



Minutes
Town of Atherton
CITY COUNCIL/ATHERTON CHANNEL DRAINAGE
DISTRICT
December 15, 2010
5:00 P.M.
Meeting Room
Council Chambers
94 Ashfield Road
Atherton, California

Mayor McKeithen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT –

William Grindley, Atherton resident, thanked Council Member Marsala for always being aware of the Town's best interests and for helping put together a meeting in Washington with Senator David Vitter of Louisiana in which legislation was drafted to deny any funds to the High Speed Rail project

Scott Feamster, thanked Council Member Marsala for working diligently in representing the entire Town and for his many years of service on Council. He added that Marsala took extra efforts to make sure Menlo Atherton performing arts center was constructed to provide a world class venue for the community to enjoy. Feamster concluded that many neighbors turned to Marsala on personal issues and Marsala always responded promptly and successfully.

Jon Buckheit, Atherton resident, thanked Council Member Marsala for his service on Council over the last eight years. Buckheit thanked Mayor McKeithen and Vice Mayor Dobbie and appreciated how they handled Town matters over the last year. Buckheit commended Marsala, McKeithen and Dobbie.

Bill Widmer, Council Member elect, thanked Council for encouraging him to run for Council. Widmer thanked all residents who supported him during his campaign and said he looks forward to getting things done.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION DECLARING THE RESULTS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2010 ELECTION

Report: Deputy City Clerk Theresa DellaSanta

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution declaring the results of the Gubernatorial General Election to fill three full-term Council seats on November 2, 2010

Deputy City Clerk DellaSanta read the elections results from the November 2, 2010 election. The results were as follows:

Bill Widmer, 2,332 votes
Jerry Carlson, 2,047 votes
James Dobbie, 1,714 votes

MOTION by Dobbie, second by Lewis to Adopt a Resolution declaring the results of the Gubernatorial General Election to fill three full-term Council seats on November 2, 2010. The motion passed.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

2. PRESENTATIONS

OATH OF OFFICE – COUNCIL MEMBERS BILL WIDMER, JERRY CARLSON AND JIM DOBBIE

Deputy City Clerk DellaSanta administered the oath of office to Council Members Bill Widmer, Jerry Carlson and Jim Dobbie.

PROCLAMATIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL MEMBER CHARLES MARSALA FOR SERVICE TO TOWN COUNCIL

Council Member Lewis presented Council Member Marsala with a Resolution from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

Mayor McKeithen presented Council Member Marsala with Resolutions from Assemblyman Ira Ruskin and Senator Joe Simitian, and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo.

Mayor McKeithen thanked Marsala for his service to the Town.

Marsala thanked everyone for their support. He said most of his experience on Council has taught him that we are just passing through addressing what we can and being part of a solution for long term projects that we will not see completed. Marsala said working as a team will always be a challenge and he hopes the new Council will come together quickly. Marsala thanked Council, staff and the community for a wonderful decade spent on the City Council.

SELECTION OF MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR

Deputy City Clerk Theresa DellaSanta opened the nominations for the Office of Mayor.

Mayor McKeithen nominated Vice Mayor Dobbie for the Office of Mayor. Council Member Dobbie seconded the nomination.

Ayes: 5 Opposed: 0

Deputy City Clerk DellaSanta opened the nominations for the Office of Vice Mayor.

Council Member Carlson nominated Council Member Lewis for the Office of Vice Mayor. Council Member Lewis seconded the nomination.

Ayes: 2 Opposed: 2 (McKeithen, Dobbie) Abstain: 1 (Widmer)

Mayor Dobbie nominated Council Member Widmer for the Office of Vice Mayor. Council Member McKeithen seconded the nomination.

Ayes: 3 Opposed: 2 (Carlson, Lewis)

OATH OF OFFICE - Mayor and Vice Mayor

Deputy City Clerk DellaSanta administered the oath of office to Mayor Dobbie and Vice Mayor Widmer.

MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING MAYOR

Outgoing Mayor McKeithen said during her time as Mayor the Town had several accomplishments which include the fact that the building revenue is up since the previous year, the housing element is finalized and fully certified, installation of quad gates, a pedestrian bridge and a crosswalk going to the park, completion of Fletcher drainage, and the Hoover crosswalk is proceeding. McKeithen said additionally, the Town is reviewing funding options for a new town center, and working on potentially building a new Atherton library with donor funds.

McKeithen said the Town almost had a balanced budget and believed there is more we can do to make sure it is balanced in the coming years. McKeithen said the Town faces substantial unfunded medical and pension liabilities which must be resolved. She added that the Town has begun to look at a five-year financial plan and reviewed financial issues with outsourcing.

McKeithen said the Town had a positive ruling on the first lawsuit with High Speed Rail and filed a second lawsuit to deal with potential environmental issues; the two lawsuits may end up bonded together.

McKeithen said she thinks Council is beginning to work cohesively and believes Bill Widmer will help Council move towards a positive future.

McKeithen concluded that the residents of Atherton need to become more involved and do more research in certain Town matters before creating such firm opinion. McKeithen suggested that residents get the facts first, be open-minded and share ideas before making judgments.

ADJOURN

MOTION by Carlson, second by Widmer to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor McKeithen adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa DellaSanta
Deputy City Clerk