

## PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

### Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, February 2, 2015

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held February 2, 2015, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on January 29, 2015.

#### CALL TO ORDER

The City Council met at 7:00 p.m. in Closed Session for a conference with labor negotiators, held pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6. Agency Designated Representatives included Erick Cheung & Janae Novotny. All Represented Labor Groups included the Piedmont Firefighters Association, Piedmont Police Officers Association, and SEIU Local 1021 (General and Public Works Units). Unrepresented Employees included the City Administrator; City Clerk; Finance/HR Director; Confidential Employees; Public Works Director; Professional, Technical & Supervisory Employees; Planning Director, Parks & Project Manager; Building Official; Police Chief; Police Captain; Police Support Services Manager; Fire Chief; Fire Captains; Recreation Director; Recreation/Childcare Employees. Following the 7:00 p.m. Closed Session, Mayor Fujioka called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Margaret Fujioka, Vice Mayor Jeff Wieler and Councilmembers Teddy Gray King, Robert McBain and Tim Rood

Staff: City Administrator Paul Benoit, Finance Director Erick Cheung, Fire Chief Warren "Bud" McLaren, Planning Director Kate Black, Police Chief Rikki Goede, Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, Recreation Director Sara Lillevand, Public Works Supervisor Dave Frankel, Police Captain Jeremy Bowers, Police Support Services Manager Lisa Douglas, Police Sergeant Catherine Carr, Police Sergeant David Moranz, Police Officer Kristina Foster, Police Officer Joe Garcia, Police Officer Jeff Spranza, Assistant Planner Jennifer Gavin, Assistant Planner Janet Chang, and City Clerk John Tulloch

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

The following item was considered under one vote by the Council:

##### Conditional Use Permit

The City Council adopts the following Resolution approving a Conditional Use Permit for Edward Jones at 370 Highland Avenue, Suite 202 (situs address: 356 Highland Avenue):

##### Resolution 11-15

WHEREAS, Edward Jones is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to provide investment brokerage, insurance sales, and related financial services, located at 370 Highland Avenue, Suite 202 (situs address: 356 Highland Avenue), Piedmont, California; and

WHEREAS, the Piedmont City Council reviewed the application, the staff report, Planning Commission deliberation and any and all other documentation submitted in connection with the application;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Piedmont City Council determines that the granting of a Conditional Use Permit to Edward Jones at 370 Highland Avenue Suite 202, Piedmont, California, is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1(e).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Piedmont City Council adopts the following findings:

1. The proposed use is compatible with the General Plan and conforms to the zoning code, in that it is an existing office space.
2. The use is primarily intended to serve Piedmont residents (rather than the larger region), in that it is located in the middle of Piedmont.
3. The use will not have a material adverse effect on the health, safety or welfare of persons residing or working in the vicinity, in that it is an office that has no effect on health or safety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in consideration of the findings and facts set forth above, the Piedmont City Council approves the application by Edward Jones for a Conditional Use Permit for property located at 370 Highland Avenue, Suite 202 (situs address: 356 Highland Avenue), Piedmont, California, subject to the following conditions:

1. **Terms.** The terms of the approval are as stated in the application, specifically including the following:

- a. Days and Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm; and
- b. Type(s) of Staff/Personnel, Number of Each: 1 financial advisor, 2 branch office administrators; and
- c. The approval shall be for 5 years from the date of approval.

2. **Defense of Legal Challenges.** If there is a third party administrative, legal or equitable action challenging the project approvals, including CEQA issues, the Property Owner shall defend and indemnify the City against any liability, fees and costs arising out of the defense, including the costs of City's own counsel. If such an action is filed, the Property Owner and City shall then enter into an agreement regarding selection of counsel and other provisions related to the defense. For this purpose, "City" includes the City and its elected and appointed officials, agents, officers and employees.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by McBain

Ayes: Fujioka, Wieler, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Recused: None

Absent: None

(0340)

## PUBLIC FORUM

Marilyn Weber, Edna Cooper, and Chris Smith, members of the Turkey Trot Board, presented a check for \$5,000 to the City of Piedmont's Athletic Facilities Preservation Fund, to help maintain and support the City's sports fields. They thanked the Council, the community, and the participants for the success of the Turkey Trot Race. Mayor Fujioka thanked all of the Turkey Trot organizers and participants, as well as City Staff, for their roll in a successful community event.

