



Meeting:
City Council Meeting

Date:

September 18, 2013



On September 18 the Council met for their regular September City Council Meeting.

First up was an introduction and oath of office for new Atherton Police Officer Daniel Larsen. The Chief of Police administered the oath of office and the Council welcomed the Officer Larsen to the community.

The Council heard public comments from the community on the County of San Mateo's redistricting plan encouraging the community and Council to be aware of and participate in potential redistricting changes; heard from Michelle Lindeman regarding the annual "Turkey Trot" set for November – challenging the Mayor, Council, and staff to participate; and heard comments from a resident encouraging the Council to look at its size.

Following public comment, the Council reviewed the City Manager's Written Report (**Item 6**). If you haven't had a chance to check out this monthly Report visit the Town's website at www.ci.atherton.ca.us and navigate to Agendas and Minutes. The Report is prepared monthly as part of the City Council's Regular Agenda. It includes departmental updates on the various happenings around Town such as reports from Administration, Community Services, Planning, Police, and Public Works.

In most cases the City Manager's Report is a "receive and file" item but sometimes there is Q&A or comments on some of the items in the Report. Tonight, the City Manager provided oral comments on the recent Public Outreach Workshop for the Civic Center Project. The Council noted the request from Selby School for a contribution toward their library services. The Council will evaluate the request at a future Council meeting.

Following the Consent Agenda, the Council heard a presentation from John Ford, Executive Director for the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance. Mr. Ford provided the Council with information on the activities of the Alliance in reducing congestion in the County. A copy of the presentation can be found [here](#).

Moving on to the Consent Agenda (**Items 8 through 17**), with minor changes to the minutes of August 7, the Council approved the Consent Agenda as one motion. Included on the Consent Agenda were minutes of prior meetings, warrants and demands, contracts for Tennis, an amendment ensuring that Per Diem Dispatchers are an authorized hourly employee, a final, 1-year extension to the building and life safety services contract with Interwest, approval of a 90-day extension to the EIR for Cartan Field, authorization for technology upgrades to building

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permit services, appointment of the City Manager to a Technical Advisory Committee, and revising the size of the Environmental Programs Committee from 10 members to 5.

Item 18, 150 Valparaiso Avenue – CUP was continued to the December 2013 meeting.

After debating the requirements for organizations to obtain a fee waiver, the Council denied the request of the Menlo Park Fire District for a banner fee waiver as they did not meet the eligibility requirements per established policy (**Item 19**). **Item 20** had been previously removed from the Agenda and that moved the Council to **Item 21**, Consideration of enhancements to maintenance at the Park and in the street rights-of-way. Here, the Council reviewed the preliminary list provided by staff and enhanced it with other expressed concerns within the Park and rights-of-way. Staff will return the item within 60 days for the Council's consideration for additional service levels in these areas.

The last item on the Agenda was **Item 22**, a budget amendment to expend up to \$2,000,000 toward the Town's Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability. The Council discussed the merits of making a significant contribution toward the OPEB liability in the current fiscal year and discussed what would occur in 2014 after the Finance Committee provides a policy recommendation. Staff advised that the contribution would ultimately reduce the Town's operational budget by up to \$125,000 per year and reduce the long-term liability up to the amount of the contribution. The Town presently has approximately \$6.6 million in OPEB liability. Staff advised that any recommendation from the Finance Committee would be considered by the Council in March/April 2014 as the Council discusses revenue enhancement alternatives, expenditure reduction alternatives and would fold into the June budget adoption at which time the Council will have an in-depth discussion on whether or not to impose the full parcel tax for 2014/15 if the measure is successful in November 2013.

Following discussion, the Council authorized a budget amendment of \$2,000,000 to pay toward the Town's OPEB liability in the current fiscal year to come from the Town's unallocated General Fund balance. For a detailed staff report on this issue, please review the [following](#).

Concluding the meeting at approximately 8:20 pm, that, as they say – was a wrap!

Sincerely,

George Rodericks
City Manager
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