

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, JULY 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/93081439537?pwd=L0UvcVFQenJINjhGOFZsMnIzUIYwUT09>

Meeting ID: 930 8143 9537 **Password:** 442872
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 **4:00 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 7:00 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.

City Manager Pinkos - provided an update on the local emergency, including the recommendation for all individuals to wear masks in indoor public spaces; announced modified public hours for city buildings through the end of summer.

Councilmember Rudnick - announced July is homelessness awareness month and meetings regarding regional approach to homelessness.

Mayor Pro Tem Quinto - reported attendance at League of California Cities Board meeting and his appointment to a two-year term.

Councilmember Motoyama - reported attendance at East Bay Economic Development Alliance and Marin Clean Energy (MCE) meetings.

Councilmember Abelson - reported attendance at the Association of Bay Area Government (ABAG) meeting.

Mayor Fadelli - reported attendance at Richmond event supporting a Tibet Walk to Sacramento, and KARO-ECHO Field Day at Canyon Park; announced issuance of a Mayoral Certificate of Recognition in honor of El Cerrito business Olivero Plumbing upon serving the community for over 70 years; recognized Sean Bennett for his participation in the Tour de France; announced the City pool is fully open to the public, the start of hybrid council meetings beginning in August, and intent to sign a letter to the County Advisory Body for Measure X funding for support of funding for libraries.

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 Cordell Hindler, Shanti Corrigan, Susan Obayashi, Robin Mitchell, Mary D Ghidella, Ira Sharenow, Al Miller, Michael A. Fischer, and Rachel Rosekind; consent item #4F from Gary Prost, Sue Duncan, Nick Zamorano, and Marlene George; and consent item #4F from Jon Kaufman, Sue Duncan, Gary Prost, and Jim Dolgonas.

Oral Public Comments:

Ira Sharenow - commented on spending of Measure A funds, condition of city streets, city's fiscal liability and Standard and Poor's rating.

Sue Duncan - spoke in support of adopting consent item 4F and 4G.

Michael Fischer - commented on library access and funding and requested letters of support for Measure X funds to be provided to the County to fund additional library hours.

Linda Cain - commented on use of acronyms.

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: Mayor Pro Tem Quinto/Councilmember Motoyama **Action:** Approved the Consent Calendar as indicated below. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

A. Approval of Minutes

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve City Council Meeting minutes from May 4, May 8, May 18, May 26, and June 1.

Contact: Holly M. Charléty, City Clerk, City Management

Action: Approved minutes

B. Authorize Letter of Opposition for SB278

Action Proposed: As requested by Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, pass a motion authorizing Mayor Fadelli to sign a letter in opposition of SB 278 (Levy) requiring public agencies to directly pay retirees and/or their beneficiaries, and disallowed retirement benefits using general fund dollars.

Contact: Holly M. Charléty, City Clerk, City Management

Action: Approved letter

C. Authorize a Letter of Support for Cal Cities Proposed Resolution

Action Proposed: At the request of the City of Rancho Cucamonga, pass a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter in support of a proposed Cal Cities resolution on sales tax equity.

Contact: Karen Pinkos, City Manager, City Management

Action: Approved letter

D. Urban Forest Committee Appointment

Action Proposed: Approve an Urban Forest Committee recommendation to appoint Catherine "Cassie" Hughes to the Urban Forest Committee effective August 1, 2021.

Contact: Stephen Prée, Environmental Programs Manager / City Arborist, Public Works Department; Will Provost, Operations + Environmental Services Division Manager, Public Works Department

Action: Approved appointment

E. FY 2020-21 Fourth Quarter Cash and Investment Report

Action Proposed: Receive and file the City's Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter ending June 30, 2021.

Contact: Mark R. Rasiah, Finance Director/City Treasurer, Finance Department

Action: Received and filed

F. Resolution Declaring Wildfire Prevention and Safety a Top Priority

Action Proposed: At the request of Mayor Fadelli, adopt a Resolution Declaring Wildfire Prevention and Safety as a Top Priority for the City of El Cerrito.

Contact: Holly M. Charléty, City Clerk, City Management

Action: Approved Resolution 2021-37

G. Resolution in Support of a East Bay Joint Powers Agency for Vegetation Management

Action Proposed: At the request of Mayor Fadelli, adopt a Resolution in support of the formation of an East Bay Vegetation Management Joint Powers Agency.

Contact: Holly M. Charléty, City Clerk, City Management

Action: Approved Resolution 2021-38

H. Storm Drain Easement Acceptance and Agreement for 1431 Scott Street

Action Proposed: Adopt a resolution accepting a Storm Drain Easement from the 1431 Scott, LLC, "Owner", for public storm drain facilities located at 1431 Scott Street and authorizing the City Manager to execute an Easement Agreement.

