

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY- -OCTOBER 15, 2024- -7:00 P.M.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft convened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Councilmember Jensen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL - Present: Councilmembers Daysog, Herrera Spencer, Jensen, Vella, and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft – 5.

Absent: None.

AGENDA CHANGES

None.

PROCLAMATIONS, SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(24-570) Proclamation Declaring October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft read the proclamation and showed a slide with contact information.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

(24-571) Richard Haick, Alameda, discussed unlicensed street vendors and Senate Bill 972.

(24-572) Gabriel Duncan, Alameda Native History Project, submitted a letter; discussed acorn harvesting.

(24-573) Tod Hickman showed a slide and discussed attacks on his business.

(24-574) Ajit Barron-Dhillon, Alameda, discussed the Vehicle Code that allows drivers to be issued permits to park in front of their driveways; suggested the City consider issuing such permits.

(24-575) Joe LoParo, Veterans, discussed a Marine toy drive in Alameda.

(24-576) Nate Martinez, Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots, discussed an upcoming holiday toy drive.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Herrera Spencer removed the special event permit update [paragraph no. 24-588] and resolution amending the Executive Management Employees

Compensation Plan [paragraph no. 24-589] from the Consent Calendar for discussion.

Expressed concern about the minutes: Tod Hickman.

Councilmember Vella moved approval of the Consent Calendar.

Councilmember Jensen seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote - 5. [Items so enacted or adopted are indicated by an asterisk preceding the paragraph number.]

(*24-577) Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting, Special Joint City Council and Successor Agency to the Community Improvement Commission Meeting, and Regular City Council Meeting Held on September 17, 2024. Approved.

(*24-578) Ratified bills in the amount of \$4,785,753.69.

(*24-279) Recommendation to Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with Carlson Barbee & Gibson, Inc. for Civil Engineering and Surveying Consulting Services for Alameda Point in an Amount of \$90,000 Annually, with the Option of Four One-Year Extensions, for a Total Five-Year Expenditure Not-to-Exceed \$450,000. Accepted.

(*24-580) Recommendation to Authorize Updates to the Existing Alameda Police Department Policy Manual to Conform to Best Practices and to Ratify Policies that Have Been Updated Pursuant to Legal Updates, Significant Liability Issues, and Imminent Safety. Accepted.

(*24-581) Recommendation to Authorize the Replacement Purchase of Eight LIFEPAK 15 (LP 15) Cardiac Monitors, Nine Lucas Mechanical CPR Devices, Three Hydraulically Equipped Ambulance Gurneys (Power-PRO XT) and Accompanying Equipment from Stryker in the Amount Not-to-Exceed \$376,751.34. Accepted.

(*24-582) Recommendation to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a First Amendment to the Agreement with Hilton Farnkopf & Hobson Consultants, LLC in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$24,000, with a Total Agreement Amount Not-to-Exceed \$304,210, to Update the Zero Waste Implementation Plan. Accepted.

(*24-583) Resolution No. 16209, "Authorizing the City Manager to Apply for and Accept CalRecycle Rubberized Pavement Grant Program Funds, for Five Years, for Work Under the Pavement Management Program." Adopted.

(*24-584) Resolution No. 16210, "Approving Letter of Understanding Between the City of Alameda and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1245 Adjusting System Operator Classification Work Schedule." Adopted.

(*24-585) Ordinance No. 3378, “Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Lease for a Retail Suite Portion of the Historic Alameda Theater Building, with Shear Terror, LLC dba It’ll Do, a California Limited Liability Company, Located at 2315 Central Avenue, Suite 122, Alameda, California, for a Term of Sixty-three (63) Months with One Extension Option for Sixty (60) Months.” Finally passed.

CONTINUED AGENDA ITEMS

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

(24-586) Study Session on the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan and Zero Waste Implementation Plan Updates.

(24-587) Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft inquired how much time is needed for the presentation, to which the Public Works Coordinator responded 20 minutes.

Councilmember Jensen moved approval of allowing 20 minutes for the presentation.

Councilmember Vella seconded the motion, which carried by the following voice vote:
Ayes: Councilmembers Herrera Spencer, Jensen, Vella and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft – 4.
Abstention: Vice Mayor Daysog – 1.

Vice Mayor Daysog recused himself and left the dais.

The Public Works Coordinator, the Sustainability and Resilience Manager and a Sustainability Intern gave Power Point presentations.

