

## PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Special Budget Work Session Minutes for Saturday, May 22, 2021

A Special Budget Work Session of the Piedmont City Council was held May 22, 2021, via teleconference, consistent with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 and the Alameda County Health Official's Shelter in Place Orders. In accordance with Government Code Section 54957(b), the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on May 22, 2021.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor King called the session to order at 9:33 a.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

*Council:* Mayor Teddy Gray King, Vice Mayor Tim Rood, and Councilmembers Betsy Smegal Andersen, Jennifer Cavanaugh, and Conna McCarthy

*Administration:* City Administrator Sara Lillevand and Assistant City Administrator / City Clerk John Tulloch

*Fire:* Fire Chief David Brannigan

*Finance:* Finance Director Michael Szczech and City Accountant Ken Lee

*Planning & Building:* Planning & Building Director Kevin Jackson

*Police:* Police Chief Jeremy Bowers

*Public Works:* Public Works Director Daniel Gonzales

*Recreation:* Recreation Director Chelle Putzer

### **BUDGET OVERVIEW**

City Administrator Sara Lillevand gave an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget for the City of Piedmont. She reflected upon the uncertainty of the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and how it affected the City's finances. She noted the City's focus on the delivery of basic services and core programs, careful and conservative budgeting, and mitigation of rising pension and retiree medical costs.

Ms. Lillevand discussed the generosity of Piedmonters in supporting the City, especially in approving the issuance of bonds for the replacement of the Piedmont Community Pool. However, she noted the City's ongoing inability to adequately invest in aging infrastructure. She reminded the Council that many City facilities, including streets and sidewalks, need substantial improvement, due to age, accessibility, and safety concerns.

Finance Director Mike Szczech gave a detailed presentation on the proposed budget. He gave an overview of the General Fund, other funds, fees & charges, as well as projections related to the Facilities Maintenance Fund, Pension Fund, and OPEB Fund. He also discussed the Municipal Services Special Tax, Special Municipal Sewer Tax, and the Real Property Transfer Tax.

### **BUDGET REVIEW**

Staff reviewed the proposed budget for each department and answered Council questions regarding the proposals.

**Public Testimony** was received from:

Susy Struble commended the Police Department for including training on Piedmont's history in for all department staff. She also suggested that the Police Department continue to its efforts to increase transparency on several fronts.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor King adjourned the special work session at 2:06 p.m.