



CITY OF ALBANY

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Maass called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Maass led the pledge of allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Barnes, Nason, Pilch, Vice Mayor McQuaid, Mayor Maass

3. REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

4-1. Minutes, February 1, 2016

Staff recommendation: Approve

4-2. Ratification of Payroll – City of Albany - Payroll Period: 2/5/2016; Net Payroll: \$217,983.02; Taxes, Benefits, Withholdings: \$127,790.13 Total: \$345,773.15

4-3. Ratification of Payroll – Albany Municipal Services JPA - Payroll Period: 2/5/2016; Net Payroll: \$65,788.67; Taxes, Benefits, Withholdings: \$28,738.66 Total: \$94,527.33

4-4. Ratification of Bills, Claims and Demands - Ratification of bills, claims and demands against the City of Albany in the amount of: \$2,536.98 (1/19/16); \$100,136.59 (1/22/16); \$105,962.24 (1/29/16); \$36,5760.68 (2/5/16)

Staff recommendation: Ratify

- 4-5. Council Member Barnes appointed Brian Beall to the Social and Economic Justice Commission.

Staff recommendation: Information only

- 4-6. Fire Department Vehicle Purchase

Staff recommendation: that the Council adopt Resolution No. 2016-10, Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with San Leandro Ford Commercial Fleet Car Sales to purchase one 2016 Ford F-550 crew cab pickup and accessories

Mayor Maass asked if anyone would like to remove an item, and no items were removed from the consent calendar.

MOTION:

Moved by Vice Mayor McQuaid, seconded by Council Member Pilch to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted.

AYES: Council Members Barnes, Nason, Pilch, Vice Mayor McQuaid, Mayor Maass.

NOES: none.

Motion carried and so ordered.

5. **PRESENTATION**

6. **GOOD OF THE CITY/PUBLIC FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no comments from the public.

7. **PUBLIC HEARING**

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

8.1 Funding Capital Improvement Projects – Study Session

Staff recommendation: that the Council conduct a study session to provide direction to staff on:

- a. the type of revenue measure to pursue;
- b. the amount to be generated from the revenue measure;
- c. identify projects or services to be funded

City Manager Penelope Leach introduced Finance Director David Glasser and NBS consultant Tim Seifert.

Seifert reviewed the current revenue sources including taxes and assessment districts, and discussed possible funding sources for the City including the option of a parcel tax, general tax, or an assessment district.

Creation of an assessment district requires analysis to identify metrics to establish a formula to apportion the tax to parcels. Establishing an assessment for parks would require a significant amount of analysis to determine benefits, and an assessment district for streets and/or sidewalks would require much more analysis. In addition, the calculated “general benefit” would need to be paid from another funding source. A general tax can be more straightforward than an assessment district, simply requiring voter approval.

A special assessment vote is conducted via a mailed ballot to property owners, with returned votes tabulated during a public hearing. A majority protest is required to defeat the establishment of an assessment district. The primary cost for establishing an assessment district involves the analysis and calculation of the assessment, as well as mailing ballots.

Finance Director David Glasser reviewed findings of a field poll conducted by The California Endowment regarding soda taxes. Poll results demonstrate support for this type of tax, and possibly a 2/3 approval support. The City of Berkeley utilizes a consultant to administer collection of their soda tax.

A public opinion survey was conducted in Albany in 2012 in advance of the ½ cent sales tax ballot measure (Measure F) to identify public priorities. The City’s User Utility Tax is near the median in comparison with surrounding cities.

The following people spoke: Preston Jordan, Albany Strollers & Rollers; Ken McCroskey, Albany Strollers & Rollers; Ellen Hershey.

A summary of comments is as follows: the history of voter approved measures in the City demonstrates that special taxes have been approved in the past, and competing measures should not impact the passage of a tax, encouraged a dedicated funding source for sidewalk repair and maintenance, expressed support for a community facilities district; Strollers & Rollers support a dedicated funding source for sidewalk repair and maintenance.

A summary of Council comments is as follows:

Interest in the possibility of a low income exemption option; interest in a parcel tax, and interest in a formula that considers parcel size; suggested leveraging funds with the City and the property owner splitting the cost of sidewalk repair; staff is currently at capacity in implementing capital improvement projects, and any tax measures should be intended for the 2018 ballot, the school bond measures in June will impact voters support for additional taxes, support for a majority approval general tax; concern with 100% payment for sidewalks, examine a sidewalk policy like Berkeley such as 50/50 split; the City should have

the ability to place a tax measure on the ballot regardless of school district ballot measures; support for funding a measure for sidewalks, streets and park maintenance; support for a general tax; a parcel tax will generate more funds than a general tax and is likely what is needed due to funding needs; the City's Advisory Bodies should be informed that the Council is considering a tax for the 2016 ballot as it could impact inclusion of other measures on the ballot.

The Council requested staff bring back to Council pro/con analysis of 3 different revenue options: a large parcel tax which would bring in a similar in language to the current sales tax; a smaller parcel tax limited to sidewalk repairs; and a general tax such an increase in the Users Utility Tax.

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. OTHER BUSINESS, REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED, ANNOUNCEMENT OF EVENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Maass and Council Member Nason reported that they met with the Lions Club to discuss the cross on Albany Hill.

Vice Mayor McQuaid announced that Assembly Member Tony Thurmond will be holding a study session regarding the MTC/ABAG merger.

Vice Mayor McQuaid attended the Waste Management transfer station tour, the Police Department strategic planning session, and the 2x2x2 meeting with the School District and UC Village.

Vice Mayor McQuaid announced the Senior Center pancake breakfast.

Council Member Nason attended the Albany dog owners group beach cleanup.

Mayor Maass reported on the Venture Program at Albany High School, and that he attended the Mayor's meeting.

- 10-1.** Albany Civics Academy
 Registration Now Open
 Academy Sessions:
 Thursday Evenings
 March 31 - May 12, 2016 (7 sessions)
 6:45-9 pm

Community Emergency Response Team "CERT" Program
 Registration Now Open
 March 8 - April 26, 2016
 Tuesday evenings 6:00pm-9:00pm

- 10-2.** Upcoming City Events

Sports Equipment Swap, Thursday, February 25, 6:00 PM, Community Center Rooms 1 & 2

Albany FilmFest Red Carpet Academy Awards Party, Friday, February 26, 7:00 PM, Community Center

10-3. Upcoming City Meetings

Sustainability Committee, Wednesday, February 17, 7:30 PM, City Hall Council Chambers

Community Media Access Committee, Monday, February 22, 6:00 PM, City Hall Council Chambers

Charter Review Committee, Monday, February 22, 7:30 PM, City Hall Conference Room

Planning & Zoning Commission, Wednesday, February 24, 7:00 PM, City Hall Council Chambers

Traffic & Safety Commission, Thursday, January 25, 7 PM, City Hall Council Chambers

11. ADJOURNMENT

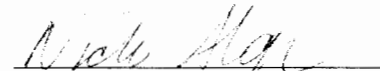
9:52 p.m. There being no further business before the City Council it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Nicole Almaguer, City Clerk



Peter Maass
Mayor

Attest:


Nicole Almaguer, City Clerk