Councilmember Vella stated Alameda has several green ribbon schools; inquired whether there are any incentives offered by Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) or Alameda County Industries (ACI) for schools to participate in the green ribbon program and reduce on-campus waste.

The Public Works Coordinator responded in the negative; stated ACI has been successful in gaining the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) contract, which will provide opportunities for collaboration.

Councilmember Vella inquired whether AMP has different energy reduction strategies.

The Sustainability and Resiliency Manager responded that she is not aware of any opportunities with AMP to collaborate with AUSD; stated there are a number of green ribbon schools in Alameda; many people are interested in a District-wide green ribbon program.

Councilmember Vella stated bulky-item pickup was mentioned; inquired the current wait time for bulk pickups.

The Public Works Coordinator responded requests are typically fulfilled at the following scheduled pickup; stated there is typically about a one-week wait.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer inquired whether there are goals set for planting trees; stated the issue has been ongoing for the Webster Street area.

The Sustainability and Resiliency Manager responded the Urban Forest Plan is in the process of being updated; stated the update has taken time; staff is working diligently to bring the matter to Council in the new year.

The Public Works Coordinator stated the City included replacement tree planting as part of the Urban Forest Plan; inquired whether a specific site is being referenced.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated Webster Street has locations that no longer have trees; she understands the City will be replanting the trees; replanting trees reduces greenhouse gas emissions; expressed support for understanding of when trees will be planted.

Councilmember Jensen stated the 2018 Zero Waste Improvement Project (ZWIP) outlines five strategies; inquired whether all strategies have been accomplished.

The Public Works Coordinator responded in the affirmative; stated the all strategies have primarily been accomplished; some are ongoing after the initial accomplishments; the first strategy is: continued support for zero waste culture in Alameda; staff continues to support a variety of programs including the re-think disposable program, the partnership with Community Action for Sustainable Alameda (CASA), and the reusable coffee cup program; the second strategy is: technical assistance, which focuses on commercial and multi-family sectors, was approved by Council as part of the 2018 update, and continues to achieve good results; the third strategy is: food recovery and enhanced organics management; staff is actively achieving the goal in partnership with Alameda County and ACI; the fourth strategy is: updating the City's construction and demolition ordinance, which was completed in 2020; the ordinance update ensures the City is keeping pace with standards and is complete; the final strategy is: expand the City's franchise agreement to a high diversion agreement, which was completed in 2021.

Councilmember Jensen inquired whether the food recovery program has met all goals and no longer requires additional action.

The Program Specialist II responded staff continues to work towards food recovery goals; stated Senate Bill (SB) 1383 calls for an edible food requirement for certain classifications of Tiers 1 and 2, which are smaller than grocery stores but large

restaurants and certain health providing locations; staff continues to work on food recovery in conjunction with Alameda County Stopwaste; the work will continue for years to come.

Councilmember Jensen requested clarification about greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts related to the Port of Oakland's activities; stated that she would like information regarding aircraft and ship impacts on Alameda's GHG emissions.

The Sustainability and Resiliency Manager responded the Port of Oakland is outside of the jurisdiction of the City of Alameda; stated the information is not covered in the GHG inventory; the Port of Oakland's contributes 2.8% of the City of Oakland's emissions.

Councilmember Jensen stated that she would like clarification about the impacts from ships and aircrafts which are within and impact Alameda, including information from aircraft takeoffs and ship departures.

The Sustainability and Resiliency Manager stated planes and ships takeoff from City of Oakland property; the emissions are covered by the City of Oakland's inventory, not the City of Alameda.

Councilmember Jensen inquired whether there had been discussion or review of potential Bay Farm Island sites other than the long-term park-and-ride electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

The Sustainability and Resiliency Manager responded the park-and-ride site is available; stated staff also included the Bay Farm Island library as part of the project grant application; staff is interested in installing EV chargers at the Bay Farm Harbor Bay ferry terminal, however, electrical upgrades are needed for the facility; the upgrade is set to occur as part of the Water Emergency Transit Authority (WETA) electrification project.

Councilmember Jensen inquired whether the locations are throughout the middle of Alameda.

