Call to Order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call: Council Member McCracken, Council Member Pedro Martinez, Mayor Pro Tem Felipe Martinez, Council Member Hernandez
Absent: Mayor Hamilton

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro Tem Felipe Martinez
Invocation – A moment of silence was observed.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
• Don Beardsley, 910 Williford, spoke against the construction of the Heritage Center parking lot, and of the need for maintenance of Murry Park.

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Council Member Pedro Martinez, SECONDED by Council Member McCracken that the Council adjourn the meeting by 12:00 p.m.
AYES: McCracken, P. Martinez, F. Martinez, Hernandez
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Hamilton

Disposition: Approved

SCHEDULED MATTERS
1. CITY GOALS AND PROJECT PRIORITIES

City Manager John Longley spoke briefly about the process of selecting priority projects. He then outlined the schedule for the day and went on to explain the “dot” voting system. He added that the results of the voting would be provided to Council for consideration in January, and that the Council would then define the priority projects for 2008.

Parks & Leisure Services Director Jim Perrine presented the Council with his department’s projects; spoke of grants awarded to the department; and recommended priority projects.

• Greg Shelton, spoke of the importance of prioritizing tree trimming; spoke against spending $500,000 for a parking lot that would not provide a play area for children; and spoke in favor of improving maintenance at Murry Park.

Police Chief Chuck McMillan, briefly spoke of the Police Department's completed projects. He then reviewed his department's project list, and identified its priority projects.
Fire Chief Mario Garcia reviewed his current project list, priority projects, and the department's completed projects.

Public Works Director Baldo Rodriguez spoke of the prior year's priority projects, identified current priority projects, and noted that there were forty-two projects on his department's list. During his presentation, Mayor Pro Tem Felipe Martinez requested that the Indiana Low Water Crossing be added to the “Other Projects” list; and a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the needs of annexation areas.

Community Development Director Brad Dunlap presented his department's project list; noted the importance of the General Plan; spoke of the Hillside Development Ordinance; and identified his recommended priority projects. He then reviewed his completed projects, and indicated that his department was fully staffed and well suited to proceed with future endeavors.

In response to questions posed by the Council, Mr. Dunlap briefly spoke about the Downtown Planning Area, the Courthouse Commons, Riverwalk Marketplace, the Redevelopment Project Amendment, Transportation Enhancement Act monies, and the possibility of a Downtown parking structure.

The Council recessed for five minutes.

Deputy City Manager/Administrative Services Manager John Lollis briefly updated the Council on GASB 34 and provided a brief presentation of current and priority projects for the Administrative Services Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Felipe Martinez invited the public to come forward to comment or ask questions.

- Sharon Patterson, 441 N. Jennifer Way, Library Board of Trustees Member, inquired about the Library Master Plan.
- Myron Wilcox, 550 W. Fairhaven, Friends of the Library, suggested that everyone go by the Library to see the newly acquired children's furniture.
- Cathy Capone, 806 W. Westfield, spoke of the tree maintenance program; suggested that the City work towards maintaining a “Tree City” designation; and spoke of her desire to work with the City to move the Tule River Wetlands Project forward.

Council Member Pedro Martinez spoke of improvements to the transit operations to include increased service hours and Sunday service. City Manager Longley suggested a study session or agenda item for Council's consideration. Council Member Pedro Martinez also acknowledged the importance of library services and the need to continuously move forward. He voiced support for the expansion of after-school programs and spoke of the importance of gang prevention.
Council Member Eddie Hernandez voiced support for going “green” on the new Public Safety building; and spoke of the need to designate a new library as a priority.

Mayor Pro Tem Felipe Martinez requested that the Indiana Low Water Crossing be added to the study session; spoke of a damaged eucalyptus tree in Murry Park; and suggested a study session on the new library. City Manager Longley indicated that a study session would be scheduled.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the expansion of the Redevelopment Area.

At the City Manager's direction, each department head identified their “Blue Dot” or carryover projects. Then the Council and staff commenced voting with the colored dots.

Following the voting period, Council Member Pedro Martinez stated that he was very pleased with the Casas Buena Vista Project, and that he would like to see the City work on another project of that type. Community Development Director Dunlap indicated that the Porterville Hotel Project was a contemporary version of that project in that it would be more challenging. Council Member Martinez also spoke of his desire to see the City of Porterville and the Chamber of Commerce meet to discuss branding initiative.

City Manager Longley explained that the votes would be tabulated, and the results presented to Council in a future City Council meeting.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- Sarah Villicana, inquired about who had identified ballfield lighting as a priority during voting.

**OTHER MATTERS**

- Council Member Hernandez:
  1. Noted the two green dots on the Library Project, and spoke of its importance; and
  2. Invited everyone in attendance to the Boys & Girls Club ribbon cutting on Wednesday, December 12th.
- Council Member Pedro Martinez:
  1. Spoke of the Mariachi Event on Sunday, December 9th; and
  2. Encouraged donations to the Toys for Tots bins located in City Hall.
- Mayor Pro Tem Felipe Martinez spoke of the gang forum and the information he received.

**ADJOURNMENT** to the Council Meeting of December 18, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

Patrice Hildreth, Acting Chief Deputy City Clerk

Cameron Hamilton, Mayor