

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, July 18, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Meeting Location
El Cerrito City Hall
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

Janet Abelson – Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Gabriel Quinto
Councilmember Greg Lyman

Councilmember Paul Fadelli
Councilmember Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Fadelli, Lyman, Pardue-Okimoto, Quinto and Mayor Abelson all present.

7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Abelson convened the regular City Council meeting at 7:12 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OR OBSERVATION OF MOMENT OF SILENCE was led by Mayor Janet Abelson.

2. COUNCIL / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Abelson announced that the City Council had just met in closed session and provided direction to staff. Mayor Abelson announced that the annual Relay for Life event will be held at Cerrito Vista Park on July 22-23 this year. Additionally, a listing of centennial events is available at www.el-cerrito.org/ec100. This year's Fourth of July event was spectacular and was the best it has ever been. Mayor Abelson thanked staff and everyone who was involved and attended. Mayor Abelson reported that she attended two League of California Cities Policy Committee meetings on June 8 and 9 in Sacramento, a presentation with California Attorney General Xavier Becerra on June 23 in Richmond and also attended the June 28-29 League of California Cities Mayors and City Council Members Executive Forum and advanced training in Monterey.

Councilmember Lyman thanked staff for their organization at the 4th of July event which shows their commitment to the community. Councilmember Lyman also encouraged all to attend a centennial talk at the Recycling Center on July 19, National Night Out on August 1 and announced that there are several vacancies on boards, commissions and committees.

Councilmember Fadelli concurred with Councilmember Lyman regarding staff's hard work on the 4th of July event and also thanked Corey Mason for the music.

Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto also reported on recent events.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Cordell Hindler, Richmond, reiterated concerns that he has expressed at prior City Council meetings regarding keeping the Senior Center open and the high costs of having a business in El Cerrito.

Delfina Fung, El Cerrito, provided the Council with a petition urging the City Council to continue the City's ban on marijuana and marijuana related products and to also regulate the cultivation of marijuana. Ms. Fung also asked the City Council to consider a fundraising campaign for a new library.

Al Miller, El Cerrito, acknowledged the upcoming East Bay Relay for Life event.

Dave Weinstein, El Cerrito, announced that he is the new president of the El Cerrito Historical Society and acknowledged past president Rich Bartke for his hard work. Mr. Weinstein also noted the importance of having staff familiar with the City's history and offered the Historical Society's timeline brochure as a resource for learning more about the City.

Cathy Bleir, El Cerrito, expressed the need for a strong tree protection ordinance in El Cerrito and the benefits of trees and green infrastructure in the City.

4. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR – Item No. 4(A) through 4(D)

Moved, seconded (Lyman/Quinto) and carried unanimously to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 4(A) through 4(D) in one motion as indicated below.

A. Approval of Minutes

Approve the June 20, 2017 regular City Council meeting minutes.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. Amendments to the City's Classification Plan

Adopt a resolution amending the City's Classification Plan to authorize the reclassification of Information Technology Technician to Information Technology Specialist in the City Management Department and amend Exhibit A to Resolution No. 2017-46 to correct an inadvertent clerical error in the Public Safety Executive Assistant class specification.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2017-53.

C. Metropolitan Transportation Commission One Bay Area Grant, Cycle 2 Program Funding

City staff requests that City Council consider the following actions: 1) Adopt a resolution authorizing the filing of an application for funding assigned to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the One Bay Area Grant, Cycle 2 Program and committing any necessary matching funds and stating assurance to complete the Carlson Boulevard and Central Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation Project; and 2) Adopt a resolution authorizing the filing of an application for funding assigned to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the One Bay Area Grant, Cycle 2 Program and committing any necessary matching funds and stating assurance to complete the El Cerrito del Norte Transit-Oriented Development Complete Streets Improvement Project.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2017-54 and Resolution No. 2017-55.

D. Economic Development Committee Appointment

Approve an Economic Development Committee recommendation to appoint Ilya Weber to the Economic Development Committee, effective July 18, 2017.

Action: Approved recommendation.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Homelessness in Contra Costa County – Presentation by Jaime Jenett, MPH, Continuum of Care Planning and Policy Manager, Contra Costa Health, Housing and Homeless Services Division.

Speaker: Cordell Hindler, Richmond, spoke about homelessness in Richmond.

Action: Received presentation.

B. Draft 2017 Countywide Transportation Plan – Presentation by Matt Kelly, Contra Costa Transportation Authority Associate Transportation Planner.

Receive a brief presentation on the Countywide Transportation Plan, which lays out a vision for Contra Costa County's transportation future, the goals and strategies for achieving that vision, and the future transportation investments needed to enhance mobility and accessibility while promoting a healthy environment and a strong economy. The Draft 2017 Countywide Transportation Plan Update is available for public review and comment at <http://www.2017CTPupdate.net>.

Speaker: Cordell Hindler, Richmond, stated that BART is very congested in the morning, traffic is congested in the afternoon and that El Cerrito needs more rapid bus service (72R).

Delfina Fung, El Cerrito, asked questions about costs and accessibility associated with autonomous vehicles.

Action: Received presentation.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Fire Hazard Abatement

Staff requests that the City Council take the following actions: 1) Adopt a resolution declaring weeds, rubbish, litter, or other flammable material on certain real property identified in the resolution constitutes a public nuisance; and 2) Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, adopt a resolution overriding objections by property owners and ordering the City Manager or his designee to abate certain public nuisances pursuant to El Cerrito Municipal Code Chapter 16.26.

Presenter: Joe Gagne, Fire Captain.

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Fadelli) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2017-56 including a revised Exhibit A.

Mayor Abelson opened the public hearing.

Speakers: Karl Mulligan, El Cerrito, expressed concerns about the forceful nature of the language in the ordinance and resolution and asked what authority the City Council has to order abatement on private property.