The Sustainability and Resiliency Manager responded staff is looking at two programs; stated the first program would install chargers in City owned parking lots; a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued; Blink charging is the selected provider; the City does not own many parking lots in the center of the island; stated Mastick Senior Center is the primary lot in the middle of the Island; other lots exist in commercial areas and a couple of parks; Blink charging will help the City pursue public charging in the first of a two-phase approach; Blink has agreed to a no-cost installation at the Harbor Bay park-and-ride and Bohol Circle Immigrant Park, to replace the existing chargers at the Civic Center parking garage, the parking lot across from the Alameda Theatre, and at Mastick Senior Center; under the federal grant application, staff worked with Blink to look at additional EV chargers in public lots at a number of other locations; the second approach being taken is for staff to look at curbside charging deployment; staff has

issued an RPF and selected It's Electric as the provider for curbside charging locations; the primary focus is to provide public curbside charging locations in multi-family density areas; the provider will also partner with the Alameda Housing Authority (AHA) to install chargers adjacent to AHA sites; It's Electric has agreed to deploy up to 10 chargers in multi-family and mixed use neighborhoods adjacent to AUSD and AHA properties; an additional 40 units will also be installed at sites across the City per the grant application.

In response to Councilmember Herrera Spencer's inquiry related to EV disabled parking spaces, the Sustainability and Resiliency Manager stated there are requirements for a certain percentage of EV charging spaces be EV van accessible; the requirements will be followed.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer expressed support for sufficient parking spaces for disabled drivers.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated the number of locations where EV charging spaces will be added during the first phases is listed in the report; discussed the second phase where staff will seek \$5 million in federal funding from the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grant program; stated many of the planned locations are within the center and West End of Alameda; inquired when the City will find out about the funding.

The Sustainability and Resiliency Manager responded staff previously applied for the grant in 2023 and was unsuccessful; stated the latest round for grant application was announced in early 2024 and will likely have a time-frame similar to the previous application; the City should know the status by January 2025.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated the report discusses potential local policies which are designed to be cost effective and relate to forthcoming State regulations; inquired what are the forthcoming State regulations and whether the regulations have to do with minor building renovations.

The Sustainability and Resiliency Manager responded the 2025 California Energy Code will be adopted and effective January 2026; stated the Code continues to prioritize heat pumps for space and water heating in new construction and when replacing rooftop heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units on large commercial properties; the Code also expands requirements for solar and storage; the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) has a new rule that will not allow the sale of gas water heaters in the Bay Area starting in 2027, and gas space heaters in 2029; the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will not allow the sale of new gas water heaters or space heaters Statewide in 2030; staff has a local opportunity to support building owners to prepare for the transition and get ahead of the curve.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated the two options for new and non-residential buildings are energy performance or air quality; she would favor the air quality option; outlined the air quality approach requiring buildings meet net zero emission standards in alignment with BAAQMD regulations; stated the standard cannot be met with gas appliances; inquired

how the City could choose the approach in light of the decision from the California Restaurant Association reversing the Berkeley ordinance banning gas stoves.

The Sustainability and Resiliency Manager responded the zero-nitrogen oxide (Zero-NOx) air quality approach has been adopted by Los Altos Hills and Campbell; stated the matter is currently also before the Berkeley City Council; the approach is in line with the BAAQMD standards.

The City Attorney concurred with the Sustainability and Resiliency Manager; stated the City of New York has considered or is adopting the same approach; there will likely be litigation shortly after the action, which will provide better guidance; staff's current analysis suggests it is a feasible approach to consider.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft inquired whether Alameda could follow the approach taken by New York, which is a different state.

The City Attorney responded the Ninth Circuit's decision is premised on federal law; stated a Second Circuit's decision interpreting federal law may or may not be persuasive in the Ninth Circuit.

Stated curbside EV charging should have been done years ago; expressed support for AMP's efforts to reduce GHG emissions; stated the Northern California Power Association (NCPA) is within the City's jurisdiction; the natural gas turbines did not appear in the GHG report; discussed facility ownership and grid services: Jeff Gould, Alameda.

Stated addressing climate change as a young person is important; discussed increasing temperatures, sea-level rise, droughts, wildfires, and unhealthy air quality; stated a large majority of Alameda's emissions come from transportation; urged higher emphasis on public transportation, and walkable and bikeable cities; expressed support for plans that address all stakeholders: Roan Byrne-Sarno, Alameda.

Expressed support for the City's work on the Climate Action Resiliency Plan (CARP); urged continued climate leadership; discussed a survey and expressed appreciation for the level of involvement in climate action for the City; stated that he supports the progress made so far, particularly between AMP and City staff; urged Council to continue building on the current momentum: Ryan Bird, Public Utilities Board (PUB).

Expressed appreciation for the matter; discussed the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Tod Hickman.

Expressed support for involving youth; stated the City should actively focus on replacing the rocks lining the City with green plants to help mitigate flood dangers and create new habitats for animals; greening spaces will help with vacant buildings: Gabriel Duncan, Alameda Native History Project.

