

Town of Los Altos Hills

City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Council Chambers, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, California

Via teleconference according to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, **Mayor Tankha** called the City Council Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Tankha, Vice Mayor Tyson, Councilmember Mok, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Swan
Absent: None
Staff: City Manager Carl Cahill, City Attorney Steve Mattas, Planning/Building Director/Interim Engineering Services Manager Zachary Dahl, Administrative Services Director Sarina Revillar, Principal Planner Steve Padovan, Management Analyst Cody Einfalt, City Clerk Deborah Padovan

CALL TO ORDER (6:00 P.M.)

- A. Roll Call
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

1. AGENDA REVIEW

There were no changes to the agenda.

2. APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Appointments to Los Altos Hills Youth Commission

City Clerk Deborah Padovan presented the applications.

Avi Bahri, Los Altos Hills, introduced himself and expressed an interest in serving on the Los Altos Hills Youth Commission. **Manya Sikka, Los Altos Hills**, introduced herself and expressed an interest in serving on the Los Altos Hills Youth Commission.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: Councilmember **Swan** moved to appoint **Avi Bahri** and **Manya Sikka** to the Los Altos Hills Youth Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilmember **Mok**.

MOTION PASSED 5-0:

AYES: Tankha, Tyson, Mok, Schmidt, Swan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

- B. Presentation on Goal Setting Workshop and Action to Receive and Adopt the Goals for 2021 by Nancy Hetrick with Management Partners

Nancy Hetrick with Management Partners presented the goal setting report where good governance and priorities for the coming year were discussed.

Council discussion ensued. Action was taken later in the meeting. See note after Item 4.I.

- C. Presentation on Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District Current Activities by Ward Two Director Yoriko Kishimoto

Yoriko Kishimoto, Ward Two Director with Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District, provided a district introduction and current update of the District's activities.

Brian Malone, Assistant General Manager with Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space provided information on the wildland fire resiliency program.

Council discussion ensued. No action was taken.

- D. Presentation of Written Responses to Mayor Tankha's Questions by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office by Captain Rich Urena

Sheriff's Captain Rich Urena presented the responses to operational questions raised by **Mayor Tankha**.

Council discussion ensued.

Public Comment

Vara Ramakrishnan, Los Altos Hills, suggested that the sheriff's weekly reports include a broad standard terminology if items were taken. She asked that the sheriff's office please change the methodology.

The report was discussed and received. No action was taken.

3. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

*Persons wishing to address the Council on any subject **not** on the agenda may do so now. Please complete a Speaker Card located on the back table of the Council Chambers and submit it to the City Clerk. Comments are limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. California law prohibits the Council from acting on items that do not appear on the agenda. Under a Resolution previously adopted by the Council, such items can be referred to staff for appropriate action, which may include placement on the next available agenda.*

3. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Jitze Couperus, Los Altos Hills, provided a status update on the digital archives on the Town's website. He said, "they are finally there."

Robert Sandor, Los Altos Hills, asked about the most recent staff departure. He commented on the staff turnover numbers. He asked that the City Council take a proactive role in analyzing this matter.

J. Quarshi, Los Altos Hills, asked about an email from a group called TTAGS and he did not see a need for a parallel group since the City Council is elected to represent the residents.

Roger Spreen, Los Altos Hills, said he supports everyone's right to criticize how things are run, but a line has been crossed. A group has been insulting staff and Council with cheap, slanderous insults, all done anonymously. He apologized to staff for cowardly slurs on performance and value.

John Swan, Los Altos Hills, explained the TTAGS group and said they feel incredibly intimidated. He said two former staff members are willing to talk to the City Council in a closed session.

Courtenay Corrigan, Los Altos Hills, asked that her letter from earlier today be added to the public record. She reminded the community that the City Manager's review is a personnel issue. She further said that residents inserting themselves in the personnel relationship that exists between the City Manager and the City Council is highly inappropriate.

Kjell Karlsson, Los Altos Hills, said that our employees are well compensated; they are not leaving due to compensation. This is not about our staff; it is about other issues.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: Vice Mayor **Tyson** moved to approve the **CONSENT CALENDAR** with the exception of Items 4.C and 4.D. The motion was seconded by Councilmember **Swan**.

MOTION PASSED 5-0:

AYES: Tankha, Tyson, Mok, Schmidt, Swan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

A. Approval of City Council Regular Meeting Minutes: January 21, 2021

B. Approval of City Council Special Meeting Minutes: February 18, 2021

C. Approval of City Council Regular Meeting Minutes: February 18, 2021

Councilmember Swan said that the minutes did not reflect her request to have items put on the March agenda. She asked that the minutes be corrected.

