

Rio Vista City Council
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 28, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
One Main Street
Rio Vista, California 94571

Roll Call

Present: Councilmembers Jones, Krebs, Norman, Richards, and Mayor Vick

Absent: None

1. Public Comments – None

2. National Heritage Area presentation and discussion.

Alex Westhoff, representing Delta Protection Commission, presented the feasibility study for the National Heritage Area, including but not limited to background information, benefits and possible projects.

Comments and requests for clarification on the National Heritage Area included, but were not limited to:

- opposition, citing personal experiences
- timeframe, benefit
- prohibiting diversion of water South
- funding
- flood control
- primary/secondary zone
- request for additional information from other entities with designated National Heritage Area(s)
- definition of stakeholders
- protection of Delta agricultural community

No Council action taken.

3. Review and discuss Rio Vista Bridge Study Alternatives

Mayor Vick introduced the issue of the proposed Rio Vista Bridge Study Alternatives for public/Council discussion and recommendation to be submitted to Solano Transportation Agency.

Public input included comments on the following issues:

- Desired alignment of highway, including existing bridge and alignment
- Desired bridge type and/or tunnel river crossing options
- Keep existing bridge or have only one 4-lane bridge on any alignment
- Access points from highway to neighborhoods, commercial locations, downtown
- Type of highway desired through town

- Two or four lanes through town
- Cross-streets and pedestrian access across highway
- Impacts on businesses
- Highway commercial vs. industrial areas of development
- Issue of tolls and possible funding alternatives
- Vehicle traffic on existing alignment with truck traffic on alternative alignment

Following Council discussion and consideration of public comments, Council consensus was to authorize the Mayor to draft a letter to be submitted to Solano Transportation Agency to include the following comments/direction.

The City will support only a new structure with engineering and design characteristics that minimize impacts to and disruptions of local business and commerce; a structure that enhances local business and industrial development and guarantees ease of access of citizens into the future. Any new Sacramento River crossing must not destroy the unique characteristics of Rio Vista as a community and a city.

The conclusion has been reached that any alignment other than the current alignment through town would irreparable harm the economic base of our city. Other cities, such as Novato and Cloverdale spent years trying to recover their economy when Highway 101 bypassed their downtowns. We do not wish this to happen to Rio Vista – we might never recover.

The study consultant has recommended that the Northern Corridor Alignment (Alternative 4) not be studied further and we concur with that recommendation. We are asking that the Airport Road Alternative (Alternative 3) be removed from consideration. This alignment's close proximity to existing and planned residential and industrial developments would negatively impact residents and businesses in that area. Impacts to the airport's missed approach zone and the height of the bridge would make it impossible to extend the main runway, which is a part of the Airport Master Plan. Airport Road is the industrial hub of the city; we would be unable to simply move those existing industrial businesses to another area to provide for a new Highway 12 along Airport Road.

Considering limited access to downtown, conservation easements in the area and the impact of a high bridge and highway to the residential areas on that side of town, there has been almost no support for the Southern Alternative along Emigh Road. Therefore, we request that Alternative 5 be removed from further consideration.

The City of Rio Vista supports a new river crossing along the current alignment of Highway 12. The preferable structure would be 4-lane tunnel, with a 2-lane tunnel as a possibility. Although this would cause some disruption in highway businesses, the consensus was that since part of the tunnel approaching the water would be subterranean, it would be usable land. There was considerable concern relative to blight that frequently occurs under a bridge crossing approach, particularly since the approaches in this case would occur a considerable distance west on the highway.

The Council felt that any changes/replacement of the current bridge must improve the safety and convenience of the citizens of Rio Vista and the surrounding region, including the Delta and eastern Solano County and not hinder the local economy. Any new crossing should protect and enhance the tax revenue stream that accrues from local and regional commerce and industry. The city seeks to ensure the continuing viability and success of local businesses that rely on the existing State Route 12 and would be unable to relocate should the highway be moved to another location.

The city expects that any design of a new road would plan for ease of access onto and across the highway. Of particular concern is children crossing the highway to go to school have a safe passage.

The council and public testimony both abhor the imposition of a toll and request other alternatives be sought for funding and no consideration be given that source of funding. It seems to us the cost of the project and the importance of Highway 12 supplying Travis AFB requires significant Federal funding.

Rio Vista is a regional center, particularly for the agricultural and gas well industry; local and regional traffic crosses the river several times a day. A toll would negatively impact the viability of many of these businesses. Most toll facilities are in urban areas, and are a part of living and commuting in those areas. Rio Vista is the center of a rural area, and while there is commute and inter-regional truck traffic, the bulk of the traffic is local and regional. Placing a toll on residents and local industry would be detrimental to the economy of the city and region.

Recess - 7:50 p.m.

Reconvene - 7:55 p.m.

- 4. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the second amendment to the Infrastructure Security Release Agreement with Shea Homes Limited Partnership concerning the Liberty (Gibbs Ranch) subdivision, with Resolution for adoption.**

City Manager Hector DeLaRosa presented the staff report including information on previous extensions and request to extend the time period to December 31, 2010. He stated the extension is to provide time for the City and Shea to both negotiate and finalize an agreement.

Following Council discussion on the request for additional time, consensus was to relist the item on the August 5, 2010 agenda.

Open Session recessed; Council convened in Closed Session.

- 5. Closed Session
Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: City Manager**

**Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: City Attorney**

Council reconvened in Open Session.

Closed Session Disclosure: No reportable action taken on Public Employee Performance Evaluation – City Manager
Closed Session for Public Employee Performance Evaluation – City Attorney not held; to be relisted on August 5, 2010 agenda.

6. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned.

Carolyn Parkinson, MMC
Interim City Clerk