Special Minutes of
Bell City Council

August 8, 2011
7:00 P.M

Bell Community Center
6250 Pine Avenue

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Saleh at 7:02:31 PM.

7:02:58 PM Pledge of allegiance led by Vice Mayor Harber.

Roll call of City Council in their capacities as Councilmembers.

7:03:29 PM

Present:	Mayor Saleh, Vice Mayor Harber, Councilwoman Alvarez, Councilwoman Quintana and Councilman Valencia
Absent:	None
Also Present:	Interim Chief Administrative Officer Hampian, Assistant City Attorney Bertrand, City Clerk Valdez and Captain Miranda

Study Session – Budget Workshop

Interim CAO Hampian and Dave Bass provided the presentation and discussion regarding 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Budget for the City of Bell and its related Authorities and Agencies.

7:35:33 PM Discussion ensued among the City Council.

Communications from the Public

8:07:04 PM Jose Moreno, no address stated, thanked Mr. Hampian for addressing the budget and expressed concern about the expenses in the police department, high salaries and the bonds.

8:10:36 PM Donna Gannon, 6601 Prospect Avenue, expressed concern regarding employee benefits.

8:13:02 PM Fernando Chavarria, thanked Mr. Hampian and Mr. Bass, expressed concern about the property taxes. Requested the City Council to vote in favor of Mr. Hampian's direction to adopt a bridge budget and appoint department staff.

8:18:41 PM Nora Saenz, 6251 Woodlawn Avenue, thanked Mr. Hampian and Mr. Bass, expressed concern about not having the community involved with the budget and the bonds. She also requested the Council to keep the community members in mind.

8:22:22 PM Carmen Bella, 6332 Palm Avenue, expressed concern about the past administration and salaries.

8:25:09 PM Diane Olivas, no address stated, expressed concern about the salaries and requested the power point to be online.

8:31:14 PM Interim CAO Hampian suggested the following recommendations to the City Council:

1) Not to adopt the Proposed Budget presented to the City Council on July 27, 2011.
2) Direct staff to prepare a "Bridge Budget" for Fiscal Year 2011-12 for consideration by the Council at the August 24, 2011 meeting, that would allow for amendments during the Fiscal Year, after appropriate community input.
3) Affirm the new Interim CAO's plan to:

    a) Bring Analytic resources to the City to study key issues (pro bono, as much possible);
    b) After review of the bonds, consider Request for Proposals (RFP) to engage financial advisor;
    c) Return in Fall with improvements to the budget process and format for the Fiscal Year 2012-13; and
    d) With employees to develop plan to reduce benefit costs, especially retirement and post-retirement (and return with amendments this fiscal year)

8:33:16 PM It was moved by Councilman Valencia, seconded by Vice Mayor Harber to support Interim CAO Hampian's recommendations on the budget.

8:40:43 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.

Adjournment

City Council meeting adjourned at 8:42:07 PM.

APPROVED THIS 12th DAY OF OCTOBER 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 12th day of October 2011 by the following vote.

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

NAES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Rebecca Valdez, CMC, City Clerk