



MINUTES
Town of Atherton
City Council
November 18, 2020
CLOSED SESSION &
REGULAR MEETING

Mayor DeGolia called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

6:30 P.M. CLOSED SESSION

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Public announcement of Closed Session Item

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

A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS, Unrepresented Employees (Gov. Code section 54957.6.)

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING– *Convened as the City Council*

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **ROLL CALL** - Wiest, Widmer, Lempres, Vice Mayor Lewis, Mayor DeGolia – Present
3. **REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION** by City Attorney, Mona Ebrahimi

City Attorney Ebrahimi reported that direction was provided to staff.

4. **PRESENTATIONS – POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PROCLAMATION**

- **Back from the Brink: The Call to Prevent Nuclear War**

The item was presented by City Manager Rodericks and Mayor DeGolia for Council discussion.

Public Comments:

- Honorable William Perry spoke in support of the proclamation.
- Les DeWitt shared a prepared statement from the Honorable George Shultz in support of the proclamation.
- Professor Martin Hellman spoke in support of the proclamation
- Dr. Robert Gould, MD spoke in support of the proclamation.
- Rick Wayman, CEO, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation spoke in support of the proclamation.

- Jacqueline Cabasso, Director of Western States Legal Foundation spoke in support of the proclamation.
- Judy Adams, Menlo Park peace advocate spoke in support of the proclamation.
- Dr. Richard Duda, PHD spoke in support of the proclamation.

Council held a discussion about the language and general message of the Proclamation suggesting revisions before approval.

MOTION by Lempres, Second by DeGolia to approve the proclamation as amended.

AYES: Wiest, Lempres, Widmer, Lewis, DeGolia

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judy Adams thanked the Council for its support of the Proclamation.

6. CITY MANAGER’S WRITTEN REPORT

City Manager Rodericks presented the report and responded to Council inquiry related to various items such as Park costs of Tennis Keys and Police Department training.

CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 7 – 14)

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21 AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 26, AND NOVEMBER 4, 2020 CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS.

8. APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS FOR OCTOBER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 3,687,946

9. CERTIFICATION OF CONTINUING EMERGENCY AND RATIFICATION OF SUCH RULES AND REGULATIONS ENACTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

10. APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL HANDBOOK

Pulled by Vice Mayor Lewis for discussion.

City Manager Rodericks responded to Council inquiry as to the origin of the revisions.

MOTION by Lewis, Second by Lempres to approve revisions to the Council Handbook.

AYES: Wiest, Lempres, Widmer, Lewis,

NOES:

ABSTAIN: DeGolia

ABSENT:

- 11. ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER’S REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**
- 12. BUILDING AND LIFE SAFETY PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH INTERWEST CONSULTING GROUP**
- 13. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ATHERTON TO INCREASE REFUSE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND GREEN WASTE RATES IN THE TOWN OF ATHERTON**

Adopted Ordinance No. 647

- 14. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A COLLABORATION AGREEMENT WITH SAN MATEO COUNTY FOR THE 6TH CYCLE OF THE REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION (RHNA 6) HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE PROCESS**

Adopted Resolution No. 20–28

MOTION by Lewis, Second by Wiest to approve the Consent Calendar Items with the exception of Item 10, pulled for discussion.

AYES: Wiest, Widmer, Lempres, Lewis, DeGolia

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Mayor DeGolia moved Item 18 to be heard after Item 15.

PUBLIC HEARING (Item 15)

- 15. INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE AMENDING ATHERTON MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.16 “NOISE”, PERTAINING TO LEAF BLOWERS**

Principal Planner Davis presented the item and introduce Ordinance and read by Title only, amendments to Chapter 8.16 “Noise” of the Atherton Municipal Code (AMC), pertaining to leaf blowers. Davis presented existing regulations codified in the Atherton Municipal Code, a general comparison of gas-powered leaf blowers versus electric powered leaf blowers, and impacts to the Town, residents, Schools, and the Circus Club.

