CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES

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Regular Meeting
January 5, 2009

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY 2

1. Election of Mayor and Vice Mayor 2

2. Adoption of a Resolution Commending the Outstanding Public Service of Larry Klein as Mayor 4

ORAL COMMUNICATION 5

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. 5

The City Council of the City of Palo Alto met on this date in the Council Chambers at 7:12 p.m.

Present: Barton, Burt, Drekmeier, Kishimoto, Klein, Morton, Schmid, Yeh

Absent: Espinosa

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Election of Mayor and Vice Mayor.

Mayor Larry Klein nominated, seconded by Council Member Kishimoto, Peter Drekmeier as the Mayor for 2009.

Mayor Klein said Vice Mayor Drekmeier had a voice of reason, was moderate in getting Council to agree on issues, and an effective leader in getting the City, State, and the planet to become sounder environmentally. In the past year, he played a big role in getting a series of environmental measures adopted and had a vision of what the community could accomplish in having a green future. As a devoted environmentalist, he was an active leader of the First Day Movement 20 years ago in Palo Alto. He was successful in getting San Mateo County to prevent the environmentally destructive Devil Slide Bypass and instead a tunnel constructed for a more sound and environmental alternative. He was instrumental in securing billions of dollars in State and park water bonds and active in saving the Tuolumne River from being overused by the San Francisco Water Project.

Council Member Kishimoto said Vice Mayor Drekmeier had committed his life to the environment and educating the community to understand the fragility of the global climate and local environment. He had grown and changed while on the Council and spoke of how Palo Alto had finally reached an understanding of what Vice Mayor Drekmeier had been trying to convey his entire life.

By Acclamation of the City Council, Peter Drekmeier was appointed Mayor of Palo Alto for 2009. Council Member Espinosa absent.

Mayor Drekmeier thanked his colleagues for giving him the honor of serving as Mayor for 2009. He expressed his appreciation in working with Council for the past three years and looked forward to the year ahead. He spoke of Palo Alto as an engaged community and proud of the Climate Protection Plan, Zero Waste Plan, and the Green Building Ordinance. Such projects improved the quality of life in Palo Alto which helped the environment and surrounding communities that looked to Palo Alto as a role model. He

believed in acting locally for global change. He expressed the need to focus on the economy and spoke of Palo Alto's current deficit of $2.5 million and a $5.3 million deficient in the following year. A bigger threat was the natural resource base being used faster than it was being replenished. He wanted to focus on local self-reliance and to prepare the community and neighboring communities for big challenges ahead in producing more renewal energy and food locally, working on waste stream in converting waste into usable resources as energy and top soil. His theme for the coming year was "regional cooperation for local self-reliance." He reminded everyone of Council's priority session to be held at the Lucie Stern Community Center on January 10, 2009, to determine the Council's priorities for 2009.

Council Member Barton nominated Jack Morton for Vice Mayor, seconded by Council Member Yeh.

Council Member Kishimoto nominated Pat Burt for Vice Mayor.

Council Member Barton said he nominated Council Member Morton because his experience as Chair of the CAO Committee and Chair of Finance Committee was a good contribution to Council. It was important for each Council member to be given an opportunity to take a leadership role and asked Council for their support in voting Council Member Morton as Vice Mayor.

Council Member Yeh said he seconded the Motion because Council Member Morton's accounting background would be beneficial in assisting Palo Alto in tough financial situations. Additionally, the Palo Alto community would be hosting the Senior Games and Council Member Morton already had played an intricate role in the upcoming event.

Council Member Kishimoto said she nominated Council Member Burt because 2009 was going to be a critical year with its drawn out and serious economic downturn. Palo Alto would be facing a number of key and complex land use and transportation decisions and would need guidance through the process. One was a culmination of the two-year negotiations of Stanford University's Medical Center and Shopping Center expansion. There was the Comprehensive Plan update with focus on south Palo Alto facing changes and decisions in the Edgewood Plaza. Council Member Burt's years of experience on the Planning and Transportation Commission (P&TC) and knowledge of land use and transportation issues would help guide the Council to design the best process in making decisions. As a long-time business owner of a technology firm in Silicon Valley, he understood local economy, technology, budget, and the challenging decisions Council faced. His experience and expertise would compliment the new Mayor in team leadership and the ability to stay on top of all complex issues.

