PORTERVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
ADJOURNED MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
291 NORTH MAIN STREET
PORTERVILLE, CA
OCTOBER 13, 2010, 5:30 P.M.

Call to Order at 5:30 p.m.
Roll Call: Council Member McCracken, Vice Mayor Hamilton, Council Member Shelton, Council Member Ward, Mayor Irish

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Ronald Irish
Invocation – a moment of silence was observed.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
None

PUBLIC HEARING
1. ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 BUDGET

Recommendation: The City Manager proposed that the City Council consider adoption of the proposed 2010-2011 Fiscal Year Budget, as directed for modification.

City Manager Lollis introduced the item and presented the staff report.

A discussion ensued regarding the use of Parks staff during the off-season to assist with road maintenance, and Public Works Director Rodriguez indicated that staff would report to the Council no later than the first meeting in December.

Council Member Ward asked whether the potential for the Boys and Girls Club to oversee the after-school program at the Heritage Center had yet been explored. Staff indicated that an invitation had been extended, but that a proposal had not been submitted. Vice Mayor Hamilton questioned the timing of the discussion, stating that it was premature to consider prior to receipt of a proposal.

The Council briefly discussed an across the board reduction, and cutting personnel payroll costs. Mayor Irish inquired about the funds set aside for the water dam project, and it was confirmed by staff that the $250,000 in funds were General Fund monies.

The public hearing was opened at 5:49 p.m. Seeing no one, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 5:50 p.m.

Vice Mayor Hamilton MOVED that the City Council approve the 2010/2011 Fiscal Year Budget as presented. The motion was SECONDED by Council Member McCracken.
Mayor Irish requested that the City set up additional sinking funds in future budgets, which could be earmarked for roads and the like. A discussion then ensued with regard to equipment replacement funds, funds for building construction, and the benefits of typing funds as proposed by Mayor Irish.

Council Member Shelton proposed that the motion be amended to adopt parts of the budget. City Manager Lollis stated that the Council could approve the budget as presented, but could also provide direction to staff requiring additional product due to the Council, such as defined operations and costs.

Council Member McCracken suggested language for Council Member Shelton’s amendment, which Council Member Shelton accepted. Council Member Ward stated that he would prefer to pay the part-time employees with General Fund monies until staff had completed their investigation. A discussion ensued regarding options available to the Council pertaining to the Measure H Budget for Literacy. Staff clarified that the concern being investigated was from a past budget, and not an element of the proposed budget.

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Council Member Shelton, SECONDED by Council Member McCracken that the City Council amend Vice Mayor Hamilton’s motion to approve the Measure H Budgets for Police, Fire and only the fixed costs for Literacy; and direct that discretionary costs relative to Literacy be held in reserves until City Council has opportunity to review and approve.

AYES: McCracken, Hamilton, Irish
NOES: Shelton, Ward
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Council Member Ward, SECONDED by Council Member McCracken that the City Council amend Vice Mayor Hamilton’s motion by un-appropriating approximately $30,000 for the Zalud and Murry Park Misters. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff addressed questions from Council regarding funds proposed for a storage unit at the Heritage Center.

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Council Member McCracken, SECONDED by Council Member Shelton that the City Council amend the Vice Mayor’s motion by un-appropriating approximately $129,000 for a storage unit at the Heritage Center, and $80,000 for Heritage Center ballfields; and direct staff to return to the Council for a budget adjustment when they have reason to put in the storage unit.
AYES: McCracken, Shelton, Ward, Irish  
NOES: Hamilton  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Mayor Irish, SECONDED by Council Member Ward that the City Council approve amend the Vice Mayor’s motion by un-appropriating approximately $250,000 from monies allocated for the Dam project. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council took a five minute recess.

A discussion ensued regarding Council’s amendments to the budget and their affect on the City’s budget deficit. City Manager Lollis also elaborated on the condition of the City’s other funds, noting that the General Fund had been affected by the decrease in sales tax and property taxes. At the request of Council he provided methods of balancing a deficit budget.

Council Member Ward expressed his reservations about adopting a deficit budget, and stated that he preferred adopting a budget after labor negotiations had concluded.

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Council Member Shelton, SECONDED by Mayor Irish that the City Council amend the Vice Mayor’s motion by cutting 1.5% in personnel costs across the board, which would change staff’s recommended 94% to 92.5%.

AYES: Shelton  
NOES: McCracken, Ward, Hamilton, Irish  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Council Member Shelton stated that he was opposed to adopting a deficit budget, and the Council discussed whether the proposed amendments had in fact balanced the budget.

Council Member Ward made a motion to adopt a three month budget, but then withdrew his motion on account of it conflicting with his stance on the Measure H Literacy budget.

COUNCIL ACTION: MOVED by Vice Mayor Hamilton, SECONDED by Council Member McCracken that the City Council approve the budget, as amended.

AYES: McCracken, Hamilton, Irish  
NOES: Shelton, Ward  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Disposition: Approved as amended.
ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
None

OTHER MATTERS
• Vice Mayor Hamilton advised everyone that October was National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
• City Manager Lollis stated that the City of Lindsay was hosting the League of California Cities Dinner at McDermott Field House the following evening.

ADJOURNMENT
The Council adjourned at 7:02 p.m. to the Council Meeting of October 19, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

__________________________________________
Luisa Herrera, Deputy City Clerk

SEAL

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Ronald L. Irish, Mayor