

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 20, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Members:

Mayor Paul Fadelli

Mayor Pro Tem Gabe Quinto · Councilmember Janet Abelson
Councilmember Lisa Motoyama · Councilmember Tessa Rudnick

Join Via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/99609813978?pwd=N2JaMmRjL0pHb3VFV21vNVRCM01qUT09>

Meeting ID: 996 0981 3978 **Password:** 503945
or Dial in: 1-408-638-0968

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, teleconference restrictions of the Brown Act have been suspended, as well as the requirement to provide a physical location for members of the public to participate in the meeting.

Members of the public can watch or listen to City Council meetings as follows:

1. Cable T.V. Broadcast on KCRT Channel 28
2. Radio Broadcast on FM 88.1 Or 97.7
3. Livestream Online at www.el-cerrito.org/CouncilMeetingMaterials
4. Via Zoom using the meeting information listed above.

Each period for public comment will be announced. Public Comments may be submitted one of two ways:

- Via Zoom using the “Raise Hand” icon to request to speak. If joining by phone, dial *9 to "raise your hand", and when prompted by the host, *6 to unmute/mute.
- Via email to cityclerk@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. Email must contain in the subject line **Public Comments – Not on the Agenda** or **Public Comments – agenda item #**.

To ensure City Council receives your written comments prior to taking action, they must be received by **2:30 p.m. the day of the meeting**. All written comments received by this deadline will be provided to the City Council and posted online in advance of the meeting.

Comments received after the deadline will be provided to the City Council and included with supplemental materials **after the meeting**. **No written comments will be read into the record.**

7:00 P.M. ROLL CALL – CONVENE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Fadelli called the meeting to order at 07:01 PM.

Present: Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Absent:** None

1. TELECONFERENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS

2. COUNCIL/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Reports of closed session, commission appointments and informational reports on matters of general interest which are announced by the City Council and staff.

Mayor Fadelli - reported on Special City Council meeting at 6:00 pm and an additional meeting for interviews scheduled for next week.

City Manager Pinkos - provided an update on County health orders, available city services, and vaccines; announced upcoming BART project presentation on May 4th, and workshop on fiscal recovery plan on May 8th.

Housing Analyst Ashoori - announced the award of a Main Street program grant award of \$500,000 to the Mayfair project at Del Norte BART for affordable housing.

Battalion Chief Grupalo - announced upcoming evacuation drill on May 2nd of the County Community Warning System Evacuation drill.

Councilmember Motoyama - announced Human Relations Commission will be holding additional truth and reconciliation sessions focusing on the Asian community.

Mayor Fadelli - commented on the recent Budget Townhall and clarified that the city is in a high fire zone, and Governor signed legislation for grants to local communities to prevent local fire hazards.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Remarks are typically limited to 3 minutes per person. The Mayor may reduce the time limit per speaker depending upon the number of speakers and may limit the total time for public comment to facilitate the completion of business on the agenda. Comments regarding non-agenda, presentation and consent calendar items will be heard first. Comments related to items appearing on the Public Hearing or Policy Matter portions of the Agenda will be heard prior to the City Council taking action on each item.

All written comments submitted prior to and during the meeting were posted online as supplemental materials and incorporated into the official meeting record. Written public comments for matters not on the agenda were received from Ira Sharenow, Gary Prost, Michael A. Fisher, and William Ktsanes.

Oral Public Comments:

Ira Sharenow - commented on the Budget Townhall and recent Financial Advisory Board meeting, State Auditor report, taxes, and building reserves.
Cordell Hindler - spoke on upcoming El Cerrito Plaza project presentation, rules of procedures, and in person meetings.

Sue Duncan - spoke regarding wildfire threats in the City, vegetation management standards, and cleanup of trees on Portola site.

Indy Rishi Singh - commented on personal experiences, cultural diversity and equality, raising awareness and education on the Sikh community.

Dianne Brenner - spoke regarding wildfire threats in the City.

William Ktsanes - commented on written comment submitted requesting Financial Advisory Board guidance.

4. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

All items on the consent calendar shall be acted upon in one motion, unless a member of the City Council or staff request separate consideration.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Rudnick/Councilmember Abelson **Action:**

Approved item A, D & E on the consent calendar as indicated below. **Ayes:**

Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

A. Letter of Support for AB332 Regarding Managing Treated Wood Waste

Action Proposed: At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, authorize the Mayor to sign a letter in support of AB 332 regarding managing treated wood waste in compliance with hazardous waste control laws. **Contact:** Holly M. Charl  ty, City Clerk, City Management
Action: Approved letter

B. Adopt a Resolution in Support of Developing a Regional Transportation System

Action Proposed: At the request of Seamless Bay Area, adopt a Resolution affirming the commitment and support of the development of an integrated regional transportation system.
Contact: Holly M. Charl  ty, City Clerk, City Management
Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Rudnick/Councilmember Motoyama
Action: Pulled from consent by Councilmember Abelson. Approved Resolution 2021-17. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

C. FY 2020-21 Third Quarter Cash and Investment Report

Action Proposed: Receive and file the City's Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter ending March 31, 2021.
Contact: Mark R. Rasiah, Finance Director/Treasurer, Finance Department
Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Motoyama/Mayor Pro Tem Quinto
Action: Pulled from consent by Councilmember Motoyama. Received and filed. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