Council Member Klein concurred with Council Member Kishimoto. He said the standard for choosing a Vice Mayor should be one best suited to serve during the Mayor's absence, to aid in the various tasks the Mayor would be facing during his term, and to focus on the possible preparation for becoming Mayor.

Council Member Schmid supported Council Member Morton as Vice Mayor. He said Council Member Morton's dedication and services in the past 20 years made a big difference in the community especially in Parks and Community Services. He was clear and explicit on where he stood on issues. He displayed fairness in his leadership role as Chair of the Finance Committee and kept focused on data information and good numbers that were essential in operating the City.

City Clerk Grider read into the record the votes of the Council Members for Vice Mayor as follows:

Council Member Barton for:	Council Member Morton
Council Member Burt for:	Council Member Burt
Mayor Drekmeier for:	Council Member Morton
Council Member Kishimoto for:	Council Member Burt
Council Member Klein for:	Council Member Burt
Council Member Morton for:	Council Member Morton
Council Member Schmid for:	Council Member Morton
Council Member Yeh for:	Council Member Morton

City Clerk Grider noted with five votes Council Member Morton was appointed to Vice Mayor for 2009. Council Member Espinosa absent.

Vice Mayor Morton said his primary reason for running for Council was because he viewed Palo Alto as a special community. He believed in sustainability and having a balanced budget that made life livable.

2. Adoption of a Resolution Commending the Outstanding Public Service of Larry Klein as Mayor.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Morton moved, seconded by Council Member Kishimoto to adopt the Resolution commending the outstanding public service of Larry Klein as Mayor.

MOTION PASSED: 8-0 Espinosa absent

Richelle Moroyan, on behalf of Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, 5050 El Camino Real #17, said Senator Ruskin sent his congratulations and thanked the

former Mayor for communicating well with his office and informing him on state issues. As a former Mayor, he understood the long hours and having to face challenging issues and conveyed his appreciation. Senator Ruskin congratulated the new Mayor and Vice Mayor and looked forward to working with them in 2009.

Pattie DeMellepine, on behalf of Supervisor Kniss, 70 West Hedding Street, congratulated the new Mayor and Vice Mayor. Former Mayor Klein was presented with a Certificate of Commendation from Supervisor Kniss for his leadership as Mayor and outstanding dedication and commitment to the community.

Council Member Klein thanked the community and feedback he received throughout the year making his job as Mayor worthwhile. He thanked the Staff and his colleagues for their outstanding job and expressed his appreciation in working with a productive group. He looked forward to working under Mayor Drekmeier's leadership in 2009.

Council Member Kishimoto expressed her appreciation in working with former Mayor Klein and thanked him for his support while she was Mayor in 2007. She appreciated the Green initiatives and his personal involvement in the recruitment of the new City Manager and Auditor.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Emily Renzel, 1056 Forest Avenue, spoke regarding composting at Bixby Park. She urged Council to think carefully before sacrificing valuable parkland for an uneconomic and destructive industrial composting operation.

Kim Ferm, United Way Silicon Valley, spoke regarding 2-1-1 Santa Clara County Outreach. She said it was a free three-digit phone number and provided brochures with resources to help people in need. On February 11, 2009, Santa Clara County would be celebrating 2-1-1's second year anniversary and hoped everyone would attend to learn more about the success of the program. 2-1-1 had a emergency disaster and response component and would be working with the County Office of Emergency Services to develop a reverse 9-1-1 program.

Michael Francois, 224 Gardenia Way, East Palo Alto spoke regarding fluoride in the water. He spoke of the Hetchy-Hetchy pipes being switched over to Crystal Springs Reservoir for repairs and said water would be cloudy and to test for torpidity. He spoke of the dangers in having fluoride in the water.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

ATTEST: APPROVED:

City Clerk Mayor

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