



ATHERTON'S... THAT'S A WRAP!



City Council Meeting

February 18, 2015

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TownOfAtherton/featured>

On February 18 the City Council met for their regular City Council meeting in the Town's Council Chambers. First up on the Agenda was the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge, the Council moved to Presentations. Here, the Chief of Police introduced and administered the Oath of Office to new Police Officer Todd Carpenter and Code Enforcement/Community Services Officer Monica Diaz.

After Presentations, the Council moved on to Public Comments. Public comment was received regarding the Little League Project in Holbrook-Palmer Park encouraging the Council to ensure the facilities meets their expectations for the Park.

Following Public Comment the Council moved to **Item No. 6, City Manager's Report**. The City Manager's Report is prepared monthly as part of the City Council's Regular Agenda. In addition to current reports from the City Manager it includes departmental updates on the various happenings around Town such as reports from Administration, Community Services, Planning, Police, and Public Works. The Council asked a few questions regarding the Report and provided feedback on the efforts of the Police Department.

After the Manager's Report, the Council moved on to the **Consent Agenda** consisting of Items 8 through 16. Items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine in nature and are generally considered in one motion and adopted by a single vote of the Council. Included in this month's Consent Agenda were minutes, bills and claims, a Resolution to provide the County of San Mateo with electricity load data for the Town as part of the Community Choice Aggregation research, rejection of a claim for fence repair due to felled tree, a status report for the Marsh Road Retaining Wall Repair Project, changes to the Oak Grove Avenue limited parking signage, adoption of an agreement between the Town and Atherton Now, and acceptance of the 2013/14 Audited Financial Report. Following brief comments on the minutes, the CCA Resolution, and Atherton Now Agreement the Council adopted the Consent Agenda items.

After the Consent Agenda the Council moved on to the Regular Agenda items. First up was **Item No. 17, Appointment to Rail and Transportation Committee**. Here, the interviewed and appointed two new Committee members: James McLaughlin to the Town's Transportation Committee and Ellen Jameson to the Town's Rail Committee.

Next up was **Item No. 18, Consideration of Alternatives to address El Camino Real Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Concerns, to include Approval of a Request for Proposal**. The Council heard the staff presentation noting the various options for their consideration that

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included halting the Operational Study for lane modifications along El Camino Real; installation of a Hybrid Pedestrian Beacon (HAWK) at Stockbridge; and the possibility of installing a traffic control device at Selby Lane and El Camino Real. The Council discussed the various issues associated with each item noting the number of incidents along El Camino Real over the last 14 years, the functionality of crosswalks and the safety of pedestrians moving along El Camino Real, the need for statistics regarding the intersections and roadway traffic for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists, an upcoming March 16 community meeting on street design, confirmation of the HAWK installations at Alejandra and Isabella, involvement of the Menlo Park Fire District with a traffic control device at Almendral, outreach to Selby Lane residents for a possible traffic control device and the need for expanded data, and project timing. (For a video demonstration of a HAWK pedestrian beacon: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzNs0_u6wcQ).

Following discussion and public comment from residents addressing the possibility of a signal at Selby Lane (negatively affecting local traffic) and need for a protected crosswalk at Almendral, the Council took the following actions: 1) halted the Operational Study for possible lane modifications on El Camino Real; 2) directed staff to gather data along the Atherton section of El Camino Real (waiting for response from a grant opportunity and the results of Menlo Park's analysis); 3) moving forward with a traffic control device at Almendral and El Camino Real and working with the Fire District for funding and pre-emption possibility; and 4) moving forward with an outreach program for a Selby Lane traffic control device or traffic control solution without limiting options to signalization.

Item No. 19 – Budget Amendment for Park Improvements was next on the Agenda. Here the Council heard the staff report recommending a budget amendment of \$25,000 to address the repainting of interior/exterior of facilities at the Park. In addition, the Council considered another \$50,000 to remodel the Pavilion kitchen area into a catering kitchen. After discussion of timing, coordinating projects, design, and contractor demand, the Council moved to approve a budget amendment of \$75,000 to move both projects forward.

Item No. 20 was the Mid-Year Budget Report. Staff provided an overview of the 2014/15 Budget at mid-year noting the Town's healthy fiscal condition. Staff recommended one amendment to the budget to address an increase in building permit revenues and a corresponding increase in building department cost (the two are linked by %). Following discussion around departmental expenses, evaluation of budget timing for salaries and benefits, reduction of other post-employment benefit liability, and public comment, the Council adopted a budget amendment of \$38,395 to address the building department cost increase. (For a copy of the Finance Director's presentation as a PDF: <http://ci.catherton.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/1886>.)



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The final item on the Agenda was **Item No. 21, consideration of a Request for Proposal or direction to renegotiate with MCE for public works services.** Following a staff report, the Council discussed the merits of renegotiating a contract extension with the Town's current provider or issuing a new Request for Proposal. The Council discussed the work level, quality, and market competition for the services. If a contract extension were to be renegotiated the Council wanted staff to consider amendments to the contract to address price reviews, price stability, benchmark pricing, expedited job/task orders, and charitable services. After discussion, the Council directed the City Manager to negotiate a 3-year extension to the existing contract with modifications to that contract as appropriate and discussed.

Following a final public comment period and having cleared the entire Agenda that, at 9:25 pm, that, as they say – was a wrap!

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