

PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, March 7, 2016

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held March 7, 2016, 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 March 3, 2016.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fujioka called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Margaret Fujioka, Vice Mayor Jeff Wieler and Councilmembers Teddy Gray King (arrived at 7:12 p.m.), Robert McBain and Tim Rood

Staff: City Administrator Paul Benoit, Police Chief Rikki Goede, Interim Planning Director Kevin Jackson, Recreation Director Sara Lillevand, Fire Chief Bud McLaren, Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, Interim Finance Director James O'Leary, 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 February 16, 2016

Resolution 24-16

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the February 16, 2016 minutes.

Moved by Wieler, Seconded by Rood

Ayes: Fujioka, McBain, Rood, Wieler

Noes: None

Absent: King

PUBLIC FORUM

Julie Walsh, Tristan Lau, Tom Wilson, Michael Lee, & Kristin Hull requested that the City Council request CalPERS to divest from fossil fuels investments, stating the environmental impact of climate change and the impact that fossil fuels have on increasing global temperature. The City's commitment to climate action was stressed along with potential financial risks in continued investment in fossil fuels. Ms. Walsh presented the names of 160 Residents who signed a petition requesting the Council take the matter up.

Tom Reicher suggested the City request a detailed explanation of how CalPERS investment teams were taking account of climate change and then determine whether or not to divest from all or some fossil fuel companies.

Megan Deutsche and Hannah Castle discussed the lack of student parking and suggested the problem could be partially alleviated by issuing parking permits based on the distance of the student's home from the school.

Chris Seybold discussed traffic issues on Oakland Avenue and the need to calm traffic and provide crosswalk education.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recreation Department – Councilmember King encouraged residents to register for summer programs beginning on March 16th for residents and March 23rd for non-residents.

MAYOR'S PRESENTATION Highlights of Mayor Fujioka's State of the City Address:

Mayor Fujioka welcomed the community to the newly renovated City Hall entry. She thanked the Piedmont Beautification Foundation and residents Steve Nicholls of Mueller Nicholls Builders and Peter Fishel of Vanderbyl Design for their contributions and for participating in a public/private partnership to accomplish this project. She also thanked staff for their significant work on this project, specifically recognizing retired Parks and Project Manager Mark Feldkamp for the effort he spent to make the project a success.

The Mayor thanked Vice Mayor Jeff Wieler; fellow Councilmembers Robert McBain, Teddy King, and Tim Rood; and City Administrator Paul Benoit for their dedication, talent and collaboration. She recognized City Staff for their professionalism and responsiveness. She also thanked volunteers and Piedmont residents for their many contributions to the City.

The Mayor discussed the four initiatives that she emphasized in her inaugural address in February 2014—improving public safety, embracing technology, maintaining fiscal health, and addressing aging infrastructure - and highlighted her overlying goal of a renewed focus on civic pride and volunteerism.

With regard to improving public safety, the Mayor commended Police Chief Rikki Goede and her staff for their role in lowering the City's crime rate, improving the City's solve rate, and successfully making use of new technology, including license plate readers. She also commended Fire Chief Bud McLaren on his leadership with regards to disaster preparedness, and she announced the efforts of the Fire Department to update and refine the City's emergency operations plan.

With respect to embracing technology, Mayor Fujioka announced that the City had completed, and the Council had adopted, the five-year Information Technology Strategic Plan in October 2015. She stated the City was in the process of moving forward with the selection of IT staff support to assist in the implementation of the plan.

The Mayor commended the Finance Department, City employees, the Council, and Piedmont voters for maintaining and improving the City's fiscal health through a variety of cost-saving and revenue-generating measures.

Mayor Fujioka reported on a number of projects planned to address Piedmont's aging infrastructure. She provided an update on the City's sanitary sewer project. She thanked Piedmont voters for continuing to support the parcel tax and discussed the upcoming measure on the June ballot. She vowed to continue to pursue public/private partnerships, such as the City's partnership with the Piedmont Beautification Foundation, and recognized completion of improvements at the Community Hall. She expressed gratitude to Public Works Director Chester Nakahara and City Engineer John Wanger, with input from the Budget Advisory Committee, for the first comprehensive Facilities Maintenance Plan. She expressed gratitude for the public/private partnership on the Hampton Field Improvement project.

Mayor Fujioka announced that the City had initiated several environmental goals, including upcoming consideration of a draft building energy savings ordinance and water saving measures. She discussed green energy saving accomplishments and stated she was pleased to announce the City's receipt of

regional and statewide awards for its innovative rent restricted second unit program.

The Mayor reported on the hiring of Parks and Project Manager Nancy Kent who would shepherd projects including the Linda Kingston Triangle and Crocker Park Garage project. She expressed enthusiasm for Recreation Director Sara Lillevand's plans to complete a comprehensive survey of recreation programming, implement new middle school and preschool programs, and improve the Aquatic Center with the upcoming aquatics master plan. She discussed the successful reopening of Piedmont Community Hall following upgrades.

Mayor Fujioka reported that the City continues to maintain strong bonds with the Piedmont Unified School District, as shown by the successful City/School Holiday Book Drive and reduced congestion and improved safety at Magnolia and Highland Avenue.

Mayor Fujioka encouraged residents to commit to constructive engagement and community building. She vowed to continue to focus on her core initiatives of public safety, technology, finances and capital improvements, and promised to continue to encourage collaboration, civility, openness and inclusion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Fujioka adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.