

PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Special and Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, December 21, 2020

Special and Regular Sessions of the Piedmont City Council were held December 21, 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 December 17, 2020.

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

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

Staff: City Administrator Sara Lillevand, City Attorney Michelle Marchetta Kenyon, Police Chief Jeremy Bowers, Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, City Engineer John Wanger, Recreation Director Chelle Putzer, Parks & Project Manager Nancy Kent, Human Resources Administrator Stacy Jennings, and Assistant City Administrator / City Clerk John Tulloch

CONSENT CALENDAR The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

Council Meeting Minutes Approval of Meeting Minutes for 11/16/2020 and 12/07/2020

Tennis Regulation Update Ratification of Updates to the City of Piedmont Tennis Regulations to Accommodate Online Court Reservations (0795, 0860)

2020-2021 Street Tree Pruning Project Contract Approval of the Award of the 2020-2021 Street Tree Pruning Project Contract to the Professional Tree Care Company in the Amount of \$162,436 (0045, 1070)

Resolution No. 94-2020

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the consent calendar.

Moved by Cavanaugh, Seconded by Rood

Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, King

Noes: None

Absent: None

Councilmember McCarthy abstained from the vote on the November 16, 2020 minutes.

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

CEREMONIAL ITEMS Councilmembers expressed their appreciation for retiring Public Works Director Chester Nakahara's dedication to the City and community, spirit of service, thoughtful and calm manner, and completion of many City projects.

Public Testimony was received from:

Jamie Totsubo, John Wanger, Mark Obergfell, and Dave Frankel commended Mr. Nakahara's attention to detail, knowledge of the community, work ethic, professionalism, and can-do spirit and wished him well in retirement.

On behalf of city staff, City Administrator Sara Lillevand thanked Mr. Nakahara

for his service to the City and the opportunity to work with him.

Mr. Nakahara thanked everyone for their kind words. He recognized the talents and support of his colleagues and wife. He stated working with the City has been an honor, a privilege, and a rich experience.

REGULAR AGENDA

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

**IT Support Services
Contract Extension**

Assistant City Administrator / City Clerk John Tulloch recommended that the Council approve an extension of the City's IT Support Services agreement with Computer Courage for a term of 18 months. Mr. Tulloch reported that the term of the proposed extension would align the contract with the City's fiscal year. He also noted that that proposed contract increases the number of project hours from 535 to 700 to sustain modernization and security improvements. He indicated Computer Courage's work has facilitated staff's ability to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adam Schwartz, Computer Courage, presented the projects completed in 2020, projects and improvements in progress and planned for 2021, the COVID-19 impact and response, and an overview of the IT support budget.

Tom Jacobsen, Client First, updated the Council regarding IT improvements for land management, ERP financial software implementation, and public safety scheduling, time, and attendance implementation.

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

Resolution No. 95-2020

RESOLVED that the City Council approves the 18-month extension of the agreement with Computer Courage for IT support services in the amount of \$300,660 per year.

Moved by Cavanaugh, Seconded by Rood

Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, King

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0045, 0385)

**Renewal of MOUs
with Alameda County
Sheriff's Office for
Critical Incident
Handling and
Forensic Services**

Ms. Lillevand recommended approval of two renewed Memoranda of Understanding with the Alameda County Sheriff's office for Critical Incident Response and Forensic Services. She indicated the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Critical Incident Handling contains a new provision for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) to conduct investigations of officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths.

Police Chief Jeremy Bowers advised that ACSO currently provides forensic services and responds to critical incidents as needed. He stated having ACSO investigate officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths will ensure investigations are objective, thorough, and fair. He related that the small size of the Police Department constrains its ability to investigate an officer's actions and the criminal activity associated with an incident. Chief Bowers noted the recommendation aligns with the findings of former President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing and the mandates of AB 1506. He reviewed the terms of the MOU.

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

Resolution No. 96-2020

RESOLVED that the City Council approves renewal of the Memoranda of Understanding between the City of Piedmont and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office for critical incident response and forensic services.

Moved by Cavenaugh, Seconded by Rood

Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavenaugh, Rood, King

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0045)

**1st Reading of Ord.
759 N.S. Requiring
Electronic Campaign
& Financial
Disclosure Forms**

Assistant City Administrator / City Clerk Tulloch recommended that Council approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 759 N.S. which will require campaign committees, staff, and elected officials to file campaign reporting forms and Statements of Economic Interests electronically. This will provide additional transparency and to comply with a new law requiring cities to post campaign forms on their websites within 72 hours of receipt. He related the benefits of utilizing Netfile software for electronic filing of forms and the availability of training.

