

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY- -APRIL 20, 2021- -5:00 P.M.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft convened the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Roll Call – Present: Councilmembers Daysog, Herrera Spencer, Knox White, Vella and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft – 5. [Note: The meeting was held via Zoom.]

Absent: None.

Public Comment read into record:

Zac Bowling, Alameda, expressed his opposition to selling the Alameda Theatre to a private entity; stated the City has invested tax payer money into refurbishing the theatre; urged the matter be brought to the public prior to Council consideration of sale.

Savanna Cheer, Alameda, urged Council not spend additional budget dollars on policing, including salaries and benefits; stated the Unbundling Subcommittee provided recommendations for Police spending; urged Council to table the negotiations until the community has been consulted; stated there needs to be a clear definition about how the Police engages with the public; urged Council to define how the Police engages with the public before defining terms of employment.

Erin Fraser, Alameda, suggested Council adopt approaches to negotiations with the Alameda Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA), Alameda Police Officers Association (APOA) and the Alameda Police Managers Association (APMA); outlined five approaches related to short terms, solving category one crimes, no piggyback provisions, demotion abilities, and Council recusals based on receiving funding.

Grover Wehman-Brown, Alameda, urged Council to remember the commitments voted on not to increase Alameda Police Department (APD) staffing levels as terms are negotiated; stated the recent revelations that APD staff used facial recognition software after Council direction not to, the use of force on Mr. Watkins, and now the death of someone while in Police custody are examples of how the members of the organization are not keeping basic agreed upon commitments.

The meeting was adjourned to Closed Session to consider:

(21-241) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9); Case Names: Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (U39-E) for Approval and Recovery of Oakland Clean Energy Initiative Preferred Portfolio Procurement Costs; Court: Public Utilities Commission of the State of California (CPUC); Case Number: CPUC Docket No. A.20-04-013; City of Alameda, California v. Pacific Gas and Electric Company under EL20-63.-“Petition for Declaratory Order, et al. and Conditional Complaint of City of Alameda, California under EL20-63;”

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Court: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); Case Number: FERC Docket No. EL20-63-000.

(21-242) Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8); Property: Alameda Theatre, Located at 2317 Central Avenue, Alameda, CA; City Negotiators: Eric Levitt, City Manager; Lisa Maxwell, Interim Community Development Director; and Nanette Mocanu, Assistant Community Development Director; Negotiating Parties: City of Alameda and Entertainment Associates, L.P.; Under Negotiation: Price and Terms.

(21-243) Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code Section 54957.6); City Negotiators: Eric Levitt, City Manager; Gerry Beaudin, Assistant City Manager; and Nancy Bronstein, Human Resources Director; Employee Organizations: Alameda Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA), Alameda Police Officers Association (APOA) and Alameda Police Managers Association (APMA); Under Negotiation: Salaries, Employee Benefits and Terms of Employment.

Following the Closed Session, the meeting was reconvened and the City Clerk announced that regarding Existing Litigation, staff provided information and Council provided direction by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Daysog: Aye; Herrera Spencer: Aye; Knox White: Aye; Vella: Aye; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: Aye; Ayes: 5; regarding Real Property, staff provided information and Council provided direction by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Daysog: Aye; Herrera Spencer: Aye; Knox White: Aye; Vella: No; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: No; Ayes: 3. Noes: 2; regarding Labor Negotiators, staff provided information and Council provided direction with no vote taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lara Weisiger
City Clerk

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

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND
SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION (SACIC)
TUESDAY- -APRIL 20, 2021- -6:59 P.M.

Mayor/Chair Ezzy Ashcraft convened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.
Councilmember/Commissioner Daysog led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL - Present: Councilmembers/Commissioners Daysog, Knox
White, Spencer, Vella and Mayor/Chair Ezzy Ashcraft
– 5. [Note: The meeting was held via Zoom.]

Absent: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Expressed appreciation for timely completion of the audit; discussed outside audit issues, which could be recurring; stated having more staff to help with the audit process could resolve some of the material weakness items; urged Council help further staff the Finance Department: Kevin Kearney, City Auditor.

Councilmember/Commissioner Herrera Spencer inquired whether the Auditor and Treasurer make prior arrangements with staff in order to speak on matters of the agenda; questioned what the policy is for elected speakers.

The City Clerk responded the audit was placed on the Consent Calendar; stated there are no presentations for Consent items; anyone wishing to speak on a matter is done as public Comment.

Councilmember/Commissioner Herrera Spencer stated other elected officials have previously been allowed significant time to present; requested clarification about the policy when another elected official speaks on an item of financial significance; expressed support for pulling an item to allow further comments to be made; questioned whether a motion is needed to allow further speaking time; stated that she would like to avoid cutting off elected speakers in the future.

