



**Minutes**  
**Town of Atherton**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**JANUARY 11, 2010**

**9:00 a.m.**

**TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

94 Ashfield Road  
Atherton, California

**Strategic Planning Workshop**

1. **ROLL CALL** Lewis, Carlson, Marsala, Dobbie, McKeithen

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

3. **REFUND OF ROAD IMPACT FEES**

Consideration of extending the refund of previously paid road impact fees beyond those authorized by City Council in December 2009

Members of Public who spoke:

Carol Flaherty, Atherton resident

Jeff Wise, Atherton Community Liaison, passed out a proposal from a group of Atherton residents for refunds of road impact fees.

Steve Ackley, Atherton resident

Maryann Ackley, Atherton resident

Joe Comartin, Atherton resident

Peter Carpenter, Atherton resident

Council concurred that the Town should go beyond the already approved 90 days of refunds for road impact fees. Discussion about refunding options and how far back to refund ensued.

Council directed staff for an update at the January Council meeting.

4. **COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICIES**

City Manager Gruber informed Council that he would like to designate a public information officer for staff and for Council and implement new communication protocols through training.

Council discussed communications protocols, press releases, information dissemination processes, code of conduct and policies.

Council held a discussion about transparency with each other and the community and Council protocols. Council agreed that they want to improve working as a team and at engaging community interest.

Council directed staff to form a Council Communications ad-hoc subcommittee made up of Council Members Carlson and Lewis with input from community members and surrounding San Mateo Cities to draft a Council handbook of principles and policies. The Committee should be prepared to report and/or update Council at their February meeting.

Public comment was received from Atherton resident Peter Carpenter.

Council recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m.

## **5. TOWN FINANCES AND REVENUES**

Council continued the workshop at 12:27 p.m.

### Discussion Points:

- General Fund
- Building Surpluses
- Drainage Fee Structures
- Staffing
- Possible revenue opportunities: utility user tax (possibly in lieu of green building ordinance), business license tax, real estate transfer tax, change the Town to a charter city in order to implement higher parcel taxes and revenue-generating post office boxes in Town..

Council concurred to engage the community for their input on the above potential revenue opportunities and suggested a potential citizens group to explore the utility user tax idea.

Council directed staff to have a status update which includes an elections timeline if they were to decide to implement a utility user tax.

## **6. THE FUTURE OF HOLBROOK-PALMER PARK**

### Discussion Points:

- What the Will allows the Park to be used for: recreations, weddings, museum and childcare. Gates must be closed at night.
- Revenue opportunities
- Atherton Dames involvement
- Parking issues – not enough
- Park & Recreation Committee to become more involved in financial aspect of Park

## **7. DISCUSS NEW TOWN CENTER OPTIONS**

### Discussion Points:

- Finance Options
- Finance Committee
- High Speed Rail (re: Public Works and Building) – Eminent Domain
- Master Plan and Vision

Council directed staff to research grant opportunities and add an Agenda item to the January Council meeting for approval of an ad-hoc subcommittee to research finance options for the new Town Center.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**9. ADJOURN**

**MOTION by McKeithen, second by Marsala to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor McKeithen adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Theresa DellaSanta  
Deputy City Clerk**