



## SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 6/18/2020

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Special Meeting Location:** Joinwebinar.com – ID# 344-660-483

### 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/publiccommentJune18](https://menlopark.org/publiccommentJune18)\*
  - 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://joinwebinar.com) – Special Meeting ID 344-660-483  
\*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](https://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](https://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](https://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.

### Special Session ([Joinwebinar.com](https://www.joinwebinar.com) – ID# 344-660-483)

#### A. Call To Order

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

#### B. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Nash, Mueller, Taylor

Absent: Carlton

Staff: City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, Interim City Attorney Cara Silver, City Clerk Judi A. Herren

#### C. Regular Business

- C1. City Council direction to staff regarding actions city can take to respond to residents and visitors' concerns regarding local police practices [There is no staff report for this item]

[Web form public comment received on item C1. \(Attachment\).](#)

- Adriana Walker spoke on concerns of racial profiling in the police department.
- Karen Grove spoke on the national issues relating to local issues that need to be addressed.
- Gabriel Wolf spoke in support of law enforcement reform.
- Adina Levin spoke on concerns of racial profiling and in support of face and location data transparency.
- Soody Tronson spoke in support of increased transparency with police department data.
- Nicole Scarborough provided suggestions on the police department budget.
- Kevin Galligher spoke in support of AB2054.
- Andrew Olson spoke in support of updating the police departments hiring practices.
- Pamela Jones clarified that she supported more officers in the Belle Haven neighborhood, but not more police vehicles.
- Chris Adair spoke in support of the use of police officer body cameras.
- Caitlyn Marianacci spoke in support of using police department funding for the community services department.

The City Council discussed the comments received during the Telephone Town Hall meeting. The City Council received clarification on labor union agreements when considering diversity and longevity layoffs.

The City Council took a break at 6:38 p.m.

The City Council reconvened at 6:58 p.m.

**ACTION:** By acclamation, the City Council added an urgent closed session immediately following this special meeting to discuss the resignation of Police Chief Dave Bertini based on the personnel exception, passed 4-0-1 (Carlton absent).

**D. Adjournment**

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

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

## Agenda item C1 Charlotte Quinn

We do not care that it is defensible in court as legal. It is still wrong, immoral, and unconscionable that this city is accepting money from Facebook to pay for the Menlo Park Police Department, however indirectly you want to pretend it is. You need to put a stop to it immediately and dissolve the so-called Facebook police unit.

You also need to keep Menlo Park PD OUT of East Palo Alto. Respect EPA and respect that boundary. Keep Menlo Park PD out of EPA.

You need to decriminalize non-violent crimes, especially those which are poverty-induced such as dwelling in vehicles, homelessness, and trying to meet basic needs. Let's not forget George Floyd was murdered for trying to get food.

Cops should NOT be how a hungry person is responded to.

You need to change fines to be scaled by income – so they actually deter the very wealthy – which Menlo Park has many of, and do not overburden people. A ticket can mean not making rent, or not eating enough.

The people are asking for changes to schools and mental health services, which may fall outside the City Council's immediate control. Do not shrug them off as impossible because it is the County's current purview – push for these changes at the County level. Commit to services that make it so a cop isn't who is called to where someone is experiencing a mental health crisis.

And know that training is not sufficient in the least. Derrick Sanderlin, the Black man who trains San Jose cops on de-escalation and implicit bias was maimed by the very cops he trains while trying to de-escalate their violence.

If you can't figure out how to transition public safety away from policing and out of corporate pocketbooks, then take PD's money and Facebook's dirty money and hire people who can.

## Agenda item C1 Lynne Bramlett, resident

I think part of the solution is to have diversity goals for the MPPD. This is especially important at the management-level. Diversity would help reduce the problems that have led to this meeting. Diversity would have more police officers who can relate to those in the community because they would better understand where they are coming from. The Police also need some kind of multi-cultural training to help them to better understand the perspective of those who are afraid of the police. As a teacher, I was required to take such a course to get my credential. That's because most teachers are White and yet they teach a multi-cultural classroom. That multicultural class was a real eye opener for me and I think this kind of purposeful training is needed. We also need a culture of continuous improvement and to be open to input. Finally, we need a better City Satisfaction Survey process. The last one led to no actionable plans related to improvements. It was too much an affirmation of "all is great in MP." I wanted to add that I suggest that the Council establish diversity goals related to layoffs. I am disturbed to know that 4 police officers slated for a layoff are officers recruited for "diversity." Related to this, many long-term temps are employees of color and they are being laid off. One possible solution is to lay off the entire unrepresented management-level staff and have them reapply for their jobs. That would free up money via consolidations, etc. and the money used to preserve jobs of the lower-paid employees and especially those who are Blacks and Latinos.