

**CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA
REGULAR MEETING**

MAY 5, 2009

INVOCATION:

Pastor Roger Wheeler of Santa Maria Foursquare Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Councilmember Zacarías led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Lavagnino called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilmembers Cordero, Orach, Patino, Zacarías, and Mayor Lavagnino.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

City Manager Ness, City Attorney Trujillo, Assistant City Manager Haydon, Acting Community Development Director Woods, Police Commander Green, Fire Chief Ortiz, Director of Utilities Sweet, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Whitehead, Community Programs Manager Coelho-Hudson, and Chief Deputy City Clerk Perez.

LEVEE PRESENTATION

Utilities Director Sweet gave a brief presentation on the status of funding for repairs of the Santa Maria River Levee. In 2005, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) notified the City that the Santa Maria River Levee (levee) was deficient and would not be certified. During the same time period, the City was advised that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would be redrafting the flood maps for the Santa Maria Valley. Due to the inadequacy of the levee, FEMA policy required that the new flood maps place up to 20,000 properties in flood zones. The City and County immediately began coordinating efforts to define the issues, engage the Corps in this problem, and seek Federal funding to support any Corps effort to resolve the deficiencies in the levee.

The initial efforts resulted in the Corps receiving a \$280,000 allocation in the 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill to prepare a Design Deficiency Report. The inclusion of this funding was largely due to the efforts of Senator Feinstein's office. The Design Deficiency Report identified that the levee's inability to provide ample flood protection was due to a design problem when the levee was installed. The report also identified a number of options and associated costs to repair the levee. The report indicated that placement of a soil cement armor on the face of the levee and to some depth below the toe of slope would

be the most cost effective method to repair the levee. The cost of this option was in the \$45 million range.

In the 2009 Omnibus Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, \$6.7 million was provided to the Corps for preparation of the environmental document, completion of design, and construction of an initial phase for the project to rehabilitate the levee.

In February 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President. ARRA provided \$400 million nationwide for flood control projects. During the drafting of the Act in January 2009, the Mayor traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with our Federal representatives and Corps leaders to stress the importance of the restoration of the levee to the citizens of Santa Maria. The Los Angeles District of the Corps submitted the levee rehabilitation project as their highest priority project. On Tuesday, April 28, 2009, Mayor Lavagnino received a call from Congresswoman Lois Capps indicating that the Corps would receive \$40.23 million from ARRA to complete the rehabilitation of the levee. Tom Fayram, County Deputy Director of Public Works, is currently undergoing a very large and intensive effort to certify the right-of-way and relocate and protect the utilities as part of the project. The City will be working with FEMA to try to get them to reconsider their decision on release of the new maps now that the funding has been secured.

Tom Fayram, County Deputy Director of Public Works, thanked Rick Sweet, the Mayor, and Mayor Alvarez of Guadalupe for their assistance and support in obtaining the funding.

Mayor Lavagnino thanked Mr. Fayram for all his work on the project.

Councilmember Cordero asked Director Sweet to comment on what the citizens of Santa Maria would not have to experience now that the levee repairs were fully funded.

Director Sweet explained if the City could get the approval of the new flood control maps postponed, the residents would avoid having to buy flood insurance. He said there were also severe restrictions placed on construction within a flood plain that the residents would not have to deal with.

PROCLAMATION – GO WESTERN DAYS

Mayor Lavagnino read a proclamation declaring May 2 through June 7, 2009, as “Go Western Days” in the City of Santa Maria and encouraging all residents to enter into the rodeo spirit by wearing western apparel. The proclamation was accepted by Keith Barks.

PROCLAMATION – ELKS NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

Councilmember Orach read a proclamation declaring the week of May 3 through 9, 2009, as “Elks National Youth Week” in the City of Santa Maria and urging all departments of government, civic, and patriotic groups, and citizens generally to

participate wholeheartedly in its observance. The proclamation was accepted by Keith Barks.