Contact: Ana Bernardes, Engineering Manager; Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Public Works Department

Action: Approved Resolution 2021-39

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation Honoring Joseph Grupalo in Retirement

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation honoring Battalion Chief Joseph Grupalo for his many years of service to the City of El Cerrito.

Contact: Michael Pigoni, Fire Chief, Fire Department

Oral Public Comments:

Cordell Hindler - commented on appreciation for the hard work of Battalion Chief Grupalo.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Motoyama/Councilmember Abelson

Action: Approved Proclamation. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem

Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama,

Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

B. Drought and Wildfire Preparedness

Action Proposed: Receive and file presentations on drought and wildfire awareness from:

1. El Cerrito Fire Department
2. Pacific Gas and Electric
3. East Bay Municipal Utilities District

Contact: Michael Pigoni, Fire Chief, Fire Department

Presentation and Discussion: Presenters and staff responded to comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding public outreach strategies, staff training, concern for elderly community's ability to comply with vegetation management, impact of sectionalizing devices, undergrounding lines, age of system and plans for replacements of wood infrastructure, use of cameras for monitoring infrastructure, access to recycled water, importance of insecticides not getting into the water stream, pipe replacement, condition of local storage reservoirs, surcharge for high water usage, and how to engage excessive users to reduce consumption.

Oral Public Comments:

Linda Cain - request for city tree service to look at large trees for water usage.

Action: Received and filed

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Fire Hazard Abatement

*Exempt from CEQA review pursuant to Sections 15304 and 15308.
Public Hearing noticed 7/10/2021.*

Action Proposed: 1) Adopt a resolution declaring weeds, rubbish, litter, or other flammable material on certain real property identified in the resolution constitutes a public nuisance; and 2) Conduct a public hearing

and upon conclusion, adopt a resolution overriding objections by property owners and ordering the City Manager or their designee to abate certain public nuisances pursuant to El Cerrito Municipal Code Chapter 16.26.

Contact: David Yun, Fire Prevention Officer; Michael Pigoni, Fire Chief, Fire Department

Presentation and Discussion: Presenters and staff responded to comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding first time homeowners.

Moved/Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Quinto/Councilmember Rudnick

Action: Adopted Resolution 2021-40 (Declaring Public Nuisances), with updated Exhibit A. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

Public Hearing: Mayor Fadelli opened the public hearing.

No public comments

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Abelson/Councilmember Rudnick

Action: Closed the public hearing. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Abelson/Councilmember Rudnick

Action: Adopted Resolution 2021-41 (Overriding Objections). **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

7. POLICY MATTERS

A. FY 2020-21 General Fund Budget Update for May 2021

Action Proposed: Receive and file an update on City General Fund revenues and expenses for FY 2020-21 through May 2021.

Contact: Mark R. Rasiah, Finance Director/City Treasurer, Finance Department

Presentation and Discussion: Presenters and staff responded to comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding determination of fiscal year for application of taxes received, city hall debt service payments, small business licenses and late penalties, fiscal year application of received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, pension liability discount rate reduction impacts, setting aside funds for unfunded pension liability, ability to look at most recent month instead of two months prior, approach for managing reserve funds, update on credit rating, and current data on real property transfer taxes received.

Oral Public Comments:

Ira Sharenow - commented on need for better community engagement,

the state auditor's report, and pension liability.

Action: Received and filed

B. Adoption of Memorandum of Understandings between the City of El Cerrito and the El Cerrito Public Safety Management Association - Police Chief Unit and Fire Chief Unit

Action Proposed: Adopt a resolution approving an agreements between the City of El Cerrito and the El Cerrito Public Safety Management Association - Police Chief Unit (PSMA- Police Chief Unit) and Fire Chief Unit (PSMA - Fire Chief Unit) modifying language on salaries and benefits and creating new Memorandum of Understandings.

Contact: Alexandra Orologas, Assistant City Manager, City Management

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Motoyama/Councilmember Abelson

Action: Adopted Resolution 2021-42. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

8. CITY COUNCIL LOCAL & REGIONAL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

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

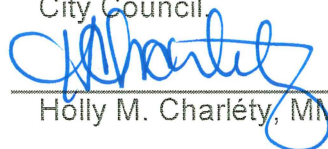
Mayor Pro Tem Quinto - reported on Hazardous Materials Commission work with County and other groups regarding rising sea levels.

9. ADJOURN REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting adjourned at 10:55 PM.


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 July 20, 2021 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.


Holly M. Charléty, MMC, City Clerk