The City Clerk stated the newly revised Rules of Order for the Consent Calendar only allow members of the public to address the Council once on the entire Consent Calendar; stated Consent Calendar items are considered routine, there are no presentations, and only the Council may discuss the matter if a Councilmember pulls an item,; if there be an agenda item, such as a State Assemblymember giving a presentation, the Assemblymember would be allowed the same ten minute time limit as all presentations; when Consent Calendar items are pulled, there is no additional public discussion; any of the Rules can be suspended by a vote of four Councilmembers.

Councilmember/Commissioner Herrera Spencer stated that she does not think it is appropriate to cut-off elected officials; questioned whether it is appropriate for her to make a motion to allow the Auditor to complete his comments.

The City Clerk responded in order to suspend any Rule, a motion and a vote of four Councilmembers is needed.

Councilmember/Commissioner Herrera Spencer moved approval of allowing the City Auditor an additional two minutes of speaking time to complete his comments.

Councilmember/Commissioner Knox White seconded the motion, which failed by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers/Commissioners Daysog: Aye; Herrera Spencer: Aye; Knox White: Aye; Vella: No; and Mayor/Chair Ezzy Ashcraft: No. Ayes: 3. Noes: 2.

Councilmember/Commissioner Daysog stated that he appreciates the comments provided by the City Auditor; the City Auditor is a Charter position and is elected; the position is meant to provide independent review of financial documents.

Councilmember/Commissioner Knox White expressed support for the City Auditor; stated that he would have liked to provide more speaking time.

Vice Mayor/Commissioner Vella proposed the next audit return with a presentation from the City Auditor versus under public comment; expressed support for the work performed by staff on the audit.

Vice Mayor/Commissioner Vella moved approval of accepting the audit report.

Councilmember/Commissioner Daysog seconded the motion.

Under discussion, Councilmember/Commissioner Herrera Spencer stated that she is disappointed in Council for not allowing an elected official to speak on the matter; the audit is within the City Auditors purview; it is sad that he was not shown professional courtesy; she will vote no on the matter due to not hearing a report from the Auditor; it is unfortunate that the matter unfolded as it did; it is important for the Auditor to speak on an item under his purview.

Councilmember/Commissioner Daysog outlined Section 4-2 of the City Charter; stated the responsibility is listed in the City Charter.

The City Manager stated staff can place the matter on the Regular Agenda in the future and ensure the City Auditor is part of the presentation with the Finance Director.

Vice Mayor/Commissioner Vella inquired whether there is an issue with Council approving the matter since a Charter issue raised.

The City Attorney responded in the negative; stated the City Manager has worked with the City Auditor in providing for the audit.

The City Manager noted the City Auditor has reviewed the outside audit.

The City Attorney stated given the review and approval of the audit, Council may vote on the matter.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated that she respectfully disagrees; it is appropriate to allow an elected official to speak on matters put forth as duties in the City Charter; the City Manager is not an elected official and it is not within the City Manager's responsibility to speak on behalf of the City Auditor.

Councilmember/Commissioner Knox White made a substitute motion: moved approval of the Consent Calendar.

Vice Mayor/Commissioner Vella seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers/Commissioners Daysog: No; Herrera Spencer: No; Knox White: Aye; Vella: Aye; and Mayor/Chair Ezzy Ashcraft: Aye. Ayes: 3. Noes: 2. [Items so enacted or adopted are indicated by an asterisk preceding the paragraph number.]

(*21-244 CC/21-08 SACIC) Minutes of the Special Joint City Council and Successor Agency to the Community Improvement Commission (SACIC) Meeting Held on March 16, 2021. Approved.

(*21-245 CC/21- 09 SACIC) Recommendation to Accept the Investment Report for the Quarter Ending December 31, 2020. Accepted.

(*21-246 CC/21-10 SACIC) Recommendation to Accept the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Audited Financial Statements and Compliance Reports. Accepted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor/Chair Ezzy Ashcraft adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lara Weisiger, City Clerk
Secretary, SACIC

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

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY- -APRIL 20, 2021- -7:00 P.M.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft convened the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

ROLL CALL - Present: Councilmembers Daysog, Herrera Spencer, Knox White, Vella, and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft – 5. [Note: The meeting was conducted via Zoom]

Absent: None.

AGENDA CHANGES

(21-247) Councilmember Daysog moved approval of combining the COVID-19 Emergency [paragraph no. 21-267] matter with the Council Referral.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer seconded the motion.

Under discussion, Councilmember Knox White noted Consent Calendar and Council Referral matters have different discussion rules; inquired whether the Council Referral will be treated as a Consent Calendar item.