PROCLAMATION – COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK

Councilmember Cordero read a proclamation declaring the week of May 3 through 9, 2009, as “Compost Awareness Week” in the City of Santa Maria in recognition of the efforts of the Composting Councils, Extension Agents, householders, landscapers, farmers, recyclers, public workers, composters, gardeners, and plant growers everywhere. The proclamation was accepted by Bob Engel of Engel & Gray.

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

Councilmember Patino read a proclamation declaring May 9 through 17, 2009, as “National Tourism Week” in the City of Santa Maria. The proclamation was accepted by Terri Paniagua and Gina Keough of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors and Conference Bureau.

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Councilmember Zacarías read a proclamation declaring the week of May 10 through 16, 2009, as “National Police Week” and Wednesday, May 13, 2009, as “Peace Officers’ Memorial Day” in the City of Santa Maria and encouraging all residents to remember those individuals who gave their lives and express appreciation to those who continue to dedicate themselves to making Santa Maria a safer place in which to live. The proclamation was accepted by Corporal Steve Lopez and Officer Alfredo Ruiz of the Santa Maria Police Department.

PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Mayor Lavagnino read a proclamation declaring the week of May 17 through 23, 2009, as “National Public Works Week” in the City of Santa Maria and encouraging the residents of Santa Maria to acquaint themselves with the issues involved in providing the City’s public works and to recognize the contributions which public works officials make every day to residents’ health, safety, comfort, and quality of life. The proclamation was accepted by Director of Public Works/City Engineer David Whitehead.

PROCLAMATION – WATER AWARENESS MONTH

Councilmember Orach read a proclamation declaring the month of May 2009 as “Water Awareness Month” in the City of Santa Maria and encouraging residents and businesses to increase their water awareness and make conservation a continuing way of life. The proclamation was accepted by Myra Ritchie and students Marina Ritchie, Kirin Sweeney, Kyler Corral, Carlos Angulo, and Amanda Ruiz.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Victoria Huber, Future Leaders of America, spoke about smoke-free parks in Santa Maria and asked the Council how they could vote against the issue.

Mark Radamaker spoke about the right to bear arms.

Mary Jacka spoke about Cinco de Mayo, her Mexican heritage, and her love of two countries. She also spoke about the Police Department's DUI check points targeting illegal immigrants.

Jose Meza spoke about the need for more lighting in the City. With more people out of work, vandalism was increasing, and they were concerned with security in their neighborhoods because there was not enough light.

Pedro Paez Navarro spoke about two PUEBLO meetings in December and in April regarding the confiscation of cars. He talked about the number of officers who were used for the DUI check points and the cost to residents to get their cars back.

Bob Zeiner spoke about the National Day of Prayer celebration on May 7th at the Santa Maria Fairpark from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and invited everyone to attend.

Guillermo Camareno spoke about his two countries and his love of both. He talked about the Police Department targeting illegal immigrants and confiscating their vehicles. The Central Coast economy depended on migrant workers because no one else would work for the low wages. He asked if it was the Police Department's duty to protect and serve only those who could prove citizenship.

Greg Greeley spoke about increased noise at night by Mid State Containers who were unloading sea train containers and running trucks until late in the evening next to his home. He asked that the City require them to obtain the proper permits or require them to move.

Tina Baker spoke about the cost of illegal immigrants to Americans.

Gerald Moxley also spoke about the cost of illegal immigrants.

Gabriel Valencia, President of MAPA, spoke about the immigrants' right to work in the United States and the confiscation of their cars. He said these people were not aliens. Aliens were people from other planets.

Jesus Estrada spoke about the confiscation of cars which affects families, kids, and workers. PUEBLO was trying to work with the City to find a solution.

Joan Leon spoke about water rates and thanked Utilities Director Sweet for sending out the notices well in advance, holding two public workshops, and proposing that the water bills list the cost of the meter and each tier of water usage. She also talked about the cost of providing State water to Santa Maria.

