Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Council Member West, Council Member Hamilton, Council Member Stadtherr, Mayor Martinez
Absent: Council Member Irish

CLOSED SESSION - CITY COUNCIL:

A. Closed Session Pursuant to:

7:00 P.M. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION AND
REPORT ON ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION


City Attorney Julia Lew reported that the Council had approved:
   1. The resolution accepting the counter-offer made by Mr. Dahl in the amount of $15,764 for the purchase of real property located at APNs 245-030-005 and 245-040-002 for storm drain easements; and
   2. The resolution approving the purchase of real property from Mr. Dahl located at APN 245-040-003 in the amount of $815 for road right-of-way.

Documentation: Resolution 150-2004
Resolution 151-2004
Disposition: Approved.

Pledge of Allegiance Led by Claude Broombaugh, World War II Veteran
Invocation by Mayor Martinez

PRESENTATION
• Presentation of Plaques to Holiday Decorating Contest Winners by Council
Parks and Leisure Services Director Jim Perrine announced the winners of the contest:
   • First Place: Nathan Bray, 2463 West Kanai Drive
   • Second Place: Jerry and Joanne Karels, 1955 Forest Avenue
   • Third Place: Anthony and Connie Marquez, 1021 LuAnn Place
Honorable Mentions:
Jay Huckleberry, 1321 West Monache
Ray and Gloria Simons, 44 Taylor Way

Mr. Perrine apologized that the plaques had not been completed in time and would be provided to the winners as soon as they were available.

* City Manager’s Featured Project for December, 2004: Tule River Wetlands Acquisition Grant
  Mr. Perrine presented a slide presentation reflecting the status of the Tule River Parkway.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

* Claude Brookbaugh, came forward and voiced support for entertainment and music on Main Street to enhance the shopping experience and attract people to downtown. Council pointed out that a stage and public address system were a part of the plans for Centennial Plaza.

* Cathy Capone, 806 West Westfield, commented on various items: Item 10 - Ms. Capone requested that the Tule River Parkway Association be included in the process; Item 11 - she thanked Council and staff for their prompt action; Item 15 - she voiced concern over the removal of the palm trees and requested that Council consider writing a “Heritage Tree” ordinance, suggesting a study group to discuss the issue; Item 18 - Ms. Capone expressed pleasure in seeing the project moving forward; and Item 19 - she voiced support for the use of roundabouts, citing their impact on air quality. Ms. Capone then commented that the Agenda posted online was too large, which made it difficult to open. She requested that staff utilize another method of online posting.

* Myra Alvarado, 331 South Beverly Street, voiced concern regarding Council’s recent decision to open the gate on Beverly Street. Ms. Alvarado indicated she was speaking on behalf of many families on her street that did not wish for the street to be opened citing safety concerns. She requested that Council either reconsider its decision, or in the event the street was opened, to post speed limit signs and install speed bumps.

* Donnette Silva-Carter, Chamber of Commerce, 93 North Main Street, voiced support for the Sister City program and offered the Chamber’s assistance.

* Pete McCracken, 657 Village Green, came forward and requested further information on Item 19 regarding roundabouts, specifically relating to 1) the type of design the City was considering; 2) whether existing buildings at the Villa Street and Putnam Avenue intersection would provide sufficient room for the use of a roundabout; and 3) whether staff’s cost estimate for roundabouts included land acquisition. He then warned Council that roundabouts might create more problems.

* Ted Ensslin, former Mayor, came forward and expressed support for Item 21 regarding the Sister City Program and offered his assistance with the program. Mr. Ensslin then voiced concern regarding Item 19 and warned Council to proceed cautiously, citing poor traffic conditions at Putnam Avenue and Carmelita Way.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Item 10 was removed.

1. CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 23, 2004 AND DECEMBER 6, 2004

Recommendation: That the Council approve the City Council Minutes of November 23, 2004 and December 6, 2004.
2. AWARD CONTRACT - CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY

Recommendation: That the Council:
1. Authorize staff to negotiate a contract with CPS Human Resource Services of Sacramento, California;
2. Authorize staff to negotiate a contract with the second or third ranked firm if staff is unable to negotiate an acceptable contract with CPS Human Resource Services;
3. Authorize the Mayor to sign all contract documents; and
4. Authorize staff to make payments up to 100% upon satisfactory completion of the work.

3. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BID FOR AN ON-CALL CONSULTANT FOR PREPARATION OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

Recommendation: That the Council:
1. Approve the Request for Proposals for an on-call consultant for preparation of feasibility studies and grant applications; and
2. Authorize funding in the amount of $15,000 from the savings realized from the one-time reduction in LAFCO fees.

4. AUTHORIZATION TO UTILIZE DONATED MATERIAL AND SERVICES, AND ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR CENTENNIAL PLAZA, PHASE 1A

Recommendation: That the Council:
1. Approve the Phase IA Site Plan for Centennial Plaza;
2. Waive the estimate certification requirement;
3. Authorize staff to coordinate with donors of service and material for the construction of Phase IA; and
4. Authorize staff to identify the elements of Phase IA work which require informal purchase and public bidding within an $18,000 estimated cost, and to advertise for the required bids.

5. AWARD OF CONTRACT - CENTRAL CORE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - AREA 1

Recommendation: That the Council:
1. Award the Central Core Improvement Project - Area 1 to Professional Construction Services in the amount of $1,374,709.55;
2. Authorize progress payments per the Special Provisions, Part I, Supplementary Special Provisions, Final Payment of the Project Manual, which states that within thirty days of the contractor’s final billing, the City must pay 100% of the sum due the contractor, provided that the City Engineer recommends and the City Council accepts the work as complete; and
3. Authorize a 5% contingency to cover unforeseen construction costs.

Documentation: M.O. 05-122104
Disposition: Approved.

6. THIS ITEM WAS REMOVED

7. CITY EASEMENT CONVEYANCE TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO.

Recommendation: That the Council:
1. Accept Southern California Edison’s request to have the City convey an easement for the installation of an electrical transformer;
2. Authorize the Mayor to sign the Grant of Easement; and
3. Authorize the City Clerk to record the Easement Deed with the County Recorder’s office.

Documentation: Resolution 152-2004
Disposition: Approved.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE CITY OF PORTERVILLE WELL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (SIX NEW WATER WELLS)

Recommendation: That the Council adopt a resolution approving a Negative Declaration for the City of Porterville Well System Improvements Project.

Documentation: Resolution 153-2004
Disposition: Approved.

9. INTERPRETATION OF AMBIGUITY - DAY CARES IN PO (PROFESSIONAL OFFICE) ZONES

Recommendation: That the Council:
1. Determine that the Zoning Ordinance requires a Conditional Use Permit for development of a nursery school or preschool in the Professional Office Zone; and
2. Direct staff to prepare a Zoning Ordinance Amendment for consideration by the City Council to explicitly require a Conditional Use Permit for the development of a private school for any age group and within any zone.

Documentation: M.O. 06-122104
Disposition: Approved.
11. RESOLUTION APPROVING BICYCLE LANE AND ROUTE PLAN AND APPROVING GRANT APPLICATION TO TCAG

Recommendation: That the Council:
1. Approve the November 2004 City Staff’s Bicycle Lane and Route Plan;
2. Approve a resolution affirming the November 2004 City Staff’s Bicycle Lane and Route Plan; and
3. Direct staff to submit the BTA application and approved Bicycle Plan to TCAG for funding consideration.

Documentation: Resolution 154-2004
Disposition: Approved.

12. CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Recommendation: Informational item only.
Disposition: No action required.

13. UPDATE ON JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT FOR AUTOMATIC AID FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE CALLS

Recommendation: Informational item only.
Disposition: No action required.

14. SET STUDY SESSION FOR CONSIDERATION OF MODIFICATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL PROCEDURAL HANDBOOK

Recommendation: That the Council set February 8, 2005, 6:00 p.m. as the date and time for a study session to consider modifications to the City Council Procedural Handbook.

