

PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Special and Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, March 1, 2021

Special and Regular Sessions of the Piedmont City Council were held March 1, 2021, 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 February 25, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Teddy Gray King called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, Interim Fire Chief Micheal Despain, Public Works Director Daniel Gonzalez, Planning & Building Director Kevin Jackson, Recreation Director Chelle Putzer, Finance Director Michael Szczech, Human Resources Administrator Stacy Jennings, and Assistant City Administrator / City Clerk John Tulloch

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

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

Meeting Minutes Approval of Meeting Minutes for 02/16/2021

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

Resolution No. 13-2021

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the Meeting Minutes for the February 16, 2021 meeting.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by Cavanaugh

Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, King

Noes: None

Absent: None

Students for Solar Presentation Elena Blanco and Mara Lovric presented the Students for Solar Campaign, which is a campaign to raise \$400,000 for installation of solar panels on the new STEAM building at Piedmont High School. Ms. Blanco noted Piedmont Unified School District (PUSD) is unable to fund installation of solar panels, and the campaign has created a path to sustainability despite the hardships imposed by the pandemic.

Mara Lovric reported 75 people attended the February 22nd launch event and donated a total of \$48,000. Ms. Blanco added that the campaign provides an opportunity for students to learn and engage with solar concepts while generating \$1.2 million of savings for PUSD. Ms. Lovric encouraged the public to participate in the campaign and to donate at piedmontstudents4solar.com as a way to invest in the community, students, and the environment.

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

Housing Programs RFP City Administrator Sara Lillevand indicated the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) will be a challenge and an opportunity for the City to plan

for hundreds of new housing units. She noted that updating the Housing Element will require a much bigger and broader effort than in previous cycles and that the City will need expert assistance beyond what it has used previously.

Planning & Building Director Kevin Jackson reported that the scope and cost of the project to update the City's Housing Element is going to be much greater than in previous cycles. He indicated staff will need to identify sites, alter policies and regulations, and amend other elements of the General Plan in order to submit a Housing Element for certification in January 2023.

Mr. Jackson believed the effort will require a consultant team that thinks creatively and has a broad spectrum of expertise in economic analysis, housing constraints, fair housing, and public engagement. He noted that staff has developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure a consultant team, but the RFP does not include preparation of CEQA-related environmental documents. He indicated the proposed procurement schedule includes executing a contract and kicking off the project in May 2021.

Public Testimony was received from:

Irene Cheng, Randy Wu, and Deborah Leland encouraged staff to view the Housing Element Update through a lens of equity, task the consultant with identifying potential sites in Zone B, survey Oakland and a few surrounding cities to learn of programs and policies that enable affordable housing, and consider improving Police and Fire facilities so that they can adequately serve the existing population and an increased population.

Jill Lindenbaum asked which consultant would review the effectiveness of accessory dwelling unit (ADU) programs and regulations in providing affordable housing.

Councilmembers discussed obtaining information about potential housing legislation, the consultants facilitating policy changes, and learning about financing for affordable housing projects and commended staff for outlining costs and funding sources for the Housing Element Update.

Resolution No. 14-2021

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the issuance of a Request for Proposals for a Housing Element Update, a Safety Element Update, other related General Plan Amendments, and related regulatory modifications as required by state law.

Moved by Cavanaugh, Seconded by Rood

Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, King

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0775)

COVID-19 Update

Interim Fire Chief Micheal Despain reported that the number of COVID-19 cases continues to decrease such that Alameda County may soon move into the red tier. He discussed expanded availability of vaccines in Alameda County, vaccination sites, and registering for vaccinations with private healthcare providers, Alameda County, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He advised that Police and Fire personnel who wished to have

received vaccinations, and Public Works staff will begin receiving vaccinations.

Recreation Director Chelle Putzer reported that Recreation Department programs will continue to be held outdoors. She noted almost 400 children participated in afterschool programs, the Schoolmates program aligns with PUSD's morning and afternoon schedule, conditioning and training programs have replaced middle school sports programs, recruiting and retaining staff for Camp Smart Start and Play Pods continue to be challenges, and fall preschool programs are full with waiting lists. Ms. Putzer indicated staff is working on additional preschool programs and summer camps, and registration for summer camps opens on April 6th for residents.

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

Councilmembers encouraged staff to educate the community about the automated tracking system for potential exposure to COVID-19 and appreciated staff's many efforts to respond to COVID-19 protocols.
(0440)

**REPORTS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Cavenaugh announced the Piedmont Recreation Department (PRD) will host a virtual quilting bee on March 6th and PRD and PUSD are hiring staff. She requested an agenda item regarding advanced planning for the Alameda County redistricting process.

Councilmember Andersen announced a public meeting about the Linda Beach Master Plan Phase 1 project is scheduled for March 6th, Heritage Tree nominations are due March 19th, Arbor Day events are scheduled for April 30th, and the League of Women Voters is hosting a program about homelessness and COVID-19 on March 2nd and an essay contest. She requested agenda items regarding PG&E inspection of residential electric panels and temporarily reopening the Community Pool.

Mayor King announced she has requested staff prepare letters to Assemblymember Wicks and Senator Skinner regarding potential housing opportunities at the East Bay MUD reservoir site and signed a letter from Alameda County Mayors regarding use of FEMA COVID-19 funding for Project Roomkey.

**ADJOURNMENT TO
CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:00 p.m., Mayor King adjourned the meeting in memory of former Vice Mayor Walter Schey. Council then adjourned to a Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Sec. 54957.6 to discuss Conference with Labor Negotiators; Agency Designated Representative(s): Michael Szczech, Monica McQueen, and Gena Burns, Represented Labor Groups: (Piedmont Firefighters Assn., Piedmont Firefighters Assn., Fire Captains Unit, Piedmont Police Officers Assn., SEIU Local 1021 (General and Public Works Units); Unrepresented Employees: City Administrator, Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk, Finance Director; Confidential Employees: Public Works Director; Professional, Technical & Supervisory Employees: Planning Director, Parks & Project Manager, Building Official, Police Chief, Police Captain, Police Support Services Commander, Fire Chief, Recreation Director, Recreation/Childcare Employees). There was no reportable action.