## CEREMONIAL MATTERS

In recognition of the Piedmont Police Explorer Unit's first-place victories in three events at the Chandler Tactical Competition, the Mayor presented the Unit

members and advising officers with a proclamation declaring February 2, 2015, as Piedmont Police Explorer Day in Piedmont.

## REGULAR CALENDAR

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

### Minutes

The Council requested the following revisions to the January 20, 2015, meeting minutes:

- On Page 3, the sentence prior to the discussion of an Agreement with the County should read: "Mayor Fujioka announced that since she works for Alameda County, she is recusing herself from discussion and action on the next agenda item, *and she left the Council Chambers.*"
- On page 4, under the heading Piedmont Appreciating Diversity Committee, the words "and PADC" should be added after ". . . and the City."
- On Page 4, under State of the City address, the words, "her belief of informing" should be changed to "her desire to inform".
- On page 4, under Turkey Trot Proceeds, the words "how much will contribute to" should be changed to "how much will be contributed to".

With regards to the January 20, 2015, agenda item for the Appointment of City Attorney & Agreement for Attorney Services, Vice Mayor Wieler asked whether City Attorney Kenyon had verified whether the liability insurance was a wasting policy. City Attorney Kenyon responded that she had verified that the policy is not a wasting policy.

### Resolution 12-15

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves as amended herein its meeting minutes of January 20, 2015.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by McBain

Ayes: Fujioka, Wieler, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Abstain: King

Absent: None

### Crime Report

Police Chief Rikki Goede presented the 2014 Year End Crime Report. She reported that crime in the City of Piedmont decreased by 24%, with 241 reportable crimes in 2014 compared to 317 reportable crimes in 2013. She added that 2014 saw a 31% decrease in burglaries, a 20% decrease in auto thefts, and a 70% decrease in robberies. Although crime has been down for two straight years, the Chief stated that the fourth quarter of 2014 represented the highest quarter of reportable crimes for the year, with a 21% increase in reportable crimes and a 38% increase in burglaries over the third quarter. She added that an increase of crimes in the fourth quarter – at a time when many people are out of town – is consistent with a historical trend in Piedmont.

The Chief discussed crime trends involving groups of thieves casing a neighborhood or people posing as utility workers to gain access to a home to burglarize. She stressed the importance of staying vigilant to crime trends and of supporting Neighborhood Watch groups. She stated that in 2014, the Department attended and presented at only 9 Neighborhood Watch meetings, compared with 20 in 2013. The Chief added that the Automated License Plate Readers (LPRs) have proven effective and contributed to 31 arrests either directly or through investigative follow-up, as well as the recovery of 22 stolen vehicles. She commended the Police Officers and Detectives whose diligent work contributed to a 44% solve rate for 2014 crimes.

Police Chief Goede responded to a number of questions regarding crime prevention. The Chief stated that the biggest deterrent to crime is having a visible police presence. When asked what residents should do to counter groups of thieves casing homes, she said that residents should report anything that is out of the ordinary by calling 420-3000 or 911. She added that homeowners should make their homes appear occupied at all times. In response to questions about video security systems, the Chief said that the Police Department has a database of video security systems, which can help solve crimes throughout the neighborhood. She said that homeowners can voluntarily notify the police of their digital video security systems, to be added to the database. To deter car theft, she stated that homeowners should keep their cars locked and not leave bags in plain view. The Council commended the Chief on a strong report and agreed with her comments on the importance of crime vigilance and Neighborhood Watch groups.  
(0785)

