

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, November 7, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Meeting Location
El Cerrito City Hall
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

Janet Abelson – Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Gabriel Quinto
Councilmember Greg Lyman

Councilmember Paul Fadelli
Councilmember Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Fadelli, Lyman, Pardue-Okimoto, Quinto and Mayor Abelson all present.

7:00 p.m.

CONVENE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Abelson convened the regular City Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OR OBSERVATION OF MOMENT OF SILENCE was led by Mayor Pro Tem Gabriel Quinto.

2. COUNCIL / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Lyman reported that the Fire Department is teaming up with U.S. Marine Corp Reserve on this year's Toys for Tots program and encouraged all to participate. He also noted the remarkable work of Sundar Shadi and thanked the City and volunteers for allowing the display to continue. The display will be up from December 10 to December 27 this year.

Councilmember Fadelli reported that he and Mayor Abelson attended the Centennial Tree planting on October 22. It's located on Ashbury. Councilmember Fadelli also reported that Restaurant Week was a success this year and that he also attended the annual Free Folk Festival.

Councilmember Fadelli recognized local Boy Scout Troop 104 for assisting George Akai, an 86 year-old senior, with property clean up and for helping clean up Baxter Creek.

Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto announced that she attended a rally and stroller brigade on November 5 in front of the Alta Bates Hospital to draw attention to the Hospital's proposed closure. The rally was very well attended. The community will keep pushing to keep the hospital open so it will continue to serve the City of El Cerrito and beyond.

Mayor Pro Tem Quinto reported that he and Councilmember Fadelli attended the October Contra Costa Mayors Conference in Lafayette. At the conference, East Bay Park Director, Robert Doyle, spoke about the benefits of Measure CC funds. On October 7, he attended hydrogen fuel cell opening station at the Toyota office in Bishop Ranch, San Ramon. On October 11, the councilmembers attended Los Moles' Grand Opening. On October 26, Mayor Abelson and Mayor Pro Tem Quinto attended the League of California Cities East Bay Division meeting in which Police Chief Keith was a speaker. Police Chiefs from San Leandro and Brentwood also attended. On October 29, Mayor Abelson, Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, and Mayor Pro Tem Quinto attended the Junction Avenue Block Party. On November 3, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto also attended the League of California Cities East Bay Division Executive Board meeting to work on future programming. He also attended the Save Alta Bates Hospital Rally and noted the importance of keeping Alta Bates Hospital open. He and Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto are members of the Alta Bates Task Force along with other local elected officials along the I-80 corridor and are doing what they can to keep Alta Bates Hospital open.

Mayor Abelson reported that during the October 3, 2017 Closed Session, the City Council discussed 6500 Stockton Avenue and 10848 San Pablo Avenue regarding senior services. The City Council gave direction to staff regarding the Senior Center. The city will vacate the Senior Center's current location by June 30, 2018 as required by the West Contra Costa Unified School District. The City is exploring other sites for the services.

Mayor Abelson also reported on her attendance at a League of California Cities informational briefing regarding recent housing legislation with Councilmember Fadelli and Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto. She hopes the legislation will help provide more housing opportunities for El Cerrito in the future. She also took the opportunity to look at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center where the legislative briefing took place. The Centennial Tree was planted on Ashbury at the south end of town and may live more than 500 years.

On October 18, Mayor Abelson attended the Fair Chance Employer Summit presented by the Contra Costa Workforce Development Board at the Community Center. Topics included how to provide employment opportunities for people released from prison, development of job skills, re-entry into society after incarceration and the prevention of recidivism.

The October 21 El Cerrito Arts Day was a really interesting event. The event provided a great opportunity to see the great work that the Arts and Culture Commission is doing. The ceremony opened with an Ohlone prayer and included a series of performances that took participants through different periods of California history. In October, the Committee on Aging and many other community groups organized a Senior Resource Fair Day held at the Community Center. The event was completely full. Mayor Abelson and Mayor Pro Tem Quinto attended the November Contra Costa Mayors Conference in Moraga where they received a presentation regarding retention of talented government employees.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

John Del Arroz, El Cerrito, stated that the use of police worn body cameras is an important public policy issue and asked that the issue be scheduled discussion at a future City Council meeting.

4. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR – Item No. 4(A) through 4(C)

Moved, seconded (Lyman/Quinto) and carried unanimously to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 4(A) through 4(C) as indicated below.

A. Approval of Minutes

Approve the October 3, 2017 Regular City Council meeting and October 3, 2017 Special City Council Closed Session meeting minutes.

Action: Approved minutes.

B. Support Prohibition of Industrial Clearcutting in California Forests

At the request of Councilmember Quinto, adopt a resolution calling on the state legislature and Governor Brown to prohibit the practice of industrial clearcutting in the forests of California and require forest management methods that maximize carbon sequestration and forest health.

