



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: 6/2/2020

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Special Meeting Location: [Joinwebinar.com](https://www.joinwebinar.com) – ID# 939-722-843

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, COVID-19, EMERGENCY ADVISORY NOTICE

On March 19, 2020, the Governor ordered a statewide stay-at-home order calling on all individuals living in the State of California to stay at home or at their place of residence to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, the Governor has temporarily suspended certain requirements of the Brown Act. For the duration of the shelter in place order, the following public meeting protocols will apply.

Teleconference meeting: All members of the City Council, city staff, applicants, and members of the public will be participating by teleconference. To promote social distancing while allowing essential governmental functions to continue, the Governor has temporarily waived portions of the open meetings act and rules pertaining to teleconference meetings. This meeting is conducted in compliance with the Governor Executive Order N-25-20 issued March 12, 2020, and supplemental Executive Order N-29-20 issued March 17, 2020.

- How to participate in the meeting
 - Submit a written comment online: menlopark.org/publiccommentJune2*
 - Record a comment or request a call-back when an agenda topic is under consideration: Dial 650-474-5071*
 - Access the special meeting real-time online at: [joinwebinar.com](https://www.joinwebinar.com) – Special Meeting ID 939-722-843
*Written and recorded public comments and call-back requests are accepted up to 1 hour before the meeting start time. Written and recorded messages are provided to the City Council at the appropriate time in their meeting. Recorded messages may be transcribed using a voice-to-text tool.
- Watch special meeting:
 - Cable television subscriber in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton, and Palo Alto: Channel 26
 - Online: menlopark.org/streaming

Note: City Council closed sessions are not broadcast online or on television and public participation is limited to the beginning of closed session.

Subject to Change: Given the current public health emergency and the rapidly evolving federal, state, county and local orders, the format of this meeting may be altered or the meeting may be canceled. You may check on the status of the meeting by visiting the City's website www.menlopark.org. The instructions for logging on to the webinar and/or the access code is subject to change. If you have difficulty accessing the webinar, please check the latest online edition of the posted agenda for updated information (menlopark.org/agenda).

According to City Council policy, all regular meetings of the City Council are to end by midnight unless there is a super majority vote taken by 11:00 p.m. to extend the meeting and identify the items to be considered after 11:00 p.m.

Closed Session (Teleconference)

A. Call To Order

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Carlton, Combs, Nash, Mueller, Taylor
Absent: None
Staff: City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, Assistant City Manager Nick Pegueros, Interim City Attorney Cara Silver, Labor Negotiator Charles Sakai

C. Closed Session

- C1. Closed session conference with labor negotiators pursuant to Government Code §54957.6 regarding labor negotiations with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 829 (AFSCME) and Confidential employees; Service Employees International Union Local 521 (SEIU); Menlo Park Police Sergeants Association (PSA); Menlo Park Police Officers' Association (POA); and Unrepresented Management

Attendees: City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, Assistant City Manager Nick Pegueros, Interim City Attorney Cara Silver, Labor Negotiator Charles Sakai

No reportable actions.

- C2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code section 54956.8.)
Property: 1467 Chilco Street, Menlo Park
Agency negotiator: Starla Jerome-Robinson, Justin Murphy, Cara Silver
Negotiating parties: Menlo Park Fire Protection District
Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

No reportable actions.

- C3. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code section 54956.8.)
Property: 1283 Willow Road, Menlo Park
Agency negotiator: Starla Jerome-Robinson, Justin Murphy, Cara Silver
Negotiating parties: Menlo Park Fire Protection District
Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

No reportable actions.

Adjournment

Mayor Taylor adjourned to the special session at 4:54 p.m.

Special Session ([Joinwebinar.com](https://www.joinwebinar.com) – ID# 939-722-843)

D. Call To Order

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

E. Roll Call

Present: Carlton, Combs, Nash, Mueller, Taylor
Absent: None
Staff: City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, Interim City Attorney Cara Silver, City Clerk Judi A. Herren

Update by Chief of Police on Recent Protests

(note: addition of this item will be subject to a vote by the City Council to add as an emergency item)

ACTION: Motion and second (Carlton/ Mueller) to add update by chief of police on recent protests to this agenda, passed unanimously.

Chief Bertini made the presentation.

The City Council received clarification on the San Mateo County curfew, permit requests for future protests, and the police departments use of force policy.

- Sarah Khale had questions on the Menlo Park police departments use-of-force tactics.
- Adina Levin spoke in support peaceful protesters continuing after the curfew without police involvement.

F. Regular Business

- F1. Provide direction on the use of one-time money, revenue increases, and capital improvement program funds to balance the fiscal year 2020-21 general fund budget ([Staff Report #20-113-CC](#))

[Web form public comment on item F1 \(Attachment\)](#).

Assistant Administrative Director Dan Jacobson introduced the item.

Nikki Nagaya made the presentation (Attachment).

The City Council discussed the use of -time money, revenue increases, and capital improvement program funds to balance the fiscal year 2020-21 general fund budget. The City Council received clarification on the Downtown streetscape improvements, Ravenswood Avenue Caltrain grade separation study, and Gatehouse on Table 3 (Attachment).

City Council directed staff to identify the best recommendation for a \$2.8 million in additional expenditure reductions in order to eliminate the deficit.

G. Adjournment

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

These minutes were approved at the City Council meeting of July 28, 2020.

Agenda item F1

Alexander Oesterling, Menlo Park resident

As a member of the Menlo Park community who has witnessed national uproar over the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, I strongly urge the City Council to consider reducing funding for our local police department. Although I respect and love our local police force, the fact of the matter is that our citizens give the police the right to use force to protect them, and as a citizen, I have seen how other police forces have abused this right and overstepped their boundaries as protectors of the community. This reduced funding can be used during this pandemic to help invest in local healthcare resources and support our local businesses. Nobody wants to resort to crime, and are often forced to because of socioeconomic troubles and a need for survival. Diverting our funding from preventing the symptom, crime, to tackling the cause, economic inequality, through greater investment in the poorest and most struggling members of our community will help improve the lives of all members of our community.