The City Attorney stated if Councilmember Daysog wishes to combine the Council Referral with a Consent Calendar item, the Consent Calendar rules will apply to the entire item.

On the call for the question, the motion carried by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Daysog: Aye; Herrera Spencer: Ayes; Knox White: Aye; Vella: Aye; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: Aye. Ayes: 5.

PROCLAMATIONS, SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(21-248) Proclamation Declaring April 22nd as Earth Day and April 24th as Arbor Day Alameda 2021.

(21-249) Proclamation Declaring April as Parkinson’s Awareness Month 2021.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

The City Clerk announced there are 180 Zoom participants.

(21-250) Erin Fraser, Alameda, discussed a quote by Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft; stated many have proposed the City lead on racial justice; urged Council action; outlined Mayor responsibilities in the City Charter; discussed the killing of a 27-year old man.

(21-251) Alexia Arocha, Alameda, discussed the killing of Mario Gonzalez; urged an independent investigation be conducted; stated the details and comments from the report are confusing; Alameda is not unique to the pervasive problem in the Country; Officers should not be handling mental health calls; urged the release of body camera footage and implementation of mental health first responders program.

(21-252) Laura Cutrona, Alameda, discussed the killing of Mario Gonzalez; stated thoughts and prayers are more harmful when not followed with action; questioned the nature of the call that initiated the fatal interaction, how Mr. Gonzalez was deemed as the potential suspect of a theft and was there use of force; stated that she will pose the questions to Alameda Police Department (APD); urged Council to release the body camera footage immediately, initiate an impartial investigation and implement two recommendations from the Police Reform and Racial Equity Committee by June 30, 2021: mental health first responders and a paid Police Oversight Committee.

(21-253) Michael Tal, East Bay Democratic Socialists of America, stated the tone of the meeting has been embarrassing; discussed the killing of Mario Gonzalez and the guilty verdict for Derek Chauvin; stated militarized policing is a disease and is affecting the entire Country; Council must invest in people and social services and the funding must come from the APD budget; urged implementation of the mental health first responders program and release of the body camera footage.

(21-254) Debra Mendoza, Alameda, discussed the results of the Derek Chauvin and George Floyd case; expressed concern about the press release issued by APD regarding the death of Mario Gonzalez; stated Alameda needs more information, transparency and immediate community oversight; urged the body camera footage be released; stated body cameras do not prevent State sanctioned violence; the City needs mental health first responders by July 1, 2021; urged Council take immediate action and make changes.

(21-255) James Bergquist, Alameda, expressed concern about the direction the City is headed related to racial justice; stated it is not lost on people that the conviction of Derek Chauvin coincides with issues Alameda is currently facing; the time is pivotal for the City and Country; discussed APD's armored vehicle sale, an armed white man threatening the public, and the death of Mario Gonzalez; stated transparency is crucial; urged release of the body camera footage.

(21-256) Janani Ramachandran, discussed killings of 2021 and Mario Gonzalez; stated that she is demanding justice and transparency; the conviction of Derek Chauvin means nothing when there has been more than 1,000 people killed by Police since George Floyd's death; urged the immediate release of body camera footage, initiation of an independent investigation, development of a non-police program to respond to mental health calls and ensure Officers involved are on leave with disciplinary measures.

(21-257) Jenice Anderson, discussed the killing of Mario Gonzalez; stated that she takes issue with APD's repeated use of the words "scuffle" and "suspect;" 27-year olds do not die of a medical emergency from a scuffle; details about the alleged crime are not known; no possible threat is worth a human life; the Sheriff's office and the District Attorney are not impartial or independent; if an independent investigator is sought, the community should be involved in selection; the recommendations from the Police Reform Committee are imperative; the City is not a leader on policing.

(21-258) Venecio Camarillo, Alameda, stated the incident with Mario Gonzalez is appalling and the Press Release factors are off-putting; discussed the statement provided by the City; stated the medical emergency induced came from the Police due to either excessive force or the use of a deadly weapon; earlier versions of the Press Release do not state a weapon was used; Mario did not deserve to die; the Officers involved are continuing to be paid while under

investigation; urged the body camera footage be released to the public; stated an impartial investigation and a Community Police Oversight Committee is needed.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Daysog stated that he will recuse himself from the Webster Street BIA [paragraph no. 21-265] matters.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated that she would like the Park Street BIA [paragraph no. 21-264] and Webster Street BIA [paragraph no. 21-265] matters removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer moved approval of the remainder of the Consent Calendar.

