

PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, July 18, 2016

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held July 18, 2016, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54957(b) the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on July 14, 2016.

CALL TO ORDER

The City Council met at 6:30 p.m. in Closed Session for (a) Conference with Real Property Negotiations (Govt. Code §54956.8) – 1658 Lower Grand Ave.; Negotiating Parties: City and AT&T Wireless, Negotiators: City Admin. & Atty; Under Negotiation: Price & Terms of Payment; (b) Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Gov. Code § 54957(b)) – Title: City Administrator; and (c) Conference with Labor Negotiators (Gov. Code § 54957.6) Agency designated representative: Jeff Wieler, Unrepresented Employee: City Administrator. Following the 6:30 p.m. Closed Session, Acting Mayor Wieler called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Staff: City Administrator Paul Benoit, City Attorney Chad Herrington, Chief of Police Rikki Goede, Interim Planning Director Kevin Jackson, Fire Chief Warren (Bud) McLaren, Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, Parks and Project Manager Nancy Kent, and City Clerk John Tulloch

CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items were considered under one vote by the Council:

Minutes

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes for 07/05/16

MOU for Use of ReddiNet

Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding Between Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services Division and the City of Piedmont for the use of ReddiNet (0045, 0480)

Disability Retirement Claims Application

WHEREAS, the City of Piedmont (herein referred to as agency) is a contracting agency of the California Public Employees' Retirement System; and

WHEREAS, the Public Employees' Retirement law requires that a contracting agency determine whether an employee of such agency in employment in which he/she is classified as a local safety member is disabled for purposes of the Public Employees' Retirement law and whether such disability is "industrial" within the meaning of such law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Piedmont has determined upon legal advice that it may delegate authority under Government Code Section 21173 to make such determinations to the incumbent of the office/position of City Administrator;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Piedmont delegate and it does hereby delegate to the incumbent of the office/position of City Administrator authority to make applications on behalf of the Agency pursuant to Government Code Section 21152 (c) for disability retirement of all employees and to initiate requests for reinstatement of such employees who are retired for disability;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Piedmont delegate and it does hereby delegate to the incumbent of the office/position of City Administrator authority to make determinations of disability on behalf of the Agency under Government Code Section 21156 and whether such disability is industrial and to certify such determinations and all other necessary information to the California Public Employees' Retirement System.

Resolution No. 66-16

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the Consent Calendar as noted.

Moved by King, Seconded by McBain

Ayes: Wieler, McBain, King, Rood

Noes: None

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for public forum.

REGULAR AGENDA

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

All Way Stop Signs

City Administrator Benoit discussed recent initiatives regarding improved traffic and pedestrian safety, including the proposal in front of the Council to install all way stops at ten intersections. He explained the recommendations for the location of the proposed signs were based on resident comments and Police Department investigation.

Public Works Director Nakahara discussed the process of selecting the intersections included in this proposal. He also discussed his experience with safety issues and encouraged additional safety measures. He discussed staff involved in the process and public input received. He also discussed the ramification of not having warrants for installed stop signs.

Mr. Nakahara stated that six of the ten intersections at which all way stops are proposed were among the 27 outlined in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (PBMP). He explained the process undertaken by the City during the creation of the PBMP to determine which locations within the city could benefit from additional traffic safety measures.

He discussed the success at the intersection at Linda and Kingston. He stated he was open to suggested modifications. He explained the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and the process for determining the locations of traffic safety measures.

Public Testimony was received from the following:

Jonathon Becker, Osa Wolff, Pedro Gonzalez, and Aaron and Alex Aubrecht indicated support for the proposed stop sign installations.

Rajeev Bhatia expressed concern with proposals for intersections not included in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. He also urged Council to include St. James Drive and Hampton.

Cindy Gong and Dean Barbieri indicated support for the staff recommendation to install an all way stop sign at the intersection of Blair and Scenic Avenues. Al Peters questioned whether an all way stop was appropriate at this intersection given the previous finding of a traffic engineer that an all way stop was not warranted here.

Tom Smegal acknowledged the issue with speed on Magnolia Avenue, but expressed concern with the lack of public notice and input regarding this proposal.

Steve Lowenthal, Dennis Mahoney and Margaret Hiller opposed the installation of an all ways stop and crosswalk at the intersection of Dormidera and Mountain Avenues and suggested alternative traffic calming measures be explored.

Correspondence was received from: Kate Waldron, Dean & Karen Barbieri, Lindsay Snyder, Mary Nelson, Geoff Snyder, Marcy Kates, LuLynn deSilva and Lyman Shaffer, Frank Ryan, Hope and Larry Salzer, Claire Arno, and Steve and MaryJane Lowenthal.

With regard to the intersection of Dormidera and Mountain Avenues, Public Works Director Nakahara stated that this intersection warranted further examination, including possible impacts to parking in the area.

The Council discussed the success of the Linda / Kingston Triangle and commended the efforts to make cost effective improvements near schools and to slow down traffic. It agreed with the suggestion to include the intersection of St. James and Hampton Road and proceed with other possibilities in the not so distant future.

The Council directed staff to obtain quotes for the placement of all way stops at each of the ten intersections listed in the agenda report date July 18, 2016 as well as the intersection of Hampton Road and St. James Drive and bring the quotes back to Council for a final determination as to which will be installed. (1060)

Piedmont Center for the Arts Lease

Acting Mayor Wieler announced at the beginning of this item that due to his role as an advisor to the Piedmont Center for the Arts, he was recusing himself from discussion and action and he left the Council Chambers.

City Administrator Benoit explained that a close reading of the City's lease with the Piedmont Center for the Arts required the Center to obtain prior written consent from the Council for any rental of the facility at 801 Magnolia Avenue to an outside group, even temporary and/or incidental uses. He explained the proposed amendments to Sections 4 and 14 allow the Center greater flexibility in the management of their successful space.

Wendy Willrich, Piedmont Center for the Arts Board Member, explained the desire for more flexibility in uses.

Resolution No. 67-16

RESOLVED, that the City Council conducts first reading of Ord. 723 N.S., which approves the First Amendment to the City's Lease with the Piedmont Center for the Arts at 801 Magnolia Avenue.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by King

Ayes: King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Recused: Wieler

(0705, 0270-0375)

Acting Mayor Wieler returned to the Council Chambers and took his seat at the dais.

Appointment of Planning Director

City Administrator Benoit discussed the need to fill the Planning Director position and recommended appointment of Kevin Jackson. He described Mr. Jackson's experience in the Planning Department and stated he was well suited to the requirements of the position. He explained the recently conducted salary survey and salary proposed for Mr. Jackson.

The Council discussed Mr. Jackson's qualifications and indicated its support for the appointment.

Dimitri Magganas commended the professionalism of Mr. Jackson.

Resolution 68-16

RESOLVED, that the City Council appoints Kevin Jackson as Planning Director effective July 18, 2016, and approve a salary and benefit resolution.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by King

Ayes: King, McBain, Rood, Wieler

Noes: None

(0085)

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Council Seats – Acting Mayor Wieler announced the nomination period for the November 8th General Municipal Election runs from July 18th through August 12th. He suggested residents interested in running for either City Council or Board of Education contact the City Clerk for more information.

Police Department – Councilmember King acknowledged the Piedmont Police Department and suggested adjourning in memory of the fallen officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Acting Mayor Wieler adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m. in memory of the fallen police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge.