

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, June 30, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Davis called to order the special City Council meeting of June 30, 2008 at 6:10 p.m.

Present: Mayor Davis, Council Members Cooper and Scherman

Absent: Vice Mayor Hume (arrived at 6:11 p.m.), and Council Member Leary

PRESENTATION – Neighborhood Leaders Solutions Summit

Mayor Davis acknowledged the importance of maintaining a strong focus on neighborhoods and expressed hope that future meetings of this type would be held more routinely.

Council Member Scherman commented that citizens serve as the “eyes and ears” of their neighborhoods and attendees this evening represent the interests of many others.

Vice Mayor Hume noted that there are many actively engaged citizens in District 2 and expressed his appreciation for their attendance at the meeting.

Council Member Cooper emphasized the importance of citizens being proactive and involved in their community.

Common Violations on Foreclosed Properties

With the aid of an overhead presentation (filed), City Attorney Susan Cochran provided an overview of deeds of trust. She explained that, under California law, if money from a loan is used to purchase a house, the lender must foreclose against the property instead of bringing a lawsuit to recover the money borrowed. California law also states that the lender cannot sue to recover the difference between the value of the property and the amount owed on the debt, which causes some to abandon their homes when they are behind on their loan payments. Promissory notes have terms that allow lenders to declare the entire amount borrowed to become due and payable when a payment is missed. Steps to foreclose property include a Notice of Default, which gives the borrower up to 90 days to pay all amounts due and is followed by a Notice of Sale. If the lender purchases the house, it may not be immediately re-occupied, during which time the City may not know who the responsible party is for code violations.

Community Enhancement Manager Shane Diller reported that the most common complaint related to foreclosed homes is unkempt landscapes, e.g. tall weeds which

become a fire hazard. Abandoned swimming pools contribute to mosquito breeding. Abandoned homes, vehicles, and animals are often a result of foreclosed properties and create problems in the community. Mr. Diller encouraged citizens to report such incidents to Community Enhancement. During a question and answer period, the following was discussed:

- Community Enhancement's goal is to open cases within 24 hours of a complaint;
- Public Works handles removal of graffiti on public property;
- Code enforcement personnel respond to complaints of graffiti on private property, which is the responsibility of property owners to remove within ten days of notification;
- Cosumnes Community Services District is responsible for removing graffiti from its facilities;
- Citizens were encouraged to call the Graffiti Hotline at (916) 478-8231;
- It was noted that criminal trespass could be charged for citizens entering private property of a foreclosed home to water the lawn or conduct other maintenance;
- Citizens were encouraged to call Mosquito and Vector Control at (916) 685-1022 to report abandoned swimming pools or other standing water.

Franklin Reserve Neighborhood Association

With the aid of an overhead presentation (filed), Franklin Reserve Neighborhood Association (FRNA) President Susan McDonald provided an overview of the history and objectives of the association. FRNA member Terrie Robinson described its "good neighbor" letter (filed), which is used to notify residents of City Nuisance Code violations. She reported a 100% success rate in rectifying situations following receipt of the letter. Ms. McDonald described an ordinance proposal for residential rental property and foreclosed property registries to make the information more accessible. During a question and answer period, the following was discussed:

- There is no membership fee to join the FRNA; however, donations are accepted for which funds go toward the association's events;
- The Sacramento County Assessor's Office has property information accessible on the Internet; and
- FRNA partnered with the Oak Tree Church to mow the lawns of 27 residences.

Police Department Street Crimes Gang Unit

Officer Paul McClung provided information on the red light camera enforcement program, which is installed at the intersections of Laguna Boulevard and Bruceville Road and Laguna Boulevard and Franklin Boulevard. The cost is \$5,800 a month. It has proven to be a good deterrent and has improved safety in the community. Officer McClung displayed a video showing automobile accidents related to running red lights. An audience member complained of speeding in the residential area surrounding Franklin High School.

With the aid of an overhead presentation (filed), Detective Robert Strange provided an overview of the Elk Grove Police Department Street Crimes Gang Unit, which is

comprised of six detectives and one sergeant. He emphasized the importance of intervention and education to prevent youth from joining gangs and of having partnerships with other agencies to combat gang related issues affecting the community. He encouraged citizens to report problems by calling the Gang Unit at (916) 478-8083. Audience members complained that gang graffiti is not removed quickly enough, which worsens problems.

Emergency 9-1-1

With the aid of an overhead presentation (filed), Support Services Commander Lynn Bowler provided an overview of traditional wireline calls, cellular 9-1-1 calls, and voice over internet protocol. She reported that 95% of 9-1-1 calls to the Elk Grove Police Department are answered within two rings and 88% of all other calls are answered within two rings. Traditional phone line information is the most reliable for caller address information automatically transferring to the Police Department. The Elk Grove Police Department is currently in the process of implementing reverse 9-1-1 technology.

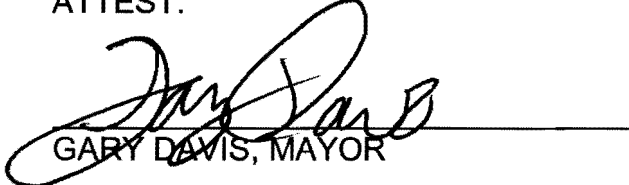
Denise Costello, Neighborhood Watch Crime Prevention Specialist, encouraged neighbors to get to know one another and recommended landscape lighting to deter crime. She reported that Neighborhood Watch groups have proven to reduce crime.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business to conduct, the special City Council meeting of June 30, 2008 was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.


SUSAN J. BLACKSTON,
CITY CLERK

ATTEST:


GARY DAVIS, MAYOR