



MINUTES
Town of Atherton
City Council
October 2, 2019
4:00 P.M.
Study Session

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Ostenberg commented on the Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) being beneficial for the neighborhoods in the Town.

STUDY SESSION AGENDA

1. DEMONSTRATION OF SAN MATEO COUNTY ELECTIONS VOTING SYSTEMS

Jim Irizarry, Assistant Chief Elections Officer of San Mateo County, presented the item.

Council Member Lewis asked for clarification on reporting vote totals for mail-in ballots.

Irizarry noted that Election Day is when the department receives its highest total of Mail-in Ballots noting the new system will help turnaround results faster than in years past.

Council asked for information regarding voter privacy and cyber security measures in place.

Irizarry noted all Vote-by-Mail ballots have two-person integrity rules to prevent tampering. He confirmed that his department works closely with the Secretary of State's Cybersecurity Risk Management Team and all the voting equipment and technology used have been certified and passed rigorous testing. He added that none of the voting tabulation equipment or software are connected to the internet.

Mayor Widmer asked how names are removed from the Voter Registration List. He used an example, of students at Menlo College, that have graduated. Mr. Irizarry commented that staff would need to review Active or Inactive lists, which are provided by the National Registry. He continued that if a voter is inactive a letter is sent and if there is no response there is a minimum of 2 years before a removal is allowed.

No direction needed. This item is informational only.

Item 3 was moved before Item 2.

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE FIRE SERVICES FISCAL REVIEW AND PROVIDE DIRECTION ON NEXT STEPS

City Manager Rodericks presented the item.

Council Member Lempres questioned if there was a change in the Matrix Study since 2018. Rodericks replied there was no recent changes that occurred and noted the increase in taxes.

Rodericks pointed out a letter received from the Menlo Park Fire District as a Public Comment.

Lempres commented that the financial structure of the Menlo Park Fire District needs to be reviewed. Additionally, he informed Council that there is a lack of legislative support for the issue.

Council continued to discuss a concern that the Town of Atherton pays more in comparison to other jurisdictions but receive less service.

Council Member Wiest raised concerns about the Menlo Park Fire District's increasing expenditures on station improvements and additional personnel services, the factual amount of service calls responded to in Atherton, and if the contributions made through Atherton's Property taxes are being used for the benefit of the Atherton community. He added that efforts were made to engage in a dialogue with the Menlo Park Fire District to about options but there has been no progress.

Mayor Widmer noted that the services provided has been of high-quality. He added that the concern is how the funds are being used and if they are being appropriately managed.

Vice Mayor DeGolia expressed concerns that the Fire District had not provided information requested by staff. He stated that he believes the services received are high quality adding that Council is evaluating if the contributions for those services are equal to value.

Lewis stated that direction given to staff does not constitute a vote and is only direction for staff to provide additional information for Council consideration.

Council directed staff to provide additional information on an update of the Fire Services Fiscal review and to present it at a future Council Meeting.

2. REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE USE OF AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS (ALPRs) AND SECURITY CAMERAS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION

Chief McCulley and Commander Wade presented the item. They discussed the installation, location, and benefits of the Automated License Plate Readers. Wade reviewed policing methods used in a recent burglary case where ALPR tools were used.

Council discussed camera quality, other technology options and tools, what rules or policies will govern the access of the footage, and the Mobile ALPR camera in use.

City Manager Rodericks clarified that the vehicles tracked with ALPR cameras must have

Council Member Lewis requested that staff consider the metrics and , traffic patterns in deciding where to locate cameras.

Lewis left the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

McCulley continued his presentation sharing details and features about the cameras, their storage and power capabilities.

Vice Mayor DeGolia asked about the ability for real-time image capturing and how quickly the information will be available to the department.

McCulley clarified that Flock downloads every 24 hours, sends an email to dispatch. He stated that one of the recommendations is to deploy use one solar powered camera as a pilot project. He added the vendor indicated it is their preference to have cameras hardwired.

Council Member Lempres noted many neighboring jurisdictions have cameras already installed and asked if the Town might be able to leverage that. Lempres stated he has concerns about civil liberties and rights to privacy.

McCulley commented that currently the Police Department does have access to the information provided from neighboring jurisdiction cameras.

Lempres requested staff perform tests and audits to ensure rights to privacy are protected and suggested a process where Council can be involved with ensuring those rights are not impacted.

Council Member Wiest suggested more community outreach and partnerships with interested residents.

Council directed staff to continue with the pilot project of installing the cameras as discussed, consider other technologies and vendors, and to bring the item back for Council review including the ALPR Policy with edits to how the data is managed and purged.

City Manager Rodericks confirmed that staff will bring back the ALPR Policy for review and move forward with testing the Flock Cameras.

Public Comment

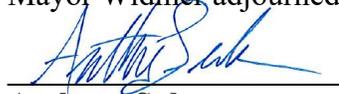
John Venverloh commented that the benefits extend beyond burglaries and will assist bicyclist and pedestrians.

Dave Wilson asked how long the data will be maintained and who will have access to it. McCulley responded noting it is a 1-year retention period and only law enforcement agencies will have access.

Jerry Swartz asked what the penalties were for violations of misusing the data. McCully responded there could be federal state and local, criminal charges, as well as administrative termination.

ADJOURN

Mayor Widmer adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Suber", is written over a horizontal line.

Anthony Suber
City Clerk