

Atherton City Council discusses its work, sets goals

Meetings also planned to explain what to expect during Town Center construction



WRNS Studio / Town of AthertonA front view of the proposed Atherton Civic Center, built in the “Santa Barbara” style preferred by the City Council. The police department is to the left, and the administration offices to the right.

By **JOHN ORR** | jorr@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group

PUBLISHED: April 26, 2017 at 6:02 pm | UPDATED: April 26, 2017 at 6:02 pm

A 3 1/2-hour meeting of the Atherton City Council on Tuesday afternoon revealed that, essentially, the council thinks the town is doing pretty well and wants it to continue on its positive path.

The annual goals and retreat meeting, held at the Main House in Holbrook-Palmer Park, was run by Nancy Hetrick, from the firm Management Partners. The council discussed what it had accomplished over the past two years, especially work on the Town Center project and getting information out to the public, and talked about what is wanted going forward.

According to City Manager George Roderick, the council set six major goals:

- Maintaining a balanced budget with adequate reserves and fiscal transparency.
- Preserving Atherton's small town character and quality of life.
- Ensuring the development of the new Town Center (Library, Administration, Community Development, Police).
- Maintaining mobility and improving accessibility and safety for bicycles and pedestrians.
- Strengthening community engagement and transparency.
- Being a forward-thinking, well-managed, well-planned town.

Members of the council said the town has done well with "push" information, such as using Facebook, Twitter, Next Door, the town's website and email and publications, but could improve on "pull" engagements, such as events. Earth Day, Art Reception, National Night Out, and other events were cited, but the council wants more community engagement.

Issues of concern included maintaining the town's contributions to long-term obligations such as to pension programs; ensuring revenue sources; continuing the fiscal review of fire services; funding maintenance of town assets such as the park, streets and drainage; and progress being made to bring fiber internet access to the town.

Developing a savings plan for future assets at the new Town Center and at Holbrook-Palmer Park was also discussed.

Among other possible projects, the council expressed support to organize an "active shooter" exercise with local schools. Also discussed was that 2023 would be the town's 100th anniversary, and that planning could start soon to celebrate it.

The meeting was for discussion and study only. No action could be taken. The council is to meet for a regular study session at 4 p.m. on May 3, and for a regular meeting at 7 p.m. on May 17.

In addition, the town plans a meeting at 7 p.m. on May 11 for residents who live near where the new Town Center is to be built. A similar, town-wide meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on May 17. A notice from City Clerk Theresa Della Santa said the meetings are to help mitigate disturbances such as construction noise and dust during the expected two-year process. Those meetings are to take place in Council Chambers, 94 Ashfield Road, Atherton.



SPONSORED CONTENT

Use reliable tools to measure success of social media campaigns

By 

Social media is exploding as a leading business advertising platform, but many marketers are still uncertain if their social media efforts are...

Tags: [Atherton City Council](#), [Atherton Town Center](#)



John Orr John Orr edits and writes for Daily News feature pages, including arts and entertainment. He also reports on the Town of Atherton and some other communities.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

ALL ACCESS DIGITAL OFFER FOR JUST 99 CENTS!