Minutes of
Bell City Council
Bell Community Redevelopment Agency
Bell Community Housing Authority
Bell Public Finance Authority

May 25, 2011
6:00 P.M. Closed Session
7:00 P.M. Open Session

Bell Community Center
6250 Pine Avenue

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Saleh at 6:11:37 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Steve Finkelstein, Police Captain.

Roll call of City Council in their capacities as Councilmembers, Community Redevelopment Agency Members, Community Housing Authority Commissioners and Public Finance Authority Trustees.

6:20:14 PM

Present:	Mayor Saleh, Vice Mayor Harber, Councilwoman Alvarez and Councilwoman Quintana
Absent:	None
Also Present:	Interim Chief Administrative Officer Carrillo, Interim City Attorney Casso, City Clerk Valdez and Captain Finkelstein

Interim CAO Carrillo informed the Mayor and City Council that Councilman Valencia was running a few minutes late.

Communications From The Public

6:13:02 PM Alfred Areyan, no address stated, thanked the council, expressed concerned about item 3.01 and also requested the City Council to make the right choice in choosing a City attorney.

Councilman Valencia arrived at 6:14:35 PM.

6:16:07 PM Sandy Orozco, Maywood Resident, expressed concern about Pedro Carrillo and Jaime Casso. She also expressed concern about Randy Adams and Angela Spaccia.

Closed Session

City Council recessed to Closed Session at 6:19:23 PM.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Government Code Section 54956.9(a)
Name of Case: *Robert McSweeney v. City of Bell, et al*
Case No.: Los Angeles Superior Court BC406337

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Government Code Section 54956.9(a)
Name of Case: *Olivia Camargo v. City of Bell*
Case No.: Los Angeles Superior Court 11C00168

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Government Code Section 54956.9(a)
Name of Case: *People v. Robert Rizzo, et al*
Case No.: Los Angeles Superior Court BC445497

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c)
(Three (3) potential cases)

THE CITY COUNCIL RECESSED TO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957(b)(1) PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT: INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

THE CITY COUNCIL RECESSED TO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957(b)(1) PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT: INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY

The City Council reconvened to open session at 7:51:28 PM.

Interim City Attorney Casso reported the following from closed session:

As to item 3.05 and 3.06, these items were continued until after the open session is concluded.

7:51:57 PM As to item 3.01 there was a motion on a vote of 3-2, the two votes were Councilwoman Quintana and Councilman Valencia on direction to the City Attorney's office.

7:52:08 PM As to item 3.02, direction was given to the City Attorney's office on a 4-0 vote. Councilman Valencia did not participate in this matter because of a possible conflict. Therefore in the abundance of caution, Councilman Valencia excused himself from any discussion.

7:52:24 PM As to item 3.03 there was no reportable action.

7:52:31 PM As to item 3.04, direction was given to counsel. As to one item the vote was 4-0-1, Councilman Valencia being the abstention. On the second item, the vote was 3-2, the two votes being Councilwoman Quintana and Councilman Valencia. As to the third case, the vote was 5-0.

Presentations

7:53:17 PM Presentation by Board Member Yolie Flores, Los Angeles Unified School District.

Interim Chief Administrative Officer Carrillo informed the City Council that Board Member Flores contacted the City Clerk and informed that Superintendent Rowena T. Lagrosa would be making the presentation in her stead.

Communications From The Public on Agenda Items (non-Public Hearing items), only

8:19:03 PM Gilbert Jara, Representing the BPOA, expressed concern about the Association working without contract, no raises being paid and officers not being compensated for their work.

8:22:55 PM Alfred Areyan, 7008 Vinevale Avenue, requested to increase the time for public comment, expressed concern about item 7.05 and stated the he supports the Police Department.

8:25:36 PM Councilman Valencia asked Mr. Areyan if he would support a Multi-City Police Department.

8:25:59 PM Mr. Areyan responded that he support the Bell Police Department.

8:26:58 PM Donna Gannon, 6601 Prospect Avenue, expressed concern about the current status of the Police Department.

8:30:38 PM Steve Brown, 5162 Florence Avenue, agreed with previous speaker that everyone should be able to speak about all items. Requested to have less items on the agenda. Express concern about items 7.03, 7.04 and 7.06.

8:35:21 PM Gwilyn McGrew, no address stated, expressed concern about not having the budget done for next fiscal year. Requested the Council to have the State Controller's office come in and audit the city and expressed concern about interest payments on the money borrowed.