City Clerk Padovan read the minutes on page 15 where those items did appear.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: Councilmember **Swan** moved to approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes for February 18, 2021 as stated. The motion was seconded by Councilmember **Schmidt**.

MOTION PASSED 5-0:

AYES: Tankha, Tyson, Mok, Schmidt, Swan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

D. Review of Disbursements: February 1-28, 2021 \$705,504.75

Councilmember Mok asked that the disbursements be pulled so he can confirm the expenditures are correct.

City Attorney Mattas explained that it is the Town's practice to provide an itemized statement identifying the vendors and the amounts paid.

Councilmember Mok requested that the item return next month so he has time to review them. There was agreement to continue the February disbursements to the April City Council meeting.

E. Proclamation Recognizing March as American Red Cross Month (Staff: D. Padovan)

Katie Roper, Red Cross Board Member accepted the Proclamation Recognizing March as American Red Cross Month.

F. Proclamation Recognizing March as Women's History Month (Staff: D. Padovan)

G. Proclamation Acknowledging Equal Pay Day 2021 (Staff: D. Padovan)

Jessica Speiser, Los Altos Hills, on behalf of Los Altos/Mountain View University of Women accepted the proclamation on Equal Pay Day 2021.

H. **Resolution 16-21** to Approve Sewer Construction and Dedication Agreement for Taaffe Road Sewer Extension (Staff: J. Lee)

I. Adoption (Second Reading) of **Ordinance 592** to amend various sections within Chapter 1 (Subdivisions) of Title 9, and Chapter 1 (Zoning) and Chapter 2 (Site Development) of Title 10 of the Los Altos Hills Municipal Code pertaining to updating the appeals process and clarifying the effective date of decisions made by

the Planning Director, the Staff Committee and the Planning Commission; and an amendment to Article 6 (Off-Street Parking) in Chapter 1 of Title 10 to reestablish minimum parking stall dimension requirements. CEQA Review: Categorical Exempt per Section 15061(B)(3). (Staff: Z. Dahl)

Motion to Waive Reading and Adopt the Ordinance

Return to Agenda Item 2.B

City Attorney Mattas asked if the City Council could return to Agenda Item #2.B to approve the goals and priorities identified in the report.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: Vice Mayor **Tyson** moved to adopt the Goals for 2021 as outlined in the Goal Setting Workshop Report. The motion was seconded by Councilmember **Mok**.

MOTION PASSED 5-0:

AYES:	Tankha, Tyson, Mok, Schmidt, Swan
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
RECUSE:	None
ABSENT:	None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

➤ City Council Ex Parte Contacts Policy Disclosure

- A. 2020 Housing Element Annual Progress Report, which Summarizes the Status of Housing Production, Implementation of Housing Element Programs and Progress on Meeting the Town’s Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) (Staff: S. Padovan)

There were no ex parte communications.

Mayor Tankha opened the Public Hearing.

Principal Planner Steve Padovan presented the staff report.

Council asked questions of staff and received responses.

Allan Epstein, Los Altos Hills, talked about the implication these units will have on the sewer system.

Mayor Tankha closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: Councilmember **Schmidt** moved to adopt the 2020 Housing Element Annual Progress Report, which Summarizes the Status of Housing Production, Implementation of Housing Element Programs and Progress on Meeting the Town’s Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)

The motion was seconded by Councilmember **Swan**.

MOTION PASSED 5-0:

AYES: Tankha, Tyson, Mok, Schmidt, Swan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

6. ONGOING BUSINESS

- A. Resolution Adopting a Policy on Automatic License Plate Readers in the Town of Los Altos Hills (Staff: C. Einfalt)

Management Analyst Cody Einfalt presented the staff report.

Council discussion ensued.

City Manager Cahill recognized three residents who were helpful in researching the information, namely: **Rajiv Bhateja, Ameesh Divatia** and **Barry Smith**.

Public Comment

Sunil, Los Altos Hills, said that the Town should leverage the free trial offered by the software company and to see what it can do.

John and Maria Caffey, Los Altos Hills, expressed support in installing full readers as soon as possible.

Shyamoli Banerjee, Los Altos Hills, said she wants full deployment now.

Ameesh Divatia, Los Altos Hills, there is nothing on the west side of Town and hoped they are also included.

Rajiv Bhateja, Los Altos Hills, spoke about the software provider Flock and said it is front runner of ALPR vendors. Flock offers a trial period after the installation at zero costs. They have offered a 60-day cancellation period. He suggested that the Town install cameras in all locations.

Dorit Perry, Los Altos Hills, strongly urged full deployment as soon as possible.

Roger Melen, Los Altos Hills, encouraged a full deployment to see if the cameras work.

John Caffey, Los Altos Hills, said he supports full deployment of cameras as time is of the essence.

