Special Minutes of
Bell City Council

June 6, 2011– 5:30 P.M.

Bell Community Center
6250 Pine Avenue

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Saleh at 5:34:58 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Captain Miranda.

Roll call of City Council in their capacities as Councilmembers.

5:36:01 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 Police Captain Miranda

Communications from the Public

5:36:38 PM Dr. Richard Espiritu, 1207 Valley View #C, Glendale, expressed the importance of the special meeting and the need for the community to work together and respect each other as well.

Closed Session

The City Council recessed to Closed Session at 5:39:44 PM

3.01 PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
(Government Code Section 54957(b)(1))
Title: City Attorney

Councilman Valencia arrived at 6:00:00 PM.

The City Council reconvened to open session at 10:24:41 PM.

10:24:47 PM As to item 3.01 there was no reportable action.

Presentations

10:26:24 PM David Aleshire, presented himself to the City Council.

10:26:58 PM Edward Bertrand, presented himself to the City Council.

10:27:34 PM Sany Sultani, presented herself to the City Council.

10:27:58 PM David Aleshire, representing Aleshire & Wynder Law Firm, addressed some issues regarding the affiliations with BASTA and the Police Department. Assured the audience the firm has never represented the Bell Police Department, any member within the Bell Police Department, nor any entity within the city. Acknowledged a conflict would occur if they had been representing the Bell Police Department. Mr. Aleshire stated his firm's only affiliation with the BASTA group was in regard to the recall process and did not charge this group for their service. Mr. Aleshire stated his decision for not having charged BASTA was related to his father's experience as a City Manager in La Puente. Mr. Aleshire stated that work still needs to be done, and that his firm would love to be a part of this process.

10:36:45 PM Steven Quintanilla, representing Green, de Bortnowsky & Quintanilla, LLP, stated he was honored to be presenting himself to the city and community. Mr. Quintanilla stated his firm only represents public agencies and redevelopment agencies but turns down private clients. Mr. Quintanilla mentioned that his firm represents the cities of Victorville, Rancho Mirage, and Cathedral City. He stated his firm's qualifications and their broad experience to provide the city with all services it would need. Mr. Quintanilla claimed that all the competitors are equally qualified to carry out these services but that his experiences and upbringing turned him into a strong individual who understands the residents of Bell. Mr. Quintanilla mentioned his experience exposing corruption in different cities. He then assured the residents that if his firm were to be selected, he would bring to their attention any conflict of interest he may witness.

10:47:35 PM Jimmy Gutierrez, representing the Law Firm of Jimmy Gutierrez, thanked the Council for allowing them to participate and commended them for their great work. Mr. Gutierrez expressed why he believed his firm to be the most exceptional and experienced for the task. Mr. Gutierrez claimed they charge less than the other firms, have no connections with the City of Bell, and are efficient in the services they provide. Mr. Gutierrez introduced his assistants Melissa and Arturo and gave a brief background on them. He then claimed no person to be perfect, and disclosed his DUI arrest. This experience taught him seven deadly risks he warned a firm should watch out for.

Communications From The Public on Agenda Items Only

10:58:31 PM Dr. Richard Espiritu, 1207 Valley View #C Glendale, stated he wished to be the last speaker.

10:59:44 PM Alfred Areyan, 7008 Vinevale Avenue, thanked Jamie Casso for the hard work he has done for this community, thanked David Aleshire for assisting the community and saving them a lot of money. Mr. Areyan then thanked the new council for their hard work.

11:02:45 PM Gwylin McGrew, no address stated, expressed his support for David Aleshire as the new City Attorney.

11:05:01 PM Trina Corado, 4641 Bell Place, thanked the Council for their hard work in the city. Ms. Corado expressed her support for Aleshire & Wynder.

11:07:14 PM Sandy Orozco, 4108 East 54th Street, Maywood, expressed her support for Mr. Aleshire as well as the importance of transparency, respect and working together.

11:09:24 PM Susana Lopez, no address stated, stated support for Aleshire & Wynder for coming to help the city during the recall process.

11:10:11 PM Marcos Oliva, 6637 King Avenue, endorsed Aleshire & Wynder and expressed his trust in Aleshire as an individual.

11:11:53 PM Diane Oliva, 6637 King Avenue, stated that Mr. Aleshire provided services to the city pro-bono and assisted with the recall process to remove the previous council. Ms. Oliva expressed her support for Aleshire & Wynder and thanked the firm for helping the community.

11:14:15 PM Mario Rivas, 6336 Home Avenue, expressed his concern that a possible conflict of interest may occur if Mr. Aleshire is selected. Mr. Rivas stated that they need a candidate that has no connection to the city if the image of the city is to change

11:17:03 PM Nora Saenz, 6251 Woodlawn Avenue, asked if any Councilmembers have considered making the City Attorney position an employee position as this could potentially save the city money.

11:18:00 PM Councilman Valencia responded that this is a process and if an attorney is chosen then this would allow the city staff to negotiate with the law firm. He then mentioned that the city might look into hiring employees as well but this would be in the future.

