

CITY OF MORGAN HILL

CITY COUNCIL'S POLICIES AND GOALS FOR 2009

Adopted February 18, 2009

During the two sessions of its 2009 Goal Setting Retreat, Council established policies and goals in four areas:

1. Capturing Opportunities for Economic Development
2. Focusing on Downtown Redevelopment
3. Improving the City's Governance Processes
4. Confirming the Sustainable Budget Strategy

CAPTURING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Policy: It is the policy of the City Council to position Morgan Hill to take early advantage of regional economic recovery by taking immediate actions that will make the city attractive for private investment and reinvestment. This requires:

Building needed infrastructure to increase transportation mobility and to provide adequate utility capacity

Changing City policies and processes to reduce costs and processing time for business development

Targeting redevelopment agency assistance to businesses that generate substantial retail sales tax or jobs

Ensuring that all City staff and members of Boards, Committees and Commissions contribute to economic development

Goal: In his recommended FY 10 Budget, the City Manager will propose and the Council will consider strategies to accelerate the construction of the Five Year Capital Improvement Program.

Goal: By June 3, 2009 the City Manager and each Council appointed Board or Commission will review and recommend revisions to policies and processes in their areas of responsibility, with a goal of reducing the time necessary for private development projects to obtain approval. Staff and commissions should identify processes that are required by law, but can be streamlined, as well as processes unique to Morgan Hill that could be revised or eliminated.

Goal: By June 3, 2009 the City Manager and city staff will consult with owners of existing and proposed shopping centers and develop a strategy for using RDA resources and City land use powers to fill vacancies and encourage successful expansion or completion.

FOCUSING ON DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT

Policy: In accordance with the previously adopted “Strategic Direction for Downtown” the City will revise public policies and make substantial public investment in order to accelerate the achievement of a significantly enhanced level of business activity in the Downtown.

Goal: By February 4, 2009 the City Council will make a decision on the first priority for implementing the Downtown Strategy. [Action on Feb 4. was to request additional input prior to decision on Feb. 18]

Goal: By February 4, 2009 the City Attorney will research the options and attendant risk for the Redevelopment Agency to take a greater role in achieving a significant enhanced level of business activity. [Completed]

Goal: By February 18, 2009 the City Attorney and City Clerk will report on options for calling an election to give voters an opportunity to revise current provisions of the Residential Development Control System that unintentionally discourage larger mixed use housing projects in the Downtown. The City Manager will evaluate options for administering the RDCS with the goal of accelerating mixed use housing projects in the Downtown.

Goal: By May 2009, the City Manager will develop and the Council will consider an aggressive schedule for public investment in additional downtown parking which shall be accompanied by a plan for operation and maintenance of the taxpayer financed facilities by private property owners and businesses.

IMPROVING THE CITY'S GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

Policy: It is the Council's policy to streamline the policy process and involve all members of the Council more directly. For calendar year 2009, the five (5) standing committees of the City Council are temporarily disbanded, to be replaced by regular 90-minute Council Policy Workshops immediately preceding each Council meeting on the third Wednesday of the month.

Policy: The Council appointed citizen boards, committees and commissions should be administered in the most cost effective manner consistent with their responsibilities to provide citizen input to City policies.

Goal: Conduct the first Council Workshop on February 18, 2009.

Goal: By the end of February 2009, the Mayor will develop options for supporting commissions, and for the frequency of their meetings.

Goal: As part of its consideration of the FY 10 budget, the Council will consider whether there should be an election proposing that the City Clerk and City Treasurer be appointed positions, rather than elected.

CONFIRMING THE SUSTAINABLE BUDGET STRATEGY

Policy: Council reiterates its commitment to the sustainable budget strategy adopted in recent years, and reinforced by its budget reductions of the last three months.

Goal: During its FY10 budget deliberations, Council will re-examine and, if necessary to meet changing conditions, modify the Sustainable Budget Principles adopted in prior years.

Goal: On February 18, 2009 conduct a policy workshop on options for new revenue to significantly increase police staffing; and consider whether to call a special election.

Goal: The City Manager will report regularly on the fiscal forecast for the current and next succeeding five years, with the objective of providing an “early warning” system for revisions that may be needed by local economic circumstances or the State Budget.

Goal: By March 4, 2009, the City Manager will prepare in cooperation with the City Administrator of Gilroy a Workplan for developing recommendations to save money and improve service through collaborative service delivery. The areas to be included include, at a minimum: regional fire protection, recreation programs, police dispatch services, disaster preparedness and environmental programs.