

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 21, 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://us06web.zoom.us/j/87982009250?pwd=OVRReloyNVI3b1g5V1pNREl3RW5ndz09>

Meeting ID: 879 8200 9250 **Password:** 151459

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. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OR OBSERVATION OF A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

2. **TELECONFERENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS**

3. **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 - update on current health orders, new legislation related to the Brown Act and teleconferencing rules, and vaccines.

Mayor Pro Tem Quinto - Announced MCE bill discount assistance available, reported meeting with El Cerrito Rotarians regarding a July 4th celebration.

Mayor Fadelli - Reported attendance at West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee meeting, El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee informational forum on new Food Ware Ordinance, announced El Cerrito High School football win and congratulated student Zachary A Chen as a National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist.

PG&E Representative Mark Van Gorder provided an update on service in El Cerrito, impacts and challenges of power outages.

A. **City Council Financial Ad-Hoc Committee Update**

Councilmember Rudnick - provided an update on the Budget Ad-Hoc committee meetings held and work completed including review and feedback of response to state auditor.

Councilmember Motoyama - reported direction to city management on upcoming budget updates to be presented quarterly moving forward, to receive a more informative report in a format that is accessible with focus on the 5-10 year forecast and understanding the budget at a department level.

4. **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 Neil Tsutsui, Cordell Hindler, Robin Mitchell, John C. Stashik, and Theresa Parini; consent item #5G from Gary Prost and Sue and Paul Duncan.

Oral Public Comments:

Dave Weinstein - El Cerrito Historical Society, commented on contributions to El Cerrito by Chris Treadway and his current health condition.

Indy Rishi Singh - spoke regarding Thomas Paine, common sense, and transparency.

Diana Cantu-Reyna - commented on PG&E outages, public meeting access, and community engagement.

Linda Cain - commented on meeting access, future 4th of July events, and power outages.

Ms. Parini - spoke regarding challenges with homeless encampments on the Ohlone Greenway.

Stephanie Lew - commented on lack of response to the community and meeting accessibility, Indigenous Peoples Day recognition and land acknowledgement.

JT Pirog - spoke regarding meeting accessibility.

Sherry Drobner - spoke regarding Albany City Council meeting and presentation by Sogorea Te Land Trust.

John Stashik - commented on responsiveness of city staff, and homeless encampments on the Ohlone Greenway.

Anna - commented on engagement by and with the community.

5. 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 Motoyama

Action: Motion to Approve items A-F on 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 August 17 and August 31, 2021.

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

Action: Approved minutes

A. Urban Forest Committee Appointment

Action Proposed: Approve an Urban Forest Committee recommendation to appoint Melissa Feudi to the Urban Forest Committee, effective October 1, 2021.

Contact: Stephen Prée, Environmental Programs Manager/City Arborist; Will Provost, Operations and Environmental Services Division Manager;

Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Public Works
Department
Action: Approved appointment

B. Economic Development Committee Appointment

Action Proposed: Approve one Economic Development Committee recommendation to appoint a new member, Robert Travis Campbell, effective September 21, 2021.

Contact: Aissia Ashoori, Community Development Analyst, Community Development Department

Action: Approved appointment

C. Hispanic Heritage Proclamation

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation declaring September 15, 2021 - October 15, 2021, as Hispanic Heritage Month, by recognizing and celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

Contact: Alexandra Orologas, Assistant City Manager, City Management

Action: Approved proclamation

D. Suicide Prevention Awareness Proclamation

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation declaring September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the City of El Cerrito.

Contact: Alexandra Orologas, Assistant City Manager, City Management

Action: Approved proclamation

E. League of California Cities 2021 Annual Conference Resolutions Packet

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to authorize and provide direction to the annual conference voting delegate, Mayor Fadelli, to vote in favor of the proposed resolutions packet and Proposed Bylaws amendments for 2021.

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

Action: Directed voting delegate, alternate Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, to vote in favor of proposed resolutions and bylaw amendments.

