PORTERVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
ADJOURNED MEETING
HAMAMATSU CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL
291 NORTH MAIN STREET, PORTERVILLE
JULY 28, 2009, 6:00 P.M.

Called to Order at 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Council Member Hamilton, Council Member Pedro Martinez (arrived late), Council Member Felipe Martinez, Vice Mayor Ward, Mayor McCracken

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
- Greg Woodard, 1055 W. Morton, spoke in opposition of the establishment of a Planning Committee and urged the Council to table the idea.
- Brian Ennis, 643 N. Westwood, spoke in opposition of a Planning Committee and of his negative experiences with such committees in other cities.
- Jason (last name inaudible), 704 Melinda Avenue, spoke in opposition of a Planning Committee.
- Jim Winton, 150 W. Morton, stated that he concurred with the previous comments, and that the establishment of a Planning Committee would not increase community involvement.
- John Coffee, address not given, spoke in favor of a Planning Committee and expressed an interest in serving.

SCHEDULED MATTER
1. CONSIDERATION OF A PLANNING COMMITTEE

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Council consider the information presented and direct the subcommittee and/or staff accordingly.

City Manager Lollis introduced the item.

Mayor McCracken began by inquiring about the Council’s interest in delegating authority to a Planning Committee. Community Development Director Brad Dunlap noted that legislative duties could not be delegated, and a discussion ensued with regard to whether there was sufficient support of the idea to continue the meeting. Both Vice Mayor Ward and Council Member Pedro Martinez expressed an interest in further discussing the matter.

Council Members Hamilton and Felipe Martinez voiced their concerns about the costs to the city and a committee’s effect on the development process. Council Member Hamilton identified the argument for increased community involvement as false reasoning, and Mayor McCracken noted that Project Review Committee meetings are already open to the public. A discussion then ensued regarding the overall lack of public interest in city government, as demonstrated by the poor attendance at the recent Community Forums.

Vice Mayor Ward indicated his interest was dependent on a Planning Committee’s ability to streamline, not impede the development process. Community Development Director Dunlap responded by speaking of positive and negative experiences with Planning Committees throughout
his career. A discussion followed regarding the Long-Range Planning Committee; it’s termination in 2003; and the abilities of the planning staff to handle the current work load.

Vice Mayor Ward suggested that the Project Review Committee meetings be better publicized. Mayor McCracken stated that he did not witness an increase in public participation after the elimination of the previous Planning Commission or during his time serving as a member of the Council.

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Council Member Felipe Martinez, SECONDED by Council Member Hamilton that the City Council table the establishment of a Planning Commission indefinitely. The motion carried unanimously.

Disposition: Approved

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
None

OTHER MATTERS
• Council Member Felipe Martinez announced his appointment as City Alternate Member to the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District Citizens Advisory Committee.

ADJOURNMENT
The Council adjourned at 7:07 p.m. to the meeting of August 4, 2009.

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Luisa Herrera, Deputy City Clerk

SEAL

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Pete V. McCracken, Mayor