Documentation: M.O. 07-122104
Disposition: Approved.

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Council Member Hamilton, SECONDED by Council Member Stadtherr that the Council approve Item Nos. 1 through 9 and Nos. 11 through 14.

AYES: West, Martinez, Hamilton, Stadtherr
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Irish

10. REQUEST TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Recommendation: That the Council increase the size of the General Plan Advisory Committee from 15 members to 17 members by adding Mr. Rick McIntire and Mr. Jeff Keele to its membership.

Council Member Hamilton stated when Council had initially approved the formation of the Committee, they had not appointed specific individuals, but instead created slots for unnamed representatives from various groups. He voiced concern with going outside of what Council had initially done and
increasing the size of the committee by two members, when committee size was the main initial concern. He pointed out that two Council Members had initially desired to make the committee smaller.

Mayor Martinez stated that because of his absence during Council’s initial approval of the committee, he had not participated. He stated that had he participated, he would have recommended Mr. McIntire and Mr. Keele.

Council Member Hamilton commented that while those individuals were prominent in the community, he would still like to keep the size of the committee at fifteen members. He suggested that staff could contact Mr. Keele and Mr. McIntire to determine whether they were even interested in serving on the committee.

Council Member Stadtherr pointed out that Mr. Keele was a member of the Parks and Leisure Services Commission and that this Commission already had a slot on the committee, through which Mr. Keele could participate. Council Member Stadtherr then suggested that theoretically, Mr. McIntire, as a member of the Chamber of Commerce, could participate through one of the Chamber’s slots on the Committee.

Mayor Martinez pointed out that whether or not Mr. McIntire occupied one of the Chamber’s slots would be the decision of the Chamber of Commerce. He then questioned if increasing the number of committee members from 15 to 17 created any problems.

Community Development Director Brad Dunlap responded that staff’s intent on the formation of the committee was for the committee to function as an advisory committee providing input from a cross section of the public. He stated, however, there would be a significant number of opportunities for public input. He then cautioned that the larger the committee grew, the greater the effort required to continue to coordinate meetings and schedule activities. He stated that the committee was not intended to be a voting committee, so there would be no quorum required in order to provide input or consider issues that had been identified as a part of the General Plan update.

Mayor Martinez confirmed that both individuals had shared their intent to participate and be active in this process. He asserted that the committee would benefit from Mr. Keele and Mr. McIntire’s participation.

Council Member West moved that the Council appoint Mr. Keele and Mr. McIntire to the committee, thereby increasing the size of the committee from 15 members to 17 members.

Mayor Martinez commented that he while understood the concerns raised by Council Member Hamilton, he had received a number of requests from various individuals wanting to participate and brought forth those two that he believed would be beneficial to the committee.

Council Member Hamilton stated that, if approved, Council would be showing preferential treatment to Mr. Keele and Mr. McIntire, and that he did not feel comfortable with that.

Council Member Stadtherr seconded Council Member West’s motion. He then clarified that the original 15 slots of the committee had been recommended by staff, with the Parks and Leisure Services Commission member being the only slot added by Council.

Council Member Hamilton reiterated that he did not have a problem with the individuals that Mayor Martinez suggested, rather he took issue with the process.
Mayor Martinez stated that Council could open up the selection process to the everybody.

COUNCIL ACTION:  MOVED by Council Member West, SECONDED by Council Member Stadtherr that the Council appoint Mr. Rick McIntire and Mr. Jeff Keele to the General Plan Advisory Committee, thereby increasing the size of the committee from fifteen members to seventeen members.

AYES:  West, Martinez, Stadtherr
NOES:  Hamilton
ABSTAIN:  None
ABSENT:  Irish

Mayor Martinez confirmed that the membership on the committee had now been increased from 15 members to 17 members. He then commented that perhaps additional individuals would evince an interest to also participate on the committee and that everyone had the opportunity to submit their names.

