

Councilman Jane Tolmach

NOTES FOR PRESENTATION TO THE
OXNARD MONDAY CLUB
March 22, 1971

THANK YOU. I AM VERY PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT OXNARD'S CITY GOVERNMENT. I ~~WOULD LIKE TO INITIATE~~ *will begin*
~~OUR DISCUSSION BY REFLECTING UPON~~ *with* SOME OF THE ISSUES WHICH HAVE FACED
THE CITY COUNCIL SINCE MY ELECTION LAST APRIL. I ~~MIGHT ALSO SUMMARIZE~~
~~SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT ACTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CITY~~
~~DURING THIS PERIOD.~~ AFTER THIS DISCUSSION I WILL BE HAPPY TO ATTEMPT
TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS WHICH YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT CITY ACTIVITIES.

ALTHOUGH I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR A
VERY SHORT TIME, I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO PARTICIPATE IN A
NUMBER OF CONSIDERATIONS WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE A LONG RANGE
IMPACT UPON OUR COMMUNITY. PERHAPS THE ISSUE OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE,
~~IF WE ARE TO USE THE PUBLIC'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN AS A GUIDE,~~ IS
THE DISPOSITION AND FUTURE USE OF OXNARD AIR FORCE BASE. *As you know,*
~~COUNCIL MEMBERS UNDERTOOK A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THIS MATTER AND~~
~~ACTIVELY DISCUSSED IT AMONG OURSELVES AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY~~
~~DURING SEVERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS.~~ THIS ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION CULMINATED
~~WITH THE CITY COUNCIL'S DECISION TO~~ *led to* INVITE THE COUNTY OF VENTURA AND THE
CITY OF CAMARILLO TO JOIN OXNARD IN A JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT ON *the* AIRPORT
development ~~DEVELOPMENT~~ *in this area* ~~THIS APPROACH ENABLES THE CITY OF OXNARD TO~~
PARTICIPATE IN THE CONTROL OF THE PROPOSED AIRPORT AT OXNARD AIR FORCE
BASE AND REQUIRES THE COUNTY TO RESTRICT OPERATIONS AT THE EXISTING
VENTURA COUNTY AIRPORT ON FIFTH STREET. ALSO, *it* ~~IT~~ COMMITS THE COUNTY TO

ACTIVELY ATTEMPT TO LOCATE THE ULTIMATE COMMERCIAL AIRPORT FACILITY IN THE POINT MUGU-ORMOND BEACH AREA.

(2)

IN TAKING THIS POSITION THE COUNCIL INDICATED THAT IT BELIEVES THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT ON AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT IS THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT THE OXNARD COMMUNITY AGAINST THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF AIRPORT OPERATION. TWO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL DID NOT AGREE WITH THIS EVALUATION AND VOTED AGAINST THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT. I WAS ONE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE THIS APPROACH WAS THE BEST ALTERNATIVE OPEN TO THE CITY (E X P A N D).

because it was my opinion that the agreement did not provide the safeguards I thought were necessary to keep the OPA B & H

2. - ANOTHER CRUCIAL QUESTION CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL WAS:

1. convinced the County and City to make no talk to the

"HOW CAN THE CITY BEST MEET THE WATER NEEDS OF ITS CITIZENS?" OXNARD IS UNFORTUNATELY FACED WITH A WATER PROBLEM WHICH IS COMMON TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CITIES. THE PROBLEM IS NOT A SHORTAGE OF WATER; RATHER, IT IS A SHORTAGE OF HIGH QUALITY WATER. AS YOU KNOW, THE CITY DEPENDS UPON BOTH LOCAL WELL WATER AND IMPORTED WATER TO MEET ITS NEEDS. THE INCREASED COST OF DELIVERING LOCAL WATER AND THE ESCALATING COST OF IMPORTED WATER NECESSITATED A CHANGE IN THE WATER RATE STRUCTURE. GIVEN THIS SITUATION, THE MAJOR QUESTIONS BECAME "HOW CAN THE RATE SYSTEM BE CHANGED TO MOST EQUITABLY SPREAD THE COST AMONG RESIDENTIAL AND LARGE INDUSTRIAL WATER USERS?" SINCE THE WATER RATES ULTIMATELY ADOPTED INCREASED THE CHARGES FOR WATER TO ALL USERS, WE PROBABLY SUCCEEDED IN PLEASEING ALMOST NO ONE; HOWEVER, THE COSTS MUST BE MET AND THE COUNCIL BELIEVES THE NEW RATE STRUCTURE SPREADS THESE COSTS AS EQUITABLY AS POSSIBLE TO ALL WATER USERS.