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

Resolution No. 97-2020

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the 1st reading of Ordinance 759 N.S., requiring electronic filing of campaign disclosure forms and Statements of Economic Interests.

Moved by Cavenaugh, Seconded by Rood

Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavenaugh, Rood, King

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0705, 0435)

**Speed Cushions Pilot
Program**

Public Works Director Chester Nakahara recommended the installation of speed cushions on portions of Scenic Avenue and Greenbank Avenue as a pilot program. He reported the section of Scenic Avenue designated for the pilot program is narrow and winding and has no sidewalks and limited on-street parking. He indicated a neighborhood group's interest in reducing traffic speed on Scenic Avenue led to a traffic study that found reducing the speed limit was not warranted. He noted the topography of Greenbank Avenue between Oakland and Grand Avenues promotes higher vehicle speeds and creates a dangerous intersection with Oakland Avenue. Public Works Director Nakahara recalled Council approval of improvements for the intersection of Oakland and Greenbank Avenues, but the City Administrator felt the issue was more extensive than one intersection and requested a study of Oakland, Grand, and Greenbank Avenues. He emphasized the temporary nature of the pilot program, the use of Measure D funds, and the collection of data.

City Engineer John Wanger presented the proposed locations of the pilot program and measures taken to date and advised that, if the pilot program is effective, staff may prepare a neighborhood speed control policy for Council consideration.

Aaron Elias, Kittleson & Associates, shared data collected on Scenic and Greenbank Avenues, potential speed-control countermeasures, advantages, disadvantages, and other considerations for speed control elements, placement

criteria, proposed locations on Scenic and Greenbank, and data collection before and during the pilot program.

Public Testimony was received from:

Meghan Rhea preferred speed humps to other options for Greenbank Avenue.

Brendan requested the metrics for determining the effectiveness of the pilot program.

Emily Kaplan, Mary Prisco, Elaine Penzer, Eliza White, Hilary Gitter, Casey Bivens, Unmani Saraswati appreciated and supported attempts to reduce speeds.

Bob O'Donnell believed installation of speed cushions would simply move speeding vehicles from one street to another.

Councilmembers thanked the speakers for sharing their concerns, suggested staff collect data on adjacent streets to determine whether speeds on them increase as vehicles avoid the speed cushions, and requested additional options for addressing speeding vehicles.

Resolution No. 98-2020

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the Speed Cushions Pilot Program for a period of 12 months from the date of the installation as detailed in the staff report of this date.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by Andersen

Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, King

Noes: None

Absent: None

(1000, 1060)

**Director of Public
Works Appointment**

City Administrator Lillevand recommended that the Council appoint Daniel Gonzales as the City's new Director of Public Works. She provided a brief background on Mr. Gonzales' professional experience and education and noted the receipt of many congratulatory comments regarding his selection by the Council. Pursuant to requirements in state law, Ms. Lillevand gave an oral report on compensation, retirement contributions, and benefits for Mr. Gonzales.

Ms. Lillevand recommended the Council appoint Nancy Kent as Interim Director of Public Works for the period December 22, 2020 to January 10, 2021. She indicated Ms. Kent has previously served as Interim Director of Public Works. Pursuant to requirements in state law, she summarized compensation and benefits for Ms. Kent during this period.

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

Daniel Gonzales advised that he is honored to have been selected as the Director of Public Works and looks forward to providing a high level of service to the community.

Resolution No. 99-2020

RESOLVED, that the City Council appoints Daniel Gonzales as Director of Public Works effective January 11, 2021 and approves the employment resolution;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the City Council appoints Nancy Kent as Interim Director of Public Works for the period of December 22, 2020 to January 10, 2021 and approves a 12% salary increase during this period.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by Andersen

Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, King

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0045, 0088, 0750)

The Council welcomed Mr. Gonzales to the City and appreciated Ms. Kent's willingness to serve as Interim Director.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Cavanaugh announced the Piedmont League of Women Voters will host a COVID-19 update on January 13th and the Readmont book selection and requested future agenda items regarding the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and City anti-racism policies and procedures.

Councilmember Andersen announced Police Sgt. Nicole Jennings' retirement, Police Sgt. Willie Wright's promotion, the hiring of Amal Singh as police officer, tips for safe package deliveries, a Safe Bike Program from the Police Department, and the Police and Fire Departments are collecting toys. She also announced the Recreation Department's afterschool programs and winter session classes will begin January 19th, registration opens December 28th for residents and January 5th for nonresidents, and 2021 tennis decals will be available for purchase beginning December 22nd.

Mayor King requested future agenda items regarding pursuit of Measure A1 housing grants and the City's use of Round Up herbicide.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor King adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.