Disposition:  Approved.

Mayor Martinez requested that Item 21 be presented out of sequence in order to accommodate those individuals who were present and wished to speak on that matter.

SCHEDULED MATTERS

21.  REQUEST TO CONSIDER ACTIONS TO IMPROVE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH LA BARCA, MEXICO

Recommendation:  That the Council review with the Mayor methods to improve the Sister City relationship with La Barca including contacts between Porterville and La Barca representatives including support fro the City of Porterville.

City Manager John Longley introduced the item and stated that Mayor Martinez had been working on the Sister City Program and had requested an opportunity to speak with the Council on ways in which the relationship with La Barca could be more fully developed.

Mayor Martinez stated that the Mayor of La Barca had extended an invitation to Council to visit La Barca, Mexico. He stated that according to City Attorney Julia Lew, it was possible for Council to send a representative in an official capacity, and that he would like to be that representative. He stated that he would like to look into funding sources for that trip.

Council Member Hamilton voiced support for Mayor Martinez’s suggestion and commented that the City might have some frequent flyer miles that Council might be able to utilize. He stated that if Council could identify a funding source, he supported sending Mayor Martinez to La Barca in an official capacity.

Council Member West agreed with Council Member Hamilton’s comments.

In response to Council Member Hamilton’s question, Mayor Martinez indicated that the size of the group interested in traveling to La Barca had not yet been determined. Mayor Martinez stated that a date for the trip in March 2005 had been tentatively discussed. He then stated that the details would be determined at a later date, and that he had first wanted to introduce the idea to Council and identify possible funding sources.
Council Member West confirmed that Mayor Martinez had not proposed funding the travel of other representatives, but only funding the travel expenses for a Member of Council.

**COUNCIL ACTION:**

MOVED by Council Member Stadtherr, SECONDED by Council Member West that the Council direct staff to investigate funding sources for sending M.O. 12-122104 Mayor Martinez on a Sister City trip to La Barca, Mexico.

AYES: West, Martinez, Hamilton, Stadtherr
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Irish

Disposition: Approved.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

15. **EL DORADO ESTATES TENTATIVE SUBDIVISION MAP (MARK ELROD/DEL VALLE HOMES)**

Recommendation: That the Council:
1. Adopt the draft resolution approving the Negative Declaration for El Dorado Estates Tentative Subdivision Map; and
2. Adopt the draft resolution approving El Dorado Estates Tentative Subdivision Map.

City Manager John Longley presented the item, and Community Development Director Brad Dunlap presented that staff report. He then indicated that staff had received comments from Mayor Pro Tem Irish regarding concerns over vehicles backing out of driveways onto Putnam Avenue. Mr. Dunlap explained that Putnam Avenue was not considered an arterial street nor a collector street, but was designed as a local street. He stated that the Subdivision Ordinance did not address the fronting of lots onto local streets, as local streets were designed to provide direct access to residential developments. Therefore, he stated, the design was consistent with the City policies. He pointed to Olive Avenue, which he stated was a collector street, and therefore the developer had backed the lots up to Olive Avenue. Mr. Dunlap explained that Mayor Pro Tem Irish had also inquired about the requirement of a landscape maintenance district, which Mr. Dunlap pointed out, was addressed in Condition No. 2 in the draft resolution.

The public hearing opened at 7:51 p.m.

Daryl Jordan, a resident of Atwater, came forward and identified himself as the civil engineer for the project. He commented that he was available to answer any questions that Council might have.

Applicant Mark Elrod of Del Valle Homes came forward and thanked staff for their time and thanked Council for their consideration.

Cathy Capone, 806 West Westfield Avenue, came forward and questioned the significance of a certain dark area on the Tentative Subdivision Map, which staff explained was a flood zone designation that was historical in nature and was being addressed. Ms. Capone then questioned the status of the two larger lots located in the southwest portion of the map, which staff explained were not a part of the proposed Subdivision. Ms. Capone then voiced concern with drainage issues due to soil that percolated water very slowly, which she asserted was prevalent in that particular area.
Dick Eckhoff, 197 North Main Street, voiced concern over vehicles backing out onto Putnam Avenue, particularly due with increasing traffic activity due to development.

