program.

Assistant City Manager/Community Services Director Penelope Leach delivered the staff report. CGI’s Community Showcase program offers production of a no-cost welcome video plus four additional community highlight videos. The videos can be placed on the City’s website. CGI’s services are also available to local businesses at a reduced rate.

There were no public comments on this item.
A summary of Council comments is as follows: expressed hesitation with the project, expressed interest in better quality and customization as compared to the examples provided in the staff report, asked about ability to end program if desired, expressed support for the project, expressed interest in including the high school students in the project, expressed interest in shortening the duration of the contract to one year, and having as much control as possible to make the video unique to Albany.

MOTION:
Moved by Vice Mayor Wile, seconded by Council Member Maass to authorize the City Manager or designee to enter into an agreement with CGI Communications, Inc to feature Albany in the Community Showcase Program for a one-year contract
with the possibility of extension.

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

8-4. Designation of Voting Delegates and Alternates for the League of California Cities Annual Conference

Staff recommendation: that the Council designate a voting delegate and alternates for the League of California Cities Annual Conference

MOTION:
Moved by Council Member Atkinson, seconded by Vice Mayor Wile to designate Mayor Thomsen as voting delegate and Council Members Maass and Barnes as alternates for the League of California Cities Annual Conference

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

9. OTHER BUSINESS, REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED, ANNOUNCEMENT OF EVENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.
No announcements were made.

10. ADJOURNMENT

9:52 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