

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY/ EL CERRITO EMPLOYEE PENSION TRUST BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 18, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING – CLOSED SESSION

Monday, June 18, 2018 – Immediately Following the Special Concurrent Meeting
Hillside Conference Room

Meeting Location

El Cerrito City Hall
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito

ROLL CALL

Present: Council/Authority/Board Members Abelson, Fadelli, Lyman, Pardue-Okimoto and Mayor/Chair Quinto

CONVENE SPECIAL CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL / PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY / EL CERRITO EMPLOYEE PENSION TRUST BOARD MEETING

Mayor/Chair Quinto convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OR OBSERVATION OF MOMENT OF SILENCE**
2. **COUNCIL/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Pro Tem Pardue-Okimoto reported on the Loving Day events and thanked the Human Relations Commission for putting together the events.

Councilmember Lyman announced that the del Norte BART Station modernization project will require closing the west parking lot starting the evening of June 29th through July 1st.

He reported that in the past year his family has had both the Police and Fire Departments respond to instances at his personal residence. Councilmember Lyman expressed thanks to them for the exceptional professional services they provide to the community.

Councilmember Abelson stated that she attended the screening of *The Case*

Against 8 and recommended the book *Love on Trial*.

Councilmember Fadelli applauded the Human Relations Commission for their hard work. He also asked everyone to bear with the parking inconveniences at the BART station over the next couple of months.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Al Miller, El Cerrito, thanked the Human Relations Commission for providing the Library Foundation with a booth during the Loving Day event.

4. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR – *No items.*

5. PRESENTATION – *None*

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Proposed City Charter

This public hearing is being held by the City Council of the City of El Cerrito for the purpose of considering submission of a proposed charter to the voters of El Cerrito at the regularly scheduled election on November 6, 2018. El Cerrito is currently organized as a general law city under California law. If El Cerrito voters approve a charter, El Cerrito will be organized as a charter city, as provided for in the proposed charter. At the public hearing, the City Council will consider the proposal of a charter and the content of the proposed charter.

Presentation: City Manager Scott Hanin and City Attorney Woodruff presented the staff report and answered questions raised by members of the Council.

Public Hearing: Mayor Quinto opened the public hearing.

Speakers: Michael Fischer, El Cerrito, spoke in favor of the measure. He asked the Council to consider adding water conservation and reclamation to the list of items eligible for rebate as part of the real property transfer tax. He stated the City is fiscally responsible and the revenues from the proposed tax will provide some financial relief.

Paul Taybi, El Cerrito, expressed concern that the public has not been given sufficient facts, time or proper notice of meetings. He requested that the Council hold another public hearing on this matter before voting on this.

Ralph Fabrizio, El Cerrito, stated his belief that the rebates will only benefit the younger generation moving into the City. He stated the proposed \$12 per \$1,000 is too great an increase. Mr. Fabrizio suggested that if the City moves forward with this, it not fund any new initiatives.

Al Miller, El Cerrito, spoke in favor of the measure. He urged residents to learn how to obtain information on what the City is doing through various media platforms or sign up for e-notifications.

Susan Pricco, El Cerrito, informed the Council that she is the Chair of the West Contra Costa Branch of the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association. She stated that local residents have asked them to analyze the pros and cons of charter cities. She mentioned some charter cities have filed for bankruptcy. Based on this analysis, she urged the Council to proceed with caution.

Robin Mitchell, El Cerrito, stated her support for the measure. Having attended several of the Charter Committee meetings, she thought it was a good process. She expressed concern that if the City doesn't have the funding to keep its infrastructure in good condition and provide the programs the citizens want, real estate values will go down.

Howdy Goudey, El Cerrito, spoke in favor of the process and its outcome and stated his support of the proposed real property transfer tax and the rebates. He emphasized that the charter will give the public more power, as only the voters can make amendments to the charter.

Lisa Martinengo, El Cerrito, said she was unclear on several points, such as: 1) whether council term limits will be included; 2) the process to amend the charter; 3) do the potential revenues projected include the rebates; and 4) what is the plan for funding if the charter does not pass.

Barbara Chan, El Cerrito, stated she is not for or against the measure at this time. She questioned why the City needs more revenues despite the number of expensive real estate transactions in recent years. She asked if funds could be earmarked for certain things such as the library. She also stated she would like to see another public hearing on this topic.

Eric Becker, El Cerrito, questioned why the charter and tax aren't being voted on separately. He also asked why the rebate program doesn't apply to current homeowners.

Linda Cain, El Cerrito, noted that the City has been working on this for a while, but people still have a lot of unanswered questions that she hopes will be addressed.

There being no other speakers, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Discussion: Members of the Council addressed questions raised by the speakers. Each member of the Council expressed their support for placing a measure on the ballot asking the voters to approve the City becoming a charter city and approving a real property transfer tax.

The City Manager informed the Council and audience that staff will be presenting proposed charter language and proposed language for the real property transfer tax at a future meeting and the Council will be asked to take action to place a measure on the ballot at its meeting of July 17, 2018.

7. POLICY MATTERS

CONCURRENT CITY COUNCIL/PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY AND EL CERRITO EMPLOYEE TRUST BOARD ITEM

Proposed Fiscal Year 2018-19 and 2019-20 Biennial Budget

Continued discussion on the city budgets. The City Council will provide direction, as necessary to staff. *Please refer to materials provided and posted with June 11, 2018 agenda packet.*

Discussion: Finance Director Mark Rasiah and members of staff addressed questions raised by members of the Council/Authority/Board.

Council/Authority/Board Member Lyman asked that the Financial Advisory Board take a look at the City's investment policy as it relates to divesting from business that do business with ICE as supported by many residents.

Council/Authority/Board Member Pardue-Okimoto asked that the Financial Advisory Board look into the issue of salaries and health benefits for members of the Council. She stated that salaries have remained flat for many years and that increasing salaries might encourage others to run for local office.

Speakers: Michael Fischer, El Cerrito, stated the importance of providing residents information on what services and benefits are provided by the City in a clear and simple manner. He noted that El Cerrito is a full-service city.

Al Miller, El Cerrito, thanked the Council for keeping their promise to increase library hours.

Howdy Goudey, El Cerrito, said he appreciates and understands the challenges the Council faces with the budget. He stated that it is important to also have a disaster response fund in addition to a general reserve fund.

Action: No action taken. The Council/Authority/Board will consider adoption of the budget at a meeting on June 19, 2018.

8. CITY COUNCIL LOCAL AND REGIONAL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

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

Councilmember Fadelli reported that he attended the last RecycleMore meeting, at which the budget was approved. He stated that the West County cities gave direction to staff to come back with a final determination on how the Joint Exercise Powers Act (JEPA) should be arranged.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9.12 p.m.

10. CONVENED SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL – CLOSED SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

Public Employee Performance Evaluation – *Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6*

Title: City Manager

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

The Council recessed into Closed Session at 9:14 p.m.

POSSIBLE REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

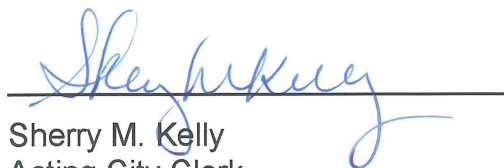
Action: The Council provided direction to staff.

ADJOURNMENT



Gabriel Quinto, Mayor/Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Concurrent City Council/Public Financing Authority/El Cerrito Employee Pension Trust Board Meeting of June 18, 2018.



Sherry M. Kelly
Acting City Clerk