

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING *(not televised)*
February 4, 2020 - 6:45 p.m. Hillside Conference Room

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 4, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

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

Members:
Mayor Gregory B. Lyman

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Fadelli • Councilmember Janet Abelson
Councilmember Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto • Councilmember Gabriel Quinto

6:45 ROLL CALL - CONVENE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Mayor Lyman called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

Present: Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember
Pardue-Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

1. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

All persons wishing to speak should sign up with the City Clerk. Remarks are typically limited to 3 minutes per person and to items on the special meeting agenda only.
None

2. COMMISSION INTERVIEWS, STATUS, AND APPOINTMENTS

Action Proposed: Staff requests that City Council confer with staff regarding the ongoing recruitments, any remaining vacancies, consider pending applicants, and the scheduling of further special meetings to conduct interviews (if applicable). Council may decide to make appointments at the conclusion of the meeting.

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

Moved/Seconded: Mayor Lyman/Councilmember Quinto **Action:** Conducted one interview and approved the following appointment: 1) Ajay Friesen to Financial Advisory Board for a partial term of 2/4/2020 - 3/1/2021 **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** None **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

3. ADJOURN SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
The special meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM

7:00

ROLL CALL – CONVENE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Lyman called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Present: Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OR OBSERVATION OF MOMENT OF SILENCE (COUNCILMEMBER PARDUE-OKIMOTO)

Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto

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.

Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto - reported attendance at League of Cities dinner in Sacramento and Budget Town Hall meeting.

Councilmember Quinto - reported attendance at county commission meeting, Environmental Policy committee meeting, league policy meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli - reported attendance at the East Bay Division of League of CA Cities conference, Transportation Policy committee meeting, and governor's preservation award ceremony for Contra Costa Florist.

Mayor Lyman - reported the appointment of Ajay Friesen to the Financial Advisory Board, attendance at West County Mayors Conference, encouraged return of 2020 census questionnaires, reminder of March 3 election and reminder that the regular city council meeting is cancelled, thanked those who participated in the Budget Town Hall.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

All persons wishing to speak should sign up with the City Clerk. Remarks are typically limited to 3 minutes per person. The Mayor may reduce the time limit per speaker depending upon the number of speakers. Kindly state your name and city of residence for the record. 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 are taken up at the time the City Council deliberates each action item. Individuals wishing to comment on any closed session scheduled after the regular meeting may do so during this public comment period or after formal announcement of the closed session.

Barbara Chan - spoke regarding the town hall meeting, suggested diversifying revenue and not focusing on cutting services and taxes.

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 Quinto/Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto

Action: Approved the consent calendar as indicated below. **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto

Noes: None **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

A. Approval of Minutes

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings of December 17, 2019 and January 7, 2020.

Contact: Holly M. Charl  ty, City Clerk, City Management

Action: Approved minutes

B. Black History Month Proclamation

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation declaring February as Black History Month in the City of El Cerrito.

Contact: Kristen Cunningham, Human Resources Manager, Human Resources Department

Action: Approved proclamation

C. Lunar New Year Proclamation

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Lunar New Year in the City of El Cerrito.

Contact: Kristen Cunningham, Human Resources Manager, Human Resources Department

Action: Approved proclamation

D. Economic Development Committee Appointment

Action Proposed: Approve an Economic Development Committee recommendation to appoint Rachel Melby to the Economic Development Committee, effective February 4, 2020.

Contact: Jennifer Peat, Management Assistant/EDC Staff Liaison
Melanie Mintz, Community Development Director, Community Development Department

Action: Approved appointment

E. MUFG Union Bank Funds Transfer Authorization of Signatories

Action Proposed: Adopt a resolution authorizing the listed signatories as included on the attached MUFG Union Bank Funds Transfer Authorization Form.

Contact: Shannon Collins, Finance Supervisor, Finance Department

Action: Approved Resolution 2020-07

F. Quarterly Cash and Investment Report

Action Proposed: Receive and file the City's Quarterly Investment Report for the Quarter ending December 31, 2019.

Contact: Mark Rasiah, Finance Director/Treasurer, Finance Department

Action: Received and filed

G. Annual payment for El Cerrito's share of the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority operating expenses for calendar year 2019

Action Proposed: Adopt a resolution authorizing payment for the City of El Cerrito's share of the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority's operating expenses for calendar year 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$81,200.

Contact: Maria Sanders, Operations + Environmental Services Division Manager

Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Public Works Department

Action: Approved Resolution 2020-08

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation for Officer of the Year

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation commending and congratulating Detective Ryan Trac as the 2019 Officer of the Year.

Contact: Paul Keith, Police Chief, Police Department

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto/Councilmember Quinto **Action:** Approved proclamation **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** None **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

B. Proclamation for Professional Staff of the Year

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation commending and congratulating Records Specialist Veronica Ceja as the 2019 Professional Staff Member of the Year.

Contact: Paul Keith, Police Chief, Police Department

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Quinto/Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto **Action:** Approved pro **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** None **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

C. Proclamation for Volunteer of the Year

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation commending and congratulating Vivian Bocanegra as the 2019 Volunteer of the Year.

Contact: Paul Keith, Police Chief, Police Department

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto/Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli **Action:** Approved proclamation **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** None **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

D. West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) Measure on Classroom Modernization and Safety Update (Measure R)

Action Proposed: Receive and file a brief overview of the March 3, 2020 Measure for WCCUSD.