In addition to reducing funding, there are a few policy changes which can help make the police force more accountable and reduce risks of violence. When calling 911, adding additional dispatch resources for specific cases rather than directing all incidents to the police can help reduce cases of violence. Breonna Taylor was murdered because somebody called for a "check up" by the police. In 2014 in Half Moon Bay, Yanira Serrano Garcia was murdered by the police because the police were responding to a "family disturbance call." According to her family, this girl had a mental illness. If 911 diverted to mental-health dispatchers, they would have had a better grasp of the situation and how to help. These dispatches could also help with cases of suicide, among others.

In summary, I hope the city council can discuss diverting funding of the police force towards alternative efforts such as healthcare, relief for local businesses, and creating alternative dispatch resources to prevent sending the police into situations they are not trained or best equipped to handle. Thank you.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

June 2, 2020



CIP OVERVIEW

- 73 funded projects
- 34 received funding in FY2019-20
- 7 categories
 - Buildings & systems
 - Environment
 - Parks & recreation
 - Stormwater
 - Streets & sidewalks
 - Traffic & transportation
 - Water system

- Programmatic categories: Parks (minor), Sports field renovations, Traffic signal modifications, etc.



FUNDING THE CIP

- General fund: annual transfer of approximately \$3.0m
- Other sources:
 - Grants
 - Dedicated sources: water, transportation impact, stormwater, solid waste, etc.
 - Development agreement community benefits (e.g., Downtown amenities fund)
- Prior fiscal years, surplus revenues at the end of the year used to pre-fund CIP projects for the following year:
 - Santa Cruz Avenue Sidewalks (Phase 1)
 - Chrysler Pump Station
 - Nealon Park Playground
 - Sharon Road Sidewalks



EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Prioritization: Tiers 1, 2, and 3

- Requisite: Yes or No
 - Regulatory compliance
 - Preservation of City assets
 - Grant funding timelines
 - Correct an existing deficiency

- Progress planned for FY20-21: Yes or No



2019-20 CIP RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Name	Amount	Notes
Facilities maintenance master plan	\$0.15m	Not started
Welcome to Menlo Park monument signs	\$0.18m	Not started
Downtown streetscape improvements	\$0.30m	Alternate funds
Ravenswood Ave Caltrain grade separation study	\$0.29m	Alternate funds & resource constraints
Oak Grove bicycle project extension	\$0.08m	Not started & resource constraints
Willows Neighborhood Complete Streets	\$0.30m	Comp. efforts & resource constraints
Downtown parking structure study	\$0.72m	Prerequisites
Furniture replacement	\$0.40m	Prerequisites



FY2019-20 CIP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Total \$2.42m in funds

- Options to proceed
 - Repurpose to FY2020-21 needs
 - Returned to general fund to reduce anticipated deficit



FY2020-21 CIP AT-A-GLANCE

- 68 continuing projects
- 3 new projects
 - Belle Haven Community Center and Library
 - Willow Road and Newbridge Street Improvements (if awarded grant funds)
 - Willow Oaks Bike Connector
- \$19.5m infrastructure investment (reduced ~15% from \$23.8m)
- \$4.85m from General Fund CIP (reduced ~60% from \$12.5m)
- \$14.65m from other funding sources and grants (increased ~30%)



2020-21 CIP FUNDING STRATEGY

General Capital Funds	Amount
Annual capital transfer	\$3.00m
Repurpose 2019-20 capital funds	\$2.42m*
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$5.42m</i>
2020-21 capital needs	\$4.85m
<i>Balance remaining</i>	<i>\$0.57m</i>



COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTED

- Confirm 2019-20 projects to be repurposed, totaling \$2.42m
- Confirm 2020-21 projects to proceed, requiring \$4.85m
- Provide direction on up to \$3.00m annual capital transfer
- Provide direction on use of up to \$2.42m
 - Repurpose to FY2020-21 needs
 - Returned to general fund to reduce anticipated deficit



THANK YOU

Table 3: 2019-20 and carry-over projects proposed for reconsideration

Project category and name		Amount
<u>Lower priority projects that may be delayed</u>		<u>Status</u>
Facilities maintenance master plan	Not started	\$0.15m
Welcome to Menlo Park monument signs	Not started	\$0.18m
<u>Projects that may be funded by alternate sources</u>		<u>Alternate source</u>
Downtown Streetscape Improvements	Downtown amenities fund	\$0.30m
Ravenswood Avenue Caltrain grade separation study ¹	Measure A	\$0.29m ¹
<u>Projects that are resource constrained</u>		<u>Status</u>
Oak Grove, University, Crane bicycle project extension	Not started	\$0.08m
Ravenswood Avenue Caltrain grade separation study ¹	Not started	\$0.29m ¹
Willows Neighborhood Complete Streets Study	Complementary efforts underway	\$0.30m
<u>Projects that require other work as a prerequisite</u>		<u>Prerequisite</u>
Downtown parking structure study	Land use plan for parking plazas	\$0.72m
Furniture replacement	Library renovation/construction	\$0.40m
<p>Projects are listed in alphabetical order under each category. Ravenswood Avenue Caltrain grade separation study appears under both alternate funding and resource constrained category. While alternative funding sources exist as identified, the staff resource constraints currently in the transportation division would limit ability to advance this work in fiscal year 2020-21, regardless of the funding source identified, unless other projects are delayed.</p>		