Councilmember Daysog seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Daysog: Aye; Herrera Spencer: Ayes; Knox White: Aye; Vella: Aye; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: Aye. Ayes: 5. [Items so enacted or adopted are indicated by an asterisk preceding the paragraph number.]

(*21-259) Minutes of the Continued March 9, 2021 Special Meeting and the Special and Regular Meetings Held on March 16, 2021. Approved.

(*21-260) Ratified bills in the amount of \$2,546,512.43.

(*21-261) Recommendation to Accept the Quarterly Sales Tax Report for the Reporting Period Ending December 31, 2020 (Funds Collected During the Period July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020).

(*21-262) Recommendation to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Second Amendment to the Service Provider Agreement with City ConText to Increase Compensation by \$76,080 for a Total Aggregate Compensation Not to Exceed \$150,000, and Extend the Term to December 31, 2023, to Continue Providing Technical Planning Support to the City of Alameda Housing Element Update and Related Zoning Amendments.

(*21-263) Recommendation to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a First Amendment to the Agreement with Coastland Civil Engineering for the Services of the Interim City Engineer, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$75,000 for an Aggregate Amount Not to Exceed \$149,500.

(21-264) Recommendation to Approve the Park Street Business Improvement Area (BIA) Annual Assessment Report; and

(21-264A) Resolution No. 15756, "Intention to Levy an Annual Assessment on the Park Street BIA for Fiscal Year 2021-22, and Set a Public Hearing for May 4, 2021 to Levy an Annual Assessment on the Park Street BIA." Adopted.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer expressed support for efforts made during the past year; stated that she would like to continue encouraging the community to support local businesses.

Note: The motion was made under the Webster Street BIA [paragraph no. 21-265].

(21-265) Recommendation to Approve the Webster Street Business Improvement Area (BIA) Annual Assessment Report; and Resolution No. 15757, “Intention to Levy an Annual Assessment on the Webster Street BIA for Fiscal Year 2021-22; and Set a Public Hearing for May 4, 2021 to Levy an Annual Assessment on the Webster Street BIA.” Adopted.

Note: Councilmember Daysog recused himself.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer expressed support for the Webster Street BIA efforts in the past year; stated that she would like to continue supporting moving forward.

Councilmember Knox White moved approval of the staff recommendation approving the BIA [including adoption of the resolutions].

Councilmember Herrera Spencer seconded the motion.

The motion on Park Street BIA carried by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Daysog: Aye; Herrera Spencer: Aye; Knox White: Aye; Vella: Aye; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: Aye. Ayes: 5.

Since Councilmember Daysog recused himself on the Webster Street BIA, the motion carried by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Daysog: Absent; Herrera Spencer: Aye; Knox White: Aye; Vella: Aye; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: Aye. Ayes: 1. [Absent: Councilmember Daysog – 1.]

(*21-266) Resolution No. 15758, “Amending the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Project Budget by Reducing Revenue and Appropriations in the Enterprise Resource Planning System Implementation Project 90002704 by \$360,000 and Increasing Revenue and Appropriations for the Strategic Technology Plan Project 90003704 by \$360,000.” Adopted.

(21-267) Resolution No. 15759, “Continuing the Declaration of the Existence of a Local Emergency in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Consistent with Government Code Section 8630(c).” Adopted.

Councilmember Knox White moved adoption of the resolution.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated that she would like staff to provide an explanation for the matter.

The City Attorney stated under State Law, a declaration of local emergency only lasts for 60 days; every period, staff must return to Council for approval of re-declaring the local emergency in order for it to continue; every hearing, Council has the choice to not approve an extension; however, staff does have to return and provide the matter for consideration.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft inquired the implications for the emergency expiring.

The City Attorney responded a number of implications would occur; stated the City may have difficulties recovering Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) money; the City also has implemented certain renter and mortgagee protection provisions which hinge on the continuation of the local emergency.

Councilmember Daysog seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Daysog: Aye; Herrera Spencer: Aye; Knox White: Aye; Vella: Aye; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: Aye. Ayes: 5.

COUNCIL REFERRALS

(21-268) Consider Directing Staff to Provide COVID-19 Updates and Increase Outreach. (Councilmember Daysog)

Councilmember Daysog gave a brief presentation.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated there are County dashboards which show COVID-19 rates city-by-city; the dashboard shows vaccination rates.

Councilmember Daysog stated the dashboard is a great resource; the information should be tracked; inquired whether a letter can be sent to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Board encouraging more vigilance for the month of May; stated staff can figure out what constitutes stepped up outreach.

The City Manager stated staff has conducted a variety of outreach and can take Council direction to step up outreach; staff continuously talks about outreach, vigilance and promoting vaccines.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft requested the Assistant City Manager provide clarification about City-specific data.