8:41:44 PM Stephen Rogers, 820 Church St., Redlands, expressed concern about items 6.01, 7.03, 7.04 and 7.06.

8:45:07 PM Ismael Morales, no address stated, expressed concern about item 7.06, not having the audit done for the last budget. Mr. Morales also requested that budget discussions be open and transparent and to have a line to line analysis from an independent auditor.

8:47:06 PM Margarita Limon, 4642 Bell Avenue, inquired on the status of hiring a new City Attorney, new personnel and expressed that the Police Department should be the priority.

8:49:03 PM Mario Estrada, 6834 Otis Avenue, expressed concern about the graffiti in the city and requested to do a performance review on GPC.

8:50:28 PM Marcos Oliva, 6637 King Avenue, expressed concern about item 7.03 and stated that this community does not need any more taxes.

8:52:03 PM Alex Paredes, no address stated, express concern about the budget.

8:52:41 PM Ignacio Marquez, 7027 Crafton Avenue, expressed concern about the statement on page 2 of the agenda and item 7.02. Mr. Marquez also inquired on the status of reducing salaries and stated that they are not against the Police Department, they are against the high salaries.

8:56:36 PM Bill Fick , 6610 Heliotrope Avenue, informed that City Council of the petition he submitted last year on reducing the utility users tax and expressed concern that nothing has been done about it. He also stated that everyone should a microphone.

8:58:26 PM Jesus Casas, 5111 Southall Lane, expressed concern about item 7.03 regarding the solid waste disposal issue and code enforcement not being able to cite as the code book has not been updated.

9:02:11 PM Mayor Saleh directed staff to look into the status of the code book.

9:02:31 PM Councilman Valencia requested to remove the tinted windows from code enforcement vehicles.

9:02:40 PM Baldomero Marquez, 7025 Crafton Avenue, expressed concern about the construction at Walker and Florence, the status of the transportation services, cutting of salaries and payment to the city attorney.

9:04:46 PM Diane Oliva, 6637 ½ King Avenue, expressed concern about item 7.03 and 7.02, the city still paying 100% benefits for City of Bell employees and the overloading of the agenda. Ms. Oliva also stated the she supports the Police Department.

9:07:28 PM Councilman Valencia expressed concern about residents not being able to speak and having the meetings end late in the morning.

9:10:47 PM Interim Chief Administrative Officer Carrillo provided a staff report regarding the public hearing on Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Community Development Block Grant Program Budget.

9:15:52 PM It was moved Councilwoman Quintana, seconded by Councilman Valencia to move item 7.06 first on the agenda.

9:20:47 PM Discussion regarding the City's (and related Authorities and Agencies) General Funds and Fiscal Year 2011-12 Budget and process for consideration and adoption.

9:32:24 PM Mayor Saleh directed staff to bring in outside agencies like NALEO and reach out to Congresswoman Royball-Allard or Assembly Member Ricardo Lara to come and do workshops on the budget.

9:33:17 PM Councilman Valencia requested to have a town hall meeting for the community, requested for staff to create a budget committee and have residents input. He also requested an independent audit to be more public.

9:35:51 PM Vice Mayor Harber stated that the public wants other things done first. He stated that the budget process cannot get started when they don't trust the people at City Hall. He requested to wait on the budget until a new Chief Administrator Officer, new City Attorney and new Chief of Police are in place.

9:36:50 PM Interim CAO Carrillo stated that Councilman Valencia and Vice Mayor Harber made good points, however action must be taken as it will impact the bottom line of the general budget, such as CDBG, Gas Tax, Engineering Reports and ensure that the city is in compliance.

9:43:13 PM It was moved by Councilwoman Quintana, seconded by Councilman Valencia to have a special meeting next Friday June 3, 2011 at 7:00 PM to discuss the budget and directed the Interim CAO to conduct the presentation and to contact NALEO, Congresswoman Lucille-Roybal-Allard and Assembly Member Ricardo Lara to provide budget workshops.

9:46:42 PM
Vote: 4-0

Yes:	Mayor Saleh, Vice Mayor Harber, Councilwoman Quintana and Councilman Valencia
No:	None
Abstained:	Councilwoman Alvarez
Absent:	None

Motion Unanimously Passed.

Public Hearing

9:47:47 PM Diana Cho, Community Development Block Grant Consultant, provided a staff report to the City Council.

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 9:58:54 PM regarding the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Community Development Block Grant Program Budget and Approval of Resolution No. 2011-10 Approving the CDBG Project and Budgets.

