



MINUTES
Town of Atherton
City Council/
Atherton Channel Drainage District
February 6, 2019
4:00 P.M.
Council Chambers
94 Ashfield Road
Atherton, California
Special Meeting

Mayor Widmer called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Lempres, Lewis, Wiest, Vice Mayor DeGolia, Mayor Widmer

PUBLIC COMMENT – *None.*

SPECIAL SESSION AGENDA

1. REVIEW, DISCUSS AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE TOWN'S RESPONSE TO THE STANFORD GENERAL USE PERMIT AND PARTICIPATION ON AN AD HOC COMMITTEE SPONSORED BY THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Report: City Manager George Rodericks

Recommendation: Review, discuss and provide feedback on the Town's response to the Stanford General Use Permit (GUP) and participation on an Ad Hoc Committee sponsored by the County of San Mateo

Discussion: *This items discussion will focus on additional comments regarding the impact of the Stanford Development and General Use Permit and participation on the Ad Hoc County Subcommittee*

City Manager Rodericks presented.

Council Member Lewis said there is concern in the community that Stanford University is overbuilding and it will tax our housing and transportation.

Vice Mayor DeGolia agreed. The Stanford Use Permit will have significant impact on traffic in Atherton. He suggested Council focus on this as part of the goals session.

Council Member Wiest asked what growth considerations the County has discussed. County Public Works Director Jim Porter spoke from the audience. He said Santa Clara County has taken the County's comments but haven't necessarily addressed them to their satisfaction. He added that the assumptions on traffic trips were surprising. He concluded that the County is interested in discussions with Santa Clara County in looking at what they might get in terms of mitigating the traffic created by this.

There was discussion about Caltrain and the effects of it as it relates to the Stanford project.

Mayor Widmer suggested that the Transportation Committee begin considering some of the info related to the Stanford projects and whether we need to install traffic mitigation.

Council Member Wiest is supportive of the County taking the lead role on mitigation efforts.

2. **ATHERTON CHANNEL DISTRICT FINANCING OPTIONS – DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION**

Report: Public Works Director Robert Ovadia

Recommendation: Discuss and provide direction regarding district financing options

Discussion: *The City Council/Atherton Channel District Board members will receive a presentation on potential financing options for the district. The City Council/Atherton Channel District Board members will discuss how such options may be implemented and provide feedback and direction to staff*

Public Works Director Ovadia presented. Tim Seufert, NBS gave a PowerPoint presentation to review options. Seufert reviewed the funding sources and tools, capital investments and ongoing services, various fees and special assessment types.

There were questions and discussion regarding the current Atherton Channel Drainage District and how parcels within that district could be assessed and the benefits of such assessments. Lewis and Widmer noted that the Town has required homeowners to install detention ponds for the last ten years. Homeowners would not want to now pay a tax on top of that.

Vice Mayor DeGolia provided some history of the channel drainage district. It was created to formalize the channel which was previously just a creek. At the time it was established there were several other jurisdictions involved.

There was a discussion about the vote process which consists of a protest ballot.

City Manager Rodericks noted that staff will return to Council with narrowed options and suggestions at a future meeting.

3. **FLOOD AND SEA LEVEL RISE RESILIENCY AGENCY**

Report: Public Works Director Robert Ovadia

Recommendation: Receive a presentation and provide feedback regarding the proposed formation of the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency Agency

Discussion: *The City Council/Atherton Channel District Board members will receive a report the proposed formation of the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency Agency. The presentation will include the agency mission and role, proposed organizational type and governance structure and agency funding. The Council will discuss the costs and benefits of creation of the Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency Agency and provide feedback regarding the proposed formation of the agency*

Larry Patterson, former City Manager of the City of San Mateo, presented to Council.

Sea level rise (SLR) has been described as one of the most serious consequences of climate change and it could have a significant effect on San Mateo County, which has more people and property value at risk from the rising sea than any other county in the state.

In April of 2018, C/CAG's Countywide Water Coordination Committee, which consists of eight elected officials from across the County, formed an 18-person Staff Advisory Team (SAT) consisting of city, County, and other agency staff to develop a proposal to form an agency to address SLR, flooding, coastal erosion, and regional stormwater infrastructure on a countywide basis. The SAT completed an intensive six-month engagement and collaboration process (Phase 1), resulting in the creation of an Agency Proposal.

Mayor Widmer encouraged a rotation of members from cities in order to allow representation from all areas/agencies of the County. Widmer suggested a countywide ordinance that requires certain mitigation requirements and contributions for those that are building large projects near the shores. He added that this is a regional problem and he wanted to understand how to involve other counties.

Council Member Lempres noted that almost everything we do is tied to sea level rise and he's concerned that creating an agency may provide too much control that usurps local authority.

Porter noted that he doesn't anticipate that happening. The preference is to run the agency similar to the San Francisquito Creek JPA which has five staff members who leverage the County and other agencies for technical assistance. This agency would help to get staff members in local agencies the expertise in getting projects done along the Bayfront.

Council Member DeGolia said he would be more supportive if flood control were included in the discussions.

Patterson noted that a funding source has been identified and now the agency is in the process of educating/outreach to cities for support and start-up.

Mayor Widmer asked what happens if one of the cities in the county choose not to participate. Patterson said there isn't clear direction on that at this point.

The item will return to Council at a future regular meeting for action.

ADJOURN

Mayor Widmer adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Theresa DellaSanta