



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 1, 2013
5:30 P.M.
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
City Council Chambers

5:30 P.M. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Ohtaki called the Closed Session to order at 5:45 p.m. with all members present.

- CL1.** Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section §54957 to conference with labor negotiators regarding labor negotiations with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

Attendees: Alex McIntyre, City Manager, Starla Jerome-Robinson, Assistant City Manager, Bill McClure, City Attorney, Gina Donnelly, Human Resources Director, Drew Corbett, Finance Director and Charles Sakai, Labor Attorney

Written public comment was submitted by Nawied Amin, who was not present. ([handout](#))

The Council adjourned to the Regular Session in the Council Chambers.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR SESSION

Mayor Ohtaki called the meeting at order at 7:10 p.m. with all members present.

The Menlo Park 4-H youth group led the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Ohtaki presented the group with a proclamation in honor of the 4-H Centennial.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

There is no reportable action from the Closed Session held earlier.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The City is currently recruiting applicants for vacancies on the Bicycle, Housing, Library, Parks and Recreation and Transportation Commissions. Applications are available through the Commissions webpage or the City Clerk's office.

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- A1.** Presentation by Senator Jerry Hill regarding legislative updates on the State budget, education funding, High Speed Rail and other topics

- A2.** Review Community Engagement Principles
Staff presentation by Cherise Brandell, Community Services Director

Mayor Pro Tem Mueller exited the Council chambers due to a conflict of interest regarding the subject of the following speaker's public comments.

Public Comment:

- Elizabeth Houck expressed concerns regarding the community engagement process in connection to the Specific Plan and the need for more transparency and involvement

Mayor Pro Tem Mueller returned to the dias.

B. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE VACANCIES, APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS - None

C. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

- Elizabeth Houck spoke regarding the Sharon Heights Country Club wells project

Councilmember Keith exited the Council chambers during the following four public comments due to the proximity of her residence to the subject of the speakers' comments.

- Todd Brahana spoke regarding the O'Connor School and against allowing vehicular access through on Oak Court
- Lora Christen spoke regarding to the O'Connor School and maintaining bike and pedestrian safety
- Virginia Richards spoke regarding O'Connor School and maintaining the character of the neighborhood
- Noel Berghout spoke regarding the O'Connor School and cut through traffic on Oak Court ([Petition/Handout](#))

Councilmember Keith returned to the dias.

- Adina Levin spoke regarding the need to update technology for Council meetings to allow easier access and viewing through mobile devices

D. CONSENT CALENDAR

D1. Approve the City's response to the Grand Jury report "San Mateo County Special Districts: Who is Really in Charge of the Taxpayers Money? The Mosquito District Embezzlement: Is it the Tip of the Iceberg?" and Authorize the Mayor to Sign and Send the letter in Response ([Staff report #13-162](#))

D2. Accept minutes for the Council meeting of September 24, 2013 ([Attachment](#))

ACTION: Motion/second (Keith/Cline) to approve the Consent Calendar passes unanimously.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

F. REGULAR BUSINESS

F1. Approve the Request for Proposal for the El Camino Real Lane Reconfiguration and Ravenswood Avenue Right Turn Lane Study ([Staff report #13-163](#))
Staff presentation by Jesse Quirion, Transportation Manager ([Presentation](#))

Public Comment:

- Adina Levin spoke regarding bike lanes on El Camino Real and the City of Palo Alto's policy regarding traffic circulation on El Camino Real, Alma, Sand Hill Road

In response to the request of Councilmember Cline, staff will discuss preparing a letter to the City of Palo Alto regarding traffic circulation to be approved by the Mayor/Council.

ACTION: Motion/second (Keith/Carlton) to approve the Request for Proposal for the El Camino Real Lane Reconfiguration and Ravenswood Avenue Right Turn Lane Study with the friendly amendment to remove the word “possibly” adverse from the fourth bullet and to include consideration of access to underground parking. Mayor Ohtaki offered the additional amendments to add the issue of traffic circulation on Alma, El Camino Real and Sand Hill Road to the problem statement and to include peak time as an alternative. The amended motion passes unanimously.

F2. Consideration of the formation of a Small Business Commission ([Staff report #13-164](#))
Staff presentation by Jim Cogan, Economic Development Manager ([Presentation](#))

Mayor Pro Tem Mueller introduced the item.

Public Comment:

- Fran Dehn, Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding the permitting process and other factors prohibiting businesses from coming to and growing in Menlo Park

ACTION: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mueller to direct staff to explore the formation of a Small Business Commission and bring more information back to Council at a future study session.

ACTION: Councilmember Carlton offered the following friendly amendment: that the issue of business and economic development and streamlining the permitting and planning processes be included in the study session which will also consider development of a business commission or committee. There was some discussion of making a substitute motion if the friendly amendment was not accepted.

ACTION: After Council discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Mueller accepted the amendment, Councilmember Cline accepted and seconded the amended motion. The motion passes unanimously.

F3. Consider state and federal legislative items, including decisions to support or oppose any such legislation, and items listed under Written Communication or Information Item: **None**

G. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT – None

H. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION – None

I. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

I1. November 2013 Council Meeting schedule ([Staff report #13-165](#))

J. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS - None

K. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

There was no public comment.

L. ADJOURNMENT at 10:01p.m.



Pamela Aguilar
Acting City Clerk

These minutes were accepted at the Council meeting of December 10, 2013.