

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING (not televised)

February 18, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

Hillside Conference Room

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 18, 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

6:00 P.M. ROLL CALL - CONVENE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Lyman called the meeting to order at 6:02 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.

Cordell Hindler - spoke regarding evaluation of pros and cons for labor negotiations, and the need for cost of living adjustments.

2. CLOSED SESSION CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Agency Designated Representatives: Karen Pinkos, City Manager; Glenn Berkheimer, Labor Negotiator; Sky Woodruff, City Attorney; Alexandra Orologas, Assistant City Manager; and Kristen Cunningham, Human Resources Manager.

Employee Organizations: El Cerrito Police Employees Association; Public Safety Management Association - Battalion Chief Unit; Public Safety Management Association - Police Management Unit; United Professional Firefighters Local 1230; Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1021; and Management/Confidential Employees.

Contact: Sky Woodruff, City Attorney, City Management

City Council convened to closed session at 6:03 PM. No reportable action.

3. ADJOURN SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The special meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM

7:00 P.M. 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 - Mayor Lyman**

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 Lyman reported out from closed session that staff provided direction to labor negotiators.

Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli - reported attendance at Urban Forest Committee event, Elks Club dinner and Police Awards ceremony; and reminder to vote on March 3.

Councilmember Quinto - reported attendance at Mayor's Conference.

Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto - reported attendance at Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) meeting.

Mayor Lyman - reported attendance at Mayor's conference, Elks Club dinner and Police Awards ceremony; reminder to participate in the Census.

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.

Cordell Hindler - shared information about local events, spoke on the commercial property costs.

Michael Fischer - spoke in support of keeping additional library hours funded and benefits from the added hours.

Al Miller - spoke in support of keeping additional library hours funded and benefits from the added hours.

Gary Prost - inquired as to why city has been turned down for fire mitigation

grants; suggested elimination of travel & training, subscriptions & dues, and field trips (except in public safety).

Dave Weinstein - shared details of annual report of the Historical Society.
Dianne Brenner - spoke in support of under-grounding utilities, and removal of eucalyptus trees.

Eddie Nodal - Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and city employee, support and thanked council for prior discussions putting layoffs and furloughs as a last resort.

Laurenteen Brazil - SEIU and city employee, requested council to step up and be more engaged in the budget review process, support of diversifying tax base and attracting development, requested council to directly ask SEIU staff for input.

Jose Martinez - SEIU staff representative spoke regarding staff on reduced work week and limited staffing levels, looking into revenue for reassessing commercial real estate, and getting input from SEIU employees.

Fletcher Oaks - Richmond resident spoke on use of El Cerrito services, appreciation of cultural events particularly the World One event, and support of keeping additional library hours.

Deborah Long - spoke regarding benefits of maintaining additional library hours for EL Cerrito students.

Paul Duncan - spoke in support of maintaining and enhancing public safety budget for wildfire safety.

Susan Duncan - spoke in support of funding and prioritizing wildfire safety and prevention.

Marlene George - spoke regarding specific submitted questions regarding changes in the city manager's budget, salaries, and use of consultants.

Nick Zamorano - spoke on potential new revenue source in charging for Emergency Medical Service calls.

Buddy Akacic - spoke regarding attendance at strategic plan workshop and inquired as to the absence of Councilmember Abelson.

Varenya - spoke regarding the design for the El Cerrito flag and shared design idea of a new flag for El Cerrito.

Barbara Chan - spoke in support of a full state audit, keeping community events, additional library hours, questioned why the city did not apply for a grant to rebuild the library.

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 Pardue-Okimoto/Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli

Action: Approved A, C and D on the consent calendar as indicated below.

Ayes: Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** None **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

A. Women's History Month Proclamation

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation designating March as "Women's History Month" and March 8, 2020 as "International Women's Day" in the City of El Cerrito.

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

Action: Approved proclamation

B. Arbor Week Proclamation

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation designating March 7 through March 14, 2020 as El Cerrito Arbor Week.

Contact: Stephen Prée, Environmental Programs Manager/ City Arborist, Public Works

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto/Councilmember Quinto **Action:** Cal Fire presented the City with Tree City USA Plaque. Approved proclamation **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** None **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

C. Recognize March 10, 2020 as the 61st Anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising, and Affirm Support to the People of Tibet

Action Proposed: At the request of the El Cerrito Human Relations Commission, adopt a resolution declaring: 1) March 10, 2020, the 61st anniversary of the Tibetan national uprising, as "Tibet Day" in the City of El Cerrito and display the Tibetan flag at City Hall; and 2) Declaring El Cerrito's expression of solidarity with the Tibetan people and their just, peaceful, and non-violent movement to remind the world of the ongoing suppression of human rights and freedom in Tibet and the continuous degradation of culture, religion, land, and identity of the Tibetan people by China.

Contact: Human Relations Commission; Kristen Cunningham, Staff Liaison/Human Resources Manager, City Management

Action: Approved Resolution 2020-10

D. Crime Prevention Committee Appointment

Action Proposed: Approve a Crime Prevention Committee recommendation to appoint Dorothy Herzberg to the Crime Prevention Committee, effective February 18, 2020.