The public hearing closed at 7:57 p.m.

In response to Council Member Stadtherr’s question, Community Development Director Brad Dunlap explained that pursuant to the plan, the easterly row of palm trees on the Map would be removed, and the westerly row of palm trees, which he pointed out were on the school’s property, would remain. Mr. Dunlap explained that staff had been able to research of the history of the trees back to the 1950s and that while the trees were probably removable, the expense in doing so would be excessive.

Mayor Martinez confirmed that the residents would be able to plant trees.

In response to Council Member Hamilton’s comment, Mr. Dunlap responded that he did not believe Washingtonia Robusta Palms were native to California.

Council Member Hamilton agreed with the concerns raised by Mr. Eckhoff regarding vehicles backing out onto Putnam Avenue, and pointed to Westfield Avenue as an example.

At the request of Council, Project Engineer Daryl Jordan came forward and indicated that there were traffic calming measures on which the developer could work with the City. He stated that Putnam Avenue would also be affected by the property immediately north of El Dorado Estates. He stated that due to the topography of that property, residences would also front Putnam Avenue. He then stated that at the present time, changing the plans for El Dorado Estates would be difficult.

Community Development Director Brad Dunlap commented that one option that could be considered would be incorporating a vehicle turn-around on the lots, either in the form of a hammerhead design or a circular drive. He pointed out that this idea had been incorporated into other maps with similar traffic issues, although those lots had been somewhat wider than those proposed in El Dorado Estates.

Mayor Martinez confirmed that the landscape maintenance district would be located on the Olive Avenue side of the project and clarified that the proposed fence adjacent to the school’s property would be wood. Mayor Martinez then questioned how graffiti would be handled, to which Mr. Dunlap responded that the property owner would be responsible for the removal of graffiti. He stated that he hoped the developer would at least have some discussions with the school district regarding methods to prevent graffiti.

Community Development Director Brad Dunlap pointed out that landscape materials could be utilized to mitigate graffiti. He then mentioned that he had not discussed a landscape maintenance district with the developer regarding the area along the school border.

Council Member Hamilton commented that he was pleased to see a Tentative Subdivision Map for the east side of Porterville, but voiced disappointment that the Council had not previously considered traffic issues along Putnam Avenue. He then moved that the Council approve staff’s recommendation.

Council Member West seconded Council Member Hamilton’s motion.

James Nichols, President of the Alta Vista Elementary School District Board of Trustees, voiced support for the project. He then introduced Cheyenne Ruffa, Assistant Principal of Alto Vista Elementary School District.
COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Council Member Hamilton, SECONDED by Council Member West that the Council adopt the draft resolution approving the Negative Resolution 155-2004 Declaration for El Dorado Estates Tentative Subdivision Map and adopt the Resolution 156-2004 draft resolution approving El Dorado Estates Tentative Subdivision Map.

AYES: West, Martinez, Hamilton, Stadtherr
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Irish

Disposition: Approved.

SCHEDULED MATTERS

16. "D" OVERLAY SITE REVIEW 3-2004 (TRINITY CONTROL)

Recommendation: That the Council adopt the draft resolution containing findings and conditions in support of the approval for “D” Overlay Site Review 3-2004.

City Manager John Longley presented the item, and Community Development Director Brad Dunlap presented the staff report.

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Council Member Hamilton, SECONDED by Council Member West that the Council adopt the draft resolution containing findings and conditions in support of the approval for “D” Overlay Site Review 3-2004.

AYES: West, Martinez, Hamilton, Stadtherr
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Irish

Disposition: Approved.

17. “D” OVERLAY SITE REVIEW 4-2004 (ALLEN & MAPLES)

Recommendation: That the Council adopt the draft resolution containing findings and conditions in support of the approval for “D” Overlay Site Review 4-2004 subject to conditions of approval.

