



## SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 4/21/2020

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Regular Meeting Location:** GoToWebinar.com – ID# 961-495-339

### NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, COVID-19, EMERGENCY ADVISORY NOTICE

On March 19, 2020, the Governor ordered a statewide stay-at-home order calling on all individuals living in the State of California to stay at home or at their place of residence to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, the Governor has temporarily suspended certain requirements of the Brown Act. For the duration of the shelter in place order, the following public meeting protocols will apply.

Teleconference meeting: All members of the City Council, city staff, applicants, and members of the public will be participating by teleconference. To promote social distancing while allowing essential governmental functions to continue, the Governor has temporarily waived portions of the open meetings act and rules pertaining to teleconference meetings. This meeting is conducted in compliance with the Governor Executive Order N-25-20 issued March 12, 2020, and supplemental Executive Order N-29-20 issued March 17, 2020.

- How to participate in the meeting
  - Submit a written comment online:  
[menlopark.org/publiccommentApril21](https://menlopark.org/publiccommentApril21) \*
  - Record a comment or request a call-back when an agenda topic is under consideration:  
Dial 650-474-4071 \*
  - Access the special meeting real-time online at:  
[joinwebinar.com](https://joinwebinar.com) – Regular Meeting ID 961-495-339

\*Written and recorded public comments and call-back requests are accepted up to 1 hour before the meeting start time. Written and recorded messages are provided to the City Council at the appropriate time in their meeting. Recorded messages may be transcribed using a voice-to-text tool.

- Watch special meeting:
  - Cable television subscriber in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton, and Palo Alto:  
Channel 26
  - Online:  
[menlopark.org/streaming](https://menlopark.org/streaming)

Note: City Council closed sessions are not broadcast online or on television and public participation is limited to the beginning of closed session.

Subject to Change: Given the current public health emergency and the rapidly evolving federal, state, county and local orders, the format of this meeting may be altered or the meeting may be canceled. You may check on the status of the meeting by visiting the City's website [www.menlopark.org](https://www.menlopark.org). The instructions for logging on to the webinar and/or the access code is subject to change. If you have difficulty accessing the webinar, please check the latest online edition of the posted agenda for updated information ([menlopark.org/agenda](https://menlopark.org/agenda)).

According to City Council policy, all regular meetings of the City Council are to end by midnight unless there is a super majority vote taken by 11:00 p.m. to extend the meeting and identify the items to be considered after 11:00 p.m.

## **Regular Session ([GoToWebinar.com](https://www.go2webinar.com) – ID# 961-495-339)**

### **A. Call To Order**

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

### **B. Roll Call**

Present: Carlton, Combs, Nash, Mueller, Taylor  
Absent: None  
Staff: City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, Interim City Attorney Cara Silver, City Clerk Judi A. Herren, Deputy City Clerk Neetu Salwan

### **C. Public Comment**

- Nate Gardner spoke in support of closing Santa Cruz Avenue and allowing restaurants to expand further into the street. Gardner also commented on disabling cross street push buttons for pedestrian in effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 (Attachment).
- Lynne Bramlett spoke in support of adendizing the COVID-19 item to all future agendas, including emergency operation center updates (Attachment).
- Carmen O’Shea, on behalf of the LGBTQ Commission of San Mateo County, spoke in support of raising the LGBTG flag for the month of June and declare June 2020 as pride month by proclamation (Attachment).
- Jen Wolosin spoke in support and commented on what nearby communities are doing to increase safe streets.

### **D. Consent Calendar**

City Council pulled items D1., D4., and D6.

- D1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for March 10, 26, and 27, 2020 ([Attachment](#))

The City Council provided updates to the March 26 meeting minutes to include consideration of new electric trucks and vehicles for future purchases and correction to the report out from Mayor Taylor to reflect the Strategic Planning Committee meeting.