Discussed tree planting; encouraged tree planting goals be increased; expressed concern over previous 2019 tree planting goals not being aggressive enough: Joyce Mercado, Rotary Club.

Expressed support for the presentation; discussed related seminars and events from 2018; stated there has been a massive lift in adaptation and electrification by City staff; there has been increased collaboration and focus; many residents are concerned; the matter will take continued momentum, support, and resources: Debi Ryan, CASA.

Expressed support for the work of staff and for including youth; urged Council to ramp up discussions with senior leaders; expressed support for a review of all policies and procedures for every department; discussed AMP's billing policy, and the City's permitting process: Heather MacLeod, Youth Power Climate Action (YPCA).

Discussed Trader Joe's permitting delays; stated natural refrigerants have been delayed due to the permitting processes; provided statistics on grocery store refrigerant leaks, and the climate warming effects from leaks; urged the permit process be faster: Viola Warming, YPCA.

Expressed support for the City's partnership with CASA; stated CASA will help to amplify and support the points being made; she is relieved CASA has a partnership with AUSD; urged the idea of the green ribbon schools be elevated across AUSD; stated the pandemic knocked progress back, but many plans and initiatives are in place: Ruth Abbe, CASA.

Stated while many cities have great plans, few are implemented; Alameda is doing a good job and has a long way to go; urged Councilmembers to brag about the City's implementation while at meetings with outside agencies; stated the City needs to continue creative outreach efforts: Christy Cannon, Alameda.

Stated the CARP is an amazing plan that needs resources and funding to be fully completed; 20% remains the goal; 10% must come from the City; AMP is a unique tool that can be used to push the goal; questioned how the City can shift to EVs and other modes of transit; discussed AMP rebates; stated vehicle miles traveled in Alameda have decreased since 2005 while the population has increased: Thushan Amarasiriwardena, Alameda.

Councilmember Vella expressed support for the outreach, work performed, and CARP policies and programs thus far; stated the City has made substantial headway in the last decade, particularly in the last six years; stated the accomplishments being made are impressive; opportunities are coming up in the City negotiations with the ACI franchise agreement as well as AUSD's contract with ACI; some of the biggest waste comes from AUSD; it is the collective responsibility to put more effort into the agreements, possibly leveraging the contract with ACI and AUSD to support incentives for AUSD to go green; other schools in Alameda are looking to become green ribbon certified; expressed support for waste reduction incentive programs; stated many kids have individually

packaged items; the more behavior training occurs with the youngest learners, the more the behaviors turn into life-long habits; it behooves everyone to find a way to provide a small City investment that could have a tremendous impact; expressed support for encouraging involvement and volunteering; stated many little things have impacts, including the ways in which meals are brought to and from school each day; the approach will help in waste reduction; the City can also leverage AMP more with incentives for places of learning, which has previously been done; the City has performed transportation demand planning; expressed support for more cargo bike parking throughout the City, and for electronic bicycles; stated additional cargo bike parking is included in the overall transportation demand strategy and addresses a reduction in emissions; expressed support for the bulk pickup program; stated Alameda has almost no wait time for bulk pickup compared to other cities; the 40% utilization for bulk pickup is not a bad thing; the City should push ACI to add a second bulk pickup option due to excess construction project waste and debris; the second bulk pickup will help permitting processes; the second bulk pickup could be limited to once every five years; expressed concern over having a special day for dump runs setup similar to Oakland's operations; stated the approach creates a lot of traffic and increases emissions; many people do not have the ability to haul waste and debris so others are hired to haul waste to the dump; the City can help push ACI to increase its debris recycling related to construction demolition; expressed support for urban forestry goals; stated Alameda is different from surrounding cities and can improve some of the goals relative to the urban forestry plan and be more ambitious; expressed support for incentives being provided along business corridors and households that are willing to plant trees.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer concurred with Councilmember Vella; expressed support for City staff and Alameda's youth; discussed a Youth in Power meeting; stated the City can do better regarding trees; there is an issue with bulky items being illegally dumped; the City needs to find a way to make bulk item pickup available for people who are not able to schedule a pickup at their home; expressed concern over the enforcement component of illegal dumping; expressed support for the Friends of Alameda Animal Shelter (FAAS) and the Thrifty Kitty event; stated stores are encouraging recycling and reuse; FAAS has a twice-annual jewelry donation event called Thrifty Kitty; expressed support for the City employee picnic using reusable and compostable items; stated it is important for the City to set a good example for others; expressed support for Speaker Gould's comments; stated the City needs to figure out how to get better bus transportation to ferries and the airport; the airport is looking to expand; staff has looked at negotiating bus routes from Alameda to the airport; she expects there to be more demand for bus routes to the airport; expressed support for AC Transit bus routes being more reliable to ferry terminals; stated there has been a comment regarding support for less rocks and more greenery; the oyster project previously discussed should continue to be chipped away at; she did not support the facilities bond due to not being able to provide funding to specific projects; the bond did not include enough money to cover the asks; it is critical for the bond to be transparent and indicate items the funding would cover; discussed EV rebates; stated that she encourages people to attend PUB meetings to provide input; the correct rebate amount