Belén Seara spoke about the eight points that attorneys have been looking at in other cities to stop the persecution of and confiscation of vehicles from illegal immigrants. She said PUEBLO supported the enforcement of laws to take drunk drivers off the road but did not want the Police Department to be persecuting undocumented immigrants

who were here to make a living for their families and a better future for their children. She requested reports of the DUI check points from 2007 to 2009.

Luis Oregel, Future Leaders of America, talked about the tobacco settlement program, experiences he had in local parks with cigarette butts and smokers, and the need for smoke-free parks.

Mickey Freeman spoke about immigrants entering the country illegally. She talked about the responsibility of the Police Department to take drivers without licenses and insurance off the streets. PUEBLO did not have the right to tell the Police Department to stop the DUI check points or to remove unlicensed drivers whether they were legal or illegal.

Paula James said when a person entered this country, they had responsibilities. If a person drove without a license, they should receive a ticket, no matter what ethnicity they were. She thanked the Police Department.

Nedzy Aguilar spoke in support of PUEBLO and requested that the Council take action on the recommendations from PUEBLO regarding the confiscation of cars. She talked about the effects of the DUI check points on the businesses in the immediate area.

Peggy Jordan spoke in support of law and order and police officers supporting the laws. She distributed information regarding a new program the Immigration and Customs Enforcement was instituting called Secure Communities to identify and remove criminal aliens.

Erin Meleen commented that anyone who broke the law should be punished regardless of color or ethnicity.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent Calendar Items A through I were approved on motion by Councilmember Orach, seconded by Councilmember Patino, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Cordero, Orach, Patino, Zacarías, and Mayor Lavagnino
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

A. ORDINANCES

The reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions was waived. Ordinances on the Consent Calendar were adopted by the same vote cast at the first reading unless City Council indicated otherwise.

B. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of April 21, 2009, were approved as submitted.

C. RELEASE OF BOND

Council accepted as complete the public improvements associated with Brian Court, Tract 5839, and released a Faithful Performance Bond in the reduced amount of \$19,637 for the construction and installation of on-site public improvements, with the order that the Contractor, Labor and Material Bond be retained until November 2009 and the Guaranteed and Defective Material Bond be retained until May 2010.

D. WARRANTS

Warrant Nos. 150199 to 150483 totaling \$2,632,527.33 were ordered ratified subject to having been certified as being in conformity with the budget and having been approved for payment by the Director of Administrative Services. Warrant Nos. 141004 and 149865 were cancelled.

E. PAYROLL

Payment of payroll was ordered ratified subject to having been certified by the proper Department Heads, as shown on records on file in the Department of Administrative Services and having been approved for payment by the Director of Administrative Services.

F. CONTINUATION OF CDBG ALLOCATION

The City Council continued the approval of the grant allocations for Fiscal Year 2009-10 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds to the meeting of May 19, 2009, as final allocation amounts have not been released by HUD.

G. TDA CLAIM

Resolution No. 2009-60 was adopted approving the Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim for Fiscal Year 2009-10 in the amount of \$3,710,057.

Resolution No. 2009-60 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A CLAIM WITH THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS FOR ALLOCATION OF TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-10.

H. PROPOSITION 1B GRANT

Resolution No. 2009-61 was adopted approving receipt of Proposition 1B Transit Security Funding, a grant from the State of California in the amount of \$103,107.

Resolution No. 2009-61 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING PROPOSITION 1B TRANSIT SECURITY PROJECTS.

I. ORDINANCE NO. 2009-10

Council conducted the second reading by title only of Ordinance No. 2009-10 approving annual water and sewer rate increases for the next three years and adopted the ordinance.

Ordinance No. 2009-10 adopted. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, RELATING TO FIVE PERCENT WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASES ANNUALLY EACH JULY 1ST AND FOUR PERCENT SEWER RATE INCREASES EACH JANUARY 1ST FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009-10, 2010-11, AND 2011-12.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF APPEALS

Chief Deputy City Clerk gave the staff report. The City Council is requested to make one appointment to the Board of Appeals. Staff recently became aware of a vacancy on the Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals meets on an "as needed" basis, and has been inactive for quite some time. The seven member Board hears appeals to decisions of the City Building Official and makes recommendations regarding Uniform Code provisions. Qualification is based on experience and training in the building trades. Applicants for this particular vacancy must be a General Contractor. The members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The City Clerk's Office advertised the vacancy with a deadline of April 23, 2009, to apply. Applications were received from Michael Brannon, Elena Condon, Timothy Ferrari, and Tim Seifert.

