

PVP Watch Newsletter – May 30, 2014

To Our Friends and Supporters

In this Newsletter:

* [RPV – Kudos to RPV Council](#)

* [RPV - New City Manager Search](#)

* [RPV – Storm Drains](#)

* [PVE – Parklands](#)

* [2014 Elections](#)

RPV – Kudos to City Council

Unfortunately, there are few occasions to congratulate the RPV Council on its decisions so when there is, must seize that opportunity. During the April 15th Council meeting, Councilman Brian Campbell proposed the “OPEN” (Open Public Employee Negotiations) ordinance which was then approved by the RPV Council at the April 29th Council meeting. This new ordinance was a version of recently adopted labor negotiations ordinances by the cities of Costa Mesa and Beverly Hills. With input from Mayor Jerry Duhovic and further discussions with Councilman Campbell it is believed that RPV’s “OPEN” ordinance more generally resembles the Beverly Hills ordinance than the Costa Mesa version.

Although there are conditions concerning fiscal impact of labor negotiations, it is PVP Watch’s understanding that the most significant item is that *“a decision to adopt or amend a memorandum of understanding with a labor organization will require that the matter be placed on the agendas of two City Council meetings that are at least two weeks apart.”* This should provide all interested residents an opportunity to observe and make comments. This is truly a big step forward in “Negotiations Transparency.”

RPV - New City Manager Search

An executive search firm, Bob Murray Associates, has been retained by the RPV Council to assist in hiring a new City Manager. As residents will recall, the current contract with City Manager Carolyn Lehr expires on June 30th and Ms. Lehr gave notice some time ago that she did not wish to renew that agreement.

PVP Watch has previously reported that RPV City Manager authority has been under question by some in RPV. RPV Municipal Codes 2.04 and 2.08 define City Council and City Manager responsibilities and are posted on the RPV website www.palosverdes.com/rpv. These MC’s were written in 1974 as RPV first formalized a city structure and were written to give the City Manager broad authority with limited authority given to the Council for oversight of RPV municipal government. The lack of RPV City Council “oversight” authority has proven to be detrimental to the best interests of RPV residents and taxpayers.

There are some that perceive that City Manager form of government gives the City Manager virtually unlimited powers while the Council sits as a “Board of Directors” with limited oversight authority. Investigations into California statutes reveals that is not the case and that the City Council, our elected representatives, have the authority to delegate their powers as they so decide by approving Ordinances / Municipal Codes that define City Council / City Manager authority and responsibilities. It seems imperative that the RPV Council, with public input, must update RPV Municipal Codes to better define and update City Council and City Manager authority and responsibilities before beginning a search for a new City Manager

Recently announced is that Manhattan Beach has hired a new City Manager with a base salary of \$250,000 per year with a \$1 million plus home loan at almost no interest. As RPV residents, the current RPV City Manager salary of \$200,000 is excessive and the Council should not fall for the “need to pay for quality” game. In comparison to private industry, RPV’s senior employees are overpaid.

RPV Storm Drains

The RPV Storm Drain Oversight Committee met on May 29th and the primary topic, the annual authorization of the “*Water Quality / Storm Drain*” user fee. PVP Watch has long been against this fee / tax that was approved by only 50 or so majority of RPV residents. The RPV March 2014 Cash Balance Report depicts \$4,544,095.86 in the “water quality” account however some of those funds are earmarked for the San Ramon project. The recent RPV City Newsletter reported that the San Ramon project is “running under budget” and presumably funds now budgeted for the San Ramon project can likely be recovered for other Storm Drain projects. Surprisingly, that matter was not on the May 29th agenda and thus Storm Drain Oversight Committee will likely be lacking important financial data.

Before the RPV Storm Drain Oversight Committee makes any decisions to increase or continue the Storm Drain fee, a full and complete analysis of RPV financial reports should be undertaken. Furthermore, the Committee should closely examine staff reports for current year accomplishments and veracity as well as anticipated projects for the next fiscal year. To our knowledge, RPV Public Works staff has not yet examined ALL RPV storm drains and does not after some seven (7) or eight (8) years know which storm drains need repair.

PVE – Palos Verdes Estates

The PVE Parklands / Via Panorama saga continues.

May 21st Judge Barbara Meiers ruled that: a) denied all of the defendants’ (City of Palos Verdes Estates, the Palos Verdes Home Owners Assoc. and the Luglianis)) request to dismiss the case; b) requested that plaintiffs (Citizens for Enforcement / Attorney Jeff Lewis) file an amended petition that attaches recently discovered deeds to as exhibits. The court was explicit that filing be limited to the “*recently discovered deeds*” and not be voluminous.