The Assistant City Manager stated staff is working with County Health to dig deeper on how Alameda is doing; general information is available at the zip code level; staff is looking to dig deeper to target outreach as part of the vaccination efforts; noted COVID-19 testing is still happening in the City.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated testing is happening on a regular basis for Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) students and staff as part of the reopening plan; the City's Mayor Vaccine Task-Force was able to schedule vaccine appointments for roughly 400 seniors and individuals with disabilities; discussed the clinic; stated vaccination is part of protecting everyone; the vaccination rates are good, but not good enough to qualify as immunity; new variants are developing; many states are still in trouble.

Councilmember Daysog moved approval of duly noting the elements of the Council Referral.

Vice Mayor Vella stated making parks as accessible as possible during the pandemic and how to ensure different services are provided has been discussed at EBRPD Liaison meetings; that she is trying to ensure there is access and programs, while taking into account a higher use of facilities; she has been working diligently with EBRPD.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer expressed support for the matter; stated that she is happy the parking lot on McKay Avenue is open; expressed support for being safer outside; stated having the parking lot open will allow for a feasible and safe outside option; she wants to thank EBRPD and business districts for having and maintaining hand sanitizer dispensers.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer seconded the motion.

Under discussion, Councilmember Knox White inquired whether the motion is to acknowledge that everything in the Referral was already being done and to appreciate staff's efforts.

Councilmember Daysog responded in the affirmative; expressed support for new ways to step up outreach; stated outreach needs to be done in addition to what has already been done; he hopes the outreach steps up even more in the coming month due to target dates.

Vice Mayor Vella stated park access and programming being performed is regularly updated on EBRPD's webpage: ebparks.org; there is a specific page on COVID-19 park information; EBRPD is also trying to provide access to water facilities for the summer; the City website can link to the EBRPD webpage.

Councilmember Daysog stated a more precise motion would be: the City should get its dashboard up and running on the website with new information being discussed at the detailed zip code level; noted Council can either work with the more detailed motion or a general motion encouraging the City Manager to continue working in the same manner, especially in the month of May for target dates in June and July.

Councilmember Knox White stated that he will not be supporting the motion due to providing direction to staff on matters currently being completed; a signal is being sent that had Council not provided direction, staff would not be working on matters; expressed support for a motion to appreciate and acknowledge efforts; stated that he does not want to support something that seems as though Council is giving direction on things that are already being worked on.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated Alameda has consistently had the third lowest COVID-19 rates per capita in the County; Alameda is now the third highest vaccination rate in the County; staff and Council have been proactive for the past year; expressed support for using the opportunity to acknowledge staff efforts; stated the Assistant City Manager has worked to provide COVID-19 testing facilities; she is not prepared to support the circuitous direction.

Councilmember Daysog amended his motion to appreciate the hard work and advances that the City Manager, staff and Councilmembers have made with regard to COVID-19, which has resulted in lower rates, and that efforts be stepped up even more for the month of May in an effort to meet the June and July targets set forth by the Governor and President.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer seconded the motion.

Under discussion, Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated that she appreciates the efforts of staff and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft; expressed support for continuing and stepping up efforts; stated COVID-19 variants may be present; expressed support for a discussion about COVID-19; stated there have been comments from Councilmembers and the referral has been the first opportunity for her to speak on COVID-19 matters.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft outlined the weekly Mayor's COVID-19 town halls; stated the town halls are posted on the City website.

On the call for the question, the motion failed by the following vote: Councilmembers Daysog: Aye; Herrera Spencer: Aye; Knox White: No; Vella: No; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: No. Ayes: 2. Noes: 3.

CONSENT CALENDAR - CONTINUED

(*21-269) Resolution No. 15760, "Amending the Management and Confidential Employees Association (MCEA) Salary Schedule to Increase the Salary Range for the Job Classification of Base Reuse Manager Effective the First Full Pay Period Following Approval." Adopted.

Note: Councilmember Herrera Spencer voted no on the resolution, which carried by the following vote: Councilmembers Daysog: Aye; Herrera Spencer: No; Knox White: Aye; Vella: Aye; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: Aye. Ayes: 4. Noes: 1.

(*21-270) Resolution No. 15761, "Preliminarily Approving the Annual Report Declaring the City's Intention to Order the Levy and Collection of Assessments and Providing for Notice of Public Hearing on June 1, 2021 - Maintenance Assessment District 01-01 (Marina Cove) ." Adopted.

(*21-271) Resolution No. 15762, "Preliminarily Approving the Annual Report Declaring the City's Intention to Order the Levy and Collection of Assessments and Providing for Notice of Public Hearing on June 1, 2021 - Island City Landscaping and Lighting District 84-2 (Various Locations)." Adopted.