Contact: Marcus Walton, Communications Director, WCCUSD

Presentation and Discussion: Matt Duffy, Superintendent, provided an overview of Measure R and responded to comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding crowding and enrollment at various campuses, rebuilding unused campuses, prioritizing Stege and Fairmont, facilities master plan, adding windows at JFK High School, potential of Proposition 13 funds, processing for prioritizing, use of property taxes, cost controls, audits, and charter schools.

Individuals introduced in support of Measure R included Demetri Gonzales, representative of teachers in West Contra Costa County; Tom Panas, School Board Member; Consuelo Lara, School Board Member; and Luis Freeze, Superintendent of Operations.

Public Comments:

Ben Steinberg- spoke regarding lack of accountability and transparency by the district, wasteful spending, district staff has requested rolling back oversight by committee on bond measure.

Denise Sangster - commented on lack of explanation on amount of bonds and repayments.

Al Miller - spoke regarding all schools in El Cerrito has been rebuilt or refurbished, and building good schools is building schools that will last, feels we have a moral responsibility to support the projects.

Action: Received and filed

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. POLICY MATTERS

A. Long Term Financial Forecast and Budget Study Session

Action Proposed: Receive and file an update on the City's General Fund Long Term Financial Forecast (LTFF) and provide staff with directions on budget reductions for the FY 20-22 biennial budget.

Contact: Karen Pinkos, City Manager, City Management

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 estimates for real property transfer taxes (RPTT), property turnover, reduction to RPTT forecast for 20/21, pension costs, clarification on increase requested for fire overtime, uses of RPTT funds, creating a

separate fund for the Emergency Reserves (EDRF), needs to increase bond rating, Financial Advisory Board (FAB) recommendation for EDRF fund, length of forecast, and reduction options including changing days city hall is closed.

Public Comments:

Judith Frank - spoke regarding the town hall meeting and upcoming strategic plan meetings, and desire to not have any new taxes imposed.

Rose Stamm - spoke regarding need for staff reductions and need to pursue grants.

Nick Zamorano - spoke regarding town hall meeting and expectation of increased transparency and leadership of council and staff, non-essential services should be considered first, not public safety and fire prevention.

Paul Duncan - spoke regarding town hall meeting and urged council not to consider cuts to public safety, fire prevention and vegetation management.

Howdy Goudey - spoke regarding town hall meeting, need for a more realistic forecast, and responsibility to have reserves when needed.

Jerry Figone - spoke regarding the condition of Fairmont School and the need to back public safety.

Marlene George - spoke regarding town hall meeting, need for at least 10% in reduction, not in favor of layoffs, public safety and fire prevention are a priority, consider cutting consultants, reduce Recreation down to the self-funded amounts, and charging for EMS services.

Denise Sangster - spoke regarding the reimbursement costs for fire services, need for public safety, lack of discussion on diversifying the tax base, and generating revenues.

Sherry Drobner - spoke regarding town hall meeting, need for increased oversight by council, and felt the presentation was not adequate for the needed discussion.

Linda Cain - questioned how the city got to this point, stated that senior center and library are not dispensable programs.

Council Discussion: Presenters and staff responded to additional comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding next steps, return with two million in cuts to evaluate and determine how to move forward, clear information at the next meeting regarding the 4th of July and Earth Day events, inclusion of the cost of all other city sponsored events, senior service costs, potentially ending the midtown center contract, potential increase to revenue sources such as cannabis sales, and increases to grant writing.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto/ Councilmember Quinto **Action:** Passed a motion to extend the meeting to 10:50 PM **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** None **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

B. Amending the Real Property Transfer Tax Collection Process (Notice Published 1/25/2020)

Action Proposed: It is recommended that the City Council 1) introduce by title and waive any further reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 4.64 of the El Cerrito Municipal Code regarding administration of the Real Property Transfer Tax; and 2) adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with the County of Contra Costa for collection of the Real Property Transfer Tax.

Contact: Shannon Collins, Finance Supervisor, Finance Department
Presentation and Discussion: Presenters and staff responded to comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding current process, and how much in potential uncollected taxes.

Moved/Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli/Councilmember Quinto
Action: Passed a motion to extend the meeting to 11:00 PM **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** None **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

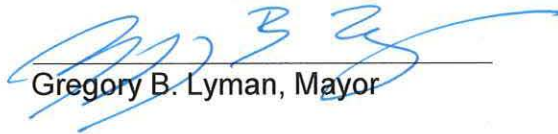
Moved/Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli/Councilmember Quinto
Action: Approved Resolution 2020-09 with the first WHEREAS clause revised to read as follows "the People of the City of El Cerrito approved becoming a Charter City and a Real Property Transfer Tax (Ordinance 2018-03) at the November 6, 2018 general election." **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Quinto/Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli
Action: Introduced by title and waived the first reading of Ordinance 2020-02 with the first WHEREAS clause revised to read as follows "the People of the City of El Cerrito approved becoming a Charter City and a Real Property Transfer Tax (Ordinance 2018-03) at the November 6, 2018 general election." **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

8. CITY COUNCIL LOCAL & REGIONAL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS *Mayor and City Council communications regarding local and regional liaison assignments and committee reports.*
None

9. ADJOURN REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 PM



Gregory B. Lyman, Mayor

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the City Council meeting(s) of February 4, 2020 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.



Holly M. Charléty, MMC, City Clerk