**Street Sweeping  
Notifications**

Public Works Director Chester Nakahara presented a report regarding the effectiveness of existing notifications related to the street sweeping schedule. He explained that the purpose of street sweeping is to keep Piedmont streets tidy, minimize storm drain backups, and adhere to the requirements of the Clean Water Act. Historically, street sweeping was a year-round occurrence, but due to budget cuts, it is now mostly limited to the fall and winter when the majority of the trees lose their leaves. The Director added that the current street sweeping schedule has been effective in controlling the leaves in the City. Though each street is scheduled for sweeping approximately 7-8 times over the six month street sweeping period, actual street sweeping is heavily driven by the weather's effect on the trees and occurs 3 to 4 times as often as the schedule shows. The Director stressed the need for flexibility in the street sweeping schedule, so that the department can respond to big storms and heavy winds. He added that most residents are good about moving their cars, and that the street sweeper operators are very skilled at weaving around any remaining cars. The Director explained that residents are currently notified by website postings, handouts at City Hall, and schedules given out by the street sweeper operators. He added that Staff is open to Council suggestions on how to improve street sweeping notifications. He stressed that flexibility will be an important factor in any amended notification process, since variations in the weather require more off-schedule sweeping than scheduled sweeping. In response to Councilmember Rood's questions, the Director stated that the current street sweeping routine meets the needs of the Clean Water Act, which calls for trash and litter pickup. He reported that most of the stormwater backup issues that exist during a large storm stem from the limited capacity of the pipe at Grand Avenue and not from the storm system being clogged. In response to a discussion about parking restrictions, the Director pointed out that repercussions of parking restrictions could include inundating nearby residential neighborhoods with displaced cars and requiring additional police resources to ticket and/or tow parked cars.

The Council thanked Staff for being so responsive to their request regarding this issue and commended the Public Works Crew for their dedication to street sweeping. Several Councilmembers expressed their concern that, despite the diligence of Staff, streets are not being fully swept, due to parked cars. They were especially concerned about heavily parked areas, such as Oakland Avenue. They discussed the pros and cons of signage and ticketing and/or towing, and spoke about the possibility of electronic notifications. Councilmember King was in support of better notification, but not of ticketing or towing. Vice Mayor

Wieler expressed support for some punitive measures, including ticketing, if it could result in cleaner streets. Mayor Fujioka suggested that a pilot program, perhaps on a major thoroughfare, be implemented to see if signage might work. Councilmember Rood stated that he supported improved notification, but was not in support of parking restrictions, due to infeasibilities and limited benefits. Mayor Fujioka concluded by asking Staff to work with the new IT consultant and IT Task Force to explore additional notification methods, to explore the possibility of a street signage pilot project, and to report back to the Council. (0820-0370, 0825)

**2013-14 Audit Report**

Finance Director Erick Cheung described and discussed with the Council the major highlights and findings of the City's 2013-14 audited financial statements performed by Maze & Associates, the City's auditor, in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. It was noted that the financial statements received an unqualified opinion from Maze & Associates, which is the highest assurance the City can receive to show that staff is properly accounting for the City's assets. The Council commended the Director and Staff for their work, and Vice Mayor Wieler stated that a clean audit report is what reassures the Council and residents that financial decisions are being made based on good, honest information.

**Resolution 13-15**

RESOLVED, that the City Council accepts the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14 audited financial statements and the auditor's report on compliance and internal control over financial accounting based on an audit of financial statements performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards.

Moved by Wieler, Seconded by McBain

Ayes: Fujioka, Wieler, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0100)

**FY 2014-15 Mid-Year  
Financial Report**

Finance Director Erick Cheung presented the FY 2014-15 Mid-Year Financial Report indicating that the General Fund is in line with the adopted budget. It is estimated that the fiscal year will end with a \$4.35 million general fund balance, which is \$20,000 better than the adopted budget's balance of \$4.33 million. Property tax revenues are in line with the proposed budget, and property transfer tax revenues are at approximately \$1.8 million, which is 33% higher than they were a year ago. The Director added that expenditures are generally in line with the overall budget. The biggest adjustments are related to part-time and overtime pay for the Recreation, Police, and Fire Departments; as well as additional expenses with regards to facility maintenance and worker's compensation. Mayor Fujioka noted that although the property transfer taxes are healthy this year, they are not consistent from year to year, and commented on the importance of the parcel tax proposal that will be on the ballot in November 2016. Councilmember McBain commented that the City may need to adjust the amount of money budgeted for worker's compensation in the future. Councilmember Rood suggested that it would be useful for the Budget Advisory and Financial Planning Committee to review the Mid-Year Financial Report prior to action by the Council. The Council decided to take action on the item and refer the report to the Budget Advisory and Financial Planning Committee for review.

**Resolution 14-15**

RESOLVED, that the City Council accepts the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 Mid-Year Fiscal Report and refers the report to the Budget Advisory and Financial Planning Committee for review and comment.

