



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** 9/8/2020

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Regular Meeting Location:** Joinwebinar.com – ID# 368-932-883

**Regular Meeting (Joinwebinar.com – ID# 368-932-883)**

**A. Call To Order**

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

**Present:** Carlton, Combs, Nash, Mueller, Taylor (excused at 9:27 p.m.)

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, Interim City Attorney Cara Silver, City Clerk Judi A. Herren

**C. Public Comment**

- Thomas Wong commented on concerns regarding water bill charges.
- Heyward Robinson spoke in support of the ordinance banning gas-powered leaf blowers on spare-the-air days.

[Web form public comment received on item C \(Attachment\).](#)

**D. Presentations and Proclamations**

**D1. Proclamation: National Preparedness Month September (Attachment)**

- Lynne Bramlett spoke in support of national preparedness month.

Mayor Taylor read the proclamation (Attachment).

**D2. Proclamation: National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month (Attachment)**

Mayor Taylor read the proclamation (Attachment).

**D3. Presentation: Fiscal year 2020-21 budget update**

Assistant Administrative Services Director Dan Jacobson made the presentation (Attachment).

The City Council received clarification on City property, former redevelopment agencies, transient occupancy taxes and grants for childcare.

## **E. Study Session**

- E1. Receive an update on Menlo Park Municipal Water operations including revenues, rates, capital projects and billing services; provide direction on water rates ([Staff Report #20-198-CC](#))

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

- Victoria Robledo spoke on concerns regarding water billing discrepancies.
- Thomas Wong requested clarification on water meter charges, billing overages, and determination of tiers.
- Pamela Jones spoke on concerns related to the determination of tiers.

The City Council received clarification on outstanding payment amount totals, meter reading processes, tier applications, and the new water meter project installation. The City Council discussed the sale of the Menlo Park Municipal Water to Cal Water and how the proceeds of the sale could be utilized. The City Council received further clarification on the effects of the low-income program on the rate study and how it is funded. The City Council directed staff to proceed with rate study, researching low income programs and potential fund sources.

The City Council took a break at 7:40 p.m.

The City Council reconvened at 8:07 p.m.

## **F. Consent Calendar**

- F1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for August 11 and 13, 2020 ([Attachment](#))

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

## **G. Regular Business – no staff presentations**

- G1. Approve Resolution No. 6549 updating the City's conflict of interest code ([Staff Report #20-188-CC](#))

- G2. Authorize the Mayor to sign a comment letter on the California High Speed Rail Authority draft environmental impact report/environmental impact statement for the San Jose-San Francisco project section ([Staff Report #20-189-CC](#))

[Web form public comment received on item G2](#) (Attachment).

- Marcey Abramowitz spoke in opposition of the of the project before the grade separation environmental impact report is completed.

- G3. Adopt Resolution No. 6583 authorizing submittal of a Bureau of Reclamation water and energy efficiency grant application for the automated meter infrastructure project; authorize the public works director to execute the financial assistance agreement if awarded a grant ([Staff Report #20-191-CC](#))

- G4. Adopt Resolution No. 6584 supporting the Middle Avenue Pedestrian and bicycle rail crossing project and submitting an application for Measures A and W pedestrian and bicycle program funding ([Staff Report #20-192-CC](#))

[Web form public comment received on item G4](#) (Attachment).

- Jen Wolosin spoke in support of the Middle Avenue Pedestrian and bicycle rail crossing project.
- Adina Levin spoke in support of the Middle Avenue Pedestrian and bicycle rail crossing project.
- Katie Behroozi spoke in support of the Middle Avenue Pedestrian and bicycle rail crossing project.

G5. Authorize the city manager to execute funding agreements with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for grant funding for the Bedwell Bayfront Park entrance improvements project ([Staff Report #20-193-CC](#))

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Nash/ Carlton) to approve items G1. through G5., passed unanimously.

## H. Regular Business

H1. Update on and consideration of extension/modifications to the Downtown street closure and temporary outdoor use permit pilot program ([Staff Report #20-196-CC](#))

[Web form public comment received on item H1](#) (Attachment).

Assistant Community Development Director Deanna Chow made the presentation (Attachment).