9:59:18 PM Fernando Chavaria, spoke in favor of the item.

10:06:17 PM Alfred Areyan, spoke in favor of the item.

10:07:23 PM Marcos Oliva, expressed concern about the item.

10:09:26 PM Carmen Bella, expressed concern about the item.

10:11:43 PM Steve Rogers, spoke against the item.

10:16:19 PM Diane Oliva, expressed concern against the item.

10:21:00 PM Lorenzo Martinez, expressed concern about the item.

10:24:22 PM Nora Saenz, expressed concern about the item.

10:27:53 PM Mario Rivas, expressed concern about the item.

10:32:24 PM Baldomero Marquez, expressed concern about the item.

10:34:02 PM Steve Brown, expressed concern about the item.

10:39:02 PM Faustino Ramirez, spoke against the item.

10:41:27 PM Sandy Orozco, expressed concern about the item.

Hearing no further testimony for or against this item, Mayor Saleh closed the public hearing at 10:46:05 PM.

10:46:43 PM It was moved by Councilwoman Quintana, seconded by Councilman Valencia, to approve the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Community Development Block Grant Program Budget and Approval of Resolution No. 2011-10 Approving the CDBG Projects and Budgets with the following amendment made to the resolution: Section three (3) to add a line "not without City Council approval"

10:51:33 PM

Vote:	5-0
Yes:	Mayor Saleh, Vice Mayor Harber, Councilwoman Alvarez, Councilwoman Quintana and Councilman Valencia
No:	None
Abstained:	None
Absent:	None

Motion Unanimously Passed.

City Council recessed at 10:51 PM and reconvened back to open session at 11:11PM.

Council Business

It was moved by Mayor Saleh, seconded by Vice Mayor Harber, to approve the warrants through May 11-18, 2011.

Vote:	5-0
Yes:	Mayor Saleh, Vice Mayor Harber, Councilwoman Alvarez, Councilwoman Quintana and Councilman Valencia
No:	None
Abstained:	None
Absent:	None

Motion Unanimously Passed.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Harber, seconded by Councilwoman Alvarez, to adopt the four Resolutions and approve the Preparation of Engineer's Reports at a rate of Four Thousand Dollars ($4,000) per each report for the Following Assessment Districts for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

1. Solid Waste Collection, Transfer and Disposal Service (Resolution No. 2011-11)

2. Integrated Waste Management Plan (Resolution No. 2011-12)
3. Landscape and Lighting (Resolution No. 2011-13)
4. Sanitation and Sewer Systems (Resolution No. 2011-14)

Vote:	4-1
Yes:	Mayor Saleh, Vice Mayor Harber, Councilwoman Alvarez and Councilwoman Quintana
No:	Councilman Valencia
Abstained:	None
Absent:	None

Motion Passed.

It was moved by Councilwoman Alvarez, seconded by Councilwoman Quintana, to approve Amendment No. 1 to Agreement for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrative Services and Technical Assistance with Diana Cho and Associates effective until June 30, 2011; Amendment No. 1 to Agreement for CDBG Lead Paint and Asbestos Inspection, Testing and Assessment with Lead Tech Environmental effective until June 30, 2011; and Amendment No. 1 to Agreement for CDBG Graffiti Removal Services with Graffiti Protective Coatings effective until June 30, 2011. Directed the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to prepare and issue a Request for Proposals for Grants Management services, Lead Paint and Asbestos Inspection, Testing and Assessments services and Graffiti Removal services.

Vote:	5-0
Yes:	Mayor Saleh, Vice Mayor Harber, Councilwoman Alvarez, Councilwoman Quintana and Councilman Valencia
No:	None
Abstained:	None
Absent:	None

Motion Unanimously Passed.

It was moved by Councilwoman Quintana, seconded by Vice Mayor Harber, to receive and file the Bell Police Department's procedures and programs for graffiti abatement and apprehension throughout the City of Bell.

Vote:	5-0
Yes:	Mayor Saleh, Vice Mayor Harber, Councilwoman Alvarez, Councilwoman Quintana and Councilman Valencia
No:	None
Abstained:	None
Absent:	None

Motion Unanimously Passed.

It was moved by Councilwoman Quintana, seconded by Vice Mayor Harber, to approve the Bell City Council Minutes, Bell Community Redevelopment Minutes, Bell Community Housing Authority Minutes and Bell Public Finance Authority Minutes dated April 20, 2011 with the corrections on Councilman Valencia's letter to be attached as part of the minutes.

