



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: 10/4/2017
Time: 7:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

A. Call To Order

Mayor Keith called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Carlton, Cline, Keith, Mueller, Ohtaki. Councilmember Carlton participated by phone from Fairmont Hotel, Business Center, 1 Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska Street, Kyiv, Ukraine

Staff: City Manager Alex McIntyre, City Attorney Bill McClure, Deputy City Clerk Jelena Harada

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Keith led the pledge of allegiance.

D. Public Comment

There were no comments.

E. Regular Business

E1. Review and consider options regarding at-large and by-district elections (Staff Report #17-234-CC)

- Steve Chessin, Californians for Electoral Reform, proposed various election options.
- Greg Conlon spoke about by-district elections.
- Michael Hoff spoke about the legality of elections in Menlo Park.
- Helen Grieco, Common Cause, spoke about creating a districting commission.
- Pamela Jones spoke about inclusion issues and in favor of district elections.
- Gwyn Firth Murray spoke about various election systems.
- Jen Mazzon spoke about unequal representation.
- Julie Shansen spoke in support of by-district elections.

City Attorney McClure responded to questions from the City Council and clarified that by adopting the proposed resolution, the City isn't making any commitment that it will adopt an ordinance to go to by-district elections. Such decision may occur only after additional public hearings, providing opportunity for the community to weigh in on the various options that are presented to and considered by the City Council.

ACTION: Motion and second (Cline/Ohtaki) to adopt a resolution of intention to transition from at-large elections and authorize City Manager to enter into contract with National Demographics Corporation to assist in transition and conduct Public Hearings on October 30 and November 29; authorize City Manager to negotiate and enter into contract with National Demographics Corporation to with the City in exploring transition to by-district elections; Direct City Attorney and City Manager to explore transition from City at-large elections to alternative elections system for 2018 Elections; and appropriate \$75,000 from General Fund reserves to cover costs of the above; and hold the first two Public Hearings on October 30 and November 29, passed unanimously.

F. Adjournment

Mayor Keith adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Jelena Harada, Deputy City Clerk

These minutes were approved at the City Council meeting of November 14, 2017.