D. Summary Vacation and Quitclaim of Utility Easement Areas on 6332 Barrett Avenue and 2570 Tassajara Avenue

Action Proposed: Adopt a resolution approving the summary vacation

and authorizing the City Manager to execute a Quitclaim of utility easement areas on 6332 Barrett Avenue and on 2570 Tassajara Avenue.
Contact: Ana Bernardes, Engineering Manager/Senior Engineer; Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Public Works Department
Action: Approved Resolution 2021-18

E. Accept the Annual Report on Landscape and Lighting Assessment District No. 1988-1 for Fiscal Year 2021-22, and Adopt a Resolution of Intention to Order Improvements; and Set the Public Hearing as May 4, 2021

Action Proposed: Accept the Engineer's Report specifying assessments for the Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District No. 1988-1 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 and adopt a Resolution of Intention to order improvements pursuant to the Landscape and Lighting Act of 1972, and set the time, date, and place of the public hearing as May 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Shannon Collins, Finance Supervisor, Finance Department
Action: Approved Resolution 2021-19

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. West Contra Costa Unified School District Portola Site Update

Action Proposed: Receive and file an update from the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) on the use of the Portola school site in El Cerrito.

Contact: Matthew Duffy, Superintendent, WCCUSD

Presentation and Discussion: Presenters and staff responded to comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding prioritization methods for facility improvements, traffic management plans, grade range of students, use of Cerrito Vista Park for recreation activities of the charter schools, desire for periodic updates on how the site use is progressing, evacuation plans, reasons why West County Mandarin School is being relocated to Pinole and not the Portola site, coordination with City staff on traffic coordination, bus service, efforts for alternative sites, accommodations for the large age range of students, use of tennis courts at El Cerrito High School, and removal of eucalyptus trees.

Action: Received and filed

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. POLICY MATTERS

A. Review of California State Auditor Report and Draft Corrective Action Plan

Action Proposed: Review and discuss the California State Auditor Report issued on March 16, 2021 and the proposed draft Corrective Action Plan

to be submitted to the State Auditor, and create a subcommittee of the City Council appointed by the Mayor to work with staff on implementation of the Plan.

Contact: Karen Pinkos, City Manager, City Management

Presentation and Discussion: Presenters and staff responded to comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding future discussion items under policy, administrative tools in the financial system to validate policies, review process for new policies, spending approval process, timing of monthly updates, best practices, inclusion of assumptions in proposed budget, department presentations, classification and compensation study, plans to hire a Human Resources Manager, authority for public safety staffing levels, car allowance for management, police restructuring and cost savings, outsourcing public safety, emergency services analysis, dedicated grant specialist, city poverty rate, cost recovery on senior services, language used and documentation to include with completed items on the response matrix.

The City Council recessed at 8:54 p.m. and reconvened at 9:02 p.m.

Public Comments:

All written comments submitted prior to and during the meeting were posted online as supplemental materials and incorporated into the official meeting record. Written public comments for this item were received from Ira Sharenow, Nick Zamorano and Marlene George.

Oral Public Comments:

Cordell Hindler - suggested using Koff and Associates for classification and compensation study.

Ira Sharenow - commented on the late start of the financial item, access Financial Advisory Board meeting video, timing of budget updates, and management salaries.

Sherry Drobner - spoke in favor of a classification and compensation study, expanding membership on Financial Advisory Board, and affordable housing.

Cathy Hanville - spoke regarding need for additional details in state audit response, council subcommittee on audit response, and need to care for all residents equally.

Linda Cain - commented on response to the audit and the hard work to come, and senior services.

Moved/Seconded: Mayor Fadelli/Councilmember Abelson

Action: Passed a motion directing city staff to: 1) Follow through and respond, as financially able, to the recommendations made by the March 2021 State Audit Report, that seek to increase transparency of the City's budget process and provide City Councilmembers with the information

needed to make more informed budgetary decisions; 2) Prepare a plan and work with City Council in ways to encourage and implement additional annual CalPERS contributions from all city employees; and 3) Update City Council on the federal funds that may come from the American Rescue Plan Act and, make plans in the immediate future for Council to approve deposit of no less than 80% of those funds into El Cerrito Reserve Fund.

Ayes: Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Motoyama/Mayor Pro Tem Quinto
Action: Passed a motion to strongly express the expectation of staff to meet and not exceed their departmental budget in FY2021-22. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Rudnick/Councilmember Motoyama
Action: Passed a motion to create a State Audit Fiscal Response Plan ad-hoc subcommittee of the City Council. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

Mayor Fadelli appointed Councilmember Motoyama and Councilmember Rudnick to the State Audit Fiscal Response Plan ad-hoc subcommittee.

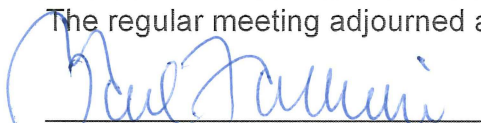
8. CITY COUNCIL LOCAL & REGIONAL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

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

Mayor Fadelli - announced new art murals completed as part of the Del Norte Bart station improvements.

9. ADJOURN REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting adjourned at 10:44 p.m.


Paul Fadelli, Mayor

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of April 20, 2021 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.


Holly M. Charléty, MMC, City Clerk