must be balanced and figured out; she drives a Toyota Prius, which is a good in-between; encouraged people to take even incremental steps forward.

Councilmember Jensen expressed support for the robust staff report and work done over the last four years; stated the CARP shows vehicle emissions continue to be the biggest contributor to Alameda's GHG burden; while the number of EVs continue to rise, Alameda can continue doing more to support residents and visitors who own and wish to purchase EVs; expressed support for expanding and encouraging the number of rebates from AMP for EVs and electronic bikes, and for encouraging the installation of EV chargers throughout Alameda; stated that she appreciates the sites being proposed, especially those at public parks; suggested Alameda add EV chargers at all parks when feasible; stated parks in underserved, multi-family neighborhoods having EV chargers would encourage people and families to use Alameda's park system; expressed support for the attention paid to bulk waste collection; stated that she would support whatever it takes to encourage people to recycle; Alameda has a relatively large number of multifamily buildings and renters; doing whatever it takes to encourage residents is a great investment; urged staff to continue focusing on new developments in Alameda, as well as subsidized rental units; expressed support for the cash for trash program; stated that she will support taking the lead on the foodware ordinance to establish incentives and penalties if necessary to eliminate all disposable takeout restaurant foodware; the ordinance is a big hill and will take a lot of education and outreach; the ordinance is possible and is something the City can do; there has been success with elimination of restaurant Styrofoam and plastics; the City can eliminate all disposable takeout foodware; she can see the barriers and opportunities for City schools and residents who choose to reuse and recycle; stated Alameda is on the right track and doing a good job.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft expressed support for staff and youth leaders; stated it is Council's responsibility as elected officials to ensure the City is paying attention to the climate, climate change, and doing what is possible to address the issues while reducing the carbon footprint; the City would not have been as successful without organizations like CASA; CASA members are inspiring; as an island, Alameda is especially mindful over the impacts of global warming, climate change, and sea level rise; discussed the book "California Against the Sea" by Rosanna Xia showing how cities in California are addressing the existential threat; stated that she is inspired by the youth activists providing hope for the future; discussed the Youth in Power forum; stated youth members have made strides in helping local grocers change from refrigeration units using Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) to natural cooling; urged staff to review any holdup for the permits at Trader Joe's; expressed concern over the City causing delays; urged people to frequent smaller stores that have natural refrigerators; expressed support for City departments leading by example; stated the City aquatic center plan recently approved by Council having electrification listed as a design element option troubled her; electrification should never be a design element option; reducing GHG emissions should always be included; the building will serve the community for decades; everything the City does should keep the same idea in mind; expressed support for the City's paper purchasing habits using recyclable paper; stated forests are created to be cut down and made into paper products; the City should not be a partner to those

actions; discussed a paper titled “The Issue with Tissue” by the National Resources Defense Council; urged the City to change its buying habits, including no longer buying paper business cards for staff; expressed support for Councilmember Jensen urging AUSD to have more green ribbon schools; stated there is much that can be done for the City; inquired where the City is at regarding the enforcement for dumping.

The Public Works Coordinator responded the City currently does not have an enforcement program for illegal dumping; stated enforcement is being contemplated as a priority program under the ZWIP update; the program will need to be established and will be a counterpart to the existing material pickup program.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft inquired whether the matter would first go to the Planning Board for review, to which the Public Works Coordinator responded staff will return to Council with additional details.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft expressed support for the matter; stated the efforts could not be completed without the community; urged more outreach and involvement.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer discussed her experience as the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) President; stated all elementary schools received garden grants; many schools need more parent and adult volunteers in order to do a lot of the desired work; Bay Farm has had volunteers for years.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft called a recess at 9:02 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR - ITEMS REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION

(24-588) Recommendation to Accept a Status Update on the Special Events Grant Pilot Program.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated Speaker Duncan requested City support for an upcoming event in November; inquired how someone can apply to get on the list or how they would apply in the future.

