

## PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, April 17, 2017

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held April 17, 2017, 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 April 13, 2017.

### CALL TO ORDER

The City Council met at 6:00 p.m. in Closed Session for (a) Conference with Real Property Negotiators Corp. Yard, 898 Red Rock Road; Negotiating Parties: City and Gulf South Towers; Negotiators: City Admin. & Atty; Under Negotiation: Price & Terms of Payment (Govt. Code Section 54956.8); and (b) Conference with Labor Negotiators; Agency Designated Representative(s): Janae Novotny; All Represented Labor Groups: (Piedmont Firefighters Assn; Piedmont Police Officers Assn; SEIU Local 1021 (General and Public Works Units); Unrepresented Employees: 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 Commander; Fire Chief; Fire Captains; Recreation Director; Recreation/Childcare Employees) (Gov. Code Section 54957.6). Mayor Wieler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Jeff Wieler, Vice Mayor Bob McBain, and Councilmembers Jennifer Cavanaugh, Teddy Gray King and Tim Rood

Staff: City Administrator Paul Benoit, City Attorney Michelle Marchetta Kenyon, Fire Chief Warren "Bud" McLaren, Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, Recreation Director Sara Lillevand, Parks and Project Manager Nancy Kent, Recreation Supervisor Erin Rivera, Schoolmates Site Coordinator Michael Murphy 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 03/20/17, 03/27/17 and 04/03/17

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ord. 730 N.S. and Other Codes

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ord. 730 N.S. Amending Chapters 5, 8 & 9 of the City Code in Order to Adopt the 2016 California Building, Fire, Green and Other Codes (0705)

#### Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Funding

Approval of an Appropriation in the Amount of \$25,000 to Fund the Development of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (0045, 0088, 0440)

#### Commercial Lawn & Garden Equipment Exchange Program Grant

Approval of a Grant Agreement with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for the Commercial Lawn & Garden Equipment Exchange Program in the Amount of \$15,682.68. (0045, 0525, 0825)

#### Resolution No. 26-17

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

Moved by McBain, Seconded by King

Ayes: Cavanaugh, King, McBain, Rood, Wieler

Noes: None

Absent: None

**PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

**Extended Day  
Kindergarten and  
Impact on Schoolmates  
Program**

City Administrator Paul Benoit reminded the Council and community that implementation of Piedmont Unified School District's (PUSD) Extended Day Kindergarten (EDK) posed challenges to the long term viability of the City's morning Schoolmates program, particularly in regard to staffing. He stated Recreation Director Sara Lillevand would summarize the issues as they have unfolded since the last Council meeting. He indicated that Ms. Lillevand would explain how staff will work with the District to ensure that parents would not have to deal with a staggered bell schedule which, as proposed, does not serve the needs of residents or Schoolmates. Mr. Benoit stated quality before and after school care was in the best interest of the Piedmont residents, the City, and PUSD.

Recreation Director Sara Lillevand stated her understanding that PUSD staff met on April 5, 2017, to consider several bell schedules for extended day kindergarten and their impacts on the educational needs of kindergarteners. She stated the City's preferred bell schedule for a successful Schoolmates program was a 9:30 a.m. start or a regular daily stagger similar to that used by PUSD for first graders so that there was the potential for a critical mass of students in Schoolmates for two hours before they began school.

Ms. Lillevand explained PUSD's proposed kindergarten bell schedule for the 2017-2018 school year, which would have students beginning their school day at either 8:30 a.m. or 9:10 a.m. depending on the day of the week. She also stated her understanding that PUSD's clear intent was to start all kindergarteners at 8:30 a.m. in the 2018-2019 school year.

Ms. Lillevand detailed staff's deliberations with regard to PUSD's proposed schedule for 2017-2018 and determined that it did not meet the needs for Schoolmates critical mass of students, disrupts continuation of care and creates a confusing or frustrating schedule for parents and children. She stated it may be in the best interest of the School District to adopt its preferred 8:30 a.m. start.

