

MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

VISTA MURRIETA HIGH SCHOOL, MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
28251 CLINTON KEITH ROAD

FEBRUARY 26, 2008

6:00 PM SPECIAL MEETING
MURRIETA, CA

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Richard H. Gibbs called the special meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Present were: Bennett, Enochs, McAllister, and Gibbs. Absent: Thomasian. A signing interpreter was present as requested.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mayor Richard H. Gibbs introduced the Council Members present. Also introduced were: Eliza Echevarria and Bob Wunderlich with Riverside County Traffic Commission; also Bill Hughes, Alex Farhadi, and Hank Nguyen with PBS&J, and Elsa Argomaniz with Arellano Associates. Mayor Gibbs introduced City Manager Rick Dudley and Public Works Director Pat Thomas.

- 1. MEETING OVERVIEW:** Pat Thomas, Public Works Director explained the meeting process to give presentations on the four projects listed on the agenda and allow residents an opportunity to visit the project tables to ask questions and receive information. Mr. Thomas introduced Bob Moehling, Engineering Manager; Ken Burris, Public Works Inspection Superintendent; and Mary Lanier, Planning Director.
- 2. UPDATE ON STEPP ROAD / LINNEL LANE STREET IMPROVEMENTS:** Jeff Hitch, Civil Engineering Associate, provided a status report on the bypass route of Stepp Road to Linnel Lane to Meadowlark, then to Clinton Keith Bridge. Another bypass alternative is to go south on Whitewood to Los Alamos Bridge. He further indicated that due to Caltrans requirements for construction of Clinton Keith Bridge that Antelope Road will be closed down. Mr. Hitch said grading will be completed in the next four weeks, and project completion is expected sometime in April.
- 3. UPDATE ON LINNEL LANE BRIDGE:** Roger Cunliffe-Owen, Consultant Civil Engineer, reported on the Linnel Lane extension and bridge improvements to relieve traffic congestion in the area. He commented that the City's portion of the Linnel Lane improvement project begins at the west side of I-215 and continues east to connect to the Antelope Road bypass project. He further stated that the portion of Linnel Lane between I-215 and McElwain Road was being done as a part of the Orchard at Stone Creek project and that rough grading for that work is nearing completion. He shared that very successful cooperation with Caltrans and the City resulted in plans being approved in one year and right-of-way acquisitions accomplished in the second year. He explained there will be four lanes to connect to Stepp Road and Antelope Road bypass. Mr. Cunliffe-Owen announced that construction will begin in April with completion expected within nine months, and that LAN Engineering has been contracted for Construction Management of the project.
- 4. UPDATE ON CLINTON KEITH ROAD BRIDGE:** Roger Cunliffe-Owen, Consultant Civil Engineer, stated the City just received environmental clearance. He said construction will start this summer and will take about 18 months to complete. The project will involve the construction of two outer bridges followed by the destruction and replacement of the inner structure. In addition the project will provide two new loop on-ramps and the relocation of the four existing diagonal on and off ramps. He further stated that, due to the distance between freeway access ramps and the existing Antelope Road intersection, Caltrans has required that the existing intersection be closed and relocated east. He indicated that the Antelope Road bypass project will provide the detour.
- 5. UPDATE ON I-215 INTERCHANGE:** Bill Hughes, Consultant to RCTC, PBS&J, conveyed the project consists of widening I-215 by filling in the 46 foot median and creating one mixed slow lane in each direction with shoulder and median barrier. He said the project will impact Keller Road, but to fill in the bridge does not affect right-of-way and will include best management practices for storm water run off. Mr. Hughes relayed they anticipate approval of plans in December and construction completion in two years.

Pat Thomas introduced Russ Napier, Public Works Construction Manager; and Susan Vombaur, Traffic Engineer.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Jorge Biagioni, Murrieta, said he is pleased that Linnel Lane is being widened but is disappointed that the improvements are only for \$77,000. Public Works Director Pat Thomas responded that this portion is only for interim improvements to add one turn lane, and the road widening will occur later.

Bill Eckburg, Murrieta, stated the dirt road is not maintained, there are numerous accidents, trash is being dumped, and there is no dust control. However, he is in favor of the projects and traffic control.

Barbara, Nugent, Murrieta, commented about congestion on Clinton Keith with the high school traffic and prior to the Orchard project, future hospital, and construction for Antelope Road alignment. She suggested synchronizing road improvements including Scott Road before the hospital is built with an overall picture in mind.

City Manager Rick Dudley said everyone that drives understands congestion in Murrieta, and added that it is unlikely that the hospital will be done by 2010.

Comments/questions from the audience included:

- Request for traffic managers at Clinton Keith and Antelope Roads now
- Request for traffic control on Meadowlark
- Request for stop sign on both sides of Clinton Keith at Antelope Road

Public Works Director Thomas responded that Antelope Road will be closed north of Clinton Keith and that traffic will need to go north and take the bypass but that improvements could be considered for the short term.

- Comment was made that several of these same suggestions were made at a previous meeting in 2006 in this high school's auditorium
- Numerous accidents were reported at the Antelope intersection
- Inquiry made for overall time frame for completion of Clinton Keith overpass
- Asked Council to consider addressing the fence line at the south end of the k-rail due to life/safety concerns
- The question was asked when Clinton Keith Road would be extended to Winchester

Mayor Gibbs responded that Riverside County has plans to punch Clinton Keith Road through from I-215 to Highway 79 in 2010 if funding remains in tact.

- Asked if City could convey to Caltrans that the wall at the 91 and 71 Freeways is too low and results in blinding
- Dan Felkins, Murrieta, expressed support for the improvements and frustration for the delay and coordination
- Barbara Nugent, Murrieta, asked Council Member McAllister if the high school could designate a bus to transport students across the freeway

Council Member McAllister related that Superintendent Stan Scheer has already made that commitment. The Council Member asked the community for support and to be polite to traffic managers.

- William Mucelli, Murrieta, asked for a projection for completion of Antelope Road

Mayor Gibbs communicated that the City anticipates developer payments will eventually pay for Antelope Road, which may cause delay; so another possibility being considered is creation of a Community Facilities District to fund improvements.

- Jean Somers, Murrieta, pointed out that there are horrible holes on the east side of the asphalt on Antelope Road. She shared information about an accident due to the holes, resulting in a car being totaled and signs damaged. She mentioned that when traffic is directed to use Stepp Road to Meadowlark that some will use Somers Road, so she is concerned what will be done.

Mayor Gibbs responded that the City would take that into account.

7. GOVERNING BODY ACTIONS/COMMENTS

Enochs: Thanked everyone for attending. He said the speakers are right about the situation, and the City is working on improvements. He mentioned that the Orchard project was conditioned to provide traffic controllers. He asked for the residents' patience, requested input and said the City would schedule everything as best as possible.

McAllister: Thanked residents for attending the meeting and for their input. He complimented staff for proposing the improvements and funding for this extraordinary amount of improvements. Council Member McAllister requested teamwork relative to the dumping issue by notifying the police department. In response to the dirt roads, he emphasized the dirt roads, such as Lee Road, are privately owned, and the City is limited in what can be done.

Bennett: Asked for the community's input in telling the City what is needed, suggesting e-mails to her and the Council Members; and the City Manager will provide answers. She agreed that walking over the bridge is unsafe and consequently parents like her add to the traffic congestion.

Gibbs: Announced that the meeting notes will be placed on the website, and you can call to get added.

ADJOURNMENT

Action: By consensus at 7:13 p.m. the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

A. Kay Vinson, MMC
City Clerk