



ALBANY CITY COUNCIL – MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Albany, CA 94706
Monday, April 6, 2020

Date Approved: April 20, 2020

7:30 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pilch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3-1. Minutes: A. March 16, 2020 Special Meeting
B. March 16, 2020 Regular Meeting
C. March 26, 2020 Special Meeting

Staff recommendation: Approve

3-2. Ratification of Payroll

- A. Payroll Period: 3/13/2020 ; Net Payroll: \$314,034.00; Taxes, Benefits, Withholdings: \$323,888.77; Total: \$637,922.77
B. Payroll Period: 3/27/2020 ; Net Payroll: \$302,467.25; Taxes, Benefits, Withholdings: \$320,880.63; Total: \$623,347.88

Staff recommendation: Ratify

- 3-3. Ratification of Bills, Claims and Demands – Ratification of bills, claims and demands against the City of Albany in the amount of: \$531,676.49 (3/13/2020); \$170,260.37 (3/20/2020); \$106,867.29 (3/27/2020)

Staff recommendation: Ratify

- 3-4. Proclamation – National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Staff recommendation: Approve

- 3-5. Call for Bids for the Adams Street Paving Project (Contract No. C20-47)

Staff recommendation: that the Council adopt Resolution No. 2020-30 authorizing the City Manager to approve a Call for Bids for the Adams Street Paving Project, Contract No. C20-47

- 3-6. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute Caltrans Right-of-Way Relinquishment No. 56152, and to accept the parcel of land that is a portion of Cleveland Avenue



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Staff recommendation: that the Council adopt Resolution No. 2020-32 authorizing the City Manager to execute Caltrans Right-of-Way Relinquishment No. 56152, and to accept the parcel of land that is a portion of Cleveland Avenue

- 3-7.** Letter from Alameda County City Mayors submitted to County of Alameda Requesting to Waive Interest or Penalties on Property Taxes Levied for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Residential Real Property

Staff recommendation: informational only, file as submitted

Mayor Pilch asked if anyone wishes to remove an item from the consent calendar. Council Members Maass and Nason removed Items 3-5 and 3-7 respectively.

Item 3-5: City Manager Nicole Almaguer reported staff is evaluating infrastructure projects on a case-by-case basis and working with regulatory agencies to determine the City's obligations to complete projects. Work on essential infrastructure projects will continue.

Item 3-7: Mayor Pilch reported mayors supported some relief for property owners even though cities depend on revenues from property taxes.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: work on funded essential projects should continue if workers' safety and health can be protected; the repaving of Washington Street has been postponed because the Traffic & Safety Commission is reviewing the project; a preference for providing a blanket waiver of property taxes; the Governor has been considering some type of intervention with respect to property taxes.

MOTION:

Moved by Vice Mayor McQuaid, seconded by Council Member Barnes, to approve the consent calendar.

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

NOES: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

4. GOOD OF THE CITY/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pilch opened the Good of the City.

Mayor Pilch, Vice Mayor McQuaid, and Council Member Maass shared comments regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing City services.

A summary of public comments is as follows: support for a ballot measure regarding ranked choice voting.

5. COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS, COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS ON APPOINTED REPRESENTATION OF ALBANY AND OTHER MTGS AND EVENTS



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5-1. City Council Subcommittees:

Council Subcommittees	Subcommittee Members	Last Report Date
Albany Waterfront Park (Albany Bulb)	Nason & McQuaid	12/02/2019
Alta Bates Hospital	Pilch & McQuaid	11/18/2019
Cannabis Ordinance	Maass & Pilch	3/2/2020
Community Inclusivity	Pilch & McQuaid	10/21/2019
San Pablo Avenue Corridor Project	Nason & Pilch	10/07/2019
Youth Engagement	McQuaid & Maass	02/18/2020

5-2. City Council Appointed Representation of Albany:

Bodies	Appointee	Alternate
Alameda County Mayors' Conference	Pilch	McQuaid
Alameda County Transportation Commission	Pilch	Nason
Alameda County Waste Management Authority	Pilch	Maass
Association of Bay Area Government	Maass	Barnes
East Bay Community Energy JPA Board	Pilch	McQuaid
East Bay Sports Field Recreational Authority JPA	Maass	Barnes
Housing Authority of Alameda County	McQuaid	N/A
League of California Cities (East Bay)	McQuaid	Barnes
Alameda County Library Advisory Commission	Amy Apel	Sarah Levin
Berkeley/Albany Mental Health Board	(Vacant)	
City/AUSD/UC - 2X2X2	Pilch	McQuaid
Police & Fire Pension Fund Board	Pilch	McQuaid
Alameda County Paratransit Advisory & Planning Committee (PAPCO)	Margaret Patterson	N/A

5-3. City Council Meetings and Events

Council Member Maass reported he has been contacting seniors, who are doing okay.

Vice Mayor McQuaid reported she has contacted seniors and participated in teleconferences regarding small business relief, the pandemic, and White House communications for elected officials. In addition, she participated in virtual meetings of the League of California Cities' Community Services and Public Safety Committees. Vice Mayor McQuaid reported she continues to work with the Mayor and business leaders to assist small businesses.

Council Member Nason reported she has contacted seniors, small businesses, and the Alameda County Public Health Department regarding horse racing at Golden Gate Fields. The Council may need to explore issues regarding ongoing training activities at Golden Gate Fields.

Council Member Barnes reported he continues to contact seniors.



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Mayor Pilch reported he participated in a Mayors' Conference, Census Ambassador training, and the Chancellor's Community Breakfast; meetings of the East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) Board, Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC), Waste Management Authority, League of California Cities, the Alameda County Mayors' Homeless Working Group, and Sierra Club; and calls with elected officials across the county.

6. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Almaguer reported coronavirus information on the City's website and social media platforms is updated regularly. Staff has sent information mailers to all residents and is conducting outreach to the community through posters, banners, signs, and Wednesday and Friday e-news communications. City services are ongoing. The information hotline has received 814 calls since March 16, 2020. The City has provided 744 meals and 83 bags of groceries. She appreciated the Council reaching out to seniors and the business community. Project HOPE has housed 11 individuals and increased staffing to facilitate the provision of housing.

7. PRESENTATION

8. PUBLIC HEARING

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

10-1. Albany Cross Signage

Staff recommendation: that the Council adopt one of the attached three options for signage in front of the cross on Albany Hill:

1. Statement from Council Member Nason
2. Plaque with Council Statement
3. Educational Signage

City Manager Almaguer presented the staff report. The item responds to the Council's direction for staff to address community concerns regarding the cross on Albany Hill. Staff has proposed signage options for the Council's consideration. If the Council approves signage, it likely will not be installed in the next few months, but staff can provide updates.

A summary of public comments is as follows: proposed revisions to the three options; an inquiry as to whether signage can be sufficiently large to obstruct view of the cross; the proposed signage is misleading and retaliatory.

City Attorney Malathy Subramanian did not recommend any signage infringe on the easement. Signage should clearly indicate the Council does not endorse the cross and/or any particular religion.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: support for educational signage, but the title should be revised; the Lions Club claims the discretion to illuminate the cross; a suggestion to



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state Lions Club International rather than Albany Lions Club and to notify Lions Club International of the proposed signage; concurrence with the public comment to include a QR code with additional information; the text should be clear and relatively simple; signage should include Council Members' names; proposed revisions to the text of the educational signage; a suggestion to form a subcommittee to revise signage.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Maass, seconded by Council Member Nason, to form a subcommittee composed of Mayor Pilch and Council Member Nason to work in coordination with staff and the City Attorney on the final language and format of signage for Albany Hill.

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

NOES: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Maass requested an agenda item about right-of-way on the sidewalk with respect to social distancing.

Mayor Pilch requested an agenda item regarding a ballot measure for ranked choice voting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

8:58 p.m. There being no further business before the City Council, Mayor Pilch adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Anne Hsu, City Clerk.

Nick Pilch
Mayor

Attest:

Anne Hsu, City Clerk