The Development Manager responded the Special Event Permit (SEP) program currently before Council is tailor-made for events that require special event permits; stated the events could be closing down a City street or require specialized services; depending on the nature of the event, Speaker Duncan may or may not qualify; the City also has another round of cultural arts grants that will come before Council in early 2025 and could be a good fit for Speaker Duncan; Speaker Duncan has reached out to City staff and staff will follow up.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer requested clarification on the cultural event process.

The Development Manager stated the City currently has two programs: the first is for the cultural arts grants run through the Public Art program; the City releases a RFP for grants each year in January or February; people can visit the City's website and join the public art mailing list to receive notifications; the Special Event program permit grant is in place to help fund services and materials required by the City through the SEP process; things, such as traffic control or event greening, will aid people with paying some of the required costs; the next round of grants will open in early 2025; information will be on the City's website; staff send information to those who have applied for a special event permit within the last five years.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer moved approval of the staff recommendation.

Councilmember Vella seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote - 5.

(24-589) Resolution No. 16211, "Approving Revisions to the Executive Management Employees Compensation Plan, Modifying the Public Safety Retiree Medical Benefit Eligibility for the Police and Fire Chiefs to Provide Up to Five Years of Service Credit to External Hires with a Vested Retiree Medical Benefit with Their Prior Agency, and Making Other Minor Revisions." Adopted.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated the title does not clearly indicate lifetime medical for the employees; she would have preferred including the information; requested clarification about the five year reference; inquired why the request is being made and why staff is proposing its recommendation.

The Human Resources Director stated Section 5.2 of the Executive Management Compensation Plan discusses retiree medical benefits for the City's public safety chiefs; retiree medical would be provided to the two classifications if the members had the same benefit elsewhere, and have served the City for five years; members would receive the benefit for the remainder of their life; the benefit is single party coverage at the CalPERS, Kaiser or Blue Shield rate, whichever is greater.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer inquired how long the members would have had to work with the City to be eligible for the benefit.

The Human Resources Director responded the time depends between five and ten years; stated if an externally hired Chief was a Chief at their previous agency, then the time spent could be used as a credit and only five years with the City would be required; if the member was not a Chief in their previous agency, then ten years with the City would be required.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer inquired the reasoning for the staff recommendation.

The Human Resources Director responded for retention and recruitment purposes; stated Chiefs are generally at the end of their careers and would have worked a long

time already; ten years at the end of a career is a big hurdle; many agencies have more levels of management that would qualify; the approach is a step up for members, is more diverse, and staff supports encouraging a more diverse pool of candidates when recruiting; other agencies have a vested interest in their retiree medical; staff is asking members to give up a very rich benefit and wants to incentivize hiring; the matter also limits the benefit to those who already possess it at another agency and ensures members are not coming to the City solely to receive the benefit.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer inquired the highest anticipated cost for the benefit, to which the Human Resources Director responded the range of \$5,000 to \$13,000 per year currently.

In response to Councilmember Herrera Spencer's inquiry related to Medicare, the Human Resources Director stated prior to Medicare and the age of 65, staff is projecting about \$13,000 per year cost; once members are Medicare eligible, they can move to a supplemental plan, which will reduce the cost to about \$5,000 per year.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer inquired whether the City would retain the current Chiefs for at least five years if the matter pass.

The Human Resources Director responded that she would hope they will stay with the City a minimum five years.

Councilmember Vella moved adoption of the resolution.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote - 5.

CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

(24-590) The City Manager discussed the Police Department responding to a false claim of intended gun violence at a school; stated the initial investigation into the call appears to be a swatting incident; safety remains the top priority; announced the completion of construction on Clement Avenue; discussed the Oakland-Alameda water shuttle ridership over the past month; announced a streamlined schedule with 52 trips added per week; a free, weekend Island hopper shuttle connects riders from the water shuttle and Main Street ferry terminal to Spirits Alley, businesses and events; announced the upcoming annual donut fun run festival at Alameda Point and the next regular City Council meeting being on Wednesday due to the election.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

None.

COUNCIL REFERRALS

(24-591) Consider Resolution No. 16212, “Supporting the Free and Safe Passage of Whales, Sea Turtles, and Other Marine Animals in Alameda’s Coastal Waters and the State of California’s Vision Zero Target of Zero Mortality for Whales and Sea Turtles.” Adopted. (Councilmember Herrera Spencer)

Councilmember Hererra Spencer gave a brief presentation.