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 2017-72.

C. Crime Prevention Committee Appointment

Approve a Crime Prevention Committee recommendation to appoint Jim Dolgonas to the Crime Prevention Committee, effective November 7, 2017.

Action: Approved recommendation.

5. PRESENTATION

Presentation regarding El Cerrito's emergency mutual aid assistance in and response to recent Northern California wildfire incidents – *Presentation by Michael Pigoni, Battalion Chief.*

Speaker: Denise Sangster, El Cerrito, stated that she learned two things from the wildfire incidents that she would like the City Council to address: 1) Clearly defined Red Flag Day rules for High Fire Severity Zones that would prohibit people from conducting activities such as cutting trees or metal pipes with a chainsaw; 2) Implement one unified evacuation notification system that also has a backup system.

Action: Received presentation.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

7. POLICY MATTERS

A. Service Employees Union Local 1021 Memorandum of Understanding

Adopt a resolution approving an agreement between the City of El Cerrito and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 1021 modifying salaries and creating a new Memorandum of Understanding.

Presenter: Kristen Cunningham, Senior Human Resources Analyst.

Speaker: Denise Sangster, El Cerrito, asked whether the Financial Advisory Board had reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding and expressed concerns about cashouts associated with accruals on unused vacation and the potential liability to taxpayers. Ms. Sangster said the process needs to be more transparent to disclose what the costs are.

Action: Moved, seconded (Pardue-Okimoto/Quinto) and carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 2017-73.

B. Charter City Discussion and Possible Direction

Adopt a resolution creating the El Cerrito Charter Committee to prepare a recommended charter for the City of El Cerrito and directing the City Manager and City Attorney to work with the Charter Review Committee.

Presenters: Scott Hanin, City Manager and Sky Woodruff, City Attorney.

Speakers: Michael Fischer, El Cerrito, expressed his support for the concept of a city charter, noted that the City Council ultimately decides what charter to put on the ballot and urged the City Council to take the next step.

Denise Sangster, El Cerrito, stated that she agrees with Mr. Fischer and that the charter is about taking more taxes from residents. Ms. Sangster said that everything should be on the table for discussion; however, she agrees with Mayor Pro Tem Quinto about protecting wages and personnel rights. She stated that she found conflicting information on the web about Proposition 13 and charter cities. Ms. Sangster queried whether new things can be layered around Proposition 13 to capture additional revenue.

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Quinto; Ayes – Councilmembers Lyman, Pardue-Okimoto, Quinto and Mayor Abelson; Noes – None; Abstain – Councilmember Fadelli; Absent - None) and carried to adopt Resolution No. 2017-74.

C. Repeal of Local Campaign Literature Disclosure Ordinance to Achieve Consistency with State Law

Introduce by title and waive any further reading, an ordinance repealing El Cerrito Municipal Code Chapter 2.32 – Campaign Literature Disclosure for Local Candidacies and Measures (Ordinance No. 92-2) to achieve consistency with State Law.

Presenter: Cheryl Morse, City Clerk.

Action: Moved, seconded (Lyman/Pardue-Okimoto) and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-06, an ordinance repealing El Cerrito Municipal Code Chapter 2.32 – Campaign Literature Disclosure for Local Candidacies and Measures (Ordinance No. 92-2) to achieve consistency with State Law. *Second reading scheduled for consideration on November 21, 2017.*

8. CITY COUNCIL LOCAL AND REGIONAL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Mayor and City Council communications regarding local and regional liaison assignments and committee reports.

Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto reported that the City of Berkeley was trying to get a bond to build a bathroom on the Gilman Fields; unfortunately, Berkeley was not able to get it so the project is currently on hold. The Gilman Fields Joint Powers Authority is trying to figure out how to apportion fees among each member city. More information will be presented at the next Gilman Fields JPA meeting.

Mayor Abelson announced that many attempts have been made to start an improvement project on the Ohlone Greenway between the two BART stations in

El Cerrito. The bids were always too high. This time Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer, was successful in getting a good price. The project will include making other improvements in the area in addition to fixing the irregular surface of the Greenway. Mayor Abelson said she and others are all looking forward to starting this nice project.

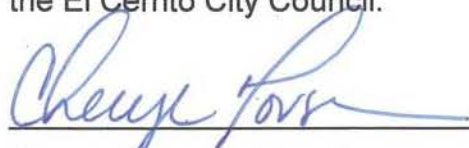
9. ADJOURNED REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING at 9:34 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS

Item No. 7(B) Charter City Discussion and Possible Direction

1. Revised land-use powerpoint slide – *Submitted by Sky Woodruff, City Attorney.*

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of November 7, 2017 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Morse", is written over a horizontal line.

Cheryl Morse, City Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janet Abelson", is written over a horizontal line.

Janet Abelson, Mayor