



MINUTES
Town of Atherton
CITY COUNCIL
December 4, 2019
STUDY SESSION
CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Widmer called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm

3:30PM CLOSED SESSION – *Convene as the City Council*

1. **ROLL CALL** - Wiest, Lempres (Absent for Closed Session), Lewis, Vice Mayor DeGolia, Mayor Widmer – Present
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** -None

CLOSED SESSION

A. ***PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT*** - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)

City Attorney

ADJOURN – *to Study Session*

Mayor Widmer called the meeting to order at 4:38PM

STUDY SESSION AGENDA - *Convene as City Council*

1. **REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney Connors stated there was no reportable action. He noted Council Member Lempres was absent during closed session.

2. **DISCUSSION ON ATHERTON MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 17.50 “LANDSCAPE SCREENING” - LANDSCAPE SCREENING REGULATIONS IN THE FRONT OF PROPERTIES.**

Senior Planner Davis provided a brief overview of the existing Ordinance reviewing fence heights and landscaping options for residents.

Council discussed changes and improvements to the ordinance in response to resident concerns, if this item is a major area of concern, and a review of setback requirements starting with the Planning Commission.

City Attorney Connors noted a distinct difference between Landscape Screening and Setback requirements needs to be established if a review is done.

There was no formal action on this item.

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE TOWN OF ATHERTON CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT TAX; AND PROVIDE STAFF WITH FEEDBACK AND DIRECTION FOR NEXT STEPS

Finance Director Barron III provided a brief overview including a history of the various tax initiatives that were considered in recent years as revenue alternatives.

City Manager Rodericks noted that the Town is in the early stages of considering such a tax and there are still other options available for consideration. Rodericks continued to state staff has years' worth of data available to draw upon to make recommendations.

Vice Mayor DeGolia suggested that the Council had the ability to structure a tax measure as they deem necessary. He provided an example of 5,000 Sq. ft. or more project triggering an additional tax.

Council Member Lewis shared her perspective is that a development tax would receive broad support within the Town and is not in favor of imposing a tax on residents. She did note she favored the parcel tax that had been in place.

Council Member Wiest noted that a construction fee could be limited to new construction or implemented for all construction.

Council continued to discuss penalties for damages done during construction projects, tax increases property tax reassessments, alternative revenue sources, and the conservative financial management strategy by the Town.

DeGolia suggested additional research be done to evaluate property tax increases versus costs over the last 10 years. DeGolia stated he is in favor of taxing any development of 5000 sq. ft or more. This may have an unintended impact of encouraging people to build smaller homes.

Mayor Widmer noted Council had taken steps over the last several years with prudent fiscal management and he supports a tax on businesses that are making money or using services within Town.

City Manager Rodericks noted that staff will need to prepare projected fiscal outlook once the Town Center project is complete.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandy Crittenden stated they are not in support of any tax to Atherton the residents. He requested that Council look at other efforts to raise revenue.

Adjourned to Closed Session at 5:48 pm.

CLOSED SESSION

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)

City Attorney

ADJOURN – to Study Session

6:30 PM STUDY SESSION AGENDA - *Convene as City Council*

4. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION – Report out by City Attorney

City Attorney Connors indicated there was no reportable action and Council Member Lewis was absent.

ADJOURN

Mayor Widmer adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.



Anthony Suber
City Clerk