11:19:12 PM Nora Saenz, 6251 Woodlawn Avenue, asked the Council to consider a law firm that would be financially sound. Ms. Saenz then thanked Mr. Casso for his work.

11:20:34 PM Mario Estrada, 6330 Pine Avenue, expressed his support for Aleshire & Wynder.

11:21:26 PM John Santana, 6728 King Avenue, expressed his support for Aleshire & Wynder and urged the Council to vote for this law firm.

11:22:04 PM Dale Walker, 6815 Otis Avenue #D, thanked the council for interviewing the three firms and giving the audience the opportunity to hear the presentations. Mr. Walker then expressed his support for Aleshire & Wynder for helping the community throughout the entire process.

11:25:10 PM Dennise Rodarte, 6802 King Avenue, expressed her support for David Aleshire.

11:26:50 PM Margarita Limon, 46402 Bell Place, expressed her support for David Aleshire and expressed her trust in their firm.

11:30:22 PM Rodrigo Rodarte, no address stated, stated that the council would have a tough task in choosing the right firm.

11:31:11 PM Lorenzo Martinez, 6319 Loma Vista Avenue, stated the three potential attorneys are well qualified but expressed the most support for David Aleshire. Mr. Martinez then thanked Jaime for his work.

11:32:46 PM Dr. Richard Espiritu, thanked Jaime for his services and acknowledged the council for doing their work, as well as the community for carrying out their own research. Dr. Espiritu urged the community to come together and remember the past council.

11:35:05 PM Councilman Valencia inquired as to who would be the primary attorney.

11:36:22 PM Mayor Saleh responded that the primary Attorney would be David Aleshire and Edward Bertrand would be the Assistant Attorney.

11:36:45 PM David Aleshire responded as well that he would be the primary Attorney and Edward Bertrand would be the Assistance Attorney.

11:36:55 PM Councilman Valencia asked David Aleshire to speak about the possible conflict of interest and when was the first time they met.

11:37:31 PM David Aleshire responded that he was introduced to Councilman Valencia through an Interim City Manager of Maywood.

11:38:39 PM Vice Mayor Harber, motioned to make Aleshire & Wynder the city's legal counsel.

11:39:00 PM Councilwoman Quintana asked to have a discussion before seconding the motion.

11:39:53 PM Mayor Saleh stated there is a motion on the floor and needs to have a second, otherwise the motion would die.

11:39:42 PM Interim City Attorney Casso stated further discussion can occur even with a motion and a second.

11:40:51 PM Councilwoman Alvarez seconded the motion.

11:41:04 PM Councilman Valencia spoke about the qualifications of the three firms and expressed his wish to have made the closed session open. Councilman Valencia stated he tried to be very objective during this process and expressed his concern of giving David Aleshire too much credit while acknowledging he put much effort into the recall process. Councilman Valencia expressed his opinion that the Council has been working together.

11:47:17 PM Vice Mayor Harber stated denying Mr. Aleshire the position for their role in the recall process would be punishment. He then stated the three firms preferred having the interviews in closed session.

11:48:14 PM Councilwoman Alvarez thanked everyone for attending the special meeting.

11:48:46 PM Councilwoman Quintana stated she was selected to be a part of the ad-hoc committee because she was also an attorney. Councilwoman Quintana stated she looked for objectivity, knowledge and experience from the firms.

11:51:55 PM Mayor Saleh stated the process was difficult and looked for qualifications, cost, and expertise from the firms. Mayor Saleh then stated he also researched the law firms on his own.

11:53:11 PM Councilman Valencia stated it may be worth to undergo the process and view if either the Mayor or Mr. Aleshire could be in a conflict of interest.

11:54:38 PM Councilwoman Quintana asked if Mr. Casso could address the conflict of interest issue.

11:54:57 PM Interim City Attorney Mr. Casso responded and addressed the issue noting they are different kinds of conflict of interests.

11:56:21 PM Councilman Valencia expressed his desire to be clear to the public that there is no conflict of interest involved by getting the opinion from the state level.

11:57:26 PM Interim City Attorney Casso stated that even if a conflict existed it could be waived.

11:58:05 PM Councilman Valencia asked if it would be theoretically possible to have Mr. Aleshire excluded from the discussion on the POA contract.

11:58:40 PM Mayor Saleh assured Councilman Valencia that the choice to have Aleshire & Wynder excluded from the discussion on the POA contract would ultimately be up to the Council.

11:59:26 PM Councilwoman Quintana reassured everyone that the firm selection process has been extensive.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Harber, seconded by Councilwoman Alvarez to select Aleshire & Wynder as the city's legal counsel.

Vote:	3-2
Yes:	Mayor Saleh, Vice Mayor Harber, Councilwoman Alvarez
No:	Councilwoman Quintana, Councilman Valencia
Abstained:	None

Absent: None

Adjournment

City Council meeting adjourned at 12:06:27 AM

APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF JULY 2011

Ali Saleh, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca Valdez, CMC, City Clerk

I, Rebecca Valdez, 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 13th day of July 2011 by the following vote:

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Rebecca Valdez, CMC, City Clerk