



MINUTES
Town of Atherton
City Council
March 25, 2020
SPECIAL MEETING
This meeting is being held virtually

Mayor DeGolia called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

4:00 PM SPECIAL SESSION – *Convene as the City Council*

1. **ROLL CALL** - Widmer, Wiest, Lempres, Vice Mayor Lewis, Mayor DeGolia
2. **PRESENTATIONS** - *None*
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - *None*
4. **REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION** – *None*
5. **CITY MANAGER’S WRITTEN REPORT**

City Manager Rodericks introduced the item and provided a brief history of actions taken by San Mateo County and the State in response to COVID-19 including the issuance of a State of Emergency. He reviewed actions taken by Atherton including the March 13, 2020 declaration of a local emergency and ratification by Council on March 18, 2020. Rodericks noted direction given by Council to cease all construction activity within the Town. He reviewed the initiation of a Builders Roundtable Subcommittee to assist the Town in identifying ways and best practices of allowing construction activity should that be direction given by Council.

Rodericks responded to Council inquiry as to what construction activity is being allowed in neighboring jurisdictions and San Mateo County. He noted that all construction activity has been stopped on the Town Center project and that Council has the option to allow activity to resume adhering to social distancing rules.

Council discussed ensued related to construction activity, landscaping services, and other allowable activities with the consideration of health and safety items within Town during the Shelter-in-Place order.

Councilmember Wiest and Mayor DeGolia outlined the focus and topics discussed during the Builders Roundtable Subcommittee. Wiest continued to share that the group is looking to establish guidelines and rules in the event that construction activity is allowed within Town.

DeGolia acknowledged that two issues are at hand in the consideration of allowing construction activity, including spreading the virus, and minimizing risks for staff that work with building and construction services.

City Attorney Ebrahimi noted that the work stoppage and costs associated with mobilizing and demobilizing the workforce for the Town Center project could result in the Town incurring delay costs. She continued to advise that Council reserved the option to direct the City Manager to establish guidelines with the Builders Roundtable for allowing certain construction activity and violations of those guidelines resulting in misdemeanor offenses for Owners and Employees.

Council provided direction to Staff to continue to work with the Builders Roundtable Subcommittee to establish guidelines and best practices for consideration of future construction activity during the Shelter-in-Place by Council.

Ebrahimi advised Council of specific language and stipulations within the contract with Town Center project general contractor SJ Amoroso, including termination based on work stoppage.

Council directed that Staff engage in conversations with SJ Amoroso regarding the Town Center contract, work stoppage issues and other items related to the current halt on construction activity.

Ebrahimi clarified that operation of library services has deemed a non-essential operation. The construction of the Town Center library is considered a public works project and all public works projects are permitted.

Rodericks indicated that the Town is in receipt of a letter from SJ Amoroso and is currently working on a response addressing issues resulting from work stoppage on the Town Center project.

Lempres requested that during the conversations with SJ Amoroso Staff initiate conversations to prevent any future legal issues and continue to establish guidelines for construction activity that would apply to residential construction.

MOTION by Widmer, Second by Wiest to certify the continuing emergency, and ratify such rules and regulations enacted by the Director of Emergency Services in response to COVID-19.

AYES: Widmer, Wiest, Lempres, Lewis, DeGolia

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

6. **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ROUNDTABLE REPORT** – *None*
7. **COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS** – *None*
8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – *None*
9. **ADJOURN**

Mayor DeGolia adjourned the meeting at 5:16 p.m.



Anthony Suber
City Clerk