

EL CERRITO CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 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 Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/94566910626?pwd=Uml4N3ZDdXp3d0hzV3FPbkZkSmMvZz09>

Meeting ID: 945 6691 0626 **Password:** 113098
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 *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. 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 county health orders and vaccinations, announced Contra Costa County virtual memorial on March 22 in memory of county residents lost to COVID, announced and overviewed the state audit report released on the City.

Mayor Fadelli - shared perspective on the state audit report.

Mayor Pro Tem Quinto- shared perspective on the state audit report, reported attendance at Advancing Racial Equality Committee meeting.

Councilmember Rudnick - shared perspective on the state audit report.

Councilmember Motoyama - reported attendance at East Bay Economic Development Alliance, Human Resources Commission, and Economic Development Committee meetings.

Councilmember Abelson - shared perspective on the state audit report, meet with residents regarding bus benches, spoke at Contra Costa County Climate Leaders meeting.

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 Cordell Hindler, Robin Mitchell, and Claire Boudreaux.

Oral Public Comments:

Rabbi Yanky Bell - accepted and commented on Education and Sharing Day Proclamation.

James Lyons - accepted and commented on Red Cross Month Proclamation.

Ira Sharenow - commented on state auditor report.

Denise Sangster - commented on state auditor report and opposition to some budget reduction ideas.

Howdy Gowdey - spoke in opposition of the purchase of diesel trucks (consent item 4E) and the city's climate action plan.

Rishi Singh - spoke regarding mindfulness, budget study group, and cooperatives.

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 Rudnick/Councilmember Abelson

Action: Approved item A, B, and F on the consent calendar as indicated below.

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

A. Proclamation Recognizing Education and Sharing Day

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation declaring March 24, 2021 as Education and Sharing Day in the City of El Cerrito and to raise awareness and strengthen the education of our children.

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

Action: Approved Proclamation

B. Proclamation Recognizing March as American Red Cross Month

Action Proposed: Pass a motion to approve a proclamation declaring March 2021 as American Red Cross Month in the City of El Cerrito and encouraging all residents to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

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

Action: Approved Proclamation

C. Anti-Asian Racism Resolution

Action Proposed: At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, adopt a resolution denouncing xenophobia and Anti-Asian racism arising due to fears of the COVID-19 pandemic and affirming the City of El Cerrito's commitment to the well-being and safety of Asian Pacific Islander communities.

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

Oral Public Comments:

Walter Williams, Chair of the Human Relations Commission, read a statement by the commission in support of Asian Americans.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Motoyama/Councilmember Abelson **Action:** Pulled from consent by Mayor Pro Tem Quinto. Approved Resolution 2021-10. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

D. 2020 General Plan Annual Progress Report

Action Proposed: Receive and file the 2020 General Plan Annual Progress Report.

Contact: Sean Moss, Planning Manager; Jeff Ballantine, Senior Planner, Community Development Department

Moved/Seconded: Councilmember Motoyama/Councilmember Abelson **Action:** Pulled from consent by Mayor Fadelli. Staff responded to questions regarding funding requirements and Regional Housing Need Allocation goals. Received and filed. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

E. Authorize Lease-Purchase of Two Rear-Loading Recycling Trucks

Action Proposed: 1) Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a government obligation contract with NCL Government Capital for the purpose of procuring two rear-loading recycling collection trucks for a not to exceed amount of \$573,906 at a fixed interest rate of 3.54% for total annual lease payments not to exceed \$94,005.95 per year for seven years; and 2) Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase authorization with McNeilus Truck and Manufacturing through the Sourcewell (formerly the National Joint Powers Alliance) bid process in the amount above for said trucks, subject to City Council approval of a government obligation contract with NCL Government Capital.

Contact: Will Provost, Operations & Environmental Services Division Manager; Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Public Works Department

Moved/Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Quinto/Councilmember Motoyama **Action:** Pulled from consent by Councilmember Motoyama. Staff responded to questions regarding options, availability, and costs for alternative fuel vehicles. Approved Resolution 2021-11 (NCL) and Resolution 2021-12 (McNeilus). **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama, Councilmember Rudnick **Noes:** None

F. Construction Contract Award for Carlson Boulevard and San Diego Street Crosswalk Improvements, City Project No. C5048

Action Proposed: Adopt a resolution approving plans and specifications for the Carlson Boulevard and San Diego Street Crosswalk Improvements, City Project No. C5048 (Project); rejecting the bid submitted by Gremelli Industries as non-responsive and accepting the other three bids submitted for the Project; authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract in the amount of \$126,500 with Saint Francis Electric, LLC and to approve change orders in an amount not to exceed \$13,000 for the construction of the Project; and amending the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget and Capital Improvement Program to appropriate \$71,000 in the SB 1 – Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account Fund for the Project.

Contact: Ana Bernardes, Engineering Manager/Senior Engineer; Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Public Works Department

Action: Approved Resolution 2021-13.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Environmental Quality Committee Work Plan

Action Proposed: Receive and file a presentation from the Environmental Quality Committee on their 2020 accomplishments and 2021 Work Plan.

Contact: Will Provost, Operations + Environmental Services Manager, Public Works Department; Yvetteh Ortiz, Public Works Director/City Engineer

Action: Received and filed

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. POLICY MATTERS

A. General Fund Long Term Financial Forecast and Budget Study Session

Action Proposed: Receive and file a presentation and update on the City's General Fund Long Term Financial Forecast (LTFF) and provide staff direction on overall budget priorities for the Fiscal Year 2021-22 annual 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 credit rating, pension liability solutions, CalPERS discount rate, costs for a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRAN), budgeting by department, Financial Advisory Board review of Financial Policy, case law on County pool of sales receipts, policies regarding uses of Real Property Transfer Tax revenues, fiscal policies, and subsidy for retiree healthcare.

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 Michael and Marilyn Harryman, Jim Dolgonas, Jan Bridges, and Marisa Singer.

Oral Public Comments:

Ira Sharenow - requested budget information in excel, spoke regarding an ordinance for budget goals, BART project, TRAN repayment, citizen committee, dedicated website on budget questions, and credit rating.

Denise Sangster - commented on details and actions behind decisions, need for larger restructuring changes, public safety priorities, projections for automotive sales tax, and citizen committee.

Dan Schulman - spoke regarding lack of change to approach, in support of two million or more in reductions, need for multiple scenarios to consider, and statue audit recommendations.

Sherry Drobner - commented on state audit report recommendations and city response, wage compensation study, management salaries, and single payer health benefits.

Dianne Brenner - commented on previous cuts being incorporated into current recommendations, projections for retirement costs, and deferral of cost-of-living increases.

Howdy Gowdey - spoke regarding the need for multiple scenarios in forecasting.

Moved/Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Quinto/Councilmember Abelson

Action: Motion to extend the meeting to 11:05 PM. **Ayes:** Mayor Fadelli, Mayor Pro Tem Quinto, Councilmember Abelson, Councilmember Motoyama **Noes:** Councilmember Rudnick

Action: Provided staff direction to proceed with reductions of two million dollars for FY2022.

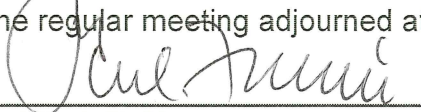
8. CITY COUNCIL LOCAL & REGIONAL LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

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

None

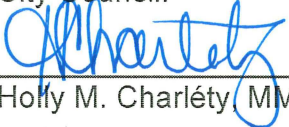
9. **ADJOURN REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The regular meeting adjourned at 11:00 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 March 16, 2021 as approved by the El Cerrito City Council.



Holly M. Charléty, MMC, City Clerk