2. no way to protect against future up financial

THE CITY'S ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO DISTRIBUTE HIGH QUALITY WATER TO ALL OXNARD RESIDENTS. TWO STEPS MUST BE COMPLETED TO REACH THIS GOAL.

FIRST, IMPROVEMENTS MUST BE MADE TO THE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO ^{with major system} ALLOW THE SAME QUALITY OF WATER TO REACH EACH RESIDENT. THE CITY HAS HIRED A CONSULTANT TO DETERMINE HOW TO BEST EFFECTUATE THESE IMPROVEMENTS AND SOME \$1,000,000 WORTH OF WATER REVENUE BONDS, ALREADY AUTHORIZED BY COMMUNITY RESIDENTS, WILL SOON BE SOLD TO FINANCE THESE IMPROVEMENTS. THE SECOND NECESSARY STEP IS THE IMPORTATION OF MORE HIGH QUALITY WATER FROM THE CALIFORNIA WATER PROJECT. THIS WATER IS NOT YET AVAILABLE AND SO THE WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WILL BE DEPENDENT UPON THE COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT AND THE AVAILABILITY OF THIS HIGH QUALITY WATER. ~~IN THE YEARS TO COME.~~ *We will have the distribution system completed in time to make sure that all residents will benefit*

3. ANOTHER QUESTION OF VITAL CONCERN TO COUNCIL MEMBERS IS HOW THE CITY CAN BEST ARREST THE DECLINE OF CERTAIN AREAS OF OUR COMMUNITY. ONE METHOD AVAILABLE IS THAT OF FEDERALLY ASSISTED REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THIS APPROACH HAS BEEN USED IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, THE DRIFFILL PARK AREA, AND, MOST RECENTLY, WAS APPROVED FOR THE CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL AREA. THE OXNARD REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ALSO RECOMMENDED THE USE OF THIS TECHNIQUE IN THE COLONIA NEIGHBORHOOD. AFTER CAREFUL STUDY AND A WELL ATTENDED PUBLIC HEARING ON THIS MATTER IN THE COLONIA, THE CITY COUNCIL DECIDED NOT TO INITIATE A REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THAT NEIGHBORHOOD.

THE CITY OF OXNARD IS OBLIGATED BY BOTH LOCAL AND STATE LAWS TO MAINTAIN MINIMUM HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR RESIDENCES THROUGHOUT THE CITY. REDEVELOPMENT OFFERS ONE METHOD OF PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HOMEOWNERS IN UPGRADING THEIR RESIDENCES TO MEET THESE STANDARDS. HOWEVER, AS WITH ANY LARGE SCALE PROGRAM, THERE ARE POTENTIAL

DISADVANTAGES TO REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. I BELIEVE ONE OF THE GREATEST CHALLENGES WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO FACE THIS AND OTHER CITIES IS TO BE SURE THAT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ACCOMPLISH THEIR GOAL OF NEIGHBORHOOD REHABILITATION AND REJUVENATION WITH THE GREATEST SENSITIVITY TO THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNERS.

IN ADDITION TO THESE MAJOR ISSUES, THE COUNCIL TOOK OTHER ACTIONS WHICH SHOULD HAVE A LONGLASTING IMPACT UPON THE COMMUNITY. THE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN WAS ADOPTED ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR MEETING THE FUTURE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF LOCAL CITIZENS. AN INTEGRAL FACET OF THE ELEMENT WAS AN ORDINANCE *repealed* PATTERNED AFTER THE QUIMBY ACT WHICH ~~WILL~~ ENABLE THE CITY TO REQUIRE RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVIDERS TO CONTRIBUTE A PLOT OF LAND AND/OR MONEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A PARK TO SERVE THAT NEIGHBORHOOD. THIS PROGRAM SHOULD HELP THE CITY DEVELOP A COMMUNITY-WIDE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SYSTEM.

THE COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED THE CIRCULATION ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN ESTABLISHING THE LOCATION AND STANDARDS FOR PRIMARY ARTERIALS WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING THE MAJORITY OF THE CITY'S CROSSTOWN TRAFFIC IN YEARS TO COME. IN CONSIDERING THIS MATTER, SOME MEMBERS OF COUNCIL HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE STANDARDS PROPOSED FOR THE SIX-LANE THOROUGHFARES INCLUDED IN ~~THE~~ CIRCULATION ELEMENT. IT IS HARD TO ENVISION THE NEED FOR SEVERAL SIX-LANE STREETS TRAVERSING OUR COMMUNITY. THIS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE DILEMMA FACING CITY GOVERNMENT: "HOW CAN WE MOST EFFECTIVELY AND INTELLIGENTLY PLAN FOR OXNARD'S PROJECTED GROWTH?"