Anand Ranganathan, Los Altos Hills, said the policy as it is written does not protect resident’s privacy. He expressed concern on residents vs. non-residents and treating some as second-class citizens just because they are not residents.

Barry Smith, Los Altos Hills, said he is proud to be part of this community. He has been in contact with other towns to find out what their results have been.

Vara Ramakrishnan, Los Altos Hills, pointed out that the default for storing the data is 30 days and she recommended keeping the 30 days in place. It is very common for individuals to take a two-week vacation and data can be lost if we store data for less than 30 days.

Jim Basiji, Los Altos Hills, said residents on lower Page Mill Road are very vulnerable. He was in support of a full deployment policy.

Jim Waschura, Los Altos Hills, commented on the cost of this system. By his calculations it would cost \$90,000 per year. He asked, “what barriers do we have for exiting in the future? Will we be locked in? Who owns the cameras?”

Rajiv Patel, Los Altos Hills, requested a full deployment on ALPR's. The budget is minimal compared to the value cameras bring.

JX expressed support of full deployment of ALPRs.

Lynn Miller, Los Altos Hills, said she agrees with full deployment with 30-day retention.

Council discussion ensued.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: Councilmember **Mok** moved to adopt **Resolution 17-21** Adopting a Policy on Automatic License Plate Readers in the Town of Los Altos Hills and approve full deployment in cameras in Town. The motion was seconded by Councilmember **Swan**.

MOTION PASSED 5-0:

AYES:	Tankha, Tyson, Mok, Schmidt, Swan
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
RECUSE:	None
ABSENT:	None

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, AND COUNCILMEMBERS ON OUTSIDE AGENCIES

A. Report by the Undergrounding Subcommittee (Vice Mayor Tyson)

Vice Mayor Tyson presented the underground subcommittee report.

Allan Epstein, Los Altos Hills, asked the Vice Mayor to outline the schedule. **Vice Mayor Tyson** replied that the schedule on the Town's website.

No action was taken.

B. Report by the Fire Taskforce Subcommittee (Councilmember Schmidt)

Councilmember Schmidt provided an update on the Fire Taskforce. She reported that she has reached out to community members and the fire district and presented an outline on the topics that need to be addressed. She said that she has received very valuable feedback that she has been compiling and will share next month.

No action was taken.

C. Status Reports from All Councilmembers on Subcommittee and Outside Agencies Activities

Councilmember Mok reported out on the Cities Association. He also met with District Attorney Jeff Rosen and Assembly member Evan Low and learned about Asian hate crimes. He requested that a resolution condemning Asian hate crimes be placed on the April 15, 2021 City Council agenda.

Councilmember Swan reported out on the Joint Volunteer Awards Committee.

Vice Mayor Tyson reported out on Silicon Valley Clean Energy and CHAC.

8. **STAFF REPORTS**

A. City Manager – Report on Town Organization and Staffing

City Manager Carl Cahill reported on current staffing in Town. In 2000 the Town had 18 full time staff members and today, 26.1 full time equivalent staff members. The Town currently offers more services in 2021 than it did in 2000.

B. City Attorney – No report.

C. City Clerk – No report.

D. Planning/Building Director – No report.

E. Administrative Services Director – No report.

F. Public Works Director – **Planning Director Dahl** reported that he is filling in as Interim Engineering Services Manager while the recruitment for a new Public Works Director is in process.

9. **COUNCIL INITIATED**

- A. Discussion on Fire Department ADU Driveway Requirements and Customer Service (Mayor Tankha)

Mayor Tankha presented the item. **Planning Director Zach Dahl** provided background information. He said that the fire department confirmed they would revert back to 12 foot minimum driveway width for family dwelling units. The fire department will work with the Town on a case-by-case situation on ADU's and turnarounds.

Jitze Couperus, Los Altos Hills, was thankful this topic is being brought up as he sent a memo two years ago to the City Council. He suggested an article for the Town newsletter describing what the rules really are.

Gary Kremen, Los Altos Hills, said it seems the fire department is averse to Town policy. He suggested that the fire department could look at smaller trucks.

Council discussion ensued.

There was consensus to agendaize for further discussion next month.

- B. Discussion and Possible Action on Reinstating the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Map (Mayor Tankha)

Mayor Tankha presented the item. **Councilmember Schmidt** said that her taskforce is discussing this very topic. The City Attorney said that the information the taskforce is working on can be shared, but it should be agendaized for April. The Mayor requested that staff review and return with a recommendation.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: Councilmember **Schmidt** moved to direct the staff to review the WUI designation, including hiring a consultant if necessary, and return to the City Council with a recommendation. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor **Tyson**.