Mayor Lavagnino stated it was his policy to appoint residents of Santa Maria when possible.

On motion by Mayor Lavagnino, seconded by Councilmember Orach, and carried unanimously, Tim Seifert was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Appeals.

ZONE CHANGE FOR NKT COMMERCIAL, 1201 EAST MAIN STREET, Z-2009-001, E-2009-009.

Acting Director of Community Development Woods gave the staff report. The City Council is asked to consider a recommendation from the Planning Commission regarding a request for a zone change for a 0.56 acre site from FS (Freeway Service) to PD/HC (Planned Development/Highway Commercial), located at 1201 East Main Street. This project is the first application for the new "HC" zone, which was adopted by the City Council on December 2, 2008. A one-story, 4,295 square foot commercial building was built on the site in 2007. Two of the four tenant spaces are currently occupied by a Starbucks and Subway. The other two tenant spaces are currently vacant. The rezoning will allow additional permitted uses. At its regular meeting on April 1, 2009, the Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 2542 on a 5-0 vote recommending that the City Council approve the proposed zone change.

Mayor Lavagnino opened the public hearing.

Laurie Tamura, representing the owner, spoke in favor and said it would allow more flexibility to fill all the tenant spaces on the site. She asked for the Council's support.

Hearing no requests to speak, Mayor Lavagnino closed the public hearing.

Ordinance 2009-11, rezoning the property at 1201 East Main Street, from FS to PD/HC was introduced by title only for first reading and continued to the next meeting for second reading and adoption on motion by Councilmember Patino, seconded by Councilmember Cordero, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Cordero, Orach, Patino, Zacarías, and Mayor Lavagnino
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Ordinance No. 2009-11 introduced. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, REZONING PROPERTY FOR THE NKT COMMERCIAL PROJECT LOCATED AT 1201 EAST MAIN STREET, ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBERS 128-120-004, 0.56 ACRES (FILE NO. Z-2009-001).

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-09.

Community Programs Manager Coelho-Hudson gave the staff report. The City Council is asked to consider a substantial amendment to the Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2008-09 to apply for federal funding in the amount of \$521,839 under the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). This program has been funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). \$1.5 billion of the Recovery Act will be used to fund the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. The grant amounts have been calculated as formula-based (non-competitive) grants. The purpose of the HPRP is to provide housing for homeless and at-risk households. The program targets two populations of persons facing housing instability: those currently in housing but at risk of becoming homeless and needing temporary rent or utility assistance to prevent them from becoming homeless or needing assistance to move to another unit; and those experiencing homelessness and needing temporary assistance in order to obtain housing and retain it. The application process to receive the funding is two fold. Initially, the City is required to prepare a Substantial Amendment to the Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2008-09, make it available for public comment for 12 days, and submit it to HUD by May 18, 2009. Subsequently, the City will issue a Notice of Funding Availability requesting proposals from private, non-profit organizations in the same competitive manner as the annual CDBG and HOME applications. The Block Grants Advisory Committee is prepared to review the applications, interview the applicants, and develop a recommendation for consideration by the City Council in late summer. The Block Grants Advisory Committee already conducted an informational workshop that was open to the public on April 20, 2009.

Community Programs Manager Coelho-Hudson presented a recap of all the current funding opportunities for the City her office was working on:

FY 2009-10 CDBG	\$1,272,132
FY 2009-10 HOME	\$ 408,145
ARRA – HPRP	\$ 521,839
ARRA – CDBG-R	\$ 341,281
HERA – NSP	\$1,258,602
FY 2009-10 General Fund Youth	\$ 30,000

Mayor Lavagnino opened the public hearing.