Note: Councilmember Daysog recused himself and the motion carried by the following vote: Councilmembers Daysog: Absent; Herrera Spencer: Aye; Knox White: Aye; Vella: Aye; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: Aye. Ayes: 1. [Absent: Councilmember Daysog – 1.]

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

(21-272) Resolution No. 15763, "Appointing Philly Jones as a Member of the Recreation and Parks Commission"; and

(21-272A) Resolution No. 15764, "Appointing Alice Nguyen as a Member of the Recreation and Parks Commission."

Councilmember Herrera Spencer moved adoption of the resolutions.

Councilmember Knox White seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Daysog: Aye; Herrera Spencer: Aye; Knox White: Aye; Vella: Aye; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: Aye. Ayes: 5.

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Jones and Ms. Nguyen.

Ms. Jones and Ms. Nguyen made brief comments.

(21-273) Public Hearing to Consider Resolution No. 15765, "Approving the Central Avenue Safety Improvement Project Final Concept and Adoption of Environmental Findings." Adopted.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director gave a Power Point presentation.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer inquired whether the closure of Sherman Street and the four roundabouts were included in the initial Council approval, to which the Planning, Building and Transportation Director responded in the negative.

In response to Councilmember Herrera Spencer's inquiry, the Planning, Building and Transportation Director stated a supplemental memorandum is included with the report; the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorical exemptions are clarified in the memorandum and reinforces staff's findings that the project as-designed is categorically exempt under CEQA from further environmental review with the four roundabouts and the street closure.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer inquired how many parking spaces will be lost due to daylighting.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director responded roughly 50 parking spaces of the 130 will be lost due to daylighting, which is about 37%; stated the spaces need to be removed due to local and State requirements to have adequate visibility at corners.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer inquired whether homeowners have been notified about any impacts of daylighting.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director responded in the negative; stated under the Council policy and direction about daylighting neighbors will be notified when resources have been identified to perform repainting of curbs; notices will be sent out as a courtesy closer to the actual curb painting; notification and noticing for the process has been extensive, repetitive and consistently done over the last eight years.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer inquired whether any red spaces will be lost, separate from daylighting, due to the roundabouts.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director responded that he can work with staff; stated the entire project loses approximately 135 spaces; 50 are due to daylighting and the balance will be along the corridor for protected bicycle lanes and standard travel lanes; staff will parse out the breakdown specific to roundabouts.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer expressed support for information related to the two unfunded roundabouts; inquired whether there is a diagram showing the two roundabouts at Encinal High School and Ballena Boulevard.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director stated the presentation includes a slide showing all four roundabouts; stated the two at Encinal High School and Ballena Boulevard are a few blocks apart; stated staff has diagrams for the two roundabouts.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated that she would like staff to discuss pedestrian and bicycle access to the roundabouts; discussed a fatality at a roundabout in Lafayette; expressed support for information being provided about the differences in roundabouts and background on safety.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director stated the City's roundabouts are designed to separate bicyclists from automobiles; automobiles use the roundabout, bicyclists are

separated from the automobile path; the design is different from Lafayette, which has where cars and bicycles share the lane inside the roundabout.

Stated the project has numerous shortcomings and oversights and will not meet the needs of the majority of Alameda citizens; bicyclists will be put on a highway near large trucks; the project will remove parking spaces needed for Webster Street businesses and Sherman Street residents; the loss of a bus stop will likely be revisited; the closure of Sherman Street is the ultimate in ignoring the needs of most drivers; other cities roundabouts do not close off street segments; roundabouts will slow Police, Fire and ambulance services; urged Council not to pass the current design: Jim Strehlow, Alameda.

Stated the project is fantastic in many ways; the roundabouts will improve safety; studies show a reduction in crashes by 35%, injuries by 76%, and fatalities by 90%; the roundabouts will help the City reach climate goals and will shave off four minutes of travel time across the corridor; there is a lower lifecycle cost to roundabouts over traditional intersections; roundabouts provide a civic beautification opportunity; expressed support for the roundabout at Sherman Street; urged Council support the safety improvement project: Pat Potter, Alameda.

Stated that she regularly uses the corridor as a pedestrian, bicyclist and vehicle driver; discussed her experience commuting across the Island to use the ferry; stated many people lament the strict enforcement of the 25 mile per hour speed limits, which can be achieved by road design; the road design is wonderful; discussed a false choice between safety and the ability for bicyclists and pedestrians to navigate efficiently and safely; stated the design achieves both; urged Council to support the project: Ashley Lorden, Alameda.

