Call to Order at 12:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Council Member McCracken, Council Member P. Martinez, Mayor Pro Tem F. Martinez, Council Member Hernandez, and Mayor Hamilton

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Pete McCracken
Invocation: Moment of Silence

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
None

SCHEDULED MATTER
1. MEASURE R STUDY SESSION

The City Manager stated that Ted Smalley, Deputy Executive Director for the Tulare County Association of Governments, was present to give a workshop on Measure R. The City Manager stated that Mr. Smalley would be making a statement on the progress of Measure R.

Baldo Rodriguez, Public Works Director, stated that Mr. Smalley would speak on the purpose for the workshop, give an overview of the Measure R implementation Plan, and then comment on the projects directly related to the City of Porterville.

Mayor Hamilton welcomed Mr. Smalley and thanked him for coming, and welcomed Wayne Harris, the Porterville representative on the Measure R Oversight Committee.

Ted Smalley then came forward and made the Measure R presentation. He stated that it was their goal to work with everybody to meet their needs, desires and projects. He stated that the Council should feel free to ask questions. He also stated that he would like to speak at the end about two items related to Porterville and the efforts they were trying to do in Kern County that was not Measure R, but would impact Porterville. Mr. Smalley stated that County staff would be happy to come out and do presentations and follow-up whenever needed in the future.

Mr. Smalley then went through his presentation and spoke on the purpose, the plans for implementation, including the possibility of bonding within the next five years to proceed on designed projects, the citizens’ oversight committee, and each of the individual Porterville projects. He stated that it was projected at a $635,786 annual amount (2005 dollars) for Porterville, and they were working on a streamlined procedure for the money to come in. Mr. Smalley stated that they would receive monthly checks from the State, and they were proposing
to the Policy Board that they turn around within two weeks to make sure the money was sent to each respective agency. They would have a streamlined reporting process that would allow the public to see what was going on, but yet not tie staff’s hands in the amounts of paperwork usually associated with state and federal funds. Their goal was to have one simple phase that easily communicates to the public that here were the local program projects that were planned for the year and the percentage complete. Mr. Smalley stated that the only other requirements besides the audit, and passing the audit, was the posting or signing requirements that Measure R contributed to the project. He stated that this would be Porterville’s discretionary money, and it wasn’t for the Authority Board or the staff to dictate its use. The City did need to start putting together a program or thought of what it would be doing this summer and this next year so they could clearly demonstrate to the public that they would be getting improvements out there in the first year.

Mayor Hamilton clarified that the County would collect the full County amount and then they would designate 35% for local programs, so the 35% was divided half by population, one quarter by maintained miles, and a quarter by the amount of traffic that occurs within the respective area, and then that money goes out. The amount was recalculated every June for the next year as long as they get updated numbers. Mayor Hamilton and Mr. Smalley discussed the calculation of population and annexations and the calculation of updated figures. It was noted that the State Department of Finance numbers and the drivers licenses issued numbers were used to calculate numbers.

Mr. Smalley reviewed the Air Quality Programs for $600,000 for two CNG buses, and $5,000,000 for bike path improvements. He stated that there were other pots of money, as relates to transit, bikes and pedestrians, and air quality programs, and they would be working with City staff on transit improvements and bike lanes and other projects. Mr. Smalley stated that over the next thirty years the City would have access to other sources of money, and in a perfect world, they would use their funds as matching money and leverage it to do big projects. The City could use these funds for matching money for CMAQ, State and Federal grants and projects. He stated that the County would work closely with the City to look at best ways to deliver key projects. Mr. Smalley noted that the County would prefer the City to use their $635,00 for something other than bikes and pedestrians. He stated that any agency using their Measure R moneys to leverage other funding sources will move to the top of the list, per the expenditure plan. He stated that they wanted to take the Measure R money and make more money.

Mr. Smalley then reviewed the Regional Projects Program in the expenditure plan:
• State Route 65 - the environmental will be finished and then this will be a likely candidate to get funding for design and right of way within the next four years. Then it will be in position for construction. He noted that Caltrans would not be donating any money from another source for the project right of way. He stated that it would be three segments constructed north to south, but there will be a significant delay in improvements in Kern County, as they did not pass their sales tax measure. He stated that they would still be asking Caltrans to do two passing lanes in Kern County.
Scranton and Indiana - to the extent possible, this should be the first regional project in Tulare County constructed. Staff is willing to try and make the construction schedule this summer. The negotiation will be with only five property owners so it is possible. This project will connect up to the four-lane highway and open up all the industrial property to the east.