Moved, seconded (Pardue-Okimoto/Quinto) and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

Action: Moved, seconded (Quinto/Pardue-Okimoto) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2017-57.

7. POLICY MATTERS

Update and Discussion on Next Steps on the Development of a New El Cerrito Library

Receive presentation and provide comments and possible direction to staff.

Presenters: Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager and Benjamin Irinaga, Architect, Group 4 Architects.

Speakers: Cordell Hindler, El Cerrito, stated that he is a community advocate for libraries.

Al Miller, El Cerrito, stated that he hopes to see the proposed city library commission grow into a permanent advisory body to advise the City Council for the long term and urged the Council to give staff strong, clear direction on the library. The El Cerrito Library Foundation is eager to support staff in a community outreach program.

Howdy Goudey, El Cerrito, stated that he supports a new library and that the city needs to broaden its vision to include all facilities needed in the City. Mr. Goudey noted that purchasing private property is as good as having cash in the reserves and said he was surprised to see Cerrito Vista Park and the Theater as possible sites but that combining the two with the small street may be an option.

Ted Landau, El Cerrito, said he is a strong advocate of a new library and noted the negative comments that were made on Nextdoor (a private social network for neighborhoods) during the election and the negative lawn signs posted around town. Mr. Landau said that he felt the library effort needed a more aggressive information campaign.

Kathryn Levenson, El Cerrito, recommended looking at local branch library improvement programs for some ideas and examples for new library sites.

Karl Mulligan, El Cerrito, expressed concerns with the idea of having a library last only 40-50 years and the proposed cost per square foot of the library. Mr. Mulligan suggested a design contest.

Georgina Edwards, El Cerrito, stated that the library will create another reason for residents to connect and pledged her support for the community outreach.

Joy Gray, El Cerrito, stated that she inadvertently started the Nextdoor discussion about the library. The discussion started with asking why the property tax for the library was so much money. Ms. Gray also urged a more transparent plan for the library in the future and stated that she supports a library.

Sherry Drobner, El Cerrito, said that she wanted a new library but that she is confused about the vision for a library and noted that there needs to be a clear intention about the library and community input.

Delfina Fung, stated that the city could approach landowners about using a parcel for the location to reduce the cost and also suggested some fundraising ideas.

Action: The City Council by mutual consensus agreed that: 1) The City Council supports continuing to move ahead with planning for a new library; 2) Additional community outreach should be performed to collect input and build support for a safe and modern new library; 3) Additional public and privately-owned sites should be evaluated for potential library sites; 4) Approves of staff working with Bay Area

Rapid Transit (BART) to issue an request for proposals to investigate a transit oriented development at the El Cerrito Plaza BART parking lot, potentially including space for a new library; 5) Direct staff to investigate the viability of using the Community Center for a continuing education and services center which would include senior programs; and 6) Authorize staff to conduct research and potentially return to the City Council with a financial proposal that would provide staff with the resources and tools needed to work with the development community to move forward with a public/private partnership to secure a site.

8. CITY COUNCIL LOCAL AND REGIONAL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Mayor and City Council communications regarding local and regional liaison assignments and committee reports.

Councilmember Lyman reported that he and Councilmember Fadelli participated in a special meeting of the West Contra Costa Integrated Management Authority on July 8 regarding the Joint Powers Authority agreement. The Authority Board discussed the future of the Joint Powers Authority agreement including terms that have been proposed that are not in the interests of El Cerrito residents and could result in the City pulling out of the agreement.

Mayor Abelson reported that she rode in an autonomous shuttle vehicle at the Concord Naval Weapons Station prior to the July Contra Costa Mayors Conference. Cars and trucks are also being tested. It was exciting for Mayor Abelson to learn about the process, the complexity involved and to ride on the shuttle. The dinner also included dishes featuring global cuisine from different restaurants. Mayor Abelson stated that the Centennial Planning Task Force is hard at work and noted that there will be a centennial event for a time capsule in August.

Moved, seconded (Lyman/Fadelli) and carried unanimously to extend the meeting to 10:50 p.m.

9. ADJOURNED REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 10:42 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Item No. 6 Fire Hazard Abatement

1. Revised Exhibit A to Attachment 5: Resolution declaring the weeds, rubbish, litter or other flammable material on certain real property constitutes a public nuisance – *Submitted by Joe Gagne, Fire Captain.*

Item No. 7 Update and Discussion on Next Steps on the Development of a New El Cerrito Library

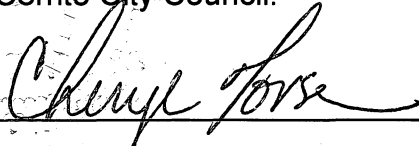
2. Comments on the presentation – *Submitted by Michael Fischer, El Cerrito representative on the Contra Costa Library Commission.*

Other:

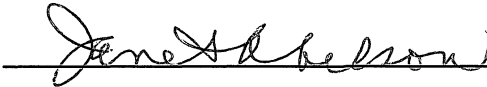
3. El Cerrito Centennial Timeline – *Submitted by David Weinstein, President, El Cerrito Historical Society.*
4. Petition urging the City Council to reverse its April 18, 2017 decision regarding marijuana dispensaries (signed by 398 individuals) – *Submitted by Delfina Lin-Sau Fung, El Cerrito.*
5. El Cerrito's Urban Forest: The Need for a Strong Tree Protection Ordinance – *Submitted by Cathy Bleier, El Cerrito.*

6. Table 2-1 Adopted Reuse Plan Development Program – *Submitted by Mayor Abelson.*

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of July 18, 2017 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.



Cheryl Morse, City Clerk



Janet Abelson, Mayor