Stated the resolution is an opportunity for the City of Alameda to express its support for protecting California’s marine life and rich biodiversity; the water supports such rich marine life; discussed marine animals navigating threats and a female grey whale death caused by vessel trauma; stressed the importance of public awareness for threats faced by marine life; stated the resolution lets the State know Alameda supports the commitment to prevent whale and turtle entanglements: Benjamin Grundy, Center for Biological Diversity.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer outlined organizations that have endorsed the matter included in the correspondence from Speaker Grundy.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft inquired which other California cities have adopted the resolution besides San Francisco, to which Councilmember Herrera Spencer responded that she understands only San Francisco has adopted the resolution.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft inquired whether the resolution was adopted in 2014, to which Councilmember Herrera Spencer responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft inquired whether there is a reason no other cities have adopted the resolution in the last ten years.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer responded that she believes it takes bodies to perform the related type of work; the City is fortunate Speaker Grundy is spearheading the campaign; the resolution incurs no cost to the City and makes a strong statement; the resolution is about safe passage for whales, turtles, and other marine animals in coastal waters.

Councilmember Jensen requested clarification whether Council will be adopting and enacting a resolution, not a Council Referral; questioned whether Council is taking action on a Referral to place a resolution on the agenda in the future.

The City Attorney stated that he understands the Referral requests Council adopt a resolution tonight.

Councilmember Jensen moved adoption of the resolution.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer seconded the motion.

Under discussion, Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated that she understands the objectives of

CARP and how it impacts the City, including the role of the City within the plan; expressed concern over the whale that died off of Crown Memorial Beach; stated the beach is not City property and falls under East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD); inquired whether the City has a jurisdiction and responsibility for marine mammals.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated City GHG are not only restricted to Alameda; the City is working together with other cities and counties; the matter falls under the efforts being made; San Francisco was a leader and Alameda can be second; the effort can spread and hopefully desired work will be performed to encourage safety for marine life.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft inquired the work Alameda will do to support the matter; questioned whether there is no cost to the City, to which Councilmember Herrera Spencer responded it is spreading the word about the effort; stated the City may not be doing work per se, however Speaker Grundy and associated organizations will add the City of Alameda to the list supporters.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated that she would like more information before deciding on adopting a resolution; expressed concern over staff time being spent on the matter; questioned whether the matter is a feel good resolution; stated apart from adopting the resolution, there appears to be spreading of the word, however, she is not sure what form the approach will take; inquired how the matter will play out.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer responded that she hopes at least three Councilmembers will support the resolution; stated adoption is a statement; the City often makes important statements.

Councilmember Vella expressed support for making a statement and for doing more than only making a statement; stated the City has done many things in the past to support wildlife; the City has worked with BCDC and WETA; inquired which agencies, not just cities, are looking at the matter; stated San Francisco is on the coast versus Alameda being a bay city; Alameda is not coastal in the same way as San Francisco.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated if the resolution is adopted, the word can be spread to Crab Cove's visitor center; Crab Cove could also adopt the resolution as part of the information being shared; many fishermen come from Alameda and fish in the area.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft requested clarification whether the information is intended to be shared with fishermen; inquired how the information will be shared with no expenditure of funds.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer responded the good people of Alameda can help spread the word once the resolution is adopted.

Vice Mayor Daysog stated all Alameda residents care about critters large and small

while being part of an island with surrounding waters; the proposed resolution is certainly consistent with the sentiment of the City; Alamedans are proud of their connection to whales in the Bay; discussed an incident regarding Humphrey the Whale; stated there was also a large whale at Crab Cove; Ballena Bay is part of Alameda's testament to its love of whales; there is nothing wrong with joining the City of San Francisco and hopefully others in trying to look out for whales in the Bay Area; unfortunately, accidents happen where boats hit whales causing injuries; expressed support for the matter being brought forth and for the sentiment; stated the residents will likely be supportive as well.

Councilmember Jensen stated sometimes staff is looking for funding for different things; staff use resolutions or City programs and funds to support applications for certain programs; the proposed resolution may not have a lot of teeth, and hopefully is not adopted in vain, but could be used by staff to solicit or even obtain some funding for ocean and mammal protection in the future.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated it is difficult to be against whales; the resolution is fine; as long as the City is not needing to expend funds or staff time, she can support.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer expressed gratitude for Council support and comments for the matter.