Mary Jacka spoke in favor of the application for these funds. She said there were a lot of people on the verge of homelessness or who were currently homeless that needed help.

Pedro Paez Navarro spoke in favor of the funding. He said people were out of work and losing their houses.

Hearing no further requests to speak, Mayor Lavagnino closed the public hearing.

Mayor Lavagnino stated he would like to propose the Council consider setting aside some of these funds to assist with the relocation of the Airport Mobile Home Park residents. It could be part of a collaborative effort by the Airport District, the County, a private developer, and the City to address the issue. He asked the Council to support directing staff to research the requirements and see if the money could be used for that purpose.

Councilmember Orach stated he was concerned that only five percent of this new grant could be used for administration of the program. This was going to take a lot of oversight and a lot of staff work without a lot of money. He asked how it would be tracked.

Community Programs Manager Coelho-Hudson stated it would be the responsibility of the subgrantees to track the funding and prepare reports. She said she did not foresee many applicants as the requirements were very specific and only a few organizations provided the services.

Councilmember Patino stated she had been working on the Airport Mobile Home Park for a long time. They were trying to get the City, the County, a non-profit organization, a developer, and the Airport to find a solution, but she did not know how it would fit together.

Councilmember Zacarías stated there were organizations in the community that provided these types of services and would share the administrative burden of the program.

Resolution No. 2009-62 was adopted approving the Substantial Amendment to the Annual Action Plan on motion by Councilmember Zacarías, seconded by Councilmember Patino, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Cordero, Orach, Patino, Zacarías, and Mayor Lavagnino
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Resolution No. 2009-62 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-09 TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$521,839 UNDER THE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM (HPRP) AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA FOR THE APPLICATION OF FUNDS.

Council consensus was to direct staff to investigate the possibility of using these funds for relocation of the residents of the Airport Mobile Home Park.

WEST STOWELL ROAD RECONSTRUCTION, BID NO. 2009/12.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Whitehead gave the staff report. After receiving bids, staff identified an irregularity in the bid of the apparent low bidder. This irregularity led to a determination that subsurface conditions might be different from those represented in the plans and specifications. The difference in conditions would impact the bids that were received. Based on this information, at the April 21, 2009, City Council meeting, staff recommended the City Council reject all bids, direct staff to revise the project specifications and bid documents, and then re-advertise the project with the updated information. However, the City Council continued the item to the May 5, 2009, meeting and directed staff to amend the agenda item to reflect award of the project to Granite Construction. Staff has further investigated and researched this issue and continues to recommend that the City Council reject all bids, direct staff to revise the project specifications and bid documents, and then re-advertise the project with the updated information that corrects the problem which resulted in the irregularity contained in the apparent low bid from Granite Construction. A Federal Highway Administration memorandum describes an "unbalanced" bid. A mathematically unbalanced bid is one in which the unit items do not reflect reasonable costs plus a proportionate share of the bidder's anticipated profit, overhead, and other indirect costs. In this case, Granite Construction bid \$0.08 per ton for Class II Aggregate Base. The Engineer's Estimate for the work was \$30.00 per ton, and the average of the other six bids received was \$13.60 per ton. Granite Construction's bid meets the criteria for rejection of an unbalanced bid as defined by the Federal Highway Administration. Awarding the contract to Granite Construction based on its unbalanced bid jeopardizes the competitive bidding process. Staff also evaluated the other bids with the assumption of no Class II Aggregate Base being required on the project. Removing this bid item from the bids and adding the totals

of the other bid items, Granite Construction would no longer be the low bidder or the second low bidder. Granite Construction would move to third behind Calportland Construction and Souza Engineering Contracting, Inc.

Bruce McGowan, Granite Construction Company, thanked the Councilmembers for the position they took at the last meeting in support of Granite Construction being awarded the bid. He acknowledged that they did dig in the right-of-way without an encroachment permit and understood that was not appropriate. He said he had hoped that staff would support the award of bid after the last meeting. They did not want to build a project if they did not have staff's support. He would support rejecting all bids and rebidding the project, or he would agree to withdraw Granite's bid and allow the bid to be awarded to another company. He indicated they would not submit a new bid if the project was rebid.

