

PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, April 20, 2020

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held April 20, 2020, 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 16, 2020.

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Bob McBain called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL Present: Mayor Bob McBain, Vice Mayor Teddy Gray King, and Councilmembers Jennifer Cavenaugh, Tim Rood, and Betsy Smegal Andersen

Staff: City Administrator Sara Lillevand, City Attorney Michelle Marchetta Kenyon, Fire Chief Bret Black, Police Chief Jeremy Bowers, Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, Planning & Building Director Kevin Jackson, Recreation Director Chelle Putzer, Finance Director Michael Szczech, 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:

Council Meeting Minutes Approval of City Council Minutes for 03/02/2020, 03/16/2020, and 04/06/2020

Resolution No. 20-2020

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the Minutes for 03/02/2020, 03/16/2020, and 04/06/2020.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by King

Ayes: Andersen, Cavenaugh, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: None

Facility Renovation Planning Process City Administrator Sara Lillevand gave a detailed report regarding the conditions and limitations of existing City facilities. She discussed previous master planning processes which had been completed for several recreational facilities in Piedmont. She discussed the possibility of future capital projects or facility consolidation or closures depending on the economy. She noted the Budget Advisory and Financial Planning Committee's (BAFP) prior work on facilities maintenance.

Ms. Lillevand then turned to the subject of the City's essential service facilities, noting that the City had retained a consultant who had produced high-level evaluations which detail deficiencies in the Police and Fire Departments' facilities. She indicated that high-quality public safety services are a core function of the City and that there were possible compliance issues with state law regarding essential facilities.

She indicated the Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) Committee had planned a robust schedule of public meetings to educate residents about the operations and existing conditions of the Police and Fire Departments which could not be completed because of the COVID-19 outbreak and shelter in place orders.

Police Chief Jeremy Bowers discussed the Police Department facility not complying with the Essential Services Act, the need to retrofit the Public Safety

Dispatch Center, overcrowded rooms and offices, the lack of secured access to the building, the lack of Code-compliant parking, insufficient restrooms and locker rooms and inadequate provisions for personnel, and the need for infrastructure to support the Next Generation (NG) 911 system.

Fire Chief Bret Black summarized deficiencies in space for fire apparatus and equipment; seismic features such that an earthquake would cause significant structural damage to the Fire Station; fire sprinklers; adjacencies between the apparatus bay and decontamination, shop, laundry, and turnout gear storage areas; separation of the hot zone from working and living areas; dormitory and restroom facilities; storage space; and cleaning and maintenance facilities for apparatus. He added that the facility does not have an elevator even though it has four stories.

Public Testimony was received from:

Winifred Walters questioned whether new spending at the current time is prudent given the anticipated negative impact of COVID-19 on the City's revenues.

Garrett Keating suggested Council direction to staff regarding BAFP meetings, proposals contained in existing master plans, and the consultant's scope of work.

Councilmembers discussed at length their support for providing modern and compliant essential services facilities. They indicated concerns about appropriating funding at the current time and the future relevance of data obtained in the next few months. They noted the importance of educating the public regarding infrastructure needs and the scope and scale of potential projects. They also discussed the possible scope of consultants' work.

Resolution No. 21-2020

RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby takes the following actions related to facilities renovation:

1. Directs the Budget Advisory and Financial Planning Committee to complete a comprehensive examination of potential funding mechanisms for facility renovation projects.
2. Directs the City Administrator and staff to evaluate the state of Piedmont's essential services buildings and financial implications on the Piedmont community as well as community interest and support for City infrastructure projects and make recommendations to the Council on next steps.
3. Appropriates \$50,000 and authorizes the City Administrator to execute any agreements within this budgeted amount to retain outside consultants to assist with public outreach efforts, evaluation of community support, and analysis of City facility projects.

Moved by Cavanaugh, Seconded by Andersen

Ayes: Andersen, Cavanaugh, King, McBain, Rood

Noes: None

Absent: None

(0088, 0270-0370, 0320)

**COVID-19 Impact
Update**

City Administrator Lillevand provided a report on the impacts of COVID-19 on Piedmont. She discussed the numbers of cases within the county and the city. She indicated that the City's actions had and will continue to be in furtherance of the letter and intent of the shelter in place orders. She reminded the Council

of the Public Health Officer's April 17th order regarding face coverings.

Ms. Lillevand discussed the City's decision to fully close parks to comply with the order. She noted that there were numerous and frequent violations of the original shelter-in-place order requiring police intervention. She indicated that staff continues to provide essential City services beyond public safety, focusing on fire vegetation management, online recreational programming, and senior check-in calls. She indicated that Oakland is providing testing for Piedmont's first responders, and department heads continue to meet daily.

Assistant City Administrator / City Clerk John Tulloch added that the city web site has a great deal of information about COVID-19. He also indicated that the COVID-19 communications team continues to use multiple channels to push information out to residents, including social media, traditional media, and email newsletters.

Public Testimony was received from:

E. Wheeler related that staff has answered his questions about park closures and re-openings.

The Council appreciated staff's continued hard work to promote and enforce the public health order.
(0440)

**REPORTS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Andersen encouraged the community to participate in the 60-second cheer for essential workers at 8:00 p.m. daily and announced the League of Women Voters' annual meeting is now scheduled for May 6.

Councilmember Cavanaugh encouraged residents to respond to Census 2020.

City Administrator Lillevand indicated that staff is considering when and how to resume committee and commission meetings, with an eye toward holding some meetings in May.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor McBain adjourned the meeting at 10:24 p.m.