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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Pedro Martinez
Invocation -- A moment of silence was observed.

PROCLAMATIONS

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
None

SCHEDULED MATTER
1. THE FAIRGROUNDS AND COURTHOUSE PROJECT

City Manager Longley introduced the item, and explained that the Study Session was to discuss the impact of a potential Courthouse Project at the Porterville Fairgrounds and to provide an opportunity for public input. Community Development Director Brad Dunlap presented the status report.

Mr. Dunlap began his presentation by identifying the existing Fairgrounds site as the preferred location for the Superior Courthouse Project. He noted that a minimum site size requirement and location were key factors in identifying the 7.4 acres of City-owned land as a potential site for the nine room courthouse. Mr. Dunlap explained that the construction of a new courthouse at the preferred site would require the relocation of the City’s fair, which was a process that the Fair Board was interested in and committed to.

Mr. Dunlap continued by identifying the preferred site for the relocation of the Fairgrounds as an area located at the corner of Scranton and West Street. He referred to a bubble diagram that outlined areas of land that would accommodate the fairgrounds, the OHV Park, Sport Complex and a possible resort. Mr. Dunlap explained that the relocation of the Fair and the construction of a new courthouse would benefit the community and accommodate the projected increase in population.

At the Mayor’s request, City Manager John Longley briefly addressed the costs associated with the relocation of the Fairgrounds and the issue of funding.

Community Development Director Dunlap spoke about the new courthouse as it pertained to the General Plan. He explained that it was important that a public facility such as the courthouse be located downtown, close to restaurants, services, and offices that would provide support for the facility. The
City, he added, was in the process of identifying how the proposed courthouse site could be connected through accessibility and related uses to Main Street from a planning standpoint. Mr. Dunlap also noted that the area located within the boundaries of Scranton Avenue from the North, Westwood Street from the East, Teapot Dome Ave from the South, and West Street from the West was identified for Commercial/Recreation as an alternative land use in the General Plan in the event that resort and recreational type activities come to fruition.

Council Member Pedro Martinez inquired about how the residential area would be impacted by the proposed courthouse, and if there was a possibility of a jail facility being constructed. Mr. Dunlap indicated that the majority of the impact would be relative to the design, which the City had not been informed of. It was expected however, that the City would have the opportunity to work with the State as the courthouse facility is designed. With regard to a jail facility, Mr. Dunlap responded that the City anticipated that the County would require support facilities, for which land is available, but that there were no known plans for development at that time.

With regard to the Armory, Mr. Dunlap stated that staff had met with the Director of National Guard Real Estate to discuss the concept reflected within the General Plan, which would accommodate an armory in the area of the airport; and although they liked the site and the concept of being in such close proximity to residential areas, the timing and the ability to make the move was questionable.

Those members of the public in attendance were invited to ask questions or comment.

- An unidentified individual, inquired about the Fair Board: 1) how the board members are selected, 2) leasing agreements with the City, 3) if they are in favor of the move, 4) and if they want the City to pay for the move. She also asked about the possibility of the State building a court house in Lindsay or other cities.

  Mayor Hamilton addressed the questions pertaining to the Fair Board, and City Manager Longley spoke of the State’s study identifying Porterville as the preferred location.

- Marvin Hughes, 17355 Road 202, inquired about the ditch on the north perimeter of the existing Fairgrounds and the lit ball field.

  Community Development Director Dunlap stated that the ditch was still in use, and could be piped in the future. He stated that the City was researching funding options to be used towards the construction of new lit ball fields.

- Margaret Hughes, 17355 Road 202, inquired about the accessibility of the proposed fairgrounds site to through traffic, and expressed concern regarding traffic congestion.

  Mr. Dunlap elaborated on the consideration of land use relative to street types and street capacity, as it pertained to the General Plan, and added that streets would receive the necessary improvements as development occurred.

  Council Member-Elect Brian Ward, inquired about alternatives to the proposed fairgrounds site and funding. Mayor Hamilton spoke of the possible sites, and indicated that the Fair Board had
expressed that the preferred site was the site located at the corner of West Street and Scranton Avenue. Mr. Dunlap added that the Fair Board was searching for potential funding sources to facilitate the move, because it was clear that the City would be unable to fund the entire cost of the relocation. He then elaborated on a phased or staged approach that would occur if the fair was to relocate to the proposed site. Mr. Dunlap concluded by clarifying that the City was looking at contingencies and that nothing was absolute.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
None

ADJOURNMENT
The Council adjourned at 7:08 p.m. to the meeting of June 14, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Luisa Herrera, Deputy City Clerk

SEAL

Cameron Hamilton, Mayor