

**MINUTES  
CITY OF UNION CITY  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**Thursday, February 25, 2010  
7:00 P.M.**

**Ruggieri Senior Center Dining Hall  
33997 Alvarado-Niles Road  
Union City CA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Green called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I.a Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Green led the salute to the flag.

I.b Roll Call

Present: Councilmembers Dutra-Vernaci and Navarro, Vice Mayor Valle,  
Mayor Green

Absent: Councilmember Fernandez (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)

**II. PRESENTATION BY ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE CHIEF SHELDON GILBERT**

City Manager Cheeves introduced Fire Chief Gilbert and Deputy Fire Chief Rocha from the Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD).

Chief Gilbert provided an overview of the benefits of the Alameda County Fire Department, and the services it provides. Chief Gilbert responded to questions from Councilmembers before leaving to attend a Newark City Council meeting.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lorin Ellis expressed various economic and service level concerns.

Union City Fire Inspector Denise Daly, and Plan Checker Karl Schneider, inquired if they would retain their positions should services be contracted with Alameda County Fire Department.

Barry Ferrier expressed numerous concerns, and submitted a complete list of questions to the City Council.

Gene Troxell expressed concern that contracting with Alameda County Fire would cost the City more money in the long run.

Jason Cartee, Firefighters Local 1946, responded to budgetary comments made by previous speakers, and stated the Union and its firefighters would not risk supporting a proposal that would not benefit the residents and businesses of Union City.

#### **IV. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION REGARDING A PROPOSAL TO CONTRACT WITH ALAMEDA COUNTY FOR FIRE/PARAMEDIC SERVICES**

City Manager Cheeves provided background information and a chronology of the events leading up to today's discussions.

Fire Chief Rodriguez provided an overview and comparison of emergency medical services currently provided versus those proposed to be provided by ACFD, and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

In response to questions regarding staffing levels and incumbents, City Manager Cheeves stated the City would have flexibility during further negotiation discussions with ACFD.

Administrative Services Director Digre provided a financial cost comparison of existing services to proposed services to be provided by ACFD, and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

City Manager Cheeves reviewed the various reasons to contract with ACFD, and the effects of contracting services on the City's General Fund budget. He said the contract would be more costly than the current Fire Department budget and that, if the contract went forward, necessary General Fund Budget cuts would have to be borne by other City departments. City Manager Cheeves responded to questions from Councilmembers.

Councilmember Dutra-Vernaci read aloud from an email received from a former Union City resident, and retiree from the San Ramon Valley Fire Department, advising the City to exercise caution if proceeding with a contract.

City Manager Cheeves, Fire Chief Rodriguez, and ACFD staff responded to a list of questions submitted by Barry Ferrier.

**Councilmember Navarro exited the meeting during the presentation.  
Councilmember Navarro returned to the meeting at 8:44 p.m.**

Councilmembers provided comment. Mayor Green, Vice Mayor Valle, and Councilmembers Fernandez and Navarro directed staff to proceed with contract negotiations, and to return with a proposal for Council consideration in April. Councilmember Dutra-Vernaci noted her dissent for the record.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Green adjourned the special City Council work session at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Elliott  
City Clerk