On the call for the question, the motion carried by unanimous voice vote - 5.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

(24-592) Councilmember Jensen discussed attending the Port of Oakland leadership meeting; stated that she joined Councilmembers at various events on October 5th including the pride festival at Chochenyo Park and the Filipino Fest at Radium on the Runway; discussed her participation in the Walk and Roll to School event at Edison Elementary; noted Edison Elementary discussed the hardscape being difficult in the heat; urged trees be planted on the playground; stated that she also attended the Alameda employee picnic.

(24-593) Vice Mayor Daysog discussed the closure of 1,200 Walgreens stores across the country over the next three years; expressed support for marketing the Walgreens on Webster Street and at South Shore in order to have them remain in Alameda; stated the Walgreens on Webster Street anchors the shopping center; the City should guard against losing an anchor tenant; discussed attending the Filipino Fest; expressed support for Ms. Guitarte and Ms. Bonta.

(24-594) Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft discussed attending the Filipino Fest; stated that she read and presented a proclamation; expressed support for Ms. Bonta; discussed attending the Pride of the Park festival at Chochenyo Park, a luncheon at Coast Guard Island, a meeting at Caltrans with AMP addressing the details and impacts of closures for the Oakland Alameda Access Project.

(24-595) Councilmember Vella stated that she will be attending the League of California Cities annual conference.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated that she will also be attending the League of California Cities annual conference in Long Beach, California; noted that she and Councilmember Vella are on the Board of Directors.

(24-596) Councilmember Herrera Spencer announced that she will be attending the League of California Cities annual conference in Long Beach; outlined recent police activities; stated that she attended the Walk and Roll to School event at Earhart Elementary School; discussed attending the Filipino fest, the 5K for pride at the Elk's Lodge, the new Officer swearing in ceremony, the employee appreciation picnic, a Fleet Week celebration event at the USS Hornet honoring the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and Veterans; announced the Bay Area Music Project's 10th anniversary at Alameda Point; stated there had been a celebration of life for George Gunn, the Curator for Alameda Museum; discussed a Navy reception event at the USS Tripoli; announced a sneak peek at the black light art show for Studio 23; discussed attending the 58th annual United Nations (UN) flag day at Jack London Square; stated Café Jolie Petit has a Parisian market.

ADJOURNMENT

(24-597) There being no further business, Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft adjourned the meeting at 10:09 p.m. in memory of Councilmember Vella's father, Dr. Michael Vella.

Respectfully submitted,

Lara Weisiger
City Clerk

The agenda for this meeting was posted in accordance with the Sunshine Ordinance.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY- -OCTOBER 15, 2024- -5:30 P.M.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft convened the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

Roll Call – Present: Councilmembers Daysog, Herrera Spencer, Jensen, Vella and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft – 5. [Note: Councilmember Jensen arrived at 5:42 p.m. and Councilmember Vella arrived at 6:09 p.m.]

Absent: None.

Consent Calendar

Councilmember Herrera Spencer moved approval of the Consent Calendar.

Vice Mayor Daysog seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote – 3. [Absent: Councilmembers Jensen and Vella – 2.] [Items so enacted or adopted are indicated by an asterisk preceding the paragraph number.]

(*24-567) Recommendation to Approve Jennifer Ott, City Manager, Jessica Romeo, Human Resources Director, Nicholas Luby, Fire Chief, and Doug McManaway, Deputy City Attorney, as Labor Negotiators with the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) and the Alameda Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA) for the City of Alameda. Accepted.

The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session to consider:

(24-568) Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code Section 54957.6); City Negotiators: Jennifer Ott, City Manager, Jessica Romeo, Human Resources Director, Nicholas Luby, Fire Chief, and Doug McManaway, Deputy City Attorney; Employee Organizations: International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) and Alameda Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA); Under Negotiation: Salaries, Employee Benefits, and Terms of Employment

(24-569) Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957); Positions Evaluated: City Manager – Jennifer Ott

Following the Closed Session, the meeting was reconvened and the City Clerk announced that regarding Labor, staff provided information and Council provide direction by unanimous voice vote – 5, and regarding Performance Evaluation, Council provided direction to staff by the following voice vote: Ayes: Councilmembers Daysog, Jensen, Vella and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft – 4. Abstention: Councilmember Herrera Spencer – 1.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lara Weisiger
City Clerk

The agenda for this meeting was posted in accordance with the Sunshine Ordinance.

Special Meeting
Alameda City Council
October 15, 2024