F. Agreement with A Plus Tree Inc. for Tree Removal and Fire Hazard Reduction Work in the El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area

Action Proposed: Adopt a resolution approving and authorizing the City Manager to execute a General Services Agreement with A Plus Tree Incorporated for dead, dying, and hazardous tree removal and other fire hazard reduction work in the El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area in the amount of \$71,585 and approving a contingency amount not to exceed

15% of the contract amount, for a total not to exceed amount of \$82,323.
Contact: Stephen Prée, Environmental Programs Manager/City Arborist;
Will Provost, Operations + Environmental Services Division Manager;
Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Public Works
Department
Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Motoyama/Councilmember Abelson
Action: Pulled from consent by Councilmember Motoyama. Approved
Resolution 2021-45. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto,
Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember
Rudnick **Noes:** None

6. PRESENTATIONS

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Fire Hazard Abatement

*Exempt from CEQA review pursuant to Sections 15304 and 15308.
Public Hearing noticed 9/11/2021*

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 process, notification, and reporting potential hazards.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Rudnick/Councilmember Motoyama

Action: Adopted Resolution 2021-46 (Declaring Identified Properties).

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: Mayor Pro Tem Quinto/Councilmember

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

Moved/Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Quinto/Councilmember Abelson

Action: Adopted Resolution 2021-47 (Overriding Objections). **Ayes:**

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

8. POLICY MATTERS

A. Equity Considerations and Equity and Inclusion Workplan Action

Proposed: At the request of Mayor Fadelli, pass a motion directing the Human Relations Commission to work with staff to develop an Equity and Inclusion workplan for the community.

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 city representation on Government Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE) program, LGBT community and disability accessibility considerations, and process.

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 Al Miller, Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto, and Michael Fischer.

Oral Public Comments:

Al Miller - spoke in support of action, inclusion of community and city staff, as well as evaluations of staff to address performance in this area.

Michael Fischer - spoke in support of action.

Buddy Akacic - commented on organizing a community event on October 15th focused on equity and inclusion.

Moved/Seconded: Mayor Fadelli/Councilmember Rudnick

Action: Passed a motion to direct the Human Relations Commission to work with staff to develop an Equity and Inclusion workplan for the community. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

B. Study Session on Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Action Proposed: Conduct a study session on City Boards, Commissions, and Committees (Advisory Bodies) and provide staff direction regarding committee term length and limits, appointment and removal process for advisory bodies, and adopt a resolution authorizing conditions for automatic removal.

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

Presentation and Discussion: Presenters and staff responded to comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding ethics training, two-year terms, crime prevention regulations, incompatible offices, rotation of council liaisons, meeting attendance prior to appointment, orientation, interview questions, decreasing impact on staff liaisons, and quarterly meetings.

Oral Public Comments:

Al Miller - spoke on consideration of serving on multiple bodies simultaneously, incompatible offices, and potential for meetings without city staffing.

Howdy Goudy - commented on consistency within advisory type rather than across all advisory bodies, support of reducing or eliminating term lengths and limits for committees and reducing meeting requirements prior to appointment.

Dave Weinstein - commented on poor portrayal of importance of committees, and in favor of no term limits for committees.

Robin Mitchell - spoke in support of no term limits for committees and commented on meeting attendance requirements being too lengthy.

Indy Rishi Singh - commented on recognition for advisory body members and addressing discrimination against members.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Rudnick/Mayor Pro Tem Quinto

Action: Passed a motion directing staff to modify regulations for all city committees to be subject to three 4-year term limits. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

Moved/Seconded: Mayor Fadelli/Councilmember Abelson

Action: Passed a motion directing staff to modify regulations to require all boards, commissions, and committee applicants to attend two meetings within 3 months of applying in order to be considered for appointment, with the exception of Civil Service Commission and Citizens Streets Oversight Committee. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

City Council directed staff to move forward with developing interview questions specific to each board and commission, rather than standard questions for all advisory bodies.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Motoyama/Mayor Pro Tem Quinto

Action: Adopted Resolution 2021-48, modified to include notification to City Council prior to removal of a member. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Motoyama/Councilmember Abelson

Action: Passed a motion directing staff to modify regulations to require all board, commission, and committee members to complete ethics training and complete orientation and handbook training. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember

Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Abelson/Mayor Pro Tem Quinto

Action: Passed a motion to extend the meeting to 11:15 PM.

Ayes: Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson,
Councilmember Motoyama **Noes:** Councilmember Rudnick

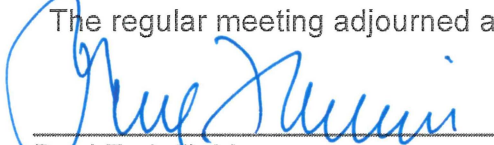
9. CITY COUNCIL LOCAL & REGIONAL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

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

Mayor Pro Tem Quinto - reported end of term as the East Bay Division President for League of California Cities.

10. ADJOURN REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting adjourned at 11:03 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 September 21, 2021, as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.



Holly M. Charl  y, MMC, City Clerk