

PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, October 15, 2018

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held October 15, 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 October 11, 2018.

CALL TO ORDER

The Council met in Closed Session for (a) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Govt. Code 54956.9(d)(4)) – One Case. Following the 7:00 p.m. Closed Session, Mayor McBain called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Bob McBain, and Councilmembers Jennifer Cavanaugh, Tim Rood and Betsy Smegal Andersen

Absent: Vice Mayor Teddy Gray King (excused)

Staff: City Administrator Paul Benoit, City Attorney Michelle Marchetta Kenyon, Police Chief Jeremy Bowers, Fire Chief Bret Black, Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, Parks and Recreation Director Sarah Lillevand, City Engineer John Wanger, Assistant Planner Mira Hahn, and Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk John Tulloch

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

Council Meeting Minutes

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes for 09/17/18

Street Tree Pruning Project Contract

Award of the 2018-2019 Street Tree Pruning Project Contract to Arborwell, Inc. in the amount of \$187,201.95 (0045, 1070)

Resolution No. 73-18

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves Consent Calendar Items 1 and 3. Moved by Rood, Seconded by Cavanaugh
Ayes: Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, McBain
Noes: None
Absent: King

CUP for Rocha Jiu Jitsu Academy 1333 Grand Avenue

Councilmember Andersen indicated support for the Jiu Jitsu studio but wanted to acknowledge the residents' concerns regarding parking and traffic in the neighborhood. She indicated the comments were forwarded to the Police Department.

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

Resolution No. 74-18

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves Conditional Use Permit for Eduardo Rocha of Rocha Jiu Jitsu for a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Academy at 1333 Grand Avenue.
Moved by Andersen, Seconded by Cavanaugh
Ayes: Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, McBain
Noes: None
Absent: King (0340)

PUBLIC FORUM

Robert Berger, Rui Jiang, and Joseph Gold, residents of Trestle Glen Road in Piedmont, discussed criminal activity in the neighborhood. Mr. Jiang described an incident where he was robbed at gunpoint in his neighborhood. Speakers requested that public safety cameras and/or automated license plate readers be installed in their neighborhood. Speakers also requested continued advocacy from the City regarding the City of Oakland's consideration of a road diet on Park Boulevard.

Dimitri Magganas reminded residents to vote on November 6, 2018 and discussed a measure on the ballot in Oakland.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor McBain presented a proclamation of October, 2018 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month to Kim Hunter of the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. Ms. Hunter encouraged victims to report domestic violence and announced the County's annual Day of Remembrance for domestic violence victims on October 26th. Councilmember Cavanaugh commended the Recreation Department's Healthy Relationships program as well as the Piedmont Unified School District's participation in the Futures Without Violence and Athletes as Leaders programs.

REGULAR AGENDA

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

Piedmont Community Pool

City Administrator Paul Benoit reported that, following the 2017 survey evaluating community interest and support for a new aquatics facility, Council directed a detailed condition assessment of the facility be performed to determine the level of investment required to maintain it.

Recreation Director Sara Lillevand summarized efforts to address the needs of the aquatics facility to meet the needs of the community and provided an overview of the primary conclusions of the report. She provided her perspective on the current facility indicating that the facility does not meet the current needs. Ms. Lillevand indicated there were more than \$200,000 in immediate needs, \$100,000 in building infrastructure imminent needs and a \$260,000 operational deficit in 2018-19 budget. She stated it was necessary to determine the point at which it was no longer prudent nor practical to invest in the current facility and strong consideration needs to be given to constructing a new facility or transitioning out of aquatics programming.

Richard King, Aquatic Commercial Consultant, presented the Aquatic Facility Assessment including history, summary of major issues, code related issues, and necessary costs to continue operating the facility. He detailed deficiencies and possible solutions as well as the possible cost of a failure.

Ms. Lillevand indicated that some of the safety issues have been addressed, and others were in the works. She discussed the estimated cost of approximately \$110,000 for building infrastructure, including locker room needs.

Public Testimony was received from:

Francoise Putting, Helen Gerken, Tom Reicher, Sandra Gross, Tara Desautels, Scott Carter, Duncan Watry, and Gadi Meir discussed their use of the pool and importance to the community. They urged that the pool be maintained in such a way to continue its operation while the community discusses a new facility which will meet the long term needs of the community.

Gary Fanger stated the costs in the report were extravagant and the pool was in great shape for its age. He offered suggestions for building a new pool to the east while keeping the existing pool open.

The Council discussed the extensive use of the pool and needs of the community for aquatics programming. There was further discussion of the need to complete previously deferred maintenance in order to keep the facility operational in the short term. Council directed staff to begin to fix safety issues

The Council also discussed the possibility of putting a bond measure before the voters which would fund not only a new aquatics center, but other recreational needs in Piedmont. Given the existing community sentiment regarding the pool, Councilmembers encouraged community advocates to educate the community on the current condition of the pool.

