

PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Special and Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, June 7, 2021

Special and Regular Sessions of the Piedmont City Council were held June 7, 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 June 3, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Teddy Gray King called the meeting to order at 6:02 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, Public Works Director Daniel Gonzales, Police Chief Jeremy Bowers, Planning & Building Director Kevin Jackson, Recreation Director Chelle Putzer, Fire Chief David Brannigan, Finance Director Michael Szczech, Special Assistant Paul Benoit, and Assistant City Administrator / City Clerk John Tulloch

CONSENT CALENDAR The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

Minutes Approval of Meeting Minutes for 05/17/2021

Civil Service Commission Appointment Appointment of Amy Kelly to the Civil Service Commission for a Term Ending on March 31, 2024 (0085)

Amendment to the Agreement with Paul Benoit Consideration of an Amendment to the Agreement with Paul Benoit for Special Assistant Services (0045)

Resolution No. 35-2021

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves Consent Calendar Items 1, 2, and 4.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by Cavanaugh

Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, King

Noes: None

Absent: None

Resolution Setting New East Bay Community Energy Default Product With the consent of the Council, Mayor King removed this item from the agenda. (0459)

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

CEREMONIAL ITEM Mayor King acknowledged June 2021 as Pride Month and the City's ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion for all members of the Piedmont community, the greater Bay Area, and the nation at large.

Councilmember Rood thanked the City and the community for supporting visibility and inclusivity during Pride Month and indicated LGBTQ rights are under threat across the country.

Councilmember Cavanaugh appreciated Vice Mayor Rood's leadership on LGBTQ issues and the role of youth in the movement. She noted that often people of color and LGBTQ are the most marginalized and deserve to have their civil rights recognized.

Public Testimony was received from:

Eve Tellegen suggested the City display its support for Pride Month with flags and banners.

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Hearing Re: Proposed FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

City Administrator Sara Lillevand reported the global pandemic's impact on the City's overall budget has been minimal, but it did affect some aspects of the City's revenue stream, particularly Recreation programs and facility rentals. She advised that revenue declines were offset by surprisingly robust transfer tax revenue generated by a record number of home sales and a record average price of homes.

Ms. Lillevand noted the City's ability to continue providing essential services and core programs in the short term, but in the medium to longer term, staff has concerns about rising pension costs and significant facility and infrastructure challenges. She indicated pension costs and retiree medical costs continue to increase faster than revenue despite measures implemented in 2013 to contain these costs and primarily due to CalPERS' inability to achieve its investment goals.

Ms. Lillevand related that the City has not adequately invested in aging infrastructure in order to maintain a balanced budget and a minimum General Fund reserve. She summarized needs to improve streets and sidewalks, recreation facilities, and Police and Fire Department facilities to comply with the Essential Services Act. She highlighted Piedmont voters' approval of a bond measure to fund replacement of the Piedmont Community Pool.

Ms. Lillevand shared advances in executing the Information Technology Strategic Plan and implementation of a new recreation registration system, a new financial system, and a new time and scheduling system for Public Safety. She noted the financial benefits and efficiencies provided by these new systems. Ms. Lillevand proposed the addition of a Communications Manager position and the elimination of a vacant Fiscal Services Technician position. She highlighted initiatives regarding bias and racism, analysis of Police Department data, Police Department training for equity, diversity and inclusion, and the Housing Element update.

Ms. Lillevand thanked residents for their volunteerism and ongoing financial support, the management team for diligently managing department budgets, and the finance team for their focus and dedication in preparing a budget in the midst of a pandemic and implementation of new finance software.

Finance Director Michael Szczech gave a detailed presentation on the proposed budget, including an overview of the General Fund and analyses of revenues, expenditures, and other funds.

Mayor King opened the public hearing.

Public Testimony was received from:

Garrett Keating inquired regarding the Police and Fire Pension Fund balance and average home sales price.

Mayor King closed the public hearing.

Councilmembers appreciated staff preparing a comprehensive budget document and budgeting conservatively; noted that some capital projects are unfunded for multiple years and the Budget Advisory and Financial Planning Committee's continuing concerns regarding investments in deferred maintenance and infrastructure; and expressed concern about funding facilities maintenance, pension liabilities, and climate action initiatives.
(0165, 0320)

**Agreement for
Community Pool
Project Management**

Special Assistant Paul Benoit summarized the role and responsibilities of the project manager, advised that staff received four proposals ranging in cost from \$500,000 to \$1 million, reported the review committee's unanimous support for Griffin Structures, and shared Griffin Structures' extensive experience in managing public aquatic facility design and construction. He addressed written comments from the public regarding anticipated construction completion and the use of climate-friendly construction techniques.

Jon Hughes, Griffin Structures, provided the company's history and philosophy for project management.

George Sanen, Griffin Structures, shared his educational and professional experience as a project manager and an overview of his responsibilities.

Public Testimony was received from:

Margaret Ovenden and Hope Salzer suggested community engagement educate the public about the relationship between climate goals and the pool and also suggested that staff involve the Bond Advisory Committee in any value engineering of the project.

Councilmembers commended staff for taking a professional management approach to the project, offered their assistance to ensure the project remains on schedule, and expressed concern about construction impacting students at Piedmont High School.

Resolution No. 36-2021

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the proposed agreement with Griffin Structures for Project Management / Owner's Representative Services for the Piedmont Community Pool Project, based on a time and materials basis, at an amount not to exceed \$557,000; and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council approves an overall budget for this contract of \$612,700, which includes a 10% contingency fee, and authorizes the City Administrator to spend up to this amount.

Moved by Andersen, Seconded by Rood

Ayes: McCarthy, Andersen, Cavanaugh, Rood, King

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0045)

**REPORTS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Cavanaugh announced Recreation summer camps begin June 14th and a League of Women Voters meeting on June 22nd.

Councilmember Andersen encouraged residents to irrigate new street trees, to take advantage of the Police Department's vacation home check program, and to observe all laws when celebrating high school graduations. She announced Alameda County is hosting events regarding reopening on June 15th and June 21st. She congratulated Piedmont and Millennium High School graduates.

Councilmember McCarthy announced staffing changes in the Building and Planning Department, a Housing Advisory Committee meeting on June 15th, and Kristen Hull's perfect score on her home energy audit.

Mayor King announced an in-person meeting of the Piedmont Beautification Foundation on June 8th and Piedmont Middle School's celebration on June 10th. She also announced that she signed a joint statement against anti-Semitism, which was prepared by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the American Jewish Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor King adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.