



**Minutes**  
**Town of Atherton**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**August 21, 2012**  
**6:01 p.m.**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
94 Ashfield Road  
Atherton, California  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

**ROLL CALL** – Lewis, Widmer, Carlson, McKeithen, Lewis, and Dobbie

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** –

A resident thanked the Council, Interim City Manager, and City Attorney for their prompt attention to the petition.

**1. Should the Location of the new Library be decided by a Town-wide vote by residents?**

No action taken by the Council.

**2. Where should the new Library be located?**

- a. **Holbrook-Palmer Park**
- b. **New Town Center**
- c. **Current Location**

Peter Carpenter, resident, thinks item 2 should be tabled until the results of the town-wide vote are known.

Bob Roeser, Wilburn, wants to know if the intent of the ballot measure is that if a “no” vote is returned, then the Library will not be built in any location in Holbrook-Palmer Park. The City Attorney and Mayor Widmer answered in the affirmative.

The councilmembers agree that the item should be continued. No other action was taken.

**3. Should Atherton withdraw from the county-wide Library JPA?**

Mayor Widmer introduced the topic by saying that the Interim City Manager is already looking into the JPA and its implications and it will be presented at a meeting at a later date.

Councilmember Carlson and Councilmember Dobbie would like further information before making a decision. Vice Mayor Lewis has many questions about the contract with the JPA that she would like answered.

Peter Carpenter, resident, thinks that this JPA does not equally represent all of its contributors. He would like to see the interests of Atherton represented in a manner more consistent with their contribution level.

Anne McNertney, Watkins, spoke in opposition to Atherton’s involvement in the JPA.

Ray Gerard, Irving Avenue, has many questions regarding Atherton's involvement in the Library JPA. Mayor Widmer asked Mr. Gerard to give his questions to Interim City Manager Theresa DellaSanta for her investigation into Atherton's involvement in the JPA.

Colleen Anderson, Parker Avenue, spoke of her idea to renovate the existing library and give the remaining library money to Atherton's public schools.

Mayor Widmer would like to wait for the detailed analysis by the Interim City Manager and City Attorney.

Councilmember Carlson asked if they could have a timeline and scope of what to expect from the Interim City Manager and the City Attorney. Interim City Manager Theresa DellaSanta answered that the City Attorney would be analyzing the ramifications of Atherton withdrawing from the JPA. The Interim City Manager and the Finance Director will be looking into the history of the relationship. Interim City Manager Theresa DellaSanta also estimated that she would have the staff report ready for the regular October City Council meeting. City Attorney Bill Connors has a list of the questions posed by Council and they will be addressed by the staff report.

Councilmember McKeithen warned against conjecture and speculation regarding Atherton's relationship with the JPA before the City Manager and City Attorney's report is complete and answers are given.

The item was tabled until the October meeting.

**4. Should the Town prepare, with citizen participation, a master plan study for all buildings and structures, existing or planned all Town-owned properties and their uses or proposed uses?**

Councilmember Dobbie doesn't think it would be a huge task to undertake given how few Town structures there are.

Mayor Widmer commented that there is money in the budget to do a master plan. He recommended that it is something that the Town should consider.

Councilmember McKeithen would like input on the type of master plan citizens would like. She would like to know what kind of timeline would be in mind and if there should be citizen involvement and what the scope of the project should be.

Vice Mayor Lewis noted that the citizen's petition requesting a master plan outlined that the residents would like a study enumerating the needs of the Town and the existing structures. Vice Mayor Lewis thinks such a study is very important to the Town.

Councilmember Carlson thinks the most important part of a potential master plan would be balancing the need for community space.

Bob Roesser, Wilburn Avenue, thinks a master plan would be very helpful to avoid problems that come up and delay the building process. If a master plan was laid out, then it would be a lot easier when money becomes available, to proceed with projects.

Charles Marsala, Emily, thinks it might be a good idea to bring back a Facilities Committee.

Colleen Anderson, Parker, would like the plan of Atherton mimic that of Menlo Park with all of the activities around the town center.

A resident spoke about the impact of high-speed rail on future buildings.

Councilmember Carlson clarified that it is not a given that there will be four tracks for high-speed rail.

Ann McNertney, Watkins, thinks there should be a master plan.

Councilmember McKeithen asked about the timeline of high-speed rail and electrification. Councilmember Carlson answered that the timeline is for it to be completed in 2019, with 2029 is the target date for high-speed trains to share two tracks up and down the peninsula.

Councilmember Dobbie asked where they anticipate getting the funds from. Councilmember Carlson replied that it would be from Proposition 1A. Councilmember McKeithen asked about shoofly tracks. Councilmember Carlson gave his opinion that in the Atherton area they will likely have two tracks. With four tracks or shoofly tracks being somewhere more like San Carlos, which is considered the halfway point of the peninsula.

Vice Mayor Lewis read the petition from the citizens requesting a master plan.

Mayor Widmer asked of staff to investigate the cost of a master plan for the area surrounding the Atherton Council Chambers as well as a timetable to do the project. The master plan for the Park has already been approved in the amount of \$30,000 and will be done separately.

Vice Mayor Lewis disagrees with the master plan being done piecemeal and thinks the master plan should be done Town-wide.

## **ADJOURN**

**Motion by Dobbie, second by McKeithen to adjourn.**

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**Excused: 0**