Contact: Ian Wong, Detective Sergeant/CPC Staff Liaison, Police Department

Action: Approved appointment

E. Formation of a Council Policy Subcommittee

Action Proposed: At the request of Mayor Lyman, pass a motion to form a City Council Ad Hoc subcommittee on council rules and procedures, consisting of Mayor Lyman and Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli.

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

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Quinto/Councilmember Pardue-

Okimoto **Action:** Pulled from consent by Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto, Mayor Lyman clarified intent for discussion on policies, including rotation rules, procedure for introducing items, ethics, training, rules of order and procedure, and travel. Approved formation of subcommittee. **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue- Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** None **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

F. 2nd Reading and Adoption of Ordinance Amending the Real Property Transfer Tax Collection Process

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to waive the second reading and adopt Ordinance 2020-02 amending Chapter 4.64 of the El Cerrito Municipal Code regarding administration of the real property transfer tax.

Contact: Shannon Collins, Finance Supervisor, Finance Department

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Quinto/Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli

Action: Pulled from consent by Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto. Approved Ordinance 2020-02 **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

5. PRESENTATIONS

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. POLICY MATTERS

A. Transmittal of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ending June 30, 2019.

Action Proposed: Receive and file the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ending June 30, 2019.

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

Presentation and Discussion: Presenter and staff responded to comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding clarification of non-spendable fund balance and unrestricted fund balance, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability reporting requirements, changes in net pension liabilities, senior center and effect on reserves, spending of measure V funds, prior practice for presenting Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) to council, write off of Redevelopment Agency (RDA) pending litigation, potential recession in the future, public safety overtime funding, auditor selection process, change in net position, and outstanding debts.

Action: Received and filed

B. FY 2019-20 Mid-Year Budget Update

Action Proposed: Receive an update on City revenues and expenditures for the first six months of the fiscal year through December 31, 2019 and adopt a resolution authorizing amendment to the FY 2019-20 budget and approving new spending limits.

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 police and fire reductions, library hours, what is included in SB 1 funds, cannabis sales, assumptions related to real property transfer tax, request for better explanation of fire overtime costs, salary comparisons, and costs of boards and commissions.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Quinto/Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli **Action:** Approved Resolution 2020-11 **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** None **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

C. Discussion of City Events

Action Proposed: Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding City events.

Contact: Karen Pinkos, City Manager, City Management Department
Christopher Jones, Recreation Director, Recreation Department

Presentation and Discussion: Presenters and staff responded to comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding breakdown of revenues received and non-staff expenses, breakdown of the costs for July 3 vs July 4, increasing sponsorship, Arts & Culture Commission sponsorship, earth day revenue, and breakdown of staff overtime costs.

Public Comments:

Corey Mason - spoke regarding commitment to working with the city to reduce expenses and innovate, fundraising and creatively meet the immediate budgetary needs.

Al Miller - spoke in support of continuing the World One event.

Nick Zamorano - spoke in support of suspending the World One event.

Marlene George - spoke in support of suspending the World One event.

Kimberly Theurich - spoke in support of continuing the World One event.

Howdy Goudey - spoke in support of continuing the World One event.

Judith Frank - expressed appreciation to council for taking this process seriously and need to look at full 2M in requested cuts.

Anne Ogonowski - spoke in support of continuing the World One event.

Council Discussion: Presenters and staff responded to additional comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding stopping events versus suspending for this year, efficiencies to cut costs or be cost neutral, and increase to volunteers.

Moved/Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli/Councilmember Quinto **Action:** Passed a motion to extend the meeting to 10:45 PM **Ayes:** Mayor Lyman, Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue- Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** None **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto/Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli **Action:** Passed a motion providing staff direction to move forward with the 3rd and 4th of July events with reductions in non-staff expenses to the maximum amount, reducing staff double time costs, increasing revenue through whatever means available and additional sponsors, including increasing the Arts and Culture budget spending on the event; proceed with National Night Out with reductions in staffing; no changes to the MLK event at this time; Earth Day event scaled back, potentially by modifying events at the community center; suspend Tri Safety Day; suspend Loving Day; and scale back Bike to Work based on the fact that we have already incurred the non-staff expenses. **Ayes:** Mayor Pro Tem Fadelli, Councilmember Pardue-Okimoto, Councilmember Quinto **Noes:** Mayor Lyman **Absent:** Councilmember Abelson

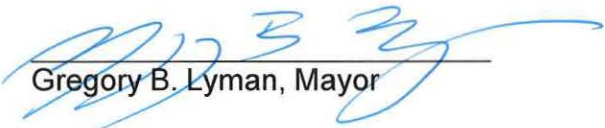
8. CITY COUNCIL LOCAL & REGIONAL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

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

None

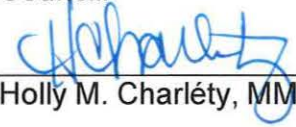
9. ADJOURN REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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



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 18, 2020 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.



Holly M. Charléty, MMC, City Clerk