City Manager John Longley presented the item, and Community Development Director Brad Dunlap presented the staff report. Mr. Dunlap indicated that the project engineer had contacted staff prior to that evening’s meeting. He stated that the project engineer had pointed out that since development of the northerly portion of the site was not a part of the plan currently before Council, Condition No. 6, which required construction of a six foot tall concrete block wall along the northern property line, should not be required at that time. Mr. Dunlap stated that he concurred with the project engineer’s belief that Condition No. 6 should be stricken from the resolution and explained that Condition No. 6 would be appropriate when that portion of the site was developed.

Council Member Hamilton agreed with staff’s recommendation that Condition No. 6 be stricken from the resolution.
Community Development Director Brad Dunlap then indicated that Mayor Pro Tem Irish had relayed concerns of maintaining consistency with the existing ten foot wide sidewalk along Morton Avenue. Mr. Dunlap stated that although he had not yet had an opportunity to address those concerns with the City Engineer, it appeared that the sidewalk to the west of the property was wider than what had been proposed in the subject project. He stated that the provisions of the Code allowed for maintenance of the existing sidewalk width, however in cases of Professional Office Zoning, the sidewalk widths were not required to be as wide as in the Commercial Zone. He then referenced the sidewalk in front of the Social Security Administration building located to the west of the subject property as an example, where in the sidewalk was apparently five feet wide. He stated that staff could not locate any provisions in the Code that would require the applicant to develop a ten foot sidewalk. He summarized that the sidewalk in front of the subject site would match up with the width of the sidewalk both to the east and to the west of the property, and that the sidewalk would then transition into the ten foot width in front of the hotel property.

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Council Member Hamilton, SECONDED by Council Member West that the Council adopt the draft resolution, as amended to strike Resolution 158-2004 Condition No. 6, containing finds and conditions in support of the approval for “D” Overlay Site Review 4-2004 subject to conditions of approval.

AYES: West, Martinez, Hamilton, Stadtherr
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Irish

Disposition: Approved.

18. AUTHORIZE DISTRIBUTION OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR SKATEBOARD PARK DESIGN PREPARATION

Recommendation: That the Council:
1. Authorize staff to distribute the Request for Qualifications for skate board park design preparation; and
2. Appoint a member of the City Council to the Consultant Selection Panel for the skate board park design consultant.

City Manager John Longley presented the item, and Parks and Leisure Services Director Jim Perrine presented the staff report.

In response to Council Member Hamilton’s question, Mr. Perrine explained that staff had estimated the design portion would likely be less than $50,000, and the grant monies would pay for a portion of the design services, with the City paying a match requirement. He stated that the grant provided for approximately 70% of the funding, with a 30% match from the City. He indicated that the City’s portion would come from donations made to the Skateboard Park Fund, which Mr. Perrine estimated to consist of approximately $10,000 on hand, in addition to a $15,000 pledge from the Rotary Club.

Council Member Hamilton moved that the Council authorize staff to distribute the Request for Statement of Interest and Qualifications for Consultant Services for a Modular Skate Board Park Design.

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Council Member Stadtherr, SECONDED by Council Member Hamilton that the Council amend Council Member Hamilton’s motion to include the appointment of Council Member West to the Consultant Selection Panel for the Modular Skate Board Park Design.
AYES: West, Martinez, Hamilton, Stadtherr
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Irish

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Council Member Stadtherr, SECONDED by Council Member Hamilton that the Council approve Council Member Stadtherr’s amended motion to authorize staff to distribute the Request for Statement of Interest and Qualifications for Consultant Services for a Modular Skate Board Park Design and to appoint Council Member West to the Consultant Selection Panel for the Modular Skate Board Park Design.

AYES: West, Martinez, Hamilton, Stadtherr
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Irish

Disposition:Approved.

