



**Minutes**  
**Town of Atherton**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**July 3, 2013**  
**5:00 P.M.**  
**City Council Chambers**  
91 Ashfield Ave  
Atherton, California  
**Study Session**

**ROLL CALL**      **Lewis, Wiest, Dobbie, Widmer**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jack Ringham, Atherton resident, suggested that Council consider both a parcel tax and a real estate transfer tax.

John Ruggeiro, Atherton resident, concurred with Ringham. He added that every other city in the county shows council meetings on television. He suggested Atherton look into doing the same.

**STUDY SESSION**

**1.      DISCUSSION OF PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT AND  
SPECIAL ELECTION**

**Oral Report and Discussion:** City Manager George Rodericks

City Manager Rodericks explained the difference in process between appointment of a Council Member and calling a special election to fill the vacancy on City Council.

Council asked clarifying questions on whether the 60 day period allotted for appointment precludes them from calling a special election now and changing their minds within that 60 day time period.

Rodericks explained that per the California Government Code, following the effective date of the resignation the Council has 60 days to either fill the vacancy by appointment or fill the vacancy by calling a special election for the next regularly scheduled election date not less than 114 days from the call of the special election. The 114<sup>th</sup> day falls on the day the nomination period opens.

Conners added that if the election is called now and Council agrees to an appointment within the 60-day time period then the Town can cancel the election.

**2.      PARCEL TAX RENEWAL DISCUSSION**

**Report:** City Manager George Rodericks

Council discussed the parcel tax and the levied amounts on private schools. There was discussion on whether services are required more on larger properties and private schools and whether the tax levy should be set accordingly.

Council discussed what the potential for submitting a parcel tax that has a flat rate.

Council directed staff to return with tax rate options that include constant rates, varying rates, and a flat rate.

Staff will return to City Council at their regular July meeting.

**3. DISCUSSION OF COUNCIL HANDBOOK AND COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

**Report:** City Manager George Rodericks

City Clerk Theresa DellaSanta summarized the staff report.

Council approved of the revised resolution governing committees and commissions with minor edits. Staff will bring back the final resolution at the next regular Council meeting for adoption.

Council Member Dobbie had concerns with the code of conduct included in the handbook. DellaSanta explained that the code of conduct was approved by Council in 2008 and needs to be modernized.

Rodericks suggested that Council submit their suggestions to staff for revisions. Staff will come back to Council with a revised code of conduct included in the handbook at a future meeting.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Theresa DellaSanta  
City Clerk**