MANY OF THE DECISIONS WE MAKE NOW IN OUR LONG RANGE PLANNING WILL DETERMINE WHAT TYPE OF COMMUNITY WE HAVE IN THE YEAR 2000 WHEN SOME 500,000 PEOPLE WILL LIVE IN OUR PLANNING AREA.

IN THE AREA OF LONG RANGE PLANNING, THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED A FARM PRESERVE POLICY WHICH WILL ASSIST IN THE ORDERLY GROWTH OF OXNARD BY ASSURING THAT DEVELOPMENT OF NEW NEIGHBORHOODS OCCURS IN AREAS WHICH CAN BE EFFICIENTLY AND ECONOMICALLY PROVIDED CITY SERVICES. THE "FARM PRESERVE" IS A METHOD WHICH IMPROVES THE TAX PICTURE FOR FARMING BY TAXING THE LAND ON ITS CAPACITY TO PRODUCE RATHER THAN UPON ITS ASSESSED VALUE AND THEREBY ALLOWS FARMERS TO KEEP THEIR LAND IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. WHILE THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES THE CITY WITH AN EXCELLENT PLANNING TOOL BY CONTRACTUALLY COMMITTING AGRICULTURAL LAND TO FARMING USE FOR A MINIMUM OF TEN YEARS, IT WILL NOT PROVIDE FOR OUR LONG RANGE OPEN SPACE NEEDS. THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL RECENTLY ASKED THE COUNTY OF VENTURA TO SPEARHEAD A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO PERMANENTLY PRESERVE OPEN SPACE IN OUR COUNTY. SUCH A PROGRAM WILL COMPLEMENT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD, COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND PROVIDE A WELL BALANCED RECREATIONAL LAND SYSTEM.

ANOTHER ACTION WHICH SHOULD HELP ENHANCE OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT WAS THE CITY'S ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE LANDSCAPING OF PARKING LOTS. THIS ORDINANCE REQUIRES THAT DEVELOPERS OF ALL OPEN PARKING LOTS WITH MORE THAN FOUR SPACES PROVIDE LANDSCAPING BOTH AROUND THE PERIMETER AND A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF THE GROSS AREA OF THE LOT ITSELF.

THIS SHOULD PROTECT THE COMMUNITY FROM THE UNSIGHTLY EXPANSIVE BLACKTOP AREAS DOTTED ONLY WITH AN INFREQUENT ONE GALLON PLANT WHICH WE HAVE SEEN IN SOME PAST COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

We considered some change to tighten upon our sign ordinance but at the request of the Chamber of Commerce it was referred back to the

ALSO IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SPHERE, THE COUNCIL APPROVED A NEW INDUSTRIAL WASTE ORDINANCE WHICH REQUIRES SEWER SYSTEM USERS TO BRING THEIR EFFLUENT UP TO MINIMUM STANDARDS BEFORE EMITTING IT INTO THE CITY'S COLLECTOR SYSTEM. NOT ONLY WILL THIS MEAN LOWER MAINTENANCE COSTS AND LONGER LIFE FOR SEWER LINES, BUT WILL ALSO HELP THE CITY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THE STATE WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD IN THE INTEREST OF ECOLOGY.

*And again
Especially
P.C.
this is
a good
idea*

DURING RECENT MONTHS THE COMMUNITY HAS ALSO WITNESSED THE COMPLETION OR NEAR COMPLETION OF TWO IMPORTANT CITY FACILITIES. ON MARCH 5TH WE OFFICIALLY OPENED THE NEW PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING WHICH PROVIDES OVER 14,000 SQUARE FEET OF USEABLE WORKSPACE FOR THE BUILDING, PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS AND IS AN EXACT REPLICA OF THE EXISTING ADMINISTRATION BUILDING WHICH WAS COMPLETED IN 1966. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THIS NEW STRUCTURE, WHICH COST SOME \$500,000, WAS FINANCED TOTALLY ON A "PAY AS YOU GO BASIS" WITHOUT REQUIRING BOND INDEBTEDNESS OR NEW TAXES. THIS DEMONSTRATES THE VERY SOUND FINANCIAL CONDITION OF OUR CITY; UNFORTUNATELY, MANY OTHER CITIES ARE IN MUCH LESS COMFORTABLE FINANCIAL POSITIONS.

ANOTHER PUBLIC FACILITY WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE IS THE SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX AT HUENEME HIGH SCHOOL. THE PROJECT IS A JOINT VENTURE OF THE CITY AND THE OXNARD HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

AND WILL PROVIDE BOTH A WADING POOL FOR SMALL CHILDREN AND A FULL SIZE POOL FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THE ADULT PUBLIC. THE COMPLETION OF THIS POOL WILL HELP MEET THE RECREATION NEEDS OF RESIDENTS OF SOUTHERN OXNARD AND IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF HOW TWO PUBLIC AGENCIES CAN COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS. I BELIEVE SUCH COOPERATION WILL BE INCREASINGLY MORE IMPORTANT IN THE FUTURE AS GOVERNMENTS AT ALL LEVELS ATTEMPT TO POOL THEIR RESOURCES AND COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS TO MEET OUR NATION'S MORE PRESSING PROBLEMS.

