



ALBANY CITY COUNCIL – MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
Albany, CA 94706
Monday, October 19, 2020

7:30 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Nason led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

3. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Mayor Pilch encouraged the public to continue practicing physical distancing and wearing face coverings.

Vice Mayor McQuaid hoped new family traditions would include caring for others and commended staff for continuing to provide services while adapting to the pandemic.

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

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

5-1. Minutes, October 5, 2020

Staff recommendation: Approve

5-2. Ratification of Payroll - Payroll Period: 10/9/20; Net Amount: \$342,831.92; Taxes, Withholdings, Deductions: \$348,106.97; Total: \$690,938.89

Staff recommendation: Ratify

5-3. Ratification of Bills, Claims and Demands - Ratification of bills, claims and demands against the City of Albany in the amount of: \$897,387.79 (10/2/20), \$267,962.13 (10/9/20)

Staff recommendation: Ratify

5-4. Advisory Body Changes – Arts Committee

Resignation – Jenny Holland – (Council Member Nason appointed)

Appointment – Hannah Hodge – (Council Member Nason opening)

Staff recommendation: informational only

5-5. Proclamation – Walk and Roll to School Week



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Staff recommendation: that the Council adopt the Proclamation recognizing October 19-23, 2020 as Walk and Roll to School Week

5-6. Resolution No. 2020-101 appointing the Finance Director as City Treasurer

Staff recommendation: that the Council adopt Resolution No. 2020-101 appointing the City's Finance Director as the City Treasurer effective December 10, 2020 or sooner if there is vacancy in the office

5-7. Resolution No. 2020-102, granting approval of an encroachment permit to allow a retaining wall in the public right-of-way at 955 Ordway Street

Staff recommendation: that the Council adopt Resolution No. 2020-102, granting approval of an encroachment permit to allow a retaining wall in the public right-of-way at 955 Ordway Street

Mayor Pilch asked if anyone wishes to remove an item from the consent calendar. A member of the public removed Items 5-3, 5-5, 5-6, and 5-7 from the consent calendar.

Item 5-7: Applicant David Greensfelder presented information regarding the retaining wall located at 955 Ordway Street.

A summary of public comments is as follows: an inquiry about the recipients of masks purchased by the City (Item 5-3); an inquiry regarding the status of crossing guards and whether the Police and Fire Departments provide bicycle helmets to students (Item 5-5); a question of whether the position of Finance Director is being eliminated (Item 5-6); a question of whether the encroachment will impact the sidewalk (Item 5-7); a suggestion for the City to adopt a policy for walls adjacent to sidewalks, and the Council should not approve the encroachment permit (Item 5-7).

A summary of Council comments is as follows: requiring the property owner to remove the wall seems pointless; the retaining wall is built in the original location and does not encroach onto the sidewalk.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Maass, seconded by Council Member Barnes, to approve Items 5-1 through 5-6 of the consent calendar.

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

NOES: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

MOTION:

Moved by Council Member Maass, seconded by Council Member Barnes, to approve Item 5-7 of the consent calendar.

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

NOES: None

RECUSED: Council Member Nason



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Motion carried and so ordered.

6. GOOD OF THE CITY/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pilch opened the Good of the City.

A summary of public comments is as follows: the Council seems to be passing items without a quorum; Albany Hill needs a restroom and an automatic gate for fire access; the shower program is open again.

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

7-1. City Council Subcommittees:

Council Subcommittees	Subcommittee Members	Last Report Date
Albany Waterfront Park (Albany Bulb)	Nason & McQuaid	6/01/2020
Alta Bates Hospital	Pilch & McQuaid	9/21/2020
Cannabis Ordinance	Maass & Pilch	3/2/2020
Community Inclusivity	Pilch & McQuaid	10/21/2019
San Pablo Avenue Corridor Project	Nason & Pilch	9/8/2020
Youth Engagement	McQuaid & Maass	9/21/2020

None

7-2. 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
City/AUSD/UC - 2X2X2	Pilch	McQuaid
Police & Fire Pension Fund Board	Pilch	McQuaid
Alameda County Paratransit Advisory & Planning Committee (PAPCO)	Margaret Patterson	N/A

Vice Mayor McQuaid reported she attended the League of California Cities annual conference, the Housing Authority of Alameda County meeting, the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District meeting; the 2x2x2 meeting; the business workshop hosted by the Community Development Department; a ribbon-cutting event at Gnome, a United Against Hate meeting, a



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meeting regarding nuclear power, and a conference call among staff, Mayor Pilch, and the City of Berkeley regarding mental health services.

Mayor Pilch reported he attended the Mayors' Conference, which will recommend the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) utilize a Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) methodology proposed by the Tri-Valley Mayors. In addition, he participated in a conference call with other Mayors to discuss working with Alameda County regarding homelessness and allocating funding from Measure W, if it is approved. Mayor Pilch also participated in Alameda County's COVID conference call and attended the East Bay Innovation Awards. He announced his appointment to the Alameda County Transportation Commission's (ACTC) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

A summary of public comments is as follows: hopes that the City of Albany can be included in the ILWU Local 75 recommendations.

