

MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021
SARATOGA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

At 6:00 p.m., the City Council held a Joint Meeting with the Youth Commission via teleconferencing through Zoom.

Mayor Zhao invited public comment.

No one requested to speak.

Mayor Zhao called the Regular Session to order at 7:03 p.m. 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 Yan Zhao, Vice Mayor Tina Walia, Council Members Rishi Kumar, Kookie Fitzsimmons, Mary-Lynne Bernald
(All Council Members appearing via teleconference)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: James Lindsay, City Manager
Richard Taylor, City Attorney
Crystal Bothelio, Assistant City Manager
Britt Avrit, City Clerk
Mary Furey, Administrative Services Director
Debbie Pedro, Community Development Director
John Cherbone, Public Works Director
Leo Salindong, IT Manager
Lauren Pettipiece, Public Information Officer
Kayla Nakamoto, Administrative Analyst
(All staff members appearing via teleconference)

REPORT ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The City Clerk reported the agenda for this meeting was properly posted on September 9, 2021.

REPORT ON JOINT MEETING

Youth Commission Chair Cameron Hicks and Youth Commission Vice Chair Aria Jain discussed the Joint Meeting with the City Council.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

The following individuals spoke at this time:

Jeffrey Schwartz - discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga's Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal.

Emily Lo – discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga's Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal.

Pragati Grover – discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga's Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal.

Cynthia Chang – discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga's Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal.

Nai Hsueh – discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga's Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal.

Eric Cao – discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga's Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal.

Stan Bogosian – discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga's Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal.

Chuck Page – discussed the City Council's relationship with the Chamber of Commerce and discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga's Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal.

David Guidry - discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga's Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal.

Phyllis Tung – discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga's Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal.

Katherine Tseng - discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga's Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal.

Howard – discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga's Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Zhao shared information about COVID-19, Saratoga Power Lunch, and several Commission recruitments.

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

Appointment of Library & Community Engagement Commissioner

Recommended Action:

Approve the Resolution appointing one member to the Library & Community Engagement Commission and direct the City Clerk to administer the Oath of Office.

RESOLUTION 21-067

BERNALD/FITZSIMMONS MOVED TO **APPROVE THE RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROBERT GULINO TO THE LIBRARY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION AND DIRECT THE CITY CLERK TO ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE;** MOTION PASSED BY VERBAL ROLL CALL. AYES: BERNALD, FITZSIMMONS, KUMAR, WALIA, ZHAO: NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: NONE.

Proclamation Declaring September 2021 as Preparedness Month

Recommended Action:

Proclaim September 2021 as Preparedness Month.

No action necessary for the Proclamation.

The City Council recognized retiring Finance and Administrative Services Director Mary Furey and commended her for 15 years of service to the City of Saratoga.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Zhao invited public comment on the Consent Calendar.

No one requested to speak.

1.1. Review of Accounts Payable Check Registers

Recommended Action:

Review and accept check registers for the following accounts payable payment cycles:

9/1/21 Period 2; 9/8/21 Period 3

BERNALD/FITZSIMMONS MOVED TO **REVIEW AND ACCEPT CHECK REGISTERS FOR THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS PAYABLE PAYMENT CYCLES: 9/1/21 PERIOD 2; 9/8/21 PERIOD 3.** MOTION PASSED BY VERBAL ROLL CALL. AYES: BERNALD, FITZSIMMONS, KUMAR, WALIA, ZHAO: NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: NONE.

1.2. SB 165 Special Tax and Bond Accountability Report

Recommended Action:

City Council to receive and file the annual report on the Arrowhead Community Facility District (CFD) bond debt, in compliance with the Local Agency Special Tax and Bond Accountability Act.

BERNALD/FITZSIMMONS MOVED TO **RECEIVE AND FILE THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ARROWHEAD COMMUNITY FACILITY DISTRICT (CFD) BOND DEBT, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LOCAL AGENCY SPECIAL TAX AND BOND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT.** MOTION PASSED BY VERBAL ROLL CALL. AYES: BERNALD, FITZSIMMONS, KUMAR, WALIA, ZHAO: NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: NONE.

1.3. Resolution Authorizing the Hakone Foundation to Apply for A County Historical Grant for the Mon Roof Rehabilitation and Restoration Project

Recommended Action:

Approve the resolution authorizing the Hakone Foundation to submit a County Historical Heritage Grant Program application for the Mon Roof Rehabilitation and Restoration project.

