Call to Order at 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Council Member McCracken, Council Member Pedro Martinez, Mayor Pro Tem Felipe Martinez, Council Member Hernandez, Mayor Hamilton

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Pedro Martinez
Invocation – a moment of silence was observed.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
• Hector Figueroa, 259 East Oak Street, came forward and identified himself as a 7th grader from Bartlett Middle School. He spoke of the National Young Leaders State Conference to be held in San Jose, and requested the Council’s sponsorship.
• Nathaniel Rogers, 49 E. Putnam Avenue, identified himself as a 7th grader from Bartlett Middle School and requested the Council’s sponsorship in attending the National Young Leaders State Conference.

SCHEDULED MATTER
1. 2007/2008 BUDGET STUDY SESSION

City Manager John Longley presented the item and the staff report which included a visual presentation. Mr. Longley spoke of the City’s budgetary process, provided an overview of the proposed budget, and noted the Capital Projects Study Session scheduled for June 8, 2007. He then called upon the department directors to present their department budgets.

Public Works Director Baldo Rodriguez spoke of the Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste Funds, and the status of staffing and service levels in the department. He noted the expansion of operations in the Solid Waste Fund due to the implementation of the City’s curbside recycling program, which he indicated had exceeded revenue projections. A discussion ensued as to project service levels and street repairs. Mr. Rodriguez then presented Finance Letters No. 5 and No. 6 regarding Banner Poles and the Analysis of Street Lights, respectively. A discussion ensued as to the street light analysis, during which Mr. Rodriguez stated that a “windshield assessment” would be undertaken by staff, and the findings with options reported to the Council.

John Lollis, Acting Deputy City Manager/Administrative Services Manager presented an overview of the preliminary budget for Risk Management, Finance, Human Resources, and City Clerk. A brief discussion ensued as to the recruitment process.

Police Chief Chuck McMillan came forward next and presented the proposed Police Department budget to the Council. He spoke of Measure H funds; staffing levels; the decision to reinstate responding to non-injury traffic accidents; the recent installation of a license plate reader and the purchase of three additional readers; and of current negotiations with local schools regarding a third School Resources Officer. Chief McMillan then addressed animal control, noting that the
annual cost for animal control services was approximately $155,000 per year, and that his department was looking at options for next year when the contract expired.

Fire Chief Mario Garcia presented the proposed budget for the Fire Department next. He spoke of staffing levels; the increase in call volume attributed to the recent annexations; an increase in arson-related fires; the plan to hire a full-time fire investigator; and an increase in public information with a public information officer funded by a gaming grant. Chief Garcia then provided a status report on the City’s code enforcement program, and spoke of the goal to hire a second officer. The Chief next spoke of Emergency Management, noting the upcoming training session for key personnel on June 14th. Chief Garcia lastly presented Finance Letters Nos. 2 and 3 on Classroom/EOC Facility at Station 2, and Fire Rescue Apparatus, respectively.

In response to questions posed by the Council, City Attorney Julia Lew stated that she would research whether Measure H funds could be utilized to fund a code enforcement officer.

Parks & Leisure Services Director Jim Perrine addressed the Council next, presenting the Parks & Leisure Services proposed budget. Mr. Perrine spoke of Parks, Leisure Services, the Library, the Zalud House, and the Golf Course, during which brief discussions ensued. Mr. Perrine then proceeded to present Finance Letters related to his department, including No. 1 - Sports Complex Parking Fees; No. 2 - Sports Complex Debt Service; No. 3 - Community Center Improvement Project; No. 3 - Sports Complex Second Entrance; No. 3 - Sports Complex Concession Parking; and No. 4 - YES/RAP Certification Pay Program.

With regard to the Sports Complex parking fees, Council Member Pedro Martinez requested that staff provide an additional option of possibly increasing user fees at the Complex. As to the Community Center Improvement Project, Council Member Pedro Martinez requested that the remaining funds be used for ADA upgrades at the facility. He then queried staff on the estimated completion date for the landscaping portion of the Skateboard Park, and inquired whether artificial turf could be used. A discussion then ensued as to the trimming of bushes and trees. It was suggested that the oleanders on Olive Avenue and Henderson Avenue needed trimming.

Community Development Director Brad Dunlap next presented the proposed budget for the Community Development Department. He spoke of the focus on staffing, particularly the City Planner position, and of funds available to fund a GIS Technician position for one year. With regard to Economic Development, Mr. Dunlap noted the recent hiring of a new Development Assistant and Administrative Aide, and spoke of the increase in economic development activity. Mr. Dunlap then spoke of housing and redevelopment, indicating that his department would be looking at possibly amending the redevelopment area in the future. He then proceeded to present Finance Letters No. 2 and 3, regarding the Hockett/Mill Parking Lot, and the Park Impact Fee Analysis, respectively. With regard to the Hockett/Mill Parking Lot, Mr. Dunlap spoke of the need for repairs, particularly with the revitalization of the Schortman Building.

A discussion ensued as to the status of the parking lot on Oak Street, during which it was indicated that staff would provide a memorandum on the status of funding and the reason for the delay.
Mr. Longley then proceeded to present the proposed budget for City Council, City Manager and the Airport. A discussion ensued related to increased travel by Council Members on behalf of the City. It was requested that the budget for Council travel be increased. Mr. Longley indicated that he would meet with the Mayor to review the travel expenses and address the Council’s needs.

Council Member Pedro Martinez proposed moving the Monache Ball Courts Project “below the line” and moving “above the line” items such as playground improvements at Murry Park and Veterans’ Park; Leisure Services Update and a new Leisure Program; and improvements to the driving range at the Golf Course.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
• Dick Eckhoff, 197 North Main Street, spoke of the deteriorated condition of parking lots downtown and of their dire need of repairs. He requested that the City focus on improving the parking lots and that ongoing maintenance costs be included in the budget.
• Ralph Tyrell, Johnson Controls, came forward and spoke of his company’s proposal and the savings in energy costs that could be realized by the City if the City moved forward with the project.

OTHER MATTERS
• Mayor Hamilton:
  1. Inquired as to the identify of the contractor handling the Water Tie-In Project, noting the dangerous condition of the roads in the location of the project. Mr. Rodriguez indicated that Halopoff was the contractor on the project and that the situation was to be remedied.
  2. Requested clarification as to whether the Council could sponsor students for the National Young Leaders State Conference. A brief discussion ensued during which it was stated that if the Council sponsored one or two students, it would likely be inundated with other requests, and that a decision would then need to be made as to where it should draw the line.
• Mayor Pro Tem Felipe Martinez thanked staff for managing the City while Mr. Longley attended meetings in Sacramento with the Council Members.
• Council Member Hernandez spoke of the efforts by 4H and FFA Members for their participation at the Porterville Fair and requested that a Letter to the Editor be drafted for the Council’s signature congratulating the members on their successful projects.

ADJOURNMENT
The Council adjourned at 9:35 p.m. to the meeting of June 5, 2007.

Patrice Hildreth, Deputy City Clerk

SEAL:

Cameron Hamilton, Mayor