Mayor Lavagnino thanked Mr. McGowan and said his comments had re-established his trust in Granite Construction Company. He hoped Mr. McGowan would reconsider and submit a new bid if the Council's decision was to reject all bids.

Councilmember Cordero stated he appreciated Mr. McGowan's comments. He hoped Granite would submit a new bid. He believed that the fairness of the bidding process had to be protected by rejecting all bids and rebidding the project.

Councilmember Orach stated he didn't feel Mr. Carvalho gave him answers to his questions at the last meeting so he drove over the roadway to see what happened. He understood that the road was deteriorated, and it probably did not take much to pry up the pavement. However, he was going to support the rebid of the project and encouraged Mr. McCowgan to submit a new bid. It would reduce the cost to the taxpayers.

Councilmember Zacarías said she appreciated the vigor with which Mr. Carvalho defended Granite's position at the last meeting and the integrity Mr. McGowan showed tonight. It was that kind of integrity that the Council looked for in bidders for City projects. She hoped Granite would continue their relationship with the City.

Resolution No. 2009-64 rejecting all bids for West Stowell Road Reconstruction, Bid No. 2009/12, was adopted on motion by Councilmember Cordero, seconded by Councilmember Patino, and carried on the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Cordero, Orach, Patino, Zacarías, and Mayor Lavagnino
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Resolution No. 2009-64 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR WEST STOWELL ROAD RECONSTRUCTION, BID NO. 2009/12.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Ness reported on items anticipated for the May 19, 2009, City Council meeting including the 3rd Quarter Financial Report, the CDBG/HOME Allocations and Final Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2009-10, and the final Measure D Program of Projects.

City Manager Ness announced that the Department of Finance released the new population figures, and the City of Santa Maria's population was now 92,542, a 1.8 percent increase.

He also talked about the funding from the Stimulus Package anticipated to be received by the City and indicated staff was keeping track of all of the funds available.

ORAL REPORTS BY COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Orach congratulated Art Foster and the kids from Santa Maria High School for their drag race over the weekend.

Art Foster announced that the drag team did exceptionally well and came within 100th of a second of winning the race at a speed of 180 mph. Both cars were neck in neck all the way to the finish line. One of the boys even received a scholarship from one of the race teams. They had an amazing weekend.

Councilmember Orach reported that he attended the League of California Cities Channel Counties Division Meeting on Friday, May 1st, in Goleta.

Councilmember Zacarías reported that she presented a proclamation at the Children's Museum and attended the Community Action Commission Champion's Dinner in Solvang on April 23rd, and the Elks Rodeo Kickoff Dinner on May 2nd.

Councilmember Patino reported that she presented a proclamation for the North County Rape Crisis Center on April 28th and a proclamation for Relay for Life on May 1st. She attended the Elks Rodeo Kickoff Dinner on May 2nd and the Chamber Hispanic Business Committee luncheon meeting on May 4th.

Councilmember Cordero reported he attended the PUEBLO meeting at the Library on April 22nd, the drag races in Bakersfield on April 25th, North County Child Abuse Prevention Summit at the Santa Maria Inn on April 30th, and the Boys and Girls Club Fundraiser on May 2nd.

Mayor Lavagnino reported he attended the sign dedication and luncheon for Loren Scruggs, a CHP Officer who was killed in 1971, and the Community Action Commission Champion's Dinner on April 23rd, the Mayors and Managers meeting in Buellton on April 24th, the Altrusa Luncheon at the Library on April 27th, the Airport District Board Meeting on April 29th, KSMA Radio show on May 1st, Hispanic Business Luncheon on May 4th, and KSMA Radio show on May 5th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council at this time, the meeting was declared adjourned by Mayor Lavagnino at 9:10 p.m. in memory of Loren Scruggs, a California Highway Patrol Officer killed in 1971.