Stated that her family will be excited about project implementation; the areas are dangerous for children to cross; the project is important for safety; many people have died due to car accidents in the past years: Grover Wehman-Brown, Alameda.

Discussed the loss of a parking space in front of her home; stated the turn lanes are unnecessary for a dead-end court; expressed support for allowing a left turn and keeping the parking space; suggested the Hoover Court street sign be placed on the Fifth Street side and parking medallions to be provided: Laura Alviar, Alameda.

Stated there is no consensus on the merits or design of the project; that she is opposed to the proposed closure of Sherman Street; the roundabout provides no reason to close Sherman Street; discussed Berkeley street configurations and the closure of Sherman Street; stated the re-route will add travel time; an alternative slip lane does not address the re-route; Sherman Street will no longer be used if it is not a through street; traffic will be moved from one street to another; urged Council not to approve the project as presented or the closure of Sherman Street: Karen Miller, Alameda.

Stated the project is fantastic; urged Council to approve the project; stated the project will have a positive impact on local businesses, the economy and increase biking; the increase in biking will be a positive development for businesses; customers on bicycles tend to spend more regularly and more overall at local businesses than customers in cars; out of town tourists will likely use the Bay Trail; there will be benefits for Webster Street; the Central Avenue project will further humanize the district by bringing more people into the area on bikes and foot: Tim Beloney, Alameda.

Stated that she is excited about the Central Avenue Safety Improvement project; urged Council to support the project; stated the project is important for students and families; discussed schools affected by the project; stated keeping kids safe on their way to school is important; the project will encourage students to walk and bike to school; discussed the Safe Routes to Schools program; stated the project will reduce the number of cars doing drop-offs: Cameron Holland, Alameda.

Expressed support for the Central Avenue Safety Improvement project; stated the project will enhance the protected bikeway network; separated, protected bike lanes are superior to standard, painted bike lanes due to physical separation; physical separation prevents cars from parking in the bike lane; double parking has increased due to an increase in delivery services; the project recommendations are used in countries with high bicycle use; due to climate change, people need to have an easier choice of less damaging ways to get around; urged Council to approve the project: Cyndy Johnsen, Alameda.

Stated the project is fantastic; urged Council to approve the project; stated repurposing parking is a difficult discussion; there are competing demands for road space; making equitable choices to use assets for the greatest public good and making roads as safe as possible is the right thing to do; parking competing with safety improvements is a clear choice; the project will reduce the number of collisions by 35%; taking away parking might inconvenience some; however, the tradeoff is safety over convenience; discussed parking tradeoffs; stated streets are public; no one has special claim to local roads: Denyse Trepanier, Alameda.

Urged Council to support the project; stated the project is wonderful; the project will create a mode shift to allow more people to use bicycles for ferry access; discussed riding bicycles with her children and her experience with dangerous Alameda bike lanes; stated the project solves the problem of keeping bikes separate from commercial areas: Katherine Van Dusen, Alameda.

Expressed support for the project; discussed his previous requests for roundabouts; stated modern roundabouts are a great way to improve traffic while improving safety; expressed support for traffic calming; stated it is difficult to cross at Sherman Street and Central Avenue; expressed concern about the lack of funding for all four roundabouts; urged Council to vote yes on the project: Zac Bowling, Alameda.

Expressed support for the project; stated the project has had a few tricky design challenges and areas which needed close attention; the process has been collaborative over many years; expressed support for City staff addressing disability access to the roundabouts: Susie Hufstader, Alameda.

Expressed support for the project; stated living on the West End feels as though Central Avenue is a barrier between herself and the parks and beaches of Alameda; urged Council to support the project: Rebecca Wernis, Alameda.

Expressed support for the project; stated Alameda is pointed to as a shining example of a City redesigning streets for active transportation; the project will allow people to get around the Island; urged Council to support the project: Dave Campbell, Bike East Bay.

Expressed support for the project; discussed parking; stated the road diet proposed will improve speed limit compliance; urged Council to recognize scientific consensus and information from experts and approve the project: Morgan Bellinger, Alameda.

Expressed support for the project; urged Council to approve the project; stated the project delivers the kind of street design needed to meet the City's safety and climate goals while enhancing livability; a protected, separated bike lane along Central Avenue will fix a big gap in the Bay Trail network; the protected bikeway will open up many possibilities for completely car-free recreation; there are many upsides to the project; the issues posed are dwarfed by the benefits: Michael Sullivan, Alameda.

Stated transportation represents 70% of greenhouse gas emissions; the project will improve safety, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, promote resilience and contribute to the community well-being: Ruth Abbe, Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda.

