

PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Special and Regular Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Special and Regular Sessions of the Piedmont City Council were held January 19, 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 January 14, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER Vice Mayor Tim Rood called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Absent: Mayor Teddy Gray King

Staff: City Administrator Sara Lillevand, City Attorney Michelle Marchetta Kenyon, Interim Fire Chief Micheal Despain, Planning & Building Director Kevin Jackson, Finance Director Michael Szczech, CivicSpark Fellow Nate Redinbo, Sustainability Program Coordinator Alyssa Dykman, 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 12/21/2020

2nd Reading of Ord. 759 N.S. Requiring Electronic Campaign & Financial Disclosure Forms 2nd Reading of Ordinance 759 N.S. – Requiring Electronic Filing of Campaign Disclosure Forms and Statements of Economic Interests (0705, 0435)

2021 Council Liaison Assignments Approval of Council Liaison Assignments Through December 31, 2021 (0085)

Purchase of Fire Utility Vehicle Consideration of the Purchase and Outfitting of a New Fire Utility Vehicle at a Cost Not to Exceed \$85,000.00 (0045)

Resolution No. 01-2021

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the consent calendar.

Moved by Cavanaugh, Seconded by Andersen

Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: King

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

CEREMONIAL ITEMS Planning & Building Director Kevin Jackson introduced Sustainability Program Coordinator Alyssa Dykman and CivicSpark Fellow Nate Redinbo.

Ms. Dykman looked forward to working on City projects involving sustainability.

Mr. Redinbo appreciated the opportunity to work on climate action issues with the City.

Councilmembers welcomed Ms. Dykman and Mr. Redinbo.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

Reach Codes Public Outreach

City Administrator Sara Lillevand reminded the Council of its July 20, 2020 approval of the first reading of an ordinance adopting Reach Codes aimed at reducing natural gas use in residential buildings and other strategies for reduction of the City's impact on climate change. She noted that, due to the high level of public interest regarding the adoption of the Reach Codes, the Council directed staff to conduct additional public outreach on the topic prior to consideration of the second reading of the ordinance.

Mr. Jackson indicated 2017 natural gas emissions totaled 12,000 tons of CO₂ equivalent, and the 2050 goal for total emissions is 9,800 tons of CO₂ equivalent. He related that increasing the energy efficiency of buildings through the use of solar energy and electric appliances can help the City attain this goal.

Ms. Dykman advised that the goal of the proposed amendments is to reduce natural gas use in residential buildings. She stated that residential natural gas comprises about one-third of Piedmont's greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Dykman noted that the code amendments will also make homes healthier and more comfortable and increase savings over time. She reviewed the proposed requirements for residential buildings.

David Metz, FM3 Consulting, presented the results of community surveys conducted in June and November/December 2020. He summarized the results as a strong public desire for climate action, increased awareness of the City's Climate Action Plan, and broad and strong support for Reach Code amendments.

Public Testimony was received from:

Margaret Ovenden was pleased with the increased awareness of the Climate Action Plan and noted misinformation posted to Nextdoor.

Hope Salzer supported Reach Code amendments as a first step towards Climate Action goals.

Councilmembers appreciated staff's outreach efforts and hoped staff could educate property owners who are making improvements about additional improvements.

(0775)

FY 20-21 Mid-Year Financial Report

Ms. Lillevand noted the City has been insulated from severe COVID 19 related economic impacts to the budget because it does not rely heavily on sales tax and transient occupancy tax

Finance Director Michael Szczech reported that staff has reviewed the status of all major revenue streams and expenditure accounts as of December 31, 2020

and projected the results for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. He advised that ambulance revenue has not met expectations, real property transfer tax receipts have already exceeded the yearly budget, and building permits and planning fees and sales and business taxes are projected to exceed budget.

Mr. Szczech projected a net loss for facility rentals and a shortfall for Recreation programs. He indicated the preschool program will exceed its budget, and the Schoolmates and aquatics programs will end the year with a net loss but will not require General Fund subsidies. He noted that General Fund expenditures are currently less than budget.

Mr. Szczech reported that the City will meet the CalPERS pension cost of \$2.9 million, but the annual payments will increase beginning in FY 2022-23. He related that the streets and sidewalks fund may need additional funding from the General Fund. He projected an overall year-end surplus based on mid-year trends.

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

Councilmembers commended staff for conservative financial management.

(0165)

Appointment of Paul Benoit as Special Assistant for Measure UU Projects

Ms. Lillevand recalled that Piedmont voters approved Measure UU which authorized the issuance of bonds to rebuild the Piedmont Community Pool. She indicated that, as the City has no recent experience with this type of large capital project, it was recommended that a project manager be retained to represent the City's interests during the design and construction of the pool. She advised that she subsequently contacted retired City Administrator Paul Benoit, and he agreed to lead the search for a project manager. As required by state law, Ms. Lillevand reviewed Mr. Benoit's proposed compensation and benefits.

Mr. Benoit expressed his excitement about helping the City hire the right professionals for the project and shared his experience with capital projects.

Public Testimony was received from:

Rick Schiller supported the appointment of Mr. Benoit and the direction staff is taking.

Resolution No. 02-2021

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the employment agreement appointing Paul Benoit as a retired annuitant to provide special assistance to the City Administrator with Measure UU projects.

Moved by Andersen, Seconded by Cavanaugh

Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: King

(0045)

COVID-19 Update

City Administrator Lillevand noted that COVID-19 continues to adversely impact the economy and citizens' quality of life. She indicated that vaccines bring hope, but information about vaccinations changes frequently.

Interim Fire Chief Micheal Despain reported that the goal is to vaccinate 50-70% of the population by July 1, 2021; however, distribution logistics and the amount of available vaccine are challenges. He noted case rates for Alameda County are improving. He advised residents to visit the Alameda County Health Department website or contact their personal healthcare providers to register for vaccinations.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.
(1000, 1060)

**REPORTS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice Mayor Rood announced he substituted for Mayor King at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

Councilmember Andersen announced the winter session of Recreation Department programs began today; preschool registration for fall 2021 begins February 10th for residents and February 17th for nonresidents; Camp Smart Start and Play Pods registration is open; days and hours for pickleball have updated; and a virtual panel discussion of public safety surveillance is scheduled for January 28th.

Councilmember Cavanaugh announced the current round of the Piedmont Climate Challenge ends in mid-February; the deadline for the East Bay Community Energy grant program is March 31st, and the Piedmont Art Walk is scheduled for the first weekend in May. She requested agenda items regarding strategic planning and a Climate Action Plan update.

City Administrator Lillevand relayed Mayor King's wish to form a temporary housing committee for the upcoming Housing Element process.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Mayor Rood adjourned the meeting in memory of Theadora Gray (Mayor King's mother) and Patricia Rood (Vice Mayor Rood's mother), both of whom recently passed away, at 8:35 p.m.