

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 16, 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 WebEx:

<https://elcerrito.webex.com/elcerrito/onstage/g.php?MTID=e2105783112c60cabd6ced8d8017830dd>

Event Number: 187 739 2771

Event Password: Join0216

or

Dial In: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 187 739 2771

Pursuant to Executive Orders N-25-20 and 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 WebEx using the meeting information listed above.

Public Comments may be submitted one of two ways:

1. Via WebEx using the “Raise Hand” feature to request to speak. Each period of public comment will be announced.

****Please note** - If a member of the public can join via phone **only**, a request to speak may be submitted via email to cityclerk@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. The request must contain in the subject line **Request to Speak – Agenda Item #** and must include a name and the full phone number that will be used to call in.

2. 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 that the City Council receives your written comments prior to taking action, they must be received by **2:30 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.

Written 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 7:07 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 current health orders and vaccinations, announced Mayor Quinto's appointment to the League of CA Cities (Cal Cities) Board of Directors and the Advancing Equity Advisory Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Quinto- reported on attendance at Cal Cities board meeting.

Councilmember Abelson - encouraged COVID vaccinations and social distancing protocols.

Councilmember Rudnick - commented on a desire to switch from Webex to Zoom.

Mayor Fadelli - reported correspondence sent to congressional delegates in support of municipal funds from COVID Stimulus bill, reported attendance at Contra Costa Mayor's Conference.

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 Dave Weinstein; and presentation item 5C from Ira Sharenow.

Oral Public Comments:

Cathy Hanville - requested pursuing an ordinance on stronger reserve policies.

Dave Weinstein - reported on recent activities of El Cerrito Trail Trekkers and the El Cerrito Historical Society.

Tom Panas - commented on importance of public safety.

Glen Nethercut - commented in support of the police department.

Rishi Singh - spoke on community connections and social emotional wellness.

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 Abelson/Mayor Pro Tem Quinto **Action:** Motion to approve the consent calendar as indicated below. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

A. Contra Costa Library Commissioner Update

Action Proposed: 1) Receive and file and update from the Contra Costa Library Commissioner and 2) Pass a motion authorizing the Mayor to send a letter in support of Assembly Constitutional Amendment No.1, requiring a 55% majority for approval of library bonds.

Contact: Michael Fischer, Contra Costa Library Commissioner
Action: Received and filed and approved letter in support.

B. Transmittal of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ending June 30, 2020.

Action Proposed: Receive and file the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the year ending June 30, 2020.

Contact: Mark R Rasiah, Finance Director/City Treasurer, Finance Department
Action: Received and filed

C. Construction Contract Award for Hillside Natural Area Fire Road Repairs, Cal OES ID No. 13-21796-00, Site 6, City Project No. C5046

Action Proposed: Adopt a resolution approving plans and specifications for the Hillside Natural Area Fire Road Repairs, Cal OES ID No. 13-21796-00, Site 6, City Project No. C5046 (Project); rejecting the bid submitted by ERA Construction as non-responsive and accepting the other ten bids submitted for the Project; and authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract in the amount of \$98,756.00 with Maggiora & Ghilotti Bros, Inc. and to approve change orders in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the construction of the Project.

Contact: Ana Bernardes, Engineering Manager/Senior Engineer; Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Public Works Department
Action: Approved Resolution 2021-05

5. PRESENTATIONS

B. Proclamation for Professional Staff of the Year

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation commending and congratulating Police Executive Assistant Elizabeth Lopez as the 2020 Professional Staff of the Year.

Contact: Paul Keith, Chief of Police, Police Department

Heard out of order. **Moved/Seconded:** Councilmember

Abelson/Councilmember Rudnick **Action:** Approved proclamation.

Ayes: Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember

Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

A. Proclamation for Officer of the Year

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation commending and congratulating Corporal Stephanie Ware as the 2020 Officer of the Year.

Contact: Paul Keith, Chief of Police, Police Department

Heard out of order. **Moved/Seconded:** Councilmember

Rudnick/Councilmember Motoyama **Action:** Approved Proclamation.

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

C. FY2019-20 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

Action Proposed: Receive and file a presentation from Badawi & Associates regarding the FY 2019-20 Comprehensive Annual Financial report (CAFR).

Contact: Ahmed Badawi, President, Badawi & Associates

Presentation and Discussion: Presenters and staff responded to comments and questions raised by members of the council regarding benchmarks and potential affects to noting a going concern, source documentation for data in the CAFR, pension trust fund, clarification on outstanding amount of Redevelopment litigation, best practices in pension liability , childcare participants, building reserves, frequency of changing independent auditor, and impacts of continued use of a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN) loan on the going concern.

