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**12:00 p.m.**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

City Council convenes in the Council Chamber and then adjourns to Closed Session to discuss the following:

- 2-1. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation**  
Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)

Name of Case: Albany Lions Club v. City of Albany, et al., (United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Case No. 18-17046)

The following person spoke: Larry Hicok.

A summary of comments is as follows: encouragement for the Council to appeal the decision.

**3. ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION**

**1:00 p.m.**

**WORK SESSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Council Members Barnes, Maass, and Nason, Vice Mayor McQuaid, Mayor Pilch  
Absent: None

Mayor Pilch announced the City does not endorse the religious display on public land, and the Council directed staff in the Closed Session to convey its non-endorsement through signage placed on Albany Hill near the cross.

**2. REVIEW OF MEETING OBJECTIVES**

None

**3. VISIONING EXERCISE: WHERE SHOULD ALBANY BE IN 5 YEARS?**

Each Councilmember provided their comments for the visioning exercise.

A summary of public comments is as follows: hopes for better transportation, the end of segregation, access to low-income housing, half of the units in the SAHA project to be designated for very-low-income people, more affordable housing along San Pablo and Solano, a lower speed limit on Marin, and more Section 8 housing.



## **ALBANY CITY COUNCIL – MINUTES**

City Hall Council Chambers  
1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA  
Tuesday, January 14, 2020

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### **4. CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN STATUS UPDATE**

Review accomplishments, identify any necessary updates and items for prioritization

Council asked questions on each of the Strategic Plan workplan items, and staff provided clarifications.

A summary of public comments is as follows: homeless shelters should be designed to meet the needs of homeless people; support for dog park amenities; a suggestion of training for Boards and Commissions regarding the effects of infrastructure changes on seniors; Albany homeless people received acceptable and affordable housing for the first time in 2019.

Council Member Nason recalled efforts to work with the homeless encampment on the Bulb to design a shelter. Shelter is needed now because people are living in unacceptable situations.

The City Council recessed at 2:42 p.m. and reconvened at 2:55 p.m.

### **5. COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE & ORDER/COUNCIL POLICIES**

Review and identify any areas that require an update and/or any additional policy items to develop, including but not limited to: Pledge of Allegiance procedures; clarifying language regarding Council meeting schedule; subcommittee procedures (composition, topic areas, sunseting or creation of new subcommittees), holiday decor at City facilities

City Manager Almaguer presented the staff report. The Council Rules of Procedure and Order and Council Policies are a guiding document for the Council, staff, and the public. Staff has proposed changes to Rules of Procedure and Order Sections A-1 and B-1.

Mayor Pilch explained the misunderstanding that occurred at the Senior Center regarding the holiday tree.

Council provided comments and feedback to the Council Rules of Procedure

A summary of public comment is as follows: the City should have one policy for all facilities.

The Council directed staff to research the proposed changes to Section A-1 and to incorporate language that the Mayor in coordination with the City Manager may cancel a meeting.

### **6. SB 50 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Receive status update and identify whether to prepare a letter regarding the legislation

Council Member Nason recalled that the Council sent a letter opposing a previous version of Senate Bill (SB) 50. The bill has been amended, and the Council may want to reconsider its position. The Council will need to act quickly because the bill is moving forward rapidly.

Council provided comments and reached consensus to continue the item to its meeting on January 21.



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### **7. FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Conduct initial discussion regarding the development of a Financial Advisory Committee to the City Council including potential composition, number of appointees, and Committee description

City Manager Almaguer presented the staff report. Staff is working through a transition from an elected City Treasurer to a Council-appointed City Treasurer. The argument in favor of the ballot measure indicated a Council interest in developing an Advisory Body to the City Council regarding financial oversight and fiscal transparency. Questions for the Council concern composition, title/charge, and meeting frequency of the Advisory Body. With direction from the Council, staff will prepare a resolution for the Council's future consideration.

Council discussed and provided comments and feedback.

The Council reached consensus regarding quarterly meetings, five members, and a name of Financial Advisory Committee.

### **8. 2020 BALLOT MEASURES**

Conduct initial discussion regarding possible ballot measures for 2020

City Manager Almaguer presented the staff report. At the time, she was not aware of any proposed Charter amendments. Perhaps the Council could consider substantiating the general fund. Two potential revenue sources are updating the transfer tax and the Advanced Life Support (ALS)/ Emergency Medical Services (EMS) tax. The City is operating at a deficit while staff attempts to minimize the deficit. Fund balances for street and road projects should be spent prior to proposing a new tax. The stormwater fee could be increased subject to a protest hearing process. If the Council considers revenue measures for the ballot, it may wish to obtain polling services. Polling has been helpful in developing a new tax but may not be as helpful with updating a tax.

In response to questions, Finance Director Rowden explained the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) increases, fund reserves, the need to increase revenue or decrease expenses, and use of ALS/EMS tax revenues.

Council provided comments and feedback.

### **9. CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Consider change to meeting frequency of Committee

Mayor Pilch reported the Charter Review Committee (CRC) has not met and would have to organize before beginning any work the Council refers to the CRC. He proposed constituting the CRC so that it can be an effective body and meet only as frequently as it needs to function.

Council provided comments and feedback.

### **10. ADJOURNMENT**



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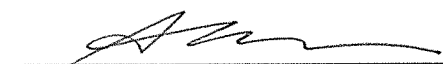
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5:03 p.m. There being no further business before the City Council, Mayor Pilch adjourned the meeting in memory of Whitney Dotson.

Minutes submitted by Anne Hsu, City Clerk.

  
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Nick Pilch  
Mayor

Attest:

  
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Anne Hsu, City Clerk