RESOLUTION 21-068

BERNALD/FITZSIMMONS MOVED TO **APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HAKONE FOUNDATION TO SUBMIT A COUNTY HISTORICAL HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR THE MON ROOF REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION PROJECT.** MOTION PASSED BY VERBAL ROLL CALL. AYES: BERNALD, FITZSIMMONS, KUMAR, WALIA, ZHAO: NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: NONE.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

None

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1. Information Technology (IT) Master Plan Presentation

Recommended Action:

Receive presentation.

Leo Salindong, IT Manager, and Rob Balbuena, IT Analyst, presented the staff report.

Mayor Zhao invited public comment on the item.

The following individual spoke on this item: Chuck Page

The Mayor requested a brief recess and reconvened the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

3.2. Approaches to Improve City Road Conditions

Recommended Action:

Receive report and consider suspending the current community engagement program and continuing the discussion to the City Council Retreat in early 2022 when more information will be known about future one-time funding opportunities.

James Lindsay, City Manager, presented the staff report.

Mayor Zhao invited public comment on the item.

The following individual spoke on this item: Chuck Page

KUMAR/FITZSIMMONS MOVED TO SUSPEND THE CURRENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM AND CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION TO THE CITY COUNCIL RETREAT IN EARLY 2022. MOTION PASSED BY VERBAL ROLL CALL.
AYES: BERNALD, FITZSIMMONS, KUMAR, WALIA, ZHAO: NOES: NONE.
ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: NONE.

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS

Council Member Mary-Lynne Bernald

Santa Clara/Santa Cruz Airport/Community Roundtable – discussed items from the September 7, 2021, Special Meeting including presentations from the Ad Hoc Committee and approval of the budget as long as the Cities Association provides additional related to the budget.

Hakone Foundation Board & Executive Committee - stated she attended the meeting on July 14, 2021 and will be attending the meetings on September 16, 2021.

Council Member Kookie Fitzsimmons

Chamber of Commerce – discussed potential extension of the parklet permits in the Village and stated the Chamber President will be going door to door to discuss experiences with the parklets; discussed recent music festival fundraiser for the Chamber and stated the Chamber is looking to potentially bring the festival back May or June of 2022; discussed car show scheduled for Sunday, July 24, 2022.

Sister City Organization – discussed the Housing Element presentation provided by the City Manager to this organization and expressed her appreciation to City staff as it is clear community organizations are aware of the Housing Element due to outreach conducted by staff.

Council Member Rishi Kumar

West Valley Clean Water Program Authority – discussed the Classification and Compensation Study presented to the Board and stated the Board voted to delay taking action to hire full-time staff.

West Valley Solid Waste Management Joint Powers Authority – stated the Board received a report related to SB 1383 and discussed the food/organic waste collection cart being provided to customers to collect food/organic waste.

Vice Mayor Tina Walia

Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority Board of Directors – discussed the Board's approval of the FY 21/22 budget including maintaining the 1% customer discount and building reserves; discussed the savings customers have realized in the past few years; discussed the Board's updated strategic focus areas.

Mayor Yan Zhao

Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Policy Advisory Committee – stated light rail services are back in service including blue, orange and green lines and stated the service is currently free; discussed the Government Affairs update including an infrastructure bill being considered by Congress.

Cities Association of Santa Clara County-City Selection Committee – discussed approval of the officers of the Board.

Cities Association of Santa Clara County – discussed the report provided from the Joint Ad Hoc Committee and stated the Board voted to withdraw fiscal sponsorship for the Roundtable with details to be determined by the end of December.

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

Bernald/Fitzsimmons requested that the City Council call a Joint Meeting with all Commissions to review the Mission Statement, Value Statement and the Code of Ethics and determine if any changes are needed.

Bernald/Fitzsimmons requested that the City Council develop a Zero-Tolerance Policy to include follow through actions.

Walia/Fitzsimmons requested to have staff prepare an agenda item regarding the Ballot Initiative ‘Californians for Community Planning’ that allows an opportunity for the City Council to provide direction based on information received.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Council Member Kumar discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga’s Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal and discussed his experiences with racist comments.

Council Member Fitzsimmons discussed the comment letter from Cheriell Jensen regarding Saratoga’s Regional Housing Needs Allocation appeal.

Vice Mayor Walia discussed her support of diversity in Saratoga.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

None

ADJOURNMENT

BERNALD/FITZSIMMONS MOVED TO **ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:30 P.M.** MOTION PASSED BY VERBAL ROLL CALL. AYES: BERNALD, FITZSIMMONS, WALIA, ZHAO: NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: KUMAR.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Britt Avrit, MMC, City Clerk
City of Saratoga