19. TRAFFIC SIGNAL COSTS VS. ROUNDABOUT COSTS AT PUTNAM AVENUE & VILLA STREET, AND PLANO STREET & MULBERRY AVENUE

Recommendation: Informational item only.

City Manager John Longley presented the item and City Engineer Mike Reed presented the staff report.

In response to Council Member West’s question, Mr. Reed explained that both projects mentioned in the staff report – being the traffic signal installations at the intersections of Putnam Avenue and Villa Street as well as Plano Street and Mulberry Avenue – had been funded and approved by CalTrans.

City Manager John Longley clarified that the purpose of this item was not to change the traffic signals to roundabouts at those particular intersections, but rather to provide comparative material on the relative cost of traffic signals for consideration in the future.

Council Member Stadtherr thanked Mr. Pete McCracken for his comments during Oral Communications, then referenced additional printed materials regarding the use of roundabouts. He cited the Planning Commissioner’s Journal, No. 26, Spring 1997, which referred to the increasing use of small circular landscaped islands as an alternative form of traffic control. He indicated that according to that journal article, the modern roundabout was the safest form of traffic control available, and that it was less expensive, more efficient, and provided a higher capacity to be attractively landscaped. He then explained that there were many sites on the Internet, including sites from the Departments of Transportation in various states, that provided information on modern roundabouts. Council Member Stadtherr stated that according to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation’s website, roundabouts moved traffic more safely through an intersection because of slower speeds, fewer conflict points, and easier decision making. He continued that studies by the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety showed that roundabouts provided a 90% reduction in fatal crashes, a 76% reduction in injury crashes, a 30% to 40% reduction in pedestrian crashes, and a 10% reduction in bicycle crashes. He stated that while he was not seeking a change in the two intersections discussed, he instead wished to provide comparative numbers for intersection costs with roundabouts and that cost figures for these two intersections had simply been available. Council Member Stadtherr suggested that the City could begin to develop the capacity to consider roundabouts in order to allow staff to prepare...
cost comparisons when considering traffic signals at intersections in the future. He further suggested that staff be educated on the use of roundabouts, as well as possibly prepare an educational campaign for the public so the public understands how roundabouts worked. He stated that he was seeking a commitment from the Council to have staff develop the expertise in order to effectively price roundabouts with reasonable accuracy, and for staff to have the ability to provide options to Council at future intersections.

Council Member West stated that since roundabouts appeared to be far less expensive than traffic signals, that the Council should consider their use in the future. He voiced support for obtaining cost comparisons for an actual location in the future.

Council Member Hamilton commented that roundabouts were mostly used in highway situations, and not within cities. He voiced concern for safety, and questioned how emergency vehicles handled traveling through roundabouts. He stated that emergency vehicles had the ability to manipulate traffic lights in order to pass through intersections. He voiced concerns with the need to educate the public on the use of roundabouts and suggested that roundabouts might be too confusing if they required training for their use. He then stated that he also had concerns with overburdening staff, when other projects had been identified as priorities.

Council Member Stadtherr stated that he could not simply walk away from a cost savings of $100,000.

Mayor Martinez commented that in the future, roundabouts might certainly be a possibility. He then pointed out that each Council Member received many ideas from constituents and that many of these ideas should be examined in the context of the City’s priorities and the work load of staff. He stated that he was uncertain as to how much staff time had been devoted to each idea put forth by Members of Council, but requested that the Council work together on many of these items. He then stated that he believed roundabouts might be a possibility in the future, but not at this time. He suggested that the item come back to Council for consideration when staff’s workload allowed for it.

Council Member West questioned how much additional staff time was required to also consider roundabouts when considering a traffic signal at an intersection. He then commented that change was hard, but change was sometimes good.

City Engineer Mike Reed responded that traffic signals were fairly standard and that the City routinely hired consultants for that work. He stated that with regard to roundabouts, staff needed to be brought up to speed as to design procedures, which would either require the education of staff, or the hiring of consultants. He explained that estimating how much staff time that would require would prove difficult at that time.

