

## PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, May 21, 2018

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held May 21, 2018, 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 May 17, 2018.

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McBain called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Bob McBain, Vice Mayor Teddy Gray King, and Councilmembers Betsy Smegal Andersen, Jennifer Cavanaugh, and Tim Rood

Staff: City Administrator Paul Benoit, Assistant City Attorney Sergio Rudin, Chief of Police Jeremy Bowers, Planning Director Kevin Jackson, Recreation Director Sara Lillevand, Fire Chief Warren (Bud) McLaren, Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, Finance Director Mike Szczech, and Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk John Tulloch.

### CONSENT CALENDAR

#### Minutes

Approval of Council Special Meeting Minutes for 04/30/18

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

#### **Resolution No. 38-18**

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the April 30, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes.

Moved by King, Seconded by Andersen

Ayes: Andersen, Cavanaugh, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

#### **Ord. 744 N.S. Solid Waste**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ord. 744 N.S. Amending Chapter 9 (Garbage) of the City Code to Conform to the New Collection Services Agreement

In response to a question from Council, City Administrator Paul Benoit indicated that public outreach regarding waste diversion was going to be handled by an outside consultant. He stated that four proposals had been received and were under review by staff at the moment.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

#### **Resolution No. 39-18**

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ord. 744 N.S., amending Chapter 9 of the City Code.

Moved by Cavanaugh, Seconded by Rood

Ayes: Andersen, Cavanaugh, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

(0705)

### PUBLIC FORUM

Colleen Gallagher commented on traffic and visibility issues on Oakland Avenue. She suggested the creation of a task force to address ongoing traffic issues on this heavily traveled street.

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

Presentation of a Proclamation Regarding Elder Abuse Awareness Month

Dena Aindow of the Alameda County District Attorney's Office and Mario Suarez of Alameda County Adult Protective Services thanked the Council for the proclamation. They provided details on elder abuse in Piedmont and Alameda County and commended the Police Department for its efforts in fighting elder abuse.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

**Presentation from  
Boy Scouts of  
America**

Mayor McBain indicated that he had invited the Piedmont Council of Boy Scouts of America to give a presentation to the City Council. He indicated that this was the first in a series of presentations from community organizations working in Piedmont to highlight the efforts of these valuable community assets.

Rachel Elliot and Connor Pate, youth members of the Piedmont Council, Boy Scouts of America Board provided background on the Scout Council and the wide array of programming for youth of all ages. They detailed programs including Venturing, Scouts, and Cub Scouts.

Cub Scout Mathis Gutierrez discussed his experience in scouting.

In response to Council inquiries, Scout Executive Jo Hazlett indicated that the Piedmont Council of Boy Scouts of America served over 1000 youth per year. She also indicated that Piedmont is the smallest Council geographically in the nation. Ms. Hazlett explained the co-educational nature of Scouting programs.

The Council discussed its experience in scouting and commended the Boy Scouts for their service.

**PUBLIC HEARING  
Proposed FY 18-19  
Budget, Tax Levy, &  
Fee Schedule**

City Administrator Paul Benoit gave a presentation on the proposed FY 18-19 City of Piedmont budget. He summarized highlights and initiatives from the past year including implementation of a Pension Stabilization Fund, an increased allocation to the Facilities Maintenance Fund, and the dedication of resources toward other under-funded liabilities.

Mr. Benoit stated his belief that the City would end the 17-18 fiscal year in a stable financial position with a slight increase in General Fund Balance. Mr. Benoit attributed the City's continued ability to deliver quality services and invest in maintenance and improvement of the City's infrastructure on the stability of property related taxes, conservative budgeting, long range financial projections and the ability to attract and retain a talented service oriented work force. Mr. Benoit stated the proposed budget allows the City to maintain services, facilities and responsiveness to residents and the community. He summarized revenue sources, expenses, special funds and the ten-year projections.

Mr. Benoit expressed regrets on behalf of Bill Hosler, Chair of the Budget Advisory and Financial Planning Committee, who was not able to attend this meeting and present the Committee's report, but noted its inclusion in the agenda packet.

Mayor McBain opened the **Public Hearing. Testimony** was received from:

Olivia Adams discussed her experience working at the Community Pool and encouraged allocating funds to improve the pool.

There being no further testimony, Mayor McBain closed the **Public Hearing**.

Mayor McBain discussed the need for additional sidewalk repairs and requested an expanded budget allocation for sidewalk improvements. Public Works Director Chester Nakahara explained the process by which the City evaluates and repairs sidewalks. He indicated that a large amount of the sidewalk damage comes from the City's urban forest.

The Council acknowledged the hard work of City staff and the Budget Advisory Committee and community for private contributions. It discussed the need to set aside funds for large capital projects and directed staff to include an increased allocation for sidewalk repair in the budget proposal to be considered at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
(0165, 0320)

Due to potential professional conflicts, Vice Mayor King recused herself from the discussion of the next item and left the Council Chambers.

**Default Electrical Service Option for Residential Customers Under East Bay Community Energy**

Planning Director Kevin Jackson summarized the electrical service options which will be available to residential customers when East Bay Community Energy begins residential service in late 2018. He indicated that there would be three options: 1) Bright Choice, which offers 85% carbon free electricity and a lower cost than PG&E; 2) Brilliant 100, which offers 100% carbon free electricity at cost parity with PG&E; and 3) the 100% Renewable option, which offers 100% renewable electricity at a cost premium over PG&E.

City Administrator Benoit stated Bright Choice would be the default if the Council did not act and that residents would decide their own option.

Councilmember Rood reminded the Council that Bright Choice had a lower percentage of carbon free energy than PG&E and explained pricing in comparison to PG&E. He also detailed the opportunities for customers to switch plans or remain with PG&E.

**Public Testimony** was received from:

Margaret Ovenden and Garrett Keating urged the Council to opt for the 100% Renewable option, suggesting that it is a good way to meet the City's climate action goals.

The Council discussed the options available and which would be right for Piedmont. Mayor McBain indicated support for the Brilliant 100 option, given that it will be at price parity with PG&E. Councilmember Rood suggested Piedmont be a leader and implement the Climate Act policy for 100% renewable as the default. Councilmember Andersen expressed a worry that customers might choose to opt out of EBCE in its entirety if the cost of energy would be higher than what is currently being paid. Councilmember Cavanaugh stated her support for the 100% Renewable option, because she believes that residents will not take the time to opt up if a lower option was chosen.

**Resolution No. 40-18**

RESOLVED, that the City Council resolved that the Council selects East Bay Community Energy's 100% Renewable service plan as the default option for residential electrical customers in Piedmont.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by Cavanaugh

Ayes: Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood

Noes: McBain

Recused: King

(0459)

Vice Mayor King returned to the Chambers and took her seat at the dais.

**REPORTS AND  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Rood discussed potential amendments to the East Bay Community Energy Joint Powers Authority Agreement.

Councilmember Cavanaugh reminded residents that there is still space available in Piedmont Recreation Department summer programs and urged residents to register. She reported on her attendance at the recent East Bay Economic Development Alliance meeting.

Councilmember King requested follow-up on Oakland Avenue.

Councilmember Rood requested that the Council discuss the possibility of a local sanctuary city policy. City Administrator Benoit stated the matter would be presented to the Council at its June 4, 2018 meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor McBain adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m.