Mr. Benoit suggested reconvening the subcommittee of Mayor McBain and Councilmember Andersen to further examine this issue and come back to the Council at a later date with more information. He indicated that staff will come up with next steps and work towards a long term plan.
(0270-1022)

Public Safety Cameras

City Administrator Paul Benoit reported that, in 2017, the Council approved a pilot project for the installation of public safety cameras and directed staff to return after one year with a detailed report stating outcomes, conclusions, and possible next steps.

Police Chief Bowers explained that Council approved the installation of Public Safety Cameras at the intersection of Oakland and Grand Avenues. He discussed how the cameras have been used since their installation. He indicated that the cameras gathered evidence which resulted in the arrest of four suspects and that three cases were still being investigated. Chief Bowers explained one goal of the pilot program was to evaluate integration with the City's Automated License Plate Readers, which was utilized, but wasn't as seamless as originally hoped. He summarized the two public records requests received during the course of the pilot program. Chief Bowers also summarized the costs of the pilot program, which totaled \$13,800. He reviewed the use of ALPRs and additional benefits of public safety cameras.

Chief Bowers requested Council approval to explore the use and establishment of a high resolution camera program to supplement the existing ALPR infrastructure. He discussed the need for public engagement and formation of a Public Safety Subcommittee to work with staff.

Public Testimony was received from:

Bob Kunselman offered to assist in the process and encouraged public outreach.

The Council indicated support for exploring the costs, benefits and ramifications of establishing a public safety camera program, continuing the pilot program while the information is obtained.
(0785-0370)

IT Strategic Plan

City Administrator Paul Benoit summarized the Council's prior approval of the

Status Report

Information Technology Strategic Plan. Mr. Benoit discussed the City's outdated financial system and the OpenGov software. He introduced Adam Schwartz of the firm Computer Courage, which provides contract IT services to the City as well as Tom Jakobsen, ClientFirst Consulting Group, who provides IT management consulting to the City.

Mr. Schwartz summarized the state of implementation of the five year IT Strategic Plan. He reviewed projects undertaken in 2018 as well as upcoming projects. He indicated that there had been significant progress with the implementation of the plan, to date. Mr. Jakobsen discussed upcoming major initiatives, including a new financial system as well as upgrades to the City's land management software and geographic information system. He indicated that these initiatives would take significant time and effort on the part of staff to implement.

Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk John Tulloch discussed the ongoing project to upgrade the City's web site. He detailed the input received from residents to develop the new site as well as the work required to develop a new site. He explained the process of reviewing the existing site and goal to release the new website early in the new year.

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

The Council thanked Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Jakobsen for their work and expressed appreciation to staff. It indicated excitement for the new website, encouraged resident input and marketing, writing to explain the City.
(0385)

City Wide Striping Plan

City Administrator Paul Benoit explained staff's request for the Council to award a contract to refresh traffic and pedestrian safety pavement markings at the October 1st meeting. He indicated that Council directed staff to bring to this meeting a broader picture of the need for such a program and contract as well as the scope and basis for the initiative. He apologized for not bringing a fuller picture to Council at its previous meeting.

Public Works Director Chester Nakahara explained the importance of street striping for safe and efficient movement of traffic, pedestrians, and bicycles. He indicated that the City's current practice is to restripe when projects in the roadway, such as repaving, require it. He indicated that a citywide plan would standardize the process and ensure that all parts of Piedmont were restriped on a regular basis. Mr. Nakahara indicated the City was not keeping pace with overall need and that current striping conditions were deteriorating. He presented and explained the proposed plan. as well as current and proposed funding.

City Engineer John Wanger explained the need to coordinate with the Pavement Management Program and street striping.

Chief Bowers indicated that adequate signage and road markings were imperative to vehicular and pedestrian safety. Fire Chief Bret Black indicated support for a holistic approach to reduce the risk to residents.

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

Councilmember Rood expressed frustration with the proposal, especially the lack of coordination with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and the concern that it did not comport with the Complete Streets Policy.

The Council discussed the proposal and indicated that appropriate roadway striping was a city-wide issue. It agreed that a city-wide plan was needed, but directed staff to better coordinate with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, the Complete Streets Policy, and other applicable policies. The Council discussed the need for public input and stakeholder involvement.

Councilmembers also made suggestions as to the addition and elimination of certain streets from the plan

After discussion of the appropriate way to move forward, Council directed that staff make revisions to the plans for Section 4 of the proposal and bring that back for later Council consideration.

(1000, 1060)

**2018 Street Traffic
Striping Project**

City Attorney Michelle Marchetta, Kenyon recommended, based upon the Council's discussion of the previous item, that all bids be rejected.

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

Resolution No. 75-18

RESOLVED, that the City Council rejects all bids for the 2018 Street Traffic Striping Project.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by Cavanaugh
Ayes: Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, McBain
Noes: None
Absent: King

Resolution No. 76-18

RESOLVED, that the City Council extends the meeting to 11:45 p.m.

Moved by Andersen, Seconded by Rood
Ayes: Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, McBain
Noes: None
Absent: King
(0045, 1000, 1060)

**REPORTS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Andersen announced the Wireless Communication Facilities Open House on October 17, 2018, at Community Hall at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor McBain adjourned the meeting at 11:37 p.m.