



**Minutes**  
**Town of Atherton**  
**October 5, 2016**  
**3:00 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers**  
94 Ashfield Road  
Atherton, California  
**Special Meeting**

**ROLL CALL** Lewis, Lempres, Widmer, Wiest, DeGolia

Council Member Widmer will teleconference from the following location:  
The Hyatt Regency Long Beach  
200 South Pine Avenue,  
Long Beach, California, USA, 90802

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** –

Walter Sleeth – felt that the decision for item number 2 should not be decided until the new library is actually built.

**STUDY SESSION ITEMS**

**1. DISCUSSION OF THE FIRE FISCAL SERVICES REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO THE MAYOR REGARDING SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

**Report:** City Manager George Rodericks

**Recommendation:** Discuss the Fire Fiscal Services Review Subcommittee Assignments and provide feedback to the Mayor for possible modification to the Subcommittee membership

Mayor Lewis noted that she attended the Fire District Board meeting the prior week. She summarized the Districts meeting and their action as it relates to the Town.

Councilmember DeGolia was not clear on what action was necessary for this item.

Assistant City Attorney Jennifer Larsen clarified that there are potential brown act issues because the action taken by the Fire Board raises a participation issue for the Town since the Town already has an assigned subcommittee to work with fire board members that does not include the Mayor.

DeGolia recommended that the subcommittee continue to meet and do their analysis and allow the Mayor to meet with the Board President as they please.

Larsen explained that to eliminate confusion, reduce the potential for cross or mixed messages/purposes, prevent the potential for a Brown Act violation, accommodate the District's request of meeting with the Mayor, and the Council/staff's need for a Council Subcommittee,

staff recommends that the Council consider reassigning one member of the Committee to be the “Mayor” of Atherton.

Council Member Widmer felt that it is the Mayors job to make changes to subcommittees. The Mayor should make necessary changes.

Finance Committee member Bob Polito offered to sit on the committee and put in the hours to complete the task if it helps avoid any issues.

The Council supported Polito’s suggestion. Council agreed that the Mayor will refrain from all conversations about the fire fiscal services review and Councilmember Wiest will work with Finance Committee member Bob Polito.

Mayor Lewis recapped her meeting and conversation with Fire District Board President Rob Silano. Silano attended the Mayors regularly schedule Office Hours. She noted that Silano encouraged her to write a letter to the Board summarizing what the Town is looking for.

Council disbanded the subcommittee (Wiest, Lempres) to allow Wiest and Finance Committee Member Bob Polito to work on developing the scope of work for the fire fiscal services review.

**2. PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO THE CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LIBRARY JPA ON THE LIBRARY DONOR FUND DISCUSSIONS**

**Report:** City Manager George Rodericks

**Recommendation:** Provide feedback to the City Council Representative to the Library JPA on the Library Donor Fund Discussions

Councilmember DeGolia summarized his report regarding a proposal by the San Mateo County Libraries system to start using excess tax dollars that were generated in Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley to help fund other community libraries within the JPA.

DeGolia noted that the proposal is to split the funds remaining after the library's operating expenses and a share of the overall system's expenses are paid.

He recapped the donor funds received by the Town over the last three fiscal years and estimated the amount going forward.

Councilmember Widmer suggested that the Town find out what tax value Atherton is gaining from the JPA. He wanted to know where the money is going and what it is being spent on.

Council discussed the JPA and how the service hours are set up. The General Fund of the Library JPA will cover costs for the library being open for up to 47 hours per week. For hours over 47 costs are borne by the municipalities.

Wally Sleeth – asked for clarification on what happens next. Is there a vote by the Library Board on JPA agreement?

Council Member DeGolia stated that the Board plans to vote solely on providing direction to library staff and attorneys to draft next steps and changes in the agreement.

Vice Mayor Lempres felt it was important to make sure Atherton residents receive the benefits of the taxes they are paying. He encouraged pushing for the strongest possible deal and not a 50/50 deal.

Council Member Widmer questioned how the money is being spent and whether Atherton is getting the maximum benefit out of it. He suggested proposing to the JPA that the 50/50 split occurs after facility operations and maintenance are funded and some money is put into a replacement fund. If the Board doesn't agree then Atherton should vote no.

A conversation among Council ensued regarding the percentage of splits.

Finance Committee Member Polito questioned whether any changes would need voter approval.

Mayor Lewis said she will think about the possibility of creating another ad hoc committee to look at library services and tax dollars associated with the service.

**3. DISCUSSION OF AN ATHERTON EXCELLENCE COMMUNITY RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

**Report:** City Manager George Rodericks

**Recommendation:** Review and discuss the Atherton Excellence Community Recognition Program and provide direction to staff regarding the potential program

City Manager Rodericks summarized his report.

Council Member DeGolia suggested a limit in the leadership/community service award category to 1-2 people per year. The awards selection committee would include honoree members of that limited category from the past five years, along with the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Manager.

Further discussion regarding that there were no prohibitions on awards granted posthumously. Council agreed. Staff will bring the item back to the regular October Council meeting for final approval.

**4. REVIEW OF TOWN ALTERNATIVE REVENUE STRATEGY AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK**

**Report:** Finance Director Robert Barron III

**Recommendation:** Review of Town alternative revenue strategy and provide feedback to staff regarding revenue alternatives for future discussion and review

Item 4 was moved to the next Study Session meeting.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION by DeGolia, second by Wiest to adjourn the meeting. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Theresa DellaSanta