OTHER PROJECTS WHICH WILL BE UNDERWAY IN THE NEAR FUTURE INCLUDE A LIBRARY EXPANSION PROJECT WHICH WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL 5,000 SQUARE FEET OF BOOK SPACE AND WORK AREA, AND THE EXPANSION OF OUR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT WHICH WILL DOUBLE ITS PRESENT ELEVEN MILLION GALLONS PER DAY CAPACITY WHILE ASSURING THAT THE EFFLUENT MEETS STATE WATER QUALITY CONTROL STANDARDS.

THE CITY COUNCIL HAS TAKEN NUMEROUS OTHER ACTIONS DURING RECENT MONTHS WHICH, ALTHOUGH HAVING LESS LONG RANGE IMPACT THAN THOSE ENUMERATED ABOVE, MORE IMMEDIATELY EFFECT THE OXNARD RESIDENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE COUNCIL RECENTLY AMENDED ITS REFUSE ORDINANCE TO INCREASE REFUSE CHARGES AND TO REVISE STANDARDS FOR REFUSE CONTAINERS INCLUDING, I MIGHT REPORT, THE APPROVAL OF PLASTIC BAGS AS REFUSE CONTAINERS. THE RATE INCREASE FROM \$1.25 TO \$1.75 WAS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN REFUSE SERVICE AS A SELF-SUFFICIENT OPERATION IN THE FACE OF RISING MATERIAL AND LABOR COSTS. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH MODERN GOVERNMENTAL THEORY WHICH RECOMMENDS THAT USERS OF CITY SERVICES PAY FOR THOSE SERVICES THROUGH FEES RATHER THAN THROUGH THE GENERAL TAX RATE. WHILE THIS APPROACH

IS OBVIOUSLY NOT PRACTICAL FOR SUCH SERVICES AS POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION, IT IS APPLIED WHENEVER FEASIBLE.

ANOTHER RECENT ACTION WHICH MIGHT HAVE AN IMMEDIATE AFFECT UPON SOME OF YOU IS THE ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE WHICH REQUIRES INDIVIDUALS TO OBTAIN WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE OWNERS BEFORE RIDING MOTORCYCLES OR FOUR WHEEL VEHICLES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY IN THE CITY. I GUESS THIS WILL HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT UPON YOU IF YOU HAVE BEEN ANNOYED BY THE NOISE AND DUST CREATED BY YOUNG MOTORCYCLISTS USING THE FIELD BESIDE YOUR HOUSE AS A RACETRACK; CONVERSELY, IT WILL PROBABLY HAVE A NEGATIVE AFFECT UPON YOU IF YOU LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING RID OF YOUR MOTORCYCLE RIDING TEENAGE SON FOR A FEW HOURS EACH WEEKEND.

AS YOU CAN SEE, A GREAT DEAL HAS OCCURRED DURING MY ELEVEN MONTHS ON THE COUNCIL. IT IS EXTREMELY REWARDING TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS WHICH WILL DETERMINE WHAT TYPE OF COMMUNITY WE WILL HAVE IN THE YEARS TO COME. *A city exists to serve the people in it. keep this idea in mind we will* IF MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND OTHER POLICY ~~MAKING BODIES~~ MAKE ~~THE~~ CORRECT DECISIONS, WE WILL HAVE A COMMUNITY OFFERING A WELL BALANCED ENVIRONMENT TO CITY RESIDENTS; A COMMUNITY WHICH NOT ONLY MEETS THE MATERIAL NEEDS OF ITS RESIDENTS BUT ONE WHICH IS ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR THE MORE INTANGIBLE NEEDS OF OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE SPIRIT. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE SACRIFICE SOUND PLANNING IN THE GUISE OF "PRACTICALITY", IT IS PROBABLE THAT WE WILL PRODUCE AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS DEFINITELY NOT CONDUCTIVE TO A "SATISFYING AND ENJOYABLE LIFE FOR COMMUNITY RESIDENTS".

IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO ADEQUATELY DISCUSS COMPLEX ISSUES
IN A SHORT TIME AS I HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DO HERE THIS EVENING. HOWEVER,
WE CAN PURSUE ANY OF THESE TOPICS IN WHICH YOU HAVE PARTICULAR INTEREST,
OR ANSWER ANY OTHER QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

THANK YOU.