Stated that he is a fan of the project and roundabouts; discussed roundabouts funding and his use of the corridor; stated the dead-end at Sherman Street is a non-starter; the crossing at Bay Street and Morton Avenue is not for the faint of heart; urged staff talk to people at the Mobile station: Christopher Seiwald, Alameda.

Stated that she strongly opposes the roundabout at Sherman Street; the project loses 23% of parking and 19 of the spaces are for the Sherman Street roundabout; the loss will affect residents in apartments buildings and three businesses; expressed concern about the changes to Sherman Street; stated roundabouts are a great idea at most intersections; however, the Sherman Street intersection is not the right space for a roundabout: Jeannine Gravem, Alameda.

Urged Council vote in favor of better bicycle infrastructure on Central Avenue; discussed his experience riding a bicycle on Fruitvale Bridge; stated Central Avenue has problems to Tilden Way; there is not adequate space between parked cars, bicycles and moving cars; the design provides no barriers for protection; Police do not protect bicyclists; safe and protected bicycle infrastructure is needed; the project is far safer than the status quo: James Johnston, Alameda.

Expressed support for the project; stated the mode shift for the project is important; the shift is imperative if the City welcomes thousands in new residents over the next few decades; allowing a few residents to get out of their cars will create an easier time for all to get around town; Alameda is already a great place to bike; important access will be provided across the Island; urged Council to vote yes on the project: Doug Letterman, Alameda.

Discussed the increase in cars from Alameda Point; stated more housing is being built; it is unrealistic to believe there will not be additional cars; a new iteration might be needed; urged Council to look at other ways to get people in and out of Alameda as opposed to cars; expressed support for ferries; stated parking is an issue; expressed support for purchasing paint over a roundabout: Gerald Bryant, Alameda.

Stated the improvements to Otis Drive make biking easier; he is looking forward to having bike lanes on Central Avenue; the current design is a disaster waiting to happen; he does not want to have to see a ghost bike installed at Central Avenue: Don Porteous, Alameda.

Questioned the methodology for traffic analysis in Section 3.1 of the report; stated much of the data provided was from 2020; many of the measurements were performed during a pandemic year; it is unrealistic to gather data during said time; expressed support for reliable and useful data; expressed concern about weekend traffic: Matt Reid, Alameda.

Stated that he prefers not to drive his car given the opportunity; expressed support for the project with all four roundabouts; stated electric cars are significantly heavier than standard cars making collisions with cyclists and pedestrians more deadly; the project calms traffic and improves safety for pedestrians and cyclists; one life saved should be worth more than parking spaces; discussed his vehicle use in Alameda; stated cargo and electric bikes are becoming an excellent choice; urged Council approve the project: Joshua Hawn, Alameda.

Expressed support for the project; stated the overall project configuration is not new; stated Broadway Street is not a perfect road for those on foot or bike; however, the road is safer; he would like to see this type of road configuration along Central Avenue; the project can tie together some missing connections in Alameda's bike network; expressed support for connecting the missing bits: Drew Dara-Abrams, Alameda.

Stated that he likes the project concept; expressed support for safety; expressed concern about delivery trucks blocking driveways and loss of parking spaces in the area: Ruben Quezada, Alameda.

Discussed concerns about roundabouts for the visually impaired; stated crossing streets at roundabouts is frightening; pedestrians do not have the right of way in crossing a roundabout; questioned whether there will be flashing beacons at the roundabouts for pedestrians and whether information will be provided to school children on safe roundabout crossing; stated the most dangerous time for pedestrians is when a car exits the roundabout; urged Council consider the safety of pedestrians: Candace Gutleben, Alameda.

Stated that she is against the roundabouts; she is unsure how staff will be able to make roundabouts accessible for not just the blind community; proposed Council try being in a visually impaired person's shoes and feeling safe and able to confidently navigate at roundabouts: Michaela Tsztoo, Alameda.

Stated that she is excited about the project; noted that she is familiar with roundabouts; stated the current situation is unsafe; discussed feeling unsafe pushing a stroller in the area; stated there will be a 90% improvement in fatal accidents; the project will be a benefit for the entire community; the project has come before the Commission on Persons With Disabilities previously: Beth Kenny, Alameda.

Expressed concern about the approach to a roundabout; stated traffic in a roundabout does not stop; without a stop light, there is no way to know whether someone will want to turn while she is attempting to cross the street; hybrid cars become silent when travelling under 25 miles per hour: Sheri Albers, Alameda.

Stated that he opposes the project due to the closure of Sherman Street and the roundabouts; Sherman Street is an essential arterial; its closure would have adverse effects; discussed the recommendation to close Sherman Street; stated the cul-de-sac could violate codes and the turning radius will be too narrow for