

PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, April 5, 2021

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held April 5, 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 April 1, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER

The Council met in special Closed Session for a Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code §54957.6, Agency Designated Representatives: 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), for which Mayor King announced there is no reportable action. Following the 6:00 p.m. Closed Session, Mayor Teddy Gray King called the meeting to order at 7:41 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, Recreation Director Chelle Putzer, Finance Director Michael Szczech, Police Captain Chris Monahan, Police Officer Nicole Casalnuovo, and Assistant City Administrator / City Clerk John Tulloch

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

Minutes

Approval of Meeting Minutes for 03/22/2021

MOA with Oakland Regarding 1086 Annerley Road

Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Piedmont and the City of Oakland Related to 1086 Annerley Road Regarding Jurisdiction for Planning and Building (0045)

Resolution No. 20-2021

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the consent calendar as noted.
Moved by Cavanaugh, Seconded by Rood
Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, King
Noes: None
Absent: None

CEREMONIAL ITEM

This item was not heard.

PUBLIC FORUM

Public Testimony was received from:

Alex Lenahan expressed concern about the effects of compliance with the proposed Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) allotment as it might unnecessarily destroy the beauty of Piedmont.

REGULAR AGENDA

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

**Tobacco Grant
Application
Authorization for
Juvenile Officer**

City Administrator Sara Lillevand appreciated the public's feedback regarding the Juvenile Officer and supported Police Chief Bower's effort to obtain grant funding to continue the program.

Police Chief Bowers shared the history of the grant program and the City's acceptance of a \$391,599 grant on May 20, 2019 to establish the Juvenile Officer Program, which was designed to reduce and mitigate youth tobacco use. He noted the program's goals of collaborating with Piedmont Unified School District (PUSD) staff to develop and implement tobacco education, a diversion program for tobacco and controlled substance violations, and mitigations to reduce vaping.

Chief Bowers reported the Juvenile Officer has conducted 18 presentations for students, PUSD faculty, community members, and college students, two retail tobacco sales trainings, 18 tobacco retail license inspections, and 27 compliance checks. He advised that the Juvenile Officer has responded to 103 calls for service at schools concerning students and suspicious people or circumstances, performed investigations and welfare checks, completed 29 incident reports, and responded to 200 requests for assistance or advice. Chief Bowers indicated that the Juvenile Officer has made no arrests on school campuses.

Chief Bowers related that Police Department and PUSD staff reviewed two diversion programs prior to the pandemic disrupting school attendance, neither of which were satisfactory. He reported Captain Monahan and Officer Casalnuovo partnered with local stakeholders to create a diversion program, and 21 local juveniles have successfully completed the program.

Chief Bowers indicated the deadline to submit an application for the current grant cycle is April 14, 2021, and shared the terms of the grant program. He stated the application, if authorized, will seek a three-year grant to fund the Juvenile Officer's salary and benefits, additional vape sensors for PUSD, and possibly training and travel expenses for the Juvenile Officer. He noted that the direct funding to PUSD for tobacco education will not be a component of the application as the district has received a grant that funds its tobacco education efforts, but that the Police Department would continue its education programming.

Public Testimony was received from:

Susy Struble read a letter from the Piedmont Racial Equity Campaign, Piedmont Anti-Racism & Diversity Committee, and some community members suggesting community engagement, transparency, and community oversight.

Mr. Turner believed the Juvenile Officer should be a long-term position that does not follow the standard career path for a police officer.

Councilmember Andersen appreciated Police personnel's service to the community and supported formation of a working group or robust community engagement. Mayor King wanted to provide tools that allow children to thrive and be safe in school environments.

Resolution No. 21-2021

RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes staff to apply for California

tobacco grant funding for the Police Department Juvenile Officer.
Moved by Rood, Seconded by Andersen
Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, King
Noes: None
Absent: None
(0525, 0785, 0765)

**Fee Waiver for
Childcare for PUSD
Employees**

Ms. Lillevand reported that the City and Piedmont Unified School District (PUSD) have been working together since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to find ways to help children return to school safety. She reported staff has examined possible mechanisms to support PUSD's effort to expand in-person learning and determined that the City may be able to assist with childcare for PUSD employees. She advised that the need for childcare is currently unknown, but the Piedmont Recreation Department (PRD) can commit to expanding its childcare programs as much as possible to meet the need, when identified, at no cost to PUSD employees for the remainder of the 20-21 school year and the 2021 summer session. She emphasized that PRD cannot guarantee space availability for all PUSD employees needing childcare.

Ms. Lillevand related that fees paid by PUSD employees utilizing childcare programs total approximately \$10,000 for January to March 2021. She noted the unknown need for childcare prevents staff from calculating the fiscal impact of waiving fees. She indicated potential funding sources, other than the General Fund, are the Schoolmates Reserve Fund with a projected year-end balance of \$150,000-\$200,000 and possibly American Rescue Plan monies in an anticipated amount of \$1-\$2 million.

Public Testimony was received from:

Cory Smegal, PUSD Board of Education President, appreciated the City proposing childcare for PUSD employees and the Council considering it. She noted that the proposal will benefit negotiations to expand in-person learning and recruitment for summer school teachers.

Councilmembers were happy to support PUSD employees and the return to in-person learning.

Resolution No. 22-2021

RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the Recreation Director to waive childcare program fees for employees of the Piedmont Unified School District who are actively engaged in providing on-campus learning for students for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and 2021 summer school; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the Recreation Director to make and enforce all necessary rules and determinations necessary to implement this authorization; and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council requests that the Piedmont Unified School District provide the Recreation Department with a list of employees who are actively engaged in providing on-campus learning for students for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year and 2021 summer school.

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

Absent: None
(0860-0920, 0765)

**REPORTS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Andersen announced the Park Commission will announce Heritage Tree winners during its next regular meeting and that the annual Arbor Day celebration will be held virtually on April 30th. She reminded residents of the League of Women Voters' essay contest as well as their upcoming meeting, which will feature the Alameda County District Attorney; and Piedmont Garden Club is responsible for the beautiful flower pop-ups around the City.

Councilmember McCarthy announced Lisa Tuck and Rachel Sessions of the Piedmont Garden Club led the floral pop-ups, which appeared at ten locations, and thanked the organizers of the solidarity wall opposing anti-Asian violence.

Vice Mayor Rood announced the Piedmont Housing Advisory Committee will meet on April 20th.

Councilmember Cavanaugh announced the upcoming opening of registrations for Recreation Department summer camps, the next meeting of the Recreation Commission, happenings at Stopwaste.org, and League of California Cities policy committee meetings. She also thanked Councilmember McCarthy for her participation in the floral pop-ups.

Mayor King thanked all community members who applied for City Committees and Commissions and encouraged residents to participate in the Piedmont is Home campaign.

Councilmembers wished City Administrator Lillevand a happy birthday.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor King adjourned the meeting at 9:52 p.m.