



MINUTES
Town of Atherton
City Council
July 1, 2020
STUDY SESSION

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

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

1. **ROLL CALL** - Wiest, Widmer, Lempres, Vice Mayor Lewis, Mayor DeGolia – All Present
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – *None*
3. **DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK REGARDING THE FIRE SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE**

City Manager Rodericks presented the item and delivered a brief background.

Council held a discussion on the authority granted to the Mayor by the Council Handbook and Rules of Procedure,

City Attorney Ebrahimi provided interpretations of the handbook for Council.

Mayor DeGolia clarified the status on the Fire Services Subcommittee noting that Council Member Wiest will remain as the primary liaison to the Fire District with Council Member Widmer serving as the alternate.

Bob Polito, Atherton Resident, encouraged the Council to continue to pursue the Fire Services Subcommittee purpose.

Council requested that the Council Handbook and Rules of Procedure return for discussion at a future meeting. Council directed a letter of support for the State-wide database of misconduct be drafted and submitted by the Mayor and City Manager.

4. **DISCUSSION OF POLICING REFORMS AND INITIATIVES**

Police Chief McCulley presented an overview of the Atherton Police Department (APD) programs, policies, and initiatives. McCulley shared the tools used by the APD, local statistics, and opportunities for improvement. McCulley shared his support for Transparency within his department.

Council held a comprehensive discussion including training authorities in California, types of training, service calls in Atherton, and the use of lethal force.

Council Member Lempres asked Chief McCulley to explain the APD's hiring practices, body camera policies, policies on mutual aide, and the process of removing bad actors within the department.

McCulley highlighted the rigorous process including the psychological evaluation, medical / physical exams, polygraphs, and background investigations. He added that recruits are interviewed by both the Chief and Commander and complete ride-a-longs with Officers. McCulley noted that APD has banned all uses of the carotid restraint or choke hold. He informed Council that the last audit of body camera usage resulted in a 90% rate.

City Attorney Ebrahimi noted for Council that Police Officers are protected by the Police Officer Bill of Rights which includes a series of appeal. She added that the process of removing an Officer does not happen instantly.

Greg Conlon, Atherton resident, commented on the item. – Spoke under the item and talked about the state of the nation

Norma Fogelberg, ADAPT member, spoke in support of the APD and Chief McCulley. - Spoke in support of the Chief and Atherton PD and thanked the Town for the work that has been done.

Council Member Wiest noted his disappointed with changes to the School Resource Officer program nationwide.

Council requested that McCulley share APD service calls and other statistics, body camera and ALPR audit results regularly.

5. **COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS** – *None*
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – *None*
7. **ADJOURN**

Mayor DeGolia adorned the meeting at 5:38 PM



Anthony Suber
City Clerk