Moved by Wieler, Seconded by King

Ayes: Fujioka, Wieler, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0165)

**FY 2014-15 Mid-Year  
Budget Adjustments**

Finance Director Erick Cheung requested Council approval of mid-year appropriation requests of \$183,753 from the General Fund, \$266,000 from the Workers Compensation Fund, \$130,000 from the Facilities Maintenance Fund, \$40,000 from the Equipment Replacement Fund and \$14,346 from the Schoolmates Fund. In response to questions from the Council, Public Works Director Nakahara explained the need for the appropriation request from the Facilities Maintenance Fund. He stated that since taking over facilities maintenance, the Public Works Department is simultaneously working to take care of near-emergency deferred maintenance and to develop a more comprehensive proactive program to avoid emergency situations in the future. He added that the original budgeted amount was not reflective of the deferred maintenance issues.

Garrett Keating, Piedmont resident, spoke regarding the corporation yard solar array, which will be defunded with the proposed budget adjustments. Mr. Keating suggested that, instead, the City revisit other possible locations, such as the Piedmont Community pool location, where a scaled-down project would be feasible. He stressed that the City is in need of a solar demonstration project now. He added that the scale and nature of the Recreation Department facility is similar to that of many houses in Piedmont and that the building could become a demonstration project for home efficiency projects. Councilmember Wieler suggested that Mr. Keating put forward his suggestions to the CIP Review Committee, which will meet on February 19, 2015.

Stella Kennedy, Piedmont resident and Piedmont Middle School teacher, spoke in support of Mr. Keating's suggestion to create a demonstration project at the Recreation Department facility. She urged the Council to take a leadership role in providing a relevant demonstration project for students and young families in Piedmont. In response to a question, Ms. Kennedy said that solar installations are not as feasible on the school district buildings, but suggested a partnership between the City and schools. Mayor Fujioka suggested that this item be added to the agenda for the next City/School Liaison meeting.

Rick Schiller, Piedmont resident, spoke briefly to recommend that the Council consider bringing fiber optics to the City of Piedmont.

**Resolution 15-15**

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 Mid-Year appropriation requests of \$183,753 from the General Fund, \$266,000 from the Workers Compensation Fund, \$130,000 from the Facilities Maintenance Fund, \$40,000 from the Equipment Replacement Fund and \$14,346 from the Schoolmates Fund, and refers the report to the Budget Advisory and Financial Planning Committee for review and comment.

Moved by Wieler, Seconded by McBain

Ayes: Fujioka, Wieler, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: None  
(0165)

**Republic Services  
Billing & Performance  
Audit**

City Administrator Benoit requested that Council direct staff to conduct a billing and performance audit of the services performed by the City's franchise waste hauler, Republic Services, Inc. (RSI). He explained that the City is in its eighth year of a 10-year contract with RSI. The agreement requires that the City conduct a billing audit and performance review during that 10-year period, at no cost to the city. Staff recommends performing the audit at this time, since RSI is requesting amendments to their agreement.

Planning Director Kate Black answered Councilmember questions regarding the audit and the RSI service. She explained that a third party consultant would conduct the audit. She also responded to questions about Piedmont's waste service fees, which are higher than those of some other municipalities. She explained that many factors contribute to higher fees, including Piedmont's small size, steep topography, and irregular development pattern; as well as its windy, narrow, steep, and tree-lined streets. She added that residents can lower their fees by changing from backyard service to curbside service and by downgrading from a 35-gallon trash bin to a 20-gallon trash bin. She also explained that residents who pay their fees upfront on an annual basis are given a free month of service, and that free compost bags are available at City Hall.

Councilmembers asked that RSI and Staff continue to notify residents of these money-saving strategies and continue to educate residents and students on composting and other waste diversion tactics. Bielle Moore, from RSI discussed two educational campaigns that are currently in the works, including a compost giveaway event and a compost workshop. She also briefly discussed the possibility of a compost delivery program. Planning Director Black explained that the waste agreement requires that RSI conduct at least six educational programs each year, two of which must be done within the schools. Councilmember Rood suggested that the City include composting videos produced by Stopwaste.org on the City's website and on KCOM.

Rick Schiller, a Piedmont resident, spoke regarding the high prices of the waste services. He commended RSI on its reliable service and responsive drivers, but did not approve of their significantly higher fees. He stated that Piedmont's narrow, hilly streets are not unique and do not warrant such high fees. He concluded by saying that Piedmont needs to continue to have a more rigorous approach to contracts. Mayor Fujioka thanked Mr. Schiller for his comments and responded that she and City Staff take contracts very seriously. She stated that the City has improved and will continue to improve upon its contract drafting and negotiations. In response to Mr. Schiller's comments, Vice Mayor Wieler explained that delivery companies' pricing often uses a city's flatlands to subsidize delivery fees in the hilly areas. Since Piedmont lacks the vast expansive flat areas and lucrative commercial pick-ups that allow other cities to balance their fees, Piedmont's fees are understandably higher.