She indicated that the Recreation Department is prepared to offer schoolmates care from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. (with slightly varied hours on Wednesdays to accommodate the school schedule) in 2017-2018, but indicated it was likely untenable for ongoing operations. She stated staff was prepared to commit to the one-year temporary solution in consideration of the families depending on the Schoolmates program, but that this commitment would likely cause the Schoolmates program to run at a loss of approximately \$80,000 in 2017-2018.

Ms. Lillevand reiterated the goal to fulfill the needs of the community by providing quality before and after school care. She thanked the five full-time Schoolmates staff members for their commitment to the well-being of the children.

In response to Council questions, Recreation Director Lillevand stated most school districts provide before and after school care through a contracted third party and that most cities are not the vehicle for this care. She relayed that the City of San Rafael runs a program similar to Schoolmates and that they are

grappling with similar issues to those facing Piedmont.

Ms. Lillevand reiterated the commitment of the City and Schoolmates staff to provide high quality care for the upcoming school year but stressed the need for a long-term solution. She discussed the need for real, productive dialogue between the City and PUSD to ensure that the community need of high quality before and after school care was met over the long term.

She stated the goal was to maintain top quality care consistent with the City's standards of excellence, while maintaining a structure that allows the City to retain and attract full time staff members.

**Public Testimony** was received from:

Michele Kwok discussed her family's need for quality before and after school care. She commended PRD staff and requested the Council support continuing the Schoolmates program for the 2017-18 school year. She expressed disappointment that Superintendent Booker was not at the meeting. She stated it was necessary to have everyone at the table to discuss how to best serve the needs of the community.

Dimitri Magganas expressed confidence that a creative solution could be found.

Linda Wendel thanked PRD staff and expressed gratitude for its willingness to work to serve the students. She offered to participate on a task force of parents.

The Council discussed the thousands of children that have benefitted from the Schoolmates program and committed to persevere because of the importance of the program to the community. The Council urged parents to inform the School District of the importance of the Schoolmates program. The Council acknowledged that it will be necessary to take a financial hit in order to continue the 36 year investment in this important community service.  
(0765, 0860-0920)

**Status of Information  
Technology Strategic  
Plan**

City Administrator Paul Benoit stated it had been just over a year since approval of the City's Information Technology (IT) Strategic Plan and five months since the Council had approved the contract for IT Support Services with Computer Courage. He introduced Tom Jakobsen of ClientFirst Consulting Group, and Adam Schwartz of Computer Courage to give the Council a progress report on what has been accomplished so far. Mr. Benoit stated that Computer Courage serves as the City's de facto IT Department and this was the first time that the City has had contractors or staff fully dedicated to IT.

Tom Jakobsen, ClientFirst Consulting Group, provided the history of the Strategic Plan and its implementation. He stated that Computer Courage was integrating well with staff, and taking over the day to day support functions very nicely. The assumption of these functions has also allowed the City Clerk/IT Manager to focus on longer term IT projects. Mr. Jakobsen indicated his belief that the role of ClientFirst would decrease in fall 2017.

Adam Schwartz, Computer Courage, discussed progress to date including work in the City's backbone IT infrastructure, the transition to a new email system, the upgrade of the backup system for the City's data, workstation replacements, the upgrade of public safety dispatch and records management systems, among

others. He also indicated that his firm has conducted a detailed assessment of the City's servers and determined that they are in good operating condition.

Mr. Jakobsen detailed longer term projects including the replacement of the City's business telephone system, Geographic Information System and web site. He also detailed required security related projects in the Police Department as well as the implementation of wi-fi in City buildings.

City Clerk/IT Manager John Tulloch explained the necessity of investing in user training when new software is implemented. He also indicated that municipalities are, by necessity, not on the bleeding edge of technology improvements, often choosing to use software that has been proven to work, rather than the latest releases.

Mr. Jakobsen explained the IT Steering Committee and its involvement in updating and revising the plan to ensure the technology needs of residents and staff are met.

The Council commended IT staff and thanked it for the update.