City Clerk Suber announced that public comments received in writing have been distributed to Council and posted for public review.

Public Comments:

- Jerome Leugers commented on the item sharing his support for the ordinance.
- Carol Flaherty commented on the item sharing her opposition for the ordinance.
- Betsy Colby commented on the item sharing her support for the ordinance.
- Diana Hawkins-Manuelian commented on the item sharing her support for the ordinance.
- Lisa Williams commented on the item and costs for both options.

Council held a detailed discussion about the item and Council Member Widmer suggested postponing the decision or a modifying the plan to phase in restrictions.

Vice Mayor Lewis raised the possibility of offering rebates to residents to offset costs of replacing gas powered-leaf blowers.

Mayor DeGolia noted that the issue is also under consideration at a regional level by Peninsula Clean Energy and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. DeGolia proposed revisions to the Ordinance and requested staff provide return to Council with more information on pricing.

Council continued to discuss the challenges caused by leaf blowers including the noise and air pollution elements.

City Manager Rodericks stated that staff would revise the ordinance incorporating Council suggestions and evaluate a pilot program for Holbrook-Palmer Park.

MOTION by Lempres, Second by Widmer to continue the hearing until the January 20, 2020 meeting and to have staff evaluate a pilot program to implement electric leaf blowers and evaluate comparisons and consider modification to the ordinance consistent with comments and suggestions received from Council.

AYES: Widmer, Wiest, Lempres, Lewis, DeGolia

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

18. NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Mayor DeGolia moved Item 18 to be heard after Item 15.

Public Works Director Ovadia presented a report on the Neighborhood Traffic Management Action Plan outreach efforts, and shared the responses received from the surveys and listening sessions held. Ovadia added the importance of sharing the information gathered with the public and understanding the problems we are aiming to solve.

Ovadia introduced Traffic Consultants from TJKM, Ruta Jariwala and Ian Lin who presented the project timeline, findings, scope of work performed, and next steps.

Council discussed the findings, feedback received from the community meetings, and consider additional outreach to residents.

Council Member Widmer asked about how speeding was evaluated, timing of the public comment periods, the data presented, and if we can determine the source the feedback we have received.

Ovadia noted the Atherton Police Department has an ability to collect speed data. He shared that the first step was to gather feedback and concerns and the next phase will be to share the data with residents.

Council continued to discuss the data and the benefits of implementing solutions that will impact traffic and congestion in a tangible manner.

Council directed that staff continue with the public outreach, education, and study and return to Council at a future meeting with updates. Council directed staff present opportunities to implement solutions in the short term based on identified Council priorities.

Council Member Widmer exited the meeting at 10:29 PM

Vice Mayor Lewis exited the meeting at 10:30 PM

REGULAR AGENDA (Items 16-17, 19-21)

16. CONSIDERATION OF AND APPOINTMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

City Clerk Suber presented the item

MOTION by DeGolia, Second by Lempres to appoint Jennifer Carrico to the Environmental Programs Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2024.

AYES: Wiest, Lempres, DeGolia

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Widmer, Lewis

17. AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO TRANSMIT A LETTER TO THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS (ABAG) REGARDING THE TOWN'S REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION (RHNA)

Town Planner Costa Sanders presented the item to Council involving submitting a letter to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) on behalf of City Council expressing concerns with RHNA calculations and methodology used to determine the Town's RHNA allocation.

Council proposed minor revisions to the letter as presented including having it signed by the Mayor opposed to the City Manager.

MOTION by Lempres, Second by Wiest to authorize the Mayor to transmit a letter as amended to ABAG expressing concern with the Town's RHNA allocation.

AYES: Wiest, Lempres, DeGolia

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Widmer, Lewis

19. TOWN CENTER PROJECT UPDATE

City Manager Rodericks presented this item. This report is informational only.

20. COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS – *None*

21. ADJOURN

Mayor DeGolia adjourned the meeting at 10:38 p.m.



Anthony Suber
City Clerk