- George Paplos spoke in support of options nos. 1 and 2.
- Katie Behroozi requested that the students traveling by bicycle in the area be taken into consideration.
- Adina Levin spoke in support of a street closure that assists the businesses and to consider children and multimodal transportation options.
- Fran Dehn spoke in support of the street closure and temporary outdoor use permits.
- Alex Beltramo spoke in support of the use of parklets and in opposition to the street closure.

The City Council discussed their experiences Downtown, suggested various alternatives for the street closure, expressed a desire to continue to support businesses with the permit process and provide barriers/barricades to merchants for their parklets.

Mayor Taylor exited the meeting.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Carlton/ Combs) to adopt modified urgency ordinance to open the Northside (left side) of street to vehicular traffic, continue the street closure between Curtis Street and Doyle Street and Evelyn Street to Crane Street (Southside or right side), install temporary detour signage for bicycle traffic from Curtis Street to Doyle Street on Fridays from 4 p.m. through Sundays at 11:59 p.m., and to continue these changes and the outdoor use permit program through the end of February 2021, and to direct staff to work with businesses to create parklets and timing of commitment as needed, to complete the new configuration by October 1, 2020, and to return with bicycle traffic options, passed 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

H2. Adopt Resolution No. 6585 authorizing the city manager to execute an amendment to the professional services agreement with Team Sheeper, Inc., to extend the term of the Belle Haven pool operations ([Staff Report #20-194-CC](#))

The City Council received clarification on service dates.

**ACTION:** By acclamation, the City Council continued item H2., passed 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

- H3. Provide clarification on air quality monitoring sensor purchase, installation, and communication with SMCLabs ([Staff Report #20-197-CC](#))

Assistant City Manager Nick Pegueros made the presentation.

- Katie Behroozi spoke in support of purchasing Purple Air air quality monitors.

The City Council discussed the vendors, Clarity and Purple Air, air monitors. The City Council directed staff cancel the purchase of the Purple Air monitors and withdraw the request of sending County a letter regarding the Clarity air monitor installation project.

**ACTION:** By acclamation, the City Council continued item H3. to a future meeting, passed 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

**ACTION:** By acclamation, the City Council continued the meeting past 11 p.m., passed 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

- H4. Review and adopt the updated City Council procedures ([Staff Report #20-195-CC](#))

The City Council received clarification on what activates the opening of a cooling center. The City Council directed staff to gather and utilize County Health's input.

- Pamela Jones spoke in support of the cooling centers activation procedure decreasing the 105-degree to 100-degree activation and increase communication with residents.

## I. Informational Items

- I1. City Council agenda topics: September 2020 to November 2020 ([Staff Report #20-190-CC](#))

## J. City Manager's Report

None.

## K. City Councilmember Reports

City Councilmember Nash reported out on the Local Policy Group and Stanford Community Resource Group meetings.

City Councilmember Carlton reported on the Menlo Park Outdoor Art festival at Menlo College.

Vice Mayor Combs reported out on the Hometown Hero's event.

- K1. Confirm voting delegate for the League of California Cities annual conference ([Attachment](#))

**ACTION:** By acclamation, the City Council selected Mayor Taylor as the voting delegate and City Councilmember Carlton as the alternate, passed 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

**L. City Councilmember Requests**

- L1. Refocus City Council 2020-21 priorities and direct specific land use planning work  
([Staff Report #20-199-CC](#))

**ACTION:** By acclamation, the City Council continued item L1., passed 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

**M. Adjournment**

Vice Mayor Combs adjourned the meeting at 11:30 p.m.

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

These minutes were approved at the City Council meeting of October 27, 2020.

## 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/publiccommentSeptember8](https://menlopark.org/publiccommentSeptember8)\*
  - Record a comment or request a call-back when an agenda topic is under consideration:  
Dial 650-474-5071\*
  - Access the regular meeting real-time online at:  
[joinwebinar.com](https://joinwebinar.com) – Regular Meeting ID 368-932-883
  - Access the regular meeting real-time via telephone (listen only mode) at:  
(631) 992-3221  
Regular Meeting ID 450-642-829 (# – no audio pin)  
\*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.