Dimitri Magganas, a Piedmont resident, stated that he has had daily experience working with RSI while managing commercial real estate. He expressed his willingness to answer any questions that the Council or Staff may have.

**Resolution 16-15**

RESOLVED, that the City Council directs staff to conduct a billing and performance audit of the services performed by the City's franchise waste hauler, Republic Services, Inc.

Moved by McBain, Seconded by Rood

Ayes: Fujioka, Wieler, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0045, 0700-0703)

**Information Technology  
Strategic Plan**

City Administrator Benoit explained that twelve submissions were received in response to the City's Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant who would undertake a review of the City of Piedmont's Information Technology Infrastructure and prepare a five-year strategic plan. He further explained that the responses were rated internally by City Administrator Benoit and City Clerk John Tulloch, and externally by Rick Kitson of the City of Cupertino and Donna LaSala, the IT Director of the City of Berkeley. Based upon the ratings given, three firms were invited for interviews, and one firm – ClientFirst Technology Consulting – was a clear choice. With offices around the country, ClientFirst Technology Consulting has a long history of working with small and medium sized cities. The Administrator added that the firm came highly recommended. He asked the Council to approve a contract with ClientFirst Technology Consulting for \$24,618 and to appropriate \$25,000 from the General Fund Reserve to fund the project.

The Council was in full support of the agreement with ClientFirst Technology Consulting and commended City Administrator Benoit and his Staff for their success in selecting a strong candidate at a reasonable cost to the city.

John Lambert, a Piedmont resident and representative of ClientFirst Technology Consulting, spoke to introduce himself and his firm. He expressed his excitement for the project.

**Resolution 17-15**

RESOLVED, that the City Council 1) approves an Agreement with ClientFirst Technology Consulting in the amount of \$24,618 for the development of a five year Information Technology Strategic Plan; and 2) appropriates \$25,000 from the General Fund Reserve to the Administration Department Information Services – Labor account to fund the project.

Moved by McBain, Seconded by Rood

Ayes: Fujioka, Wieler, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0045, 0385)

**Information Technology  
Task Force**

City Administrator Benoit explained that at its regular meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, while conducting interviews of residents interested in serving on the City's Information Technology (IT) Task Force, the Council was impressed with the high quality of applicants and wished to find a way to allow more members to serve on the Task Force. At that time, Council directed Staff to draft a resolution expanding the membership of the Task Force from three to five regular members. The Administrator asked Council to consider the appointment of the following residents to the Information Technology Task Force: Tom Kutter, David Mason, Michael G. Parks, Poojitha Preena, and Adam Schwartz.



Councilmembers expressed their excitement for the IT Task Force and its role in the IT Strategic Planning process. They stressed how impressive all ten candidates were, and how difficult the selection process was for the Council. The Council thanked all of those who applied for the Task Force.

**Resolution 18-15**

WHEREAS, the City of Piedmont is highly reliant on technology, with each department using Information Technology in different ways to serve residents and communicate important information in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the City is undertaking the development of a five-year strategic plan for its Information Technology infrastructure and hiring a consultant to evaluate the City's current infrastructure and develop the strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, many residents of Piedmont work in the Information Technology industry and have tremendous expertise in the field; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to utilize this expertise in the development of the Information Technology strategic plan by creating an Information Technology Task Force to work with the consultant selected to develop the plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Piedmont does hereby declare, determine, and order as follows:

**SECTION 1.** The Information Technology Task Force is hereby established to advise and assist the Information Technology Consultant selected by the City Council in the development of the City of Piedmont's Five-Year Information Technology Strategic Plan. The Task Force will serve in a supporting role to the Consultant, providing insight and perspective as to the sustainability and appropriateness of report recommendations for the City of Piedmont and assisting with vetting and prioritizing suggested initiatives. The Task Force will not direct the work of the Consultant.

**SECTION 2.** The Information Technology Task Force shall be comprised of five residents of Piedmont each of whom shall have demonstrated knowledge of and expertise in Information Technology.

