

**MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2021  
SARATOGA CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
STUDY SESSION**

At 5:00 p.m., the City Council and Planning Commission held a Housing Element Update Study Session via teleconferencing through Zoom.

Prior to Roll Call, the Mayor and City Clerk explained the City Council meeting was conducted pursuant to provisions of the Brown Act and a recent Executive Order issued by the Governor to facilitate teleconferencing to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission at public meetings. Ordinarily, the Brown Act sets strict rules for teleconferencing. The Governor's Executive Order has suspended those rules. The Executive Order does require that public agencies continue to notice meetings in advance and provide members of the public an opportunity to observe the meeting and offer public comment. The City Council met all of the applicable notice requirements and the public was welcome to participate in this meeting. Information on how the public can observe the meeting and provide public comment was also shared. Additionally, the Mayor explained that votes would be taken through roll call.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Zhao, Vice Mayor Walia, Council Members Bernald, Kumar, Fitzsimmons (All Council Members appearing via teleconference)

Planning Commission Chair Kausar, Vice Chair Zheng, Planning Commissioners Ahuja, Brownley, Choi, Jensen, Mohiuddin (All Planning Commissioners appearing via teleconference)

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** James Lindsay, City Manager  
Richard Taylor, City Attorney  
Crystal Bothelio, Assistant City Manager  
Britt Avrit, City Clerk  
Debbie Pedro, Community Development Director  
John Cherbone, Public Works Director  
Lauren Pettipiece, Public Information Officer  
Emma Burkhalter, Associate Civil Engineer

**REPORT ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

The City Clerk stated the agenda for this meeting was properly posted on August 26, 2021.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

No one requested to speak during Oral Communications on Non-Agendized Items

## AGENDA ITEMS:

Saratoga Housing Element Update

### **Recommended Action:**

Provide direction on the City of Saratoga Housing Element update.

Debbie Pedro, Community Development Director, presented the staff report.

Mayor Zhao invited public comment on the item.

The following individuals spoke on this item: Terri Singer, Simona, Jeffrey Schwartz, Tsing Bardin, David, Bill Mullen, Corinne Vita, Ray Froess, Bill Reid, Kalisha Webster

Mayor Zhao requested a recess at this time and reconvened the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

WALIA/FITZIMMONS MOVED TO **DIRECT THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO 1) MOVE FORWARD WITH ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY AND OBTAINING PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING THE HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE, 2) CREATE A LIST OF ALL POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY SITES INCLUDING THE PROS AND CONS OF EACH SITE, 3) PROVIDE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL, AND 4) AND INCLUDE THE SUGGESTED POLICIES LISTED IN STAFF'S PRESENTATION IN THE PLANNING COMMISSION STUDY SESSIONS.** MOTION PASSED BY VERBAL ROLL CALL. AYES: BERNALD, FITZSIMMONS, WALIA, ZHAO. NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: KUMAR

Walia moved to request that staff, with regard to the Housing Element, include the Marshall Lane project in the report to the Planning Commission.

Motion failed due to lack of a second.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Zhao adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Britt Avrit, MMC, City Clerk  
City of Saratoga