

PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Special and Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, August 17, 2020

Special and Regular Sessions of the Piedmont City Council were held August 17, 2020, via teleconference, consistent with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 and the Alameda County Health Official's Order #20-04. In accordance with Government Code Section 54957(b), the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on August 13, 2020.

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Bob McBain called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Staff: City Administrator Sara Lillevand, City Attorney Michelle Marchetta Kenyon, Fire Chief Bret Black, Planning & Building Director Kevin Jackson, Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, Senior Planner Pierce Macdonald-Powell, Associate Planner Gopika Nair, 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 07/06/2020

Approval of Flag Policy Approval of a Written Flag Policy for the City of Piedmont (0795)

Refurbishment of Park Tennis Courts Councilmember King noted the tennis courts are showing significant wear and tear and supported refurbishing them. (0045)

Resolution No. 66-2020

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves Items 1 and 2 of the consent calendar.

Moved by Cavanaugh, Seconded by King

Ayes: Andersen, Cavanaugh, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: None

Resolution No. 67-2020

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves Item 3 of the consent calendar.

Moved by King, Seconded by Andersen

Ayes: Andersen, Cavanaugh, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: None

PUBLIC FORUM There was no **Public Testimony**.

REGULAR AGENDA The Council considered the following items of regular business:

Housing Element and Regional Housing Needs Methodology Planning & Building Director Kevin Jackson indicated projects over the next two years will develop housing policies, and an update of the Housing Element will begin in early 2021. He stated that the City is willing to work to meet its

Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) and to work with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to allocate realistic numbers.

Barry Miller utilized a presentation to discuss the Housing Element, RHNA, changes to RHNA, key milestones, ABAG's Housing Methodology Committee, housing production in the Bay Area and Piedmont over the past two and current cycles, housing allocation factors and scenarios, discrepancies between allocations and growth forecasts, potential allocations for Piedmont, the impacts of a large RHNA for Piedmont, existing sites available for housing, new requirements for site selection, and next steps.

Public Testimony was received from:

Irene Cheng and Brett Byers urged the Council to embrace a large allocation to increase diversity.

Jill Lindenbaum suggested the Council consider mechanisms that cap rents or incentivize property owners to charge lower rents.

Councilmembers acknowledged the shift in State housing policy and Piedmont's history of racist housing policies; supported addressing comments to methodology rather than potential allocations; and discussed at length the points recommended by staff.

Resolution No. 68-2020

RESOLVED, that the City Administrator is authorized to communicate with the Association of Bay Area Governments regarding the City's Regional Housing Needs Assessment allocation regarding points 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 as detailed in the staff report for this item.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by McBain

MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN

Council directed the City Administrator to draft a letter to ABAG expressing the points raised in the staff report and incorporating Council discussion at tonight's meeting.

(0775)

Mayor McBain recessed the meeting from 7:43 p.m. to 7:50 p.m.

**2nd Reading of Ord.
755 N.S. Designating
Very High Fire
Severity Zones &
Vegetation
Management
Requirements**

Fire Chief Bret Black reported the purpose of vegetation management requirements is to mitigate the risks of a wildfire consuming structures and summarized staff's work to develop the requirements. He advised that the requirements will aid communications with the public and application of Code requirements. Chief Black indicated the ordinance has not been revised since its first reading.

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

Councilmembers acknowledged the great work of Fire personnel to draft policies that apply specifically to Piedmont.

Resolution No. 69-2020

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the 2nd reading of Ordinance 755 N.S. – Adopting a Fire Zone Map and Adding Fuel Reduction and Vegetation

Management Requirements to the City Code.
Moved by Cavenaugh, Seconded by Andersen
Ayes: Andersen, Cavenaugh, King, McBain, Rood
Noes: None
Absent: None
(0705)

**Establishment of
Temporary Pedestrian
and Bicycle Advisory
Committee**

Associate Planner Gopika Nair reported a Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) will help the City implement its General Plan and Complete Streets policies, develop the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP), and provide opportunities for public engagement. She recommended the PBAC consist of seven members, one each from the Planning Commission, Public Safety Committee, and CIP Review Committee, three residents at large, and one student from Piedmont High School.

Public Testimony was received from:

Dai Meagher supported staff's recommendation to form a PBAC.