- D2. Authorize the city manager to enter into an agreement with EKI Environment & Water, Inc. to develop the 2020 urban water management plan ([Staff Report #20-084-CC](#))

- D3. Waive second reading and adopt Ordinance No. 1067 requiring safe storage of firearms in residences ([Staff Report #20-079-CC](#))

- James Pasterino expressed concern with the proposed state safe storage of firearms ordinance (Attachment).

The City Council pulled item D3. and continued to a future closed session.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Mueller/Carlton) to continue item D3. to a future closed session, passed unanimously.

- D4. Adopt Resolution No. 6555 approving the list of projects eligible for fiscal year 2020-21 funds from Senate Bill 1: The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 ([Staff Report #20-085-CC](#))

The City Council discussed and received clarification on the list of streets included on the projects eligible under the Senate Bill 1: The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

- D5. Award a construction contract to Paris Construction Company for the police department records counter remodel ([Staff Report #20-086-CC](#))
- D6. Approve waiver of late penalties for transient occupancy tax collected between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020 if remitted by July 31, 2020 ([Staff Report #20-081-CC](#))
- The City Council discussed extending the waiver of late penalties for transient occupancy tax collected between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020 to September 30, 2020.
- D7. Request for a subdivision ordinance variance to reduce the front setback requirement for a single-family residential lot at 11 Greenwood Place ([Staff Report #20-089-CC](#))
- D8. Approve California Office of Emergency Services Form 130 designating agents necessary to provide for all matters pertaining to State and Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursements ([Staff Report #20-083-CC](#))

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Nash/Carlton) to approve consent items D2., D5., and D7., passed unanimously.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Carlton/Nash) to approve the consent calendar items D1., D4. D6. and, D8., passed unanimously.

## **E. Regular Business**

- E1. Confirmation of next steps on the Belle Haven community center and library project ([Staff Report #20-091-CC](#))

Deputy City Manager Justin Murphy made the presentation (Attachment).

- Pastor Teirrah spoke in support of senior's input in consideration to the project (Attachment).
- Sheryl Bims spoke in support of the term "community complex" when referring to the community center and questioned how seniors are able to participate in the discussion process.

Vice Mayor Combs was recused and exited the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

The City Council received clarification on outreach strategies to include community members, following social distancing guidelines as project progress, availability of staff capacity to meet the proposed timeline and discussed funding options, such as community amenities.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Carlton/Taylor) to approve the basic timeline and steps identified by staff, passed 4-0-1 (Vice Mayor Combs recused).

Vice Mayor Combs rejoined the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Deputy City Manager Justin Murphy continued the presentation.

The City Council directed staff to perform due diligence regarding the steps that were outlined in the staff report and return to the City Council for final approval.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Nash/Carlton) to approve steps proposed by staff regarding interim services, passed unanimously.

- E2. Consider postponing interviews and appointments of all advisory bodies until City facilities reopen ([Staff Report #20-078-CC](#))

City Clerk Judi Herren introduced the item.

The City Council directed staff to extend recruitment through May 5, excluding the Planning Commission, and make appointments to all advisory bodies on May 12.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Carlton /Nash) to extend recruitment through May 5, excluding the Planning Commission, and make appointments to all advisory bodies on May 12, passed unanimously.

- E3. Award a construction contract to Interstate Grading & Paving, Inc. for the Santa Cruz and Middle Avenues street rehabilitation project and appropriate \$410,000 in additional funding ([Staff Report #20-090-CC](#))

Assistant Public Works Director Chris Lamm made the presentation (Attachment).

City Councilmember Mueller was recused and exited the meeting at 9:22 pm.

The City Council directed staff to keep environment impacts in mind when planning future construction projects.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Combs/Taylor) to award a construction contract to Interstate Grading & Paving, Inc. for the Santa Cruz and Middle Avenues street rehabilitation project and appropriate \$410,000 in additional funding, passed 4-0-1 (Mueller recused).

City Councilmember Muller rejoined the meeting at 10:07 pm.

- E4. Update the City Council and public on COVID-19 health emergency and the City's response ([Attachment](#))

Police Chief Dave Bertini and Management Analyst II Nicole Acker made the presentation.

