

PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, April 15, 2019

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held April 15, 2019, 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 11, 2019.

CALL TO ORDER The Council met in Closed Session for (a) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Govt. Code 54956.9) – Name of Case: Ornellas v. City of Piedmont. Following the 7:00 p.m. Closed Session, Mayor Bob McBain called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Absent: Councilmember Jennifer Cavanaugh (Excused)

Staff: City Administrator Paul Benoit, City Attorney Michelle Marchetta Kenyon, Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, City Engineer John Wanger, Police Captain Chris Monahan, Maintenance Worker Calvin Landes, 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 03/18/19 and 03/25/19 (Special)

Animal Control Services Approval of an Amendment to the Agreement to Provide Animal Control Services to the City of Emeryville in the Amount of \$102,033.13 Per Year

Resolution No. 18-19
RESOLVED, that the City Council approves consent calendar items 1 and 3.
Moved by Rood, Seconded by Andersen
Ayes: Andersen, King, McBain, Rood
Noes: None
Absent: Cavanaugh
(0045)

Alameda County County Transportation Liaison Appointment Vice Mayor King stated she was no longer able to serve as the City's liaison to the Alameda County Transportation Commission in the middle of her term due to professional requirements. She praised the professionalism of ACTC and thanked the Council for the privilege of serving. Councilmember Andersen thanked Vice Mayor King for her service.

Resolution No. 19-19
RESOLVED, that the City Council appoints Mayor McBain as liaison and Councilmember Cavanaugh as alternate liaison to the Alameda County Transportation Commission.
Moved by Andersen, Seconded by King
Ayes: Andersen, King, McBain, Rood
Noes: None
Absent: Cavanaugh
(0085)

PUBLIC FORUM There were no speakers for Public Forum.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

**Crime Victims' Rights
Week Proclamation**

Mayor McBain presented the proclamation declaring April 7 -13, 2019 as Crimes Victims' Rights Week to Yuen Chiang, Alameda County District Attorney's Office Crime Advocate. Ms. Chiang thanked the City for its recognition.

**Introduction of New
Employee**

Public Works Director Chester Nakahara introduced Maintenance Worker Calvin Landes. Mr. Landes thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the City.

REGULAR AGENDA

**Oakland Avenue
Traffic Calming**

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

City Administrator Paul Benoit described the background of the proposed pedestrian safety improvements, noting that the Council had previously approved a contract with the City Engineer to design the improvements at the intersection of Oakland and El Cerrito Avenues and the intersection of Oakland and Jerome Avenues. He indicated that the designs were sixty percent complete.

Public Works Director Chester Nakahara indicated that he had requested input from the Council and residents early in the process. He stated residents within 300 feet were notified of the item.

City Engineer John Wanger presented the conceptual plans for the intersections of Oakland and Jerome Avenues and Oakland and El Cerrito Avenues, including existing conditions, constraints and opportunities at each intersection, bulb out concepts, efforts to minimize impacts to parking, crosswalk alignment, proposed signage, enhanced pedestrian crossings, and cost estimates.

Mr. Wanger explained issues with uncontrolled crosswalks and that paint and bollards were more for reducing traffic speed rather than safety for pedestrians. He discussed potential funding sources including CDBG and TDA Article 3 funds. He explained the difference between the proposed design and problems encountered at Linda Avenue crosswalks.

City Administrator Benoit pointed out that the 2018 Pavement Project, which includes Magnolia Avenue, is out to bid and is anticipated to come in higher than the engineer's estimate, which will most likely require a contribution from the General Fund. Mr. Nakahara reminded the Council of the discussion in October 2018 regarding speed data on Oakland Avenue, funding and estimates.

In response to Council inquiries, Mr. Nakahara discussed the projects completed in the Pedestrian Bicycle Master Plan and estimated half of 27 projects were completed.

Public Testimony was received from:

Hugh Louch indicated support for the proposal. He encouraged matching the existing curb radius, green infrastructure and bulb out used by Oakland.

Amy McKenzie pointed out that the current crosswalk ends in her driveway and supported the relocation of the crosswalk at Jerome Avenue.

The Council thanked the neighbors for their involvement and discussed

increased traffic and accidents and need to correct the intersections.

The Council directed staff to continue detailing the hardscape plan as well as an alternative plan which might be less expensive and return to the Council with cost estimates.

(1060)

**Traffic Calming
Measures at
Various Intersections**

City Administrator Benoit reported on Council direction to review less costly traffic calming measures, such as the ones used by the City of Oakland on Moraga Avenue. He indicated that staff had reviewed and proposed traffic calming measures at several intersections in Piedmont.

City Engineer John Wanger discussed issues with traffic at the intersections of Greenbank and Oakland Avenues, Grand and Fairview Avenues, as well as Magnolia Avenue and Nova Drive. He presented conceptual designs for interim and ultimate improvements. He indicated that each of these designs include efforts to retain as much parking as possible. Mr. Wanger provided estimated costs for the parking and presented typical bollard details. He presented estimated costs for the proposed designs.

Mr. Wanger and Mr. Nakahara indicated that the interim design for the intersection of Magnolia Avenue and Nova Drive was, due to timing issues, included by staff in the bid documents for the 2018 Paving Project, which is currently out to bid. He further stated that should the Council not favor of this concept, it could easily be removed from the project.

Mr. Nakahara discussed issues with mapping apps, increased enforcement, and the budget for the proposed designs.

Public Testimony was received from:

Casey Bivens and Marisa Strong spoke in support of the proposed concepts, providing examples of pedestrian and bicycle safety issues, discussed dangerous traffic conditions on Greenbank and indicated support for the proposed concept.

Rosie Newhall discussed traffic safety issues and other safety concerns. She questioned whether the presented designs would have the intended traffic calming effects.

Hugh Louch encouraged the Council to take additional community input in the proposed designs.

The Council directed staff to proceed with final design and to bring the final designs and cost estimates back to City Council at a later meeting.

(1060)

**REPORTS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice Mayor King announced the Tasting for Sustainable Future Climate Action Fair on April 24 and requested those interested RSVP on the City's web site. She also announced the upcoming City School Liaison meeting on April 22.

Councilmember Andersen discussed the final Local Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting. She encouraged residents to submit their comments on the draft Design Review Guidelines by April 22. She indicated that the proposal would be considered by the Planning Commission on May 13 and the Council in June.

Mayor McBain complimented the Park Commission and staff on the success of the annual Arbor Day Celebration. He announced limited pool hours during spring break and the upcoming retirement party for Michael Murphy on May 5.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor McBain adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.