Councilmembers discussed the importance of public engagement and the composition of PBAC members.

Resolution No. 70-2020

WHEREAS, Piedmont's original Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP) was adopted by the City Council in November 2014, and recommended a work program of both physical and non-infrastructure improvements for the subsequent ten years to make walking and biking in Piedmont safer, easier and more popular; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting of July 20, 2020, Council authorized staff to enter into a contract with a consultant to update the PBMP with the following objectives in mind: meet a requirement of the Alameda County Transportation Commission that pedestrian and bicycle plans be updated on a regular basis; revisit the improvements recommended in the 2014 plan, in particular those that have not been implemented; and address the community's broader concerns about traffic safety, not just those directly related to walking and biking; and

WHEREAS, Piedmont consists of highly informed and involved community members, so that public engagement and participation are essential to the success of any planning process of the City's, especially one that addresses cherished community values such as walkability, bikeability and traffic safety; and

WHEREAS, the work plan for the PBMP Update envisions a robust public engagement and participation component;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Piedmont does hereby resolve, declare, determine, and order as follows:

SECTION 1. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP) Update, is hereby established as a temporary advisory committee of the City of Piedmont.

SECTION 2. The efforts of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee shall be focused on assisting staff and City consultants with the development of

the PBMP Update, specifically in reviewing and providing feedback on the following materials:

1. Community needs assessment.
2. Draft action plan of recommendations.
3. Opportunities for public participation and input regarding the draft action plan of recommendations.
4. Public draft of the PBMP Update document.
5. Opportunities for public participation and input regarding the public draft of the PBMP Update document.

SECTION 3. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee shall consist of voting members, which may include:

- Current or former members from the following bodies: Planning Commission, Public Safety Committee, Recreation Commission, and CIP Review Committee;
- At least three residents at large;
- Residents who regularly ride a bicycle or walk as a form of transportation in Piedmont
- A Piedmont or Millennium High School student who is a resident of Piedmont, to be appointed by the Board of Education (or by Council if the Board of Education does not act on the appointment).

SECTION 4. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee shall meet on an as-needed basis.

SECTION 5. The term of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee shall extend from the date of establishment to the receipt of a Draft PBMP Update document by the City Council.

SECTION 6. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee shall comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code §§ 54950, et seq.) including, but not limited to notice, agenda posting, and public participation requirements.

SECTION 7. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee is an advisory body to the City Council and is not an independent decision-making body. All of its recommendations are subject to approval of the City Council.

SECTION 8. Resolutions 37-14 and 38-14 are hereby rescinded.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by King

Ayes: Andersen, Cavanaugh, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0085, 0317, 0775)

**Agreement for SB 2
Housing Programs
Consulting**

Mr. Jackson indicated recent State mandates have created new opportunities and challenges for providing new housing in Piedmont. He related that staff believes the services of a consultant are essential to helping the City find local solutions that meet the City's need for new housing.

Senior Planner Pierce Macdonald-Powell noted the State awarded Piedmont an SB 2 planning grant of \$160,000, which will be used to develop new accessory dwelling unit (ADU) incentives and objective design standards for multifamily and mixed-use housing projects. She summarized the process for selecting a planning consultant.

Lisa Wise, Lisa Wise Consulting, shared her experience with planning, SB 2 grants, and housing across the state.

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

Resolution No. 71-2020

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves agreement, as amended, with Lisa Wise Consulting, Inc. for consulting services and products relating to the preparation of housing programs consistent with the City of Piedmont's SB 2 Planning Grants Program grant.

Moved by Cavanaugh, Seconded by Rood

Ayes: Andersen, Cavanaugh, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0045, 0775)

**REPORTS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Rood announced PG&E and East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) are urging residents to conserve energy to avoid energy blackouts.

Councilmember Cavanaugh requested a future agenda item to introduce staff hired over the past five months.

Councilmember Andersen announced the Recreation Department has launched Camp Smart Start at elementary school sites and published the fall Activity Guide, and the Recreation Commission will meet on August 19th. She also announced the League of Women Voters will hold a virtual cocktail hour on August 27th.

Mayor McBain announced the retirement of Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, and thanked staff for their responsiveness to issues.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor McBain adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.