Council Member Hamilton voiced concern with overburdening staff with yet another project when other projects had already been deemed a priority for staff. He then questioned if Porterville was trying to become Europe, or be America. He pointed out that Bakersfield and Visalia had both tried roundabouts and that they were no good. He then suggested that the Council Members go to those locations and drive through them.

Council Member West stated that cost was the main issue and that just because the City had never utilized a roundabout, that did not necessarily mean that it was not a good idea. He suggested that roundabouts might prove better, and that City should at least try one at some intersection.
City Manager John Longley requested clarification as to Council’s direction and questioned if Council would like staff to identify situations in the future in which staff determined that roundabouts might provide a good design solution in a particular situation.

Council Member Hamilton stated that this was not his understanding of the discussion. He stated that for the record, he opposed the use of roundabouts in Porterville.

Council Member Stadtherr questioned if Council Member Hamilton was willing to write a check for $100,000 each time he passed the opportunity by. He questioned how the Council could justify to the public that although the City had two options for intersections, it chose the one that cost the taxpayers $100,000 more, as opposed to the one that had been proven to reduce fatal crashes by 90%, reduce injury crashes by 76%, reduce pedestrian crashes by 30 to 40%, and cost $100,000 less.

Council Member Hamilton commented that he believed he could justify that decision to the taxpayers of Porterville. He then suggested that Council Member Stadtherr present more information on roundabouts, but commented that at the present time, he was not in favor of roundabouts.

Mayor Martinez commented that Council was not yet at the point of directing staff, and that they were simply in the educational process of learning about roundabouts. He pointed out that Council Member Hamilton stated he was not interested “at this time” thereby leaving room for further consideration.

Council Member Stadtherr pointed out that there might be opportunities for engineer training on the design and use of roundabouts during the Spring or Summer of 2005.

Mayor Martinez suggested that the matter could be brought back at that time.

Disposition: No action required.

20. STATUS REPORT - DEVELOPER IMPACT FEES


City Manager John Longley presented the item and Deputy City Manager Darrel Pyle presented the staff report.


AYES: West, Martinez, Hamilton, Stadtherr
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Irish

Disposition: Approved.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
• Dick Eckhoff, Downtown Porterville Association, 197 North Main Street, came forward regarding Item 19. He stated that safety concerns should be considered and voiced support for obtaining
information from other cities who have utilized roundabouts. He then questioned the necessity for educating the public on their use.

- Pete McCracken, 657 Village Green, cautioned Council over use of correct terminology when discussing roundabouts to ensure effective and concise communication on the issue.
- Cathy Capone, 806 West Westfield Avenue, thanked Council for their service. She then voiced concern with residents having to back out of driveways on Putnam Avenue in the subdivision proposed in Item 15, particularly with increased activities at Granite Hills High School. She suggested “hammerhead” style driveways be included in the design.

OTHER MATTERS
- Council Member West requested that Council Member Hamilton explain why he did not want any roundabouts in the City. Council Member Hamilton clarified that he had said that at this time, he was not in favor of roundabouts. He commented that such decisions should not be made without sufficient information on the subject.
- Council Member Stadtherr commented that he would compile succinct, informational reports for Council’s review on the roundabout topic. He suggested that a study session would be appropriate. He then explained that emergency vehicles utilized roundabouts in different manners, as some constructed small central islands which were then simply straddled by emergency vehicles. He explained for example that the City of Vail actually intentionally routed its emergency vehicles through roundabouts as opposed to other intersections because the roundabout design provided a clearer path without traffic congestion. He then informed Council of an upcoming “Models of Innovation” seminar and suggested that selected staff members could attend.
- Mayor Martinez requested that staff schedule a meeting between the non-profit organizations that hold car washes and the commercial car wash owners to discuss the car wash issue. He requested that Council Member Hamilton also be a part of that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT
The Council adjourned at 8:55 p.m. to the meeting of January 18, 2005.

Patrice Hildreth, Deputy City Clerk

SEAL

Pedro R. Martinez, Mayor