7-3. City Council Meetings and Events

None

8. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Nicole Almaguer reported the Fire Department patrols Albany Hill every day and twice on red flag days and has installed a fire hydrant near the park in preparation for wildfire season. Starting in November, staff will attend work sessions regarding equity and inclusion. A newsletter has been mailed to the community regarding resources, programs, projects and advisory body recruitments. More than 200 people submitted their ballots during the Early Voting Drop Stop event. The next event is scheduled for October 27 and 28, 2020, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Albany YMCA. The Registrar of Voters Office picks up ballots daily from the drop box at City Hall. Voters can track their ballot at acvote.org/go. Unfortunately, the Police Department will not distribute glow sticks to trick-or-treaters this year, but the public is invited to submit photos of their Halloween events. Albany Local Week is this week, and information as well as the score card can be found on the City's website. Recreation staff continue to deliver meals, groceries, and essential items and to take seniors on shopping trips. The 2020 sanitary sewer rehabilitation project is substantially complete. Phase 3 of the sidewalk program is progressing and should be complete in early November. In December, the Transportation Commission will review a plan for Phase 4 of the sidewalk program. Sewer cleaning and inspection work has begun at several locations and should be complete by mid-November. The Lower Solano ADA curb ramp project has been scheduled for construction in January.

9. PRESENTATION

9-1. Introduction of Kurt Wiest, new Executive Director of the Alameda County Housing Authority

Director Kurt Wiest was not present at the meeting to be re-introduced after the technical issue at the last meeting.



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9-2. Quarterly Financial Update

Staff recommendation: that the Council receive a presentation on the quarterly financial update

Finance Director Heather Rowden presented the staff report. The estimated surplus for FY 2020 is higher than anticipated because the City received funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Annual payments for general liability and workers' compensation insurance and the unfunded California Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) liability cause the expenses to exceed budgeted amounts. Revenues are down compared to the first quarter of FY 2020. An additional \$500,000 will be paid toward the City's unfunded actuarial liability. The cost of general liability insurance is increasing. Overtime for the Fire Department has increased, but most of it will be reimbursed.

A summary of public comments is as follows: BART should pay taxes to the City.

10. PUBLIC HEARING

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

12-1. Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission Recommendation to Convert Ocean View Park Tennis Courts to Pickleball Courts

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission Recommendation: that the Council direct staff to conduct research needed to inform the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission's recommendation for specific pickleball facilities including the conversion of one tennis court at Ocean View Park to four permanent pickleball courts, retain one of the tennis courts, and allocate staff resources to support the Commission and community to decide the details of that configuration including possible enhancements to the tennis courts and lighting

Staff recommendation: that the Council:

1. Provide direction to staff regarding the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission recommendation for pickleball facilities at Ocean View Park; and
2. Consider including the evaluation of pickleball facilities as part of the update to the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan process to begin in the spring of 2021

Assistant City Manager/Recreation & Community Services Director Isabelle Leduc presented the staff report. The Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission (Commission) has been exploring community interest in pickleball, receiving presentations from staff and pickleball players and comments from tennis players, learning about the game, and identifying potential modifications to infrastructure to accommodate pickleball courts at Ocean View Park. In February 2020, the Commission's pickleball subcommittee proposed that the Commission recommend the City Council convert one or both tennis courts at Ocean View Park to permanent pickleball courts with



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the specific number of courts and layout to be determined through a research and design process that includes public input and outreach.

Prior to the pandemic, pickleball was offered at Ocean View Park on Tuesday afternoons and at Albany High School gym on Sundays. Pickleball may be played on tennis courts but requires different striping, which has been added to the tennis courts. In addition, pickleball courts have been striped at the ends of the tennis courts. Temporary nets must be installed on the courts for pickleball play. Through the master plan update process, pickleball facilities can be evaluated in the context of overall park usage; public comment can be received, and funding priorities can be identified.

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commissioner Tod Abbott reported that the Commission's subcommittee met with staff and representatives of the pickleball community to learn about the game. The subcommittee found the issues to be more complicated than anticipated. Staff research is needed to provide the Council with a feasible recommendation.

A summary of public comments is as follows: support for pickleball courts; a proposal for four pickleball courts on one tennis court; support for implementing the proposal for four pickleball courts; a tennis court within biking distance is usually open for play at any time.

A summary of Council comments is as follows: interest in temporarily converting one tennis court into four pickleball courts and implementing a reservation system to gather data about demand and use of courts; the lines for four pickleball courts on one tennis court will be confusing for players; data about pickleball and tennis is needed; pickleball players may be willing to play with the existing condition of the tennis courts; the master plan update should explore permanent pickleball facilities and spaces outside parks; the tape used to line the courts will become a hazard; concern about expending funds for temporary measures when the master plan process will begin soon.

The Council directed staff to maintain the current arrangement for temporary pickleball courts and to include the evaluation of permanent pickleball courts in the process to update the master plan.

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Pilch requested a potential item for filing an amicus brief in litigation pertaining to fuel standards.

14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

14-1. Upcoming City Events – Please check the City website, www.albanyca.org, under City Calendar webpage for up-to-date information

- A. Albany Local Week 2020, Saturday, October 17—Saturday, October 24, please check www.albanyca.org/albanylocalweek for more information
- B. Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, please check www.albanyca.org/vote for more information



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14-2. Upcoming City Meetings

- A. Climate Action Committee Meeting, Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 PM, Virtual Meeting via phone/video conferencing
- B. Transportation Commission Meeting, Thursday, October 22, 7:00 PM, Virtual Meeting via phone/video conferencing
- C. Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 PM, Virtual Meeting via phone/video conferencing
- D. City Council Special Meeting, Thursday, October 29, 6:00 PM, Virtual Meeting via phone/video conferencing
- E. City Council Meeting, Monday, November 2, 7:30 PM, Virtual Meeting via phone/video conferencing

15. ADJOURNMENT

9:49 p.m. There being no further business before the City Council, Mayor Pilch adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Anne Hsu, City Clerk.

Handwritten signature of Nick Pilch in black ink.

Nick Pilch
Mayor

Attest:

Handwritten signature of Anne Hsu in blue ink.

Anne Hsu, City Clerk