



**MINUTES**  
**Town of Atherton**  
**City Council**  
**September 4, 2019**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Study Session**

Mayor Widmer called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** – Wiest, Lempres, Lewis, Vice Mayor DeGolia, Mayor Widmer – All Present

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – *None*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**1. DISCUSSION OF SELECTION PROCESS FOR CITY ATTORNEY; AND APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CITY ATTORNEY SERVICES FOR THE TOWN**

City Manager Rodericks presented the item.

Council discussed the issue of using outside Counsel for litigation and the expectation of office hours.

City Attorney Connors noted that the RFP was developed in collaboration with a City Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee and used his contract as a baseline for scope of services.

**MOTION by Lewis, Second by DeGolia to approve the release of a request for proposal for City Attorney Services for the Town. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor opened the Study Session.

**STUDY SESSION AGENDA**

**2. REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE TOWNS MUNICIPAL CODE REGULATIONS REGARDING LEAF BLOWERS AND POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR USE IN TOWN**

City Manager Rodericks presented the item.

Council Member Lewis asked Staff for clarification on recusal and City Attorney Connors clarified that there is a need for discussion before review and direction can be given to staff.

Mayor Widmer noted initially the item was directed to be reviewed by the Environmental Programs Committee (EPC). Connors reminded Council that there was no action taken in the February 2019 meeting and staff is requesting Council direction if the item needs further discussion.

Vice Mayor DeGolia asked a need to have public input before a decision is made. Connors explained that there will be no action taken and this is for discussion only.

Widmer recused himself at 4:18 p.m. due to his current employment with Menlo College.

Council discussed impacts on neighboring jurisdictions, cost, and environmental improvement.

Council Member Lewis commented that the EPC discussed the issues of gas-powered leaf blowers and suggested the possibility of holding a community meeting. Rodericks responded that staff will provide data, conduct public outreach, and coordinate with the EPC to obtain community response.

DeGolia pointed out in the staff report Public Works Director Ovardia notated that to banning gas-powered leaf blowers would have an impact on the park and street maintenance of the Town. Rodericks responded that the Town will need to modify the MCE contract if we make this change.

Jerry Leugers, Atherton Resident, commented that the noise is a nuisance and there are hazards to the workers, community members, and environment.

Widmer returned at 4:44 p.m.

**Council directed staff to provide additional details and research related to issues with gas-powered leaf blowers, the benefits and negative effects for both the community and Town maintenance, and to reach out to neighboring jurisdictions cities.**

**3. REVIEW, DISCUSSION, AND DIRECTION ON CASH FLOW PLANNING AND PROJECTION FOR THE CIVIC CENTER PROJECT; REVIEW BRIEF PRESENTATION BY URBAN FUTURES AND PROVIDE DIRECTION ON CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION (COP)**

Finance Director Barron presented the Town's available projected funding, future revenues and expenditures, and financing options through Certificates of Participation (COP).

Council sought clarification of the total funding analysis provided. City Manager Rodericks and Barron confirmed the totals included quoted amounts provided by Atherton Now.

Council continued the discussion clarifying the drawn down schedules, project construction schedule, Town reserves, and alternative funding sources.

Barron informed Council that staff has actively worked with SJ Amoroso to consider the project timing working with their funding schedule.

Urban Futures Bond Administration representative, Wing-See Fox, informed Council of financing options available to the Town and that the precise terms will not be determined at this point. She presented several scenarios for Council consideration.

Greg Conlon, Atherton Resident and Rail Committee Member, commented that the Council should consider the potential of SB50 passing effecting the construction project overall.

**Council directed staff to provide more information with a specific amount for a COP, detailed information on available terms, and an additional cost analysis to include those options.**

### **ADJOURN**

Mayor Widmer adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.



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**Anthony Suber**  
**City Clerk**