



**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 Lempres 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 6<sup>TH</sup> 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.

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**Anthony Suber**  
**City Clerk**



**MINUTES**  
**Town of Atherton**  
**City Council**  
**December 2, 2020**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

Mayor DeGolia called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

**4:00 PM REGULAR AGENDA** – *Convened as the City Council*

1. **ROLL CALL** - Wiest, Widmer, Lempres, Vice Mayor Lewis, Mayor DeGolia – Present
2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

City Clerk Suber announced the public comments received in writing in advance of the meeting noting they were distributed to Council and posted for public review.

- Brady Kline, student spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permit.
- David Corsinotti, student spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permit.
- Will Murphy, student spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permit.
- Elliot Kinder, student spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permit.
- Saaz Ahuja, student spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permit.
- Chris D'alencón, student spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permit.
- Ronier. Babiera, student spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permit.
- Griffin Perks student spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permit.
- Ashley Giesler, parent of Menlo School student spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permit.
- Josh White, spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permits.
- K. Harrison, parent of Menlo student spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permit.
- Linda and John Knoll, parents of Menlo student spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permit.
- Todd Smith, Menlo Football Coach spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permit.

**MOTION by Lempres, Second by Widmer to continue the meeting to 7:00 PM**

**AYES: Wiest, Widmer, Lempres, Lewis, DeGolia**

**NOES:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

Mayor DeGolia reconvened the meeting at 7:00 pm

**7:00 PM REGULAR AGENDA**– *Convened as the City Council*

**Mayor DeGolia moved Item 4 to be heard prior to Item 3.**

**4. SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT TO ALLOW TEMPORARY LIGHTS AT MENLO SCHOOL FOR ATHLETIC PRACTICE**

Town Planner Costa Sanders presented the item listing the request by Menlo School for a Special Event Permit to allow temporary lights at Menlo School for athletic practices from January 4, 2021 through March 12, 2021. She noted the public comments received in writing in advanced on the meeting that were shared with Council and posted for public review.

Than Healy, President of Menlo School spoke to Council addressing the reason and need for the request. He noted the schools plans to adhere to County guidelines related to COVID-19 and plans to minimize any disturbances caused to neighbors.

**Public Comments:**

- Steve Miller, Parent and Menlo School Board Member spoke in support of approval of the special event permit.
- Stephanie Discher spoke in opposition of approval for the Special Event Permit. She also presented Council with written public comments in advance of the meeting that were distributed and posted for public review.
- Paul Getty spoke in opposition of approval for the Special Event Permit. He also presented Council with written public comments in advance of the meeting that were distributed and posted for public review.
- Brian Mhatre, former Menlo School student spoke in support of approval of the Special Event Permit.
- Mickey King spoke in opposition of approval of the Special Event Permit. He also presented Council with written public comments in advance of the meeting that were distributed and posted for public review.

Council discussed the item thoroughly considering the concerns raised by residents and a variety of alternative options or additional conditions.

Early Koberlein, Menlo School Athletic Director shared the schools plans for using the fields and noted they were evaluating potential of using electric lights versus diesel to reduce noise and pollutants.

City Attorney Ebrahimi responded to concerns raised and the conformance of the permit with the Atherton Municipal Code.

City Manager Rodericks noted that the activity conducted under the approval of the Special Event Permit will continue to be monitored by the Town and if any issues arise it could be revoked.

**MOTION by Lempres , Second by Wiest to approve the Special Event Permit as amended to allow temporary lights at Menlo School for athletic practice from January 4, 2021 through March 14, 2021 until 6:15 pm on weekdays at Cartan Field and Wunderlich Field as needed.**

**AYES: Wiest, Widmer, Lempres, Lewis, DeGolia**

**NOES:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

**3. SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT TO ALLOW TEMPORARY LIGHTS AT SACRED HEART SCHOOLS FOR ATHLETIC PRACTICE AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

**Vice Mayor Lewis announced her recusal from the item due to the proximity of her residence in accordance with the Brown Act.**

Town Planner Costa Sanders presented the item listing the request for a Special Event Permit to allow temporary lights at Sacred Heart Schools for athletic practice from January 4, 2020 through March 15, 2021. She noted the public comments received in writing in advanced on the meeting that were shared with Council and posted for public review.

City Clerk Suber read into the record public comments received by Brittany Seidensticker in opposition for approval of the Special Event Permit.

Richard Dioli, President of Sacred Heart Schools spoke to Council addressing the reason and need for the request.

Michael Dwyer, Sacred Heart Schools Operations Director addressed Council inquiry about the lights that they intend to use.

Council Member Lempres announced that although it was determined by legal counsel, he does not have a conflict warranting recusal he is the parent of a Sacred Heart School student.

**Lewis was recused due to the proximity of her residence.**

**MOTION by Widmer, Second by Lempres to approve the Special Event Permit to allow temporary field lights at Sacred Heart Schools to accommodate athletic activities from January 4, 2021 through March 12, 2021 at Palatella and Dollinger Fields.**

**AYES: Wiest, Widmer, Lempres, DeGolia**

**NOES:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

**5. COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS**

Council Member Widmer reported that the Town received the necessary 10<sup>th</sup> vote to exit the South Bayside Waste Management Authority and move forward with the transition to contract for refuse services with GreenWaste Recovery.

**6. ADJOURN**

Mayor DeGolia adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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**Anthony Suber**  
**City Clerk**