There was no public testimony on this matter.  
(0385)

**Divestment from Fossil  
Fuel Related Stocks**

City Administrator Benoit reminded the Council of its previous consideration, based on a resident's request, that the City urge CalPERS to divest from fossil fuel related companies. He explained that after that action, Dr. Julia Walsh had presented a petition signed by 160 Piedmonters urging the Council's reconsideration of the issue. He stated that the Mayor, Dr. Walsh, and Tom Reicher had worked together to come up with the language contained in the draft letter to PERS contained in the staff report.

Subsequent to this meeting, Mr. Reicher advised that Senate Bill (SB) 560, which would require PERS to answer many of the same questions contained in the letter, was working its way through the legislature and recommended deferring action until the legislature had fully considered this legislation.

**Public Testimony** was received from:

Tom Reicher discussed the proposed draft letter and his recommendation to see the progress of SB 560. Mr. Reicher stated the letter sought to understand how CalPERS would discharge its fiduciary obligations while being mindful of climate change. He discussed other divestiture mandates imposed on CalPERS including tobacco. In response to Council questions, Mr. Reicher stated there was no downside to sending the letter in parallel and reminded the Council that Dr. Walsh would prefer that the letter urged divestment.

Pam Hirtzer agreed that the City should send a letter urging CalPERS to divest from fossil fuels. She discussed climate change, renewable energy and 21<sup>st</sup> century investment. She encouraged the Council to take action.

Council discussion followed, with Councilmember Rood stating his preference was to send a letter urging divestment but he would support the current letter with the possibility of some amendments.

Councilmember King expressed support for sending the letter and suggested

sharing the Council's conclusions with our State Senator.

Vice Mayor McBain reiterated his opinion that it was not the job of elected officials to weigh in on investment decisions. He suggested waiting to see the outcome of SB 560 and asking employees, who are the beneficiaries of these funds, their opinion on the matter.

Mayor Wieler stated he was not in favor of dictating investment decisions to investment professionals. He stated the Council vote should be included in the letter.

The Council discussed the text of the letter and whether certain parts should be revised, agreeing in the end that the text of the letter had been determined through negotiations between the interested parties and was best left as negotiated.

**Resolution No. 27-17**

RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the City Administrator to send a letter to the California Public Employees Retirement System asking questions regarding divestment, fiduciary responsibility, and constructive engagement as presented in the April 17, 2017 Staff Report.

Moved by King, Seconded by Rood

Ayes: Cavanaugh, King, Rood

Noes: McBain, Wieler

Absent: None

(0459, 0747)

**Linda Beach Playfield  
Master Plan Process**

City Administrator Benoit stated that, given the long-standing community interest for improvements and at the urging of the CIP Review Committee during last year's budget process, the Council directed staff to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit services of a qualified design professional to assist with a conceptual master plan design for Linda Beach Playfield. He requested the Council consider authorizing release of the proposed RFP.

Public Works Director Chester Nakahara stated that Recreation Department programming needs would be incorporated in to the master plan. He further indicated that, similar to the Aquatics Master Plan, the design consultant would be tasked with presenting alternative designs and resulting consequences of selecting between various amenities. He detailed the provisions in the RFP providing for extensive community engagement and multiple public meetings.

The Council indicated its support for the issuance of the RFP and thanked staff for its work thus far. Councilmembers expressed their support for extensive community engagement with this project.

There was no public testimony on this matter.

**Resolution No. 28-17**

RESOLVED, that the City Council approve, as amended, the issuance of a Request for Proposals for the purpose of securing the services of a qualified design professional to assist the City of Piedmont with a conceptual Master Plan design for Linda Beach Playfield.

Moved by McBain, Seconded by King

Ayes: Cavanaugh, King, McBain, Rood, Wieler

Noes: None

Absent: None  
(0745-0625)

**REPORTS AND  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember King reminded residents to sign up for Recreation Department Summer Camps and Aquatics programs.

Vice Mayor McBain commended staff on the Arbor Day event.

Councilmember Cavanaugh reminded the Council of the League of California Cities Legislative Action Day on April 19, 2017, in Sacramento.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Vice Mayor McBain requested reconsideration of the public safety camera system at Hampton Park on a future agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Wieler adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.