Vote:	5-0
Yes:	Mayor Saleh, Vice Mayor Harber, Councilwoman Alvarez, Councilwoman Quintana and Councilman Valencia
No:	None
Abstained:	None
Absent:	None

Motion Unanimously Passed.

Community Redevelopment Agency

Bell Community Redevelopment Agency Minutes dated May 11, 2011. (Item was approved under City Council Business item 7.01, therefore no action is required)

It was moved by Agency Member Quintana, seconded by Vice Chair Harber, to approve the warrants through May 1-11, 2011.

Vote:	5-0
Yes:	Chair Saleh, Vice Chair Harber, Agency Member Alvarez, Agency Member Quintana and Agency Member Valencia
No:	None
Abstained:	None
Absent:	None

Motion Unanimously Passed.

No items were identified for the next Community Redevelopment Agency meeting.

Community Housing Authority

Bell Community Housing Authority Minutes dated April 20, 2011. (Item was approved under City Council Business item 7.01, therefore no action is required)

It was moved by Commissioner Quintana, seconded by Commissioner Alvarez to approve the warrants through May 1-11, 2011.

Vote:	5-0
Yes:	Chair Saleh, Vice Chair Harber, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Quintana and Commissioner Valencia
No:	None
Abstained:	None
Absent:	None

Motion Unanimously Passed.

It was moved by Commissioner Quintana, seconded by Commissioner Alvarez to approve the warrants through May 11-18, 2011.

Vote:	5-0
Yes:	Chair Saleh, Vice Chair Harber, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Quintana and Commissioner Valencia
No:	None
Abstained:	None
Absent:	None

Motion Unanimously Passed.

Commissioner Valencia requested an update on the Mobile Home Parks.

Interim CAO Carrillo referred the Commissioners to the transition reports.

Public Finance Authority

Bell Public Finance Authority Minutes dated April 20, 2011. (Item was approved under City Council Business item 7.01, therefore no action is required)

Trustee Quintana provided a directive to the Interim CAO to obtain a financial advisor.

Communications From The Public

Fernando Chavarria, no address stated, expressed concern on the public comment rules and suggested that the all Council Members have microphones. He also suggested that Council Members should be provided with cell phones to be more accessible to the public.

Gwilyn McGrew, no address stated, expressed concern about the budget and requested the City Council to replace the Chief Administrative Officer and City Attorney.

Nora Saenz, 6251 Woodlawn Avenue, expressed concern about the budget and requested the status on the commissions that the City Council had stated they would implement. She also expressed concern about the public not being able to comment on non-agenda items.

Mario Rivas, 6336 Home Avenue, expressed concern about item 7.03 and about the budget.

Donna Gannon, no address stated, expressed concern about the tax assessments and business license tax being increased.

Interim Chief Administrative Officer's Report

None.

Mayor and City Council Communications

Councilman Valencia provided a brief report on the conference he attended with the California Contract Cities.

Identification of Items for Next City Council Meeting.

Councilwoman Alvarez requested to have a report on how much it cost to have a Council meeting, the status on the bonds and the roles of Code Enforcement Officers.

Councilman Valencia requested a status on the appointment of the Chief of Police, a report on the assessments districts and the draft of the minutes to be provided sooner.

The City Council recessed back to closed session at 12:48 AM to discuss the following items:

THE CITY COUNCIL RECESSED TO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957(b)(1) PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT: INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

THE CITY COUNCIL RECESSED TO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957(b)(1) PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT: INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY

City Council reconvened to open session at 1:51 AM.

Interim City Attorney Casso reported the following from closed session:

As to item 3.05 regarding the public employment of Interim Chief Administrative Officer, the vote was 3-1-1 vote, the no vote was Councilwoman Quintana and the abstention was Vice Mayor Harber. Direction was give to the Interim CAO and no final action was taken on this item.

As to item 3.06 there was no reportable action.

Adjournment

City Council meeting adjourned at 1:52 AM.

APPROVED THIS 22nd DAY OF JUNE 2011.

Ali Saleh, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ericka Perez, Deputy City Clerk

I, Ericka Perez, Deputy City Clerk of the City of Bell, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing minutes were approved by the City Council of the City of Bell at a regular meeting held on this 22nd day of June 2011 by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmember Alvarez, Quintana, Valencia, Vice Mayor Harber and Mayor Saleh

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Ericka Perez, Deputy City Clerk