MOTION PASSED 5-0:

AYES: Tankha, Tyson, Mok, Schmidt, Swan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

- C. Discussion and Possible Action to Form an Emerging Technology Committee (Councilmember Swan)

Councilmember Swan presented the item. She asked that the Council authorize the formation of a committee to review emerging technologies. **Councilmember Schmidt** suggested that perhaps it should be an ad hoc committee.

City Attorney Mattas said that ad hoc committees that the City Council creates can only have councilmember representatives, and not more than two members. The committee can meet with other people, but they aren't committee members. Ad hoc committees have limited subject matter jurisdiction and duration.

Council discussion ensued.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: Councilmember **Swan** moved to form an ad hoc committee to review emerging technologies as they come up and become issues in Town; **Councilmembers Mok and Swan** agreed serve on the ad hoc committee. The motion was seconded by Councilmembers **Mok**.

MOTION PASSED 5-0:

AYES: Tankha, Tyson, Mok, Schmidt, Swan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

D. Discussion and Possible Action to Form a Committee to Review the Green Sheets Principles (Councilmember Swan)

Councilmember Swan presented the item.

The City Attorney asked clarifying questions about the course to take, whether it be a Council directive, or an initiative taken to the voters. If the Council places a measure on the ballot, then it could be subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Council discussion ensued about the Green Sheets and General Plan.

Councilmember Swan said she will research the issue and return to the City Council with her findings. No action was taken.

E. Discussion and Possible Action to Seek an Audit to Confirm Equal Pay for all Employees (Mayor Tankha)

Mayor Tankha presented the item and proposed undertaking an audit to confirm equal pay of Town employees.

City Manager Cahill suggested a component that analyzes equal pay be included in the Town's compensation study.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: Mayor **Tankha** moved to have staff include a study to determine equal pay for equal work. The motion was seconded by Councilmembers **Swan**.

MOTION PASSED 5-0:

AYES: Tankha, Tyson, Mok, Schmidt, Swan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

Public Comment

Claire Noonan, Los Altos/Mountain View Chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) said it is a wonderful idea to have the study completed.

- F. Discussion and Possible Action to Adopt a Resolution Expressing Support for Actions to Further Strengthen Local Democracy, Authority, and Control as Related to Local Zoning and Housing Issues (SB9) (Mayor Tankha)

Mayor Tankha presented the item and requested support for a resolution opposing SB 9.

Public Comment

Duffy Price, Los Altos Hills, said there are over 100 plus communities involved in this in the state of California. She further said that there was a hearing in Sacramento earlier today for SB 10 and only 10 people supported it and 50+ that were opposing the bill. She said there will be additional hearings on the matter.

Council discussion ensued.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: Councilmember **Swan** moved to adopt **Resolution 18-21** Expressing Support for Actions to Further Strengthen Local Democracy, Authority, and Control as Related to Local Zoning and Housing Issues (SB9). The motion was seconded by Councilmember **Mok**.

MOTION PASSED 5-0:

AYES: Tankha, Tyson, Mok, Schmidt, Swan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: Vice Mayor **Tyson** moved to continue the meeting past 10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor **Tankha**.

MOTION PASSED 5-0:

AYES: Tankha, Tyson, Mok, Schmidt, Swan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

G. Discussion and Possible Action to Support a Town Hall Meeting to Discuss SB 9 & SB 10 - Understanding the Impact of the Proposed State Zoning Legislation on Los Altos Hills (Mayor Tankha)

Mayor Tankha presented the item and requested support for a Town-wide flyer to be mailed to residents informing and educating them on SB 9 and 10. She clarified that a petition would be posted once it was ready.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED: Councilmember **Schmidt** moved to approve a Town Hall meeting educating Town residents on the impacts of SB9 and 10 and next steps. The motion was seconded by Councilmember **Mok**.

MOTION PASSED 5-0:

AYES: Tankha, Tyson, Mok, Schmidt, Swan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None
ABSENT: None

H. Discussion and Possible Action on Preparing a Safe Storage Ordinance (Mayor Tankha)

Mayor Tankha presented the item.

Council discussion ensued.

Staff will work with the city attorney's office to prepare a proposed ordinance.

Public Comment

Mir Roan Bahri, Los Altos Hills, on behalf of the social justice project expressed support for an ordinance.

Samvita Gautham, Los Altos Hills, spoke in support of an ordinance.

Kelly Traver, Moms Demand Action Volunteers of Los Altos Hills, said she wrote to each Councilmember with this request. She appreciated that they took up this topic. She provided statistics and said that unintentional deaths have increased by 43% among small children.

Rajiv Bhateja, Los Altos Hills, spoke in support of this proposed ordinance.

DIRECTION: Staff will return with a proposed safe storage ordinance.

10. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Padovan

Deborah Padovan
City Clerk

The minutes of the March 18, 2021 regular City Council meeting were approved as presented at the April 15, 2021 regular City Council meeting.