Oral Public Comments:

Denise Sangster - commented on interactions with Council, pension liability, and addressing risk.

Fred Bialy - spoke on public safety impacts to budget reductions.

Action: Received and filed.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. POLICY MATTERS

A. FY 2020-21 Mid-Year Budget Update

Action Proposed: 1) Receive an update on City revenues and expenditures for the first six months of the fiscal year through December 31, 2020 and 2) Adopt a resolution authorizing amendments to the FY 2020-21 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 public safety concerns, and time needed to conduct more analysis on proposed reductions.

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 on this item were received from Dennis Horte, Andre Basler, Ira Sharenow, R.J. Lane, Al Miller, John Bowen, Kevin O'Neal, Matt Reed, Paul Schneider, Anita Goldstein, Laura Tolkoff, Mary Milton, Mohammad and Parisa Samimi, Jeff O'Brien and family, Laurie Stern and Gary Lazar, Karen Taberski, Meina Wu, Nick Zamorano and Marlene George, Toni Mayer and Alan Lazere, Jonathan Nadel, Tomi Nagai-Rothe, John Sellers, Michael Nadel, Helen A. Sellers, Ted Nirgiotis, Rhiannon McNeely, Suzanne Brooks, Hok and Norma Gouw, Barbara and Kenneth J. Berniker, Monica R. Sagullo, Michael Chanowitz, Amy Kisch and Robert Saywitz, Alice Supton, Matt Chayt, Tanya Edgar, Steve DeMello, Debbie Hamati, Mary K. Firestone, Patricia Bogy, Judith Brown, Daniel Schulman, Sandra Sprague, Eija Ramos and Borna Jabbarpour, Marlene Keller and Chris Fritz, Jacquelyne L. Olson, Golestan School, Russell and Irene Wells, Ann Manheimer, Sue Piper from Oakland Firesafe Council, Eleanor Rosch, Ariel Myers, Cynthia Asprodites, Thomas A. Schaaf, Ben McClinton, Jim and Susan Perero, Arthur Swislocki, MD, Tim Clarke, Bob and Carol Gray, Brian Richmond, PhD, Patty Coluse, Tom Boardman, Damian I. Cano, Guadalupe Cano, Gabriel Cano, Diane Straus, Leslie D. Adams, Charlie Soldavini, Shawn Stedman, Ann Fallon, Catherine Tajaali de Neergaard, Eleanor Young, Roxanna Rawson, Alain Henon, Laurie Schrey, Paul Duncan, Judith Sam, Gwen Fox, The Swanson Family, David Block, and Linda Lipscomb.

Oral Public Comments:

Fred Bialy - spoke in support of slow and measured approach for reductions.

Denise Sangster - spoke on need to increase revenue and against closure of fire station or reducing police. personnel.

Toby Blome - spoke against option for larger amount of reductions and reduction of fire staffing and need for more analysis.

Sherry Drobner - spoke regarding disappointment in information provided and support of reducing police personnel.

Howdy Goudey - commented on the process for evaluating and recommending options for additional cost savings and public consideration to pay more for public safety services provided.

John Stashik - commented in support of adopting option for lower reductions and opposition to reductions in public safety.

Mike Hernandez - Police Officers Association President, commented on concessions made by police personnel to date and impacts of making reductions to police personnel.

Susan Duncan - spoke in opposition of closing fire station and danger of wildfire in the city.

Rayah Jaymes - commented on need accurate reporting of equity statistics.

Dave Weinstein - spoke in opposition to cuts in public safety.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Abelson/Mayor Pro Tem Quinto **Action:** Motion to Approve Resolution 2021-06. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

Moved/Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Quinto/Councilmember Motoyama **Action:** Passed a motion to extend the meeting to 11:10 PM. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

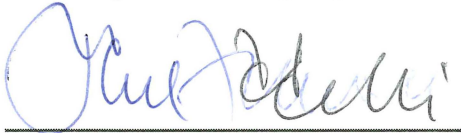
8. CITY COUNCIL LOCAL & REGIONAL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

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

Mayor Pro Tem Quinto - reported on attendance at Urban Forest Committee meeting.

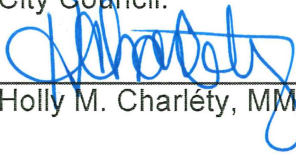
9. **ADJOURN REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The regular meeting adjourned at 11:04 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 February 16, 2021 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.



Holly M. Charléty, MMC, City Clerk