State Route 190 - the goal in thirty years is to be widened to four lanes. The County has been successful in doing shop projects, using maintenance money, to put in eight foot shoulders, and regrading the road. He stated that it would be an over-$30,000,000 project. He stated that they asked that the second phase of this project be the highest priority maintenance project in Tulare County, and the TCAG Board agreed. It starts at SR 65 all the way to Highway 99. The first phase is to Poplar, and half the cost would be right of way. He stated that hopefully the project would happen over the next five years. He stated that fully widening 190 would be in the second fifteen years of Measure R, but the potential to move it up would be a second wave of bonds that would occur fifteen years or so from then. They would be looking at phasing the project. They would also be working on the SR 65 corridor at SR 190 to improve the interchange, which would be a separate pot of money.

Main Street/State Route 190 Interchange Improvements
New North Grand/State Route 65 Interchange

Mr. Smalley then briefly discussed the SR 65 project on Spruce with Council stated that Caltrans was proposing a $150,000,000 project. They offered an alternative solution to design to County standards at $90,000,000. Mr. Smalley stated that now that Measure R campaign was over, they would be setting up a major workshop and meeting between all the agencies and Caltrans to go over the alternates. It will be for decision makers and staff to come and weigh everything out to show where they were at with the projects. He stated that they couldn’t get Caltrans to come off their standards. He stated that they were continuing forward, and the worst case scenario they could keep SR 65 through Exeter and Spruce would be a County road, and they didn’t need Caltrans permission to widen the road.

Council Member P. Martinez asked if any projects were going through East Porterville. Mr. Smalley stated that they did not have any at this time, but it was listed as a specific community for improvement, and the County would be putting together a comprehensive package looking at getting at least one project done in each community every two years. He stated that there was also a project to put key turnouts on Reservation Road to improve safety.

Mayor Pro Tem F. Martinez asked about taking East Porterville to a highway interchange, and Mr. Smalley stated that the projects would have to come from the City.

Mr. Smalley briefly spoke on STIP money, and stated that another item he wanted to bring up was a planning item to make sure the City was aware of, and would be commenting on, the blue print as relates to the foothill’s freeway. Although it was fifty years out, it would extend from Spruce all the way to Fresno or Madera and allow the freeway to hook back into Highway 99. Mr. Smalley stated that this was extremely important for the Porterville economy in the long
term. In answer to a question on using funds for rail, Mr. Smalley stated that they had limited money for right of way purposes for light rail corridors, but they could use air quality money for light rail.

Mayor Pro Tem F. Martinez asked about apportioning the funds and the percentages, and Council spoke about the critical need to work with the County on joint projects.

Mr. Smalley stated that if an agency spent $10,000,000 today, and was to be reimbursed in five years, should they be paid $10,000,000 or $12,500,000 which was 5% a year. He stated that he didn’t have a good feel, and didn’t know how the vote would pan out, but would have a better idea Monday after this was discussed by the Policy Board. There may be a compromise in that a short term advance probably wouldn’t get an escalated value, but an escalated value for ten years would be a 50% loss of the value of the dollars. He stated that two of the people present that evening were voting members, and they would be tackling it. Mr. Smalley thanked the Council for having him.

Mayor Hamilton stated that Mr. Smalley was the backbone in writing all this, and Phil Cox also working on this for over a year, before getting this to the agencies.

OTHER MATTERS
• Mayor Pro Tem F. Martinez stated that he would like to bring forward the letter he had given the Council and write something as a Council. Mr. Longley stated that it would be put on the agenda.
• Council Member P. Martinez stated that he would like a letter of congratulation sent to the young lady from Granite Hills who won a wrestling championship.
• Council Member P. Martinez thanked Council Member Hernandez for covering for him at the last forum.
• Council Member P. Martinez stated all the agencies working on the freeze relief.
• Council Member P. Martinez stated that the Eagles had their 100-year Anniversary, and the Inter Se Circle was also having an anniversary, and he congratulated those groups who were very important to the community.
• Council Member Hernandez stated that he had attended a Success Dam Remediation meeting and was surprised with the size of the project and the relocation of the mobile home park residents.

ADJOURNMENT
The Council adjourned at 1:38 p.m. to the Council Meeting of February 6, 2007.

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Georgia Hawley, Chief Deputy City Clerk

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Cameron Hamilton, Mayor

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