The next court date is not yet scheduled.

2014 Elections

Tuesday June 3rd is Election Day and hopefully PVP Watch opinions will be timely and helpful to Peninsula residents. We recognize that not all agree with our opinions but many seek our input and commentary. A recent change in California law is that the top two candidates receiving the most votes and regardless of political party, will be on the November ballot. Although all elections are important, some offices are more important than others.

The California 66th Assembly District is, in our opinion, one of the more significant opportunities to **fix** Sacramento and we endorse David Hadley as the better candidate. Let us explain our endorsement and why Hadley is a much better candidate than Al Muratsuchi.

David Hadley is a conservative and will do a better job in protecting Peninsula values than Muratsuchi. Muratsuchi a Democrat was elected two years ago with the aid of some \$2,000,000 support from Sacramento labor unions. With Muratsuchi, the Assembly Democrats have a Super Majority (66 votes) that allows Democrats to pass legislation without any Republican opposition. Public unions want taxes raised so that salaries, pensions, benefits can be increased for public sector unions.

David Hadley is committed to reforming Public Pensions and protecting Prop 13 property tax limits.

We urge all to vote for David Hadley (#117) for our 66th California Assembly District representative.

Another significant election is the Board of Equalization with only one candidate, Jerome Horton, on the ballot. PVP Watch endorses Rick Marshall, a write in candidate for this office. Go to Ricks website www.grickmarshall.com for more information on how to vote for a write in candidate.

State Senator 26th District - Best option is Seth Stodder, a law professor without party preference. Currently the Democrats have a Super Majority but the public has been saved, so far, as three Democrats have been placed on *paid leave*; one member has been convicted for perjury and two have been indicted for criminal offense but have not yet gone to trial.

Governor - Neel Kashkari (#13) undoubtedly all candidates will have difficulty in ousting Jerry Brown but Kashkari seems to be the best challenger.

Los Angeles County Sheriff – Jim McDonnell (#244) McDonnell is currently Long Beach Chief of Police and prior experience was with Los Angeles City as Assistant Chief of Police. McDonnell's command experience is significant and would allow him to "hit the ground" running. We do not wish to demean any of the other candidates but believe that Jim McDonnell is the right person for Los Angeles County Sheriff at this time.

Propositions

We have taken the HJTA (Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association) recommendations for State Measures 41 and 42.

Prop 41 is labeled as Veterans Housing Bonds which, in the past, has been repaid by veteran's home loan purchases. Labeling Prop 41 as Veterans Housing is a "Red Herring" as what is really occurring is "Affordable Housing" that will be repaid by General Funds and will cost California taxpayers about \$50 million over fifteen (15) years.

HJTA recommends a NO vote on Prop 41 (#237)

Prop 42 Removes State reimbursement of funds for Cities / Municipalities for responding to Public Record requests. This does not change the law for Cities / Municipalities responding to Public Records Requests, only the state reimbursement. Public Record access is crucial to Transparency and "OPEN" government and must continue.

HJTA recommends a YES vote on Prop 42 (#239)

A complete posting of Election Offices is posted at www.pvpwatch.com / Current Issues page.

PVP Watch

We recognize that many PVP Watch newsletter subscribers use mobile devices to read newsletters. However, mobile devices do not provide acknowledgement that a newsletter has been opened and read; that must come from the primary computer whether desktop or laptop. This is a new system capability that can report opening and reading newsletters which is a very important tool for newsletter management. We ask that those who do read newsletters from mobile devices, to also open the newsletter at their primary computer as well.

One of the current email issues is overactive "spam" detectors and we urge everyone to enter info@pvpwatch.com and PVP Watch into their computer address book

PVP Watch welcomes all input and awaits subscriber feedback on the new newsletter format and postings.

PVP Watch – Newsletter List - A reminder to ALL PVP Watch supporters, should you change your e-mail address don't forget to advise PVP Watch of your new address. We also suggest that pvpwatch.com be added to your computer address book to assure delivery of PVP Watch Newsletters.

PVP Watch – Contributions

PVP Watch thanks the many subscribers who have contributed to PVP Watch. Those desiring to make a modest contribution, please send checks to PVP Watch / PO Box 2041 / Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

Subscribers

The PVP Watch e-mail list continues to grow. For those who wish their addresses removed, please send notice to info@pvpwatch.com. Those who have topics of community interest are encouraged to bring those issues to info@pvpwatch.com as well.

The Editorial Committee