The City Council received information on the new shelter in place order provided by the State. Interim City Attorney Cara Silver provided clarification on construction and landscaping bans during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City Council had consensus on the reactivation of construction when safe and allowed by the State and County.

- Ashley Barraza, Mia Palacios, Nataly Manzanero, and Ivette Contreras expressed concerns regarding impacts on the homeless during the pandemic (Attachment).

## **F. Informational Items**

The City Council continued items F1., F2., F3., F4., and F5. to a future meeting.

- F1. Annual review of Taser program for the period beginning April 1, 2019 and ending April 1, 2020 ([Staff Report #20-080-CC](#))
- F2. Annual review of data captured by Automated License Plate Readers for the period beginning April 1, 2019 through April 1, 2020 ([Staff Report #20-087-CC](#))
- F3. City Council agenda topics: May 2020 to June 2020 ([Staff Report #20-068-CC](#))
- F4. Employee engagement survey results ([Staff Report #20-082-CC](#))
- F5. Pilot public art project update ([Staff Report #20-088-CC](#))

The City Council continued items G. and H. to a future meeting.

## **G. City Manager's Report**

## **H. City Councilmember Reports**

### **Report from Closed Session**

No reportable actions.

## **I. Adjournment**

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 10:52 p.m.

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

These minutes were approved at the June 23, 2020 City Council meeting.

## Agenda item E-4

Ashley Barraza, Mia Palacios, Nataly Manzanero, Ivette Contreras, Menlo Park residents

Dear City Council Members,

The world is going through perilous times right now. Our community was one of the first ones to act on the dangers of COVID-19 by implementing social distancing guidelines and setting up a fund for families in San Mateo county. Yet we are still worried about housing in our communities.

One of our concerns is with homelessness, what is being done for homeless people right now when they need to shelter in place safely? Counties in Southern California are opening up their community centers to help some of their homeless people, could that be a temporary solution our community could do as well? There have been predictions of about 100,000 to 200,000 people dying from this virus, having measures like this can help us prevent some of those deaths.

When this crisis is over, what permanent measures will be put in place so we make sure homeless people are safe if an event like this ever happens again? We are nearing a time where it will not just be diseases that will rock our sense of safety, but we are seeing the effects of climate change more and more clearly. Homeless people will be the most affected if they do not have a safe place to call home.

Many families are being laid off but bills still need to be paid, mouths still need to be fed. Our communities need the people in power to help them now more than ever. Trump signed a \$2 trillion dollar bill to help relieve families financially but none of that money is being given to undocumented families. These undocumented families who pay taxes just like everyone else won't get the same support and will continue to struggle. These families work just as hard as everyone else but can't sign up for the benefits as everyone else.

Even though there is the ability to support undocumented families by the amount of children they have under the age of 16 this is still excluding families supporting children over the age of 16. In addition, the money given to families is not enough to continue to live in San Mateo County.

Also, many government relief programs require you to have done taxes but since the pandemic many people have not had the ability to complete their taxes, therefore are not eligible for those programs, thus excluding a lot of low income people from the law that was supposed to help.

In addition, what will relief for families who have had someone laid off look like? Especially for undocumented families that will not be eligible to receive the stimulus check from the IRS? We are experiencing a surge of people who are unemployed, and its effects have reached all of us. Some of the protections that are being put in place are generous, but will they be able to cover families who need it long term? We do not yet know how long this crisis is going to last. We may be lucky and be able to go back to work on May 3rd, but as we have seen in other countries, it has lasted longer than 2 months. We need our people to have access to long term, month by month relief that does not discriminate on legal status.

If this pandemic has taught us anything it is that our governments have the ability to do what is right for the most vulnerable. We have passed laws that give economic relief for low-income families, have stopped evictions, and made sure people have a stable place to live. We believe it is possible for our community to become a more compassionate, equitable community.

Sincerely,

Ashley Barraza, Mia Palacios, Nataly Manzanero, Ivette Contreras