**SECTION 3.** The Information Technology Task Force shall elect one of its members to serve as Chair and another to serve as Vice Chair.

**SECTION 4.** The term of the Task Force will extend from the date upon which the Council selects an IT Consultant to the date upon which the Council accepts the Consultant's final Report and Strategic Plan.

**SECTION 5.** The Committee shall comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code §54950 et seq.) including, but not limited to notice, agenda posting, and public participation requirements.

**SECTION 6.** The Committee is an advisory body to the Information Technology Consultant and the City Council and is not an independent decision-making body.

**SECTION 7.** Resolution 145-14 is hereby rescinded and this resolution shall be effective immediately.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by King

Ayes: Fujioka, Wieler, King, McBain, Rood  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
(0320)

**Resolution 19-15**

RESOLVED, that the City Council appoints the following residents to the Information Technology Task Force: Tom Kutter, David Mason, Michael G. Parks, Poojitha Preena, and Adam Schwartz.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by McBain

Ayes: Fujioka, Wieler, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0320)

**Ordinance**

City Administrator Benoit explained that the City Code's purchasing rules, which have not changed in 28 years, have a threshold of \$10,000 for formal bidding requirements. He stated that a formal bidding process can generally add as much as 20% to 30% to the cost of a project due to the necessity of preparing formal bid documents, noticing, and other requirements. He added that formal bid specifications, which can number approximately 120 pages even for a small project, often dissuade smaller companies from bidding. Staff is proposing that the threshold be raised to \$50,000, and is open to an even higher threshold of \$75,000 if the Council approves. City Administrator Benoit explained that an informal bid process, which requires calling at least three companies for bids, would be used for all projects with a value greater than \$5,000 and less than the formal bidding threshold.

The Council was unanimously in support of raising the formal bidding threshold to an amount of \$75,000. Vice Mayor Wieler pointed out that raising the threshold was in line with recommendations from the 2013-2014 Audit Report. The Council discussed whether they might also want to raise the threshold for informal bidding from \$5,000, but decided that this amount was appropriate for informal bidding.

**Resolution 20-15**

RESOLVED, that the City Council introduces and conducts the first reading of Ordinance 716 N.S., which amends Chapter 2 of the Piedmont City Code to change the thresholds for informal and formal bidding requirements into conformance with current best practices; amending Sections 2.155 and 2.159 to reflect a \$75,000 figure.

Moved by Wieler, Seconded by Rood

Ayes: Fujioka, Wieler, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0705)

**REPORTS AND  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

League of California Cities, East Bay Division – Vice Mayor Wieler announced that Councilmember King was elected to be an at-large member and Vice President of the League of California Cities Executive Committee.

Recreation Department – Councilmember King announced that the Recreation Department is moving expeditiously on a town-hall plan and on-line survey to study the Department's service areas. She also announced that Mike Heller, the Recreation Department's new supervisor, started in January.

Piedmont Unified School District Superintendent Selection – Several Councilmembers reported that they participated in focus groups to aide in the selection of a new superintendent for the Piedmont Unified School District.

Park Commission – Councilmember McBain announced that the Park Commission meets Wednesday, February 4, at 5:30 in the Council Chambers. He reported that the agenda includes a discussion of the Highland Strip, as well as other important projects.

City Council – Mayor Fujioka announced that the next City Council meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17, instead of Monday, February 16, due to the Presidents Day Holiday.

State of the City Address – Mayor Fujioka reported that the State of the City Address will take place on March 2, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, and will be followed by a reception.

City/School Liaison Meeting – Mayor Fujioka announced that a date will be selected for the City/School Liaison Meeting. She stated that the meeting agenda will include two items discussed by the Council and any other items proposed by the School District.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Noise Ordinance – Mayor Fujioka asked that Staff explore an amendment to the noise ordinance, as it relates to construction. She stated that the Code currently allows for construction seven-days a week, which is difficult for those living near construction projects.

Measure BB – Mayor Fujioka asked Staff to establish contact with Art Dao, the Executive Director of the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC), to monitor the standards and guidelines needed to disperse Measure BB funds. City Administrator Benoit stated that Public Works Director Nakahara has been in contact with the ACTC and that Assistant Planner Janet Chang is on a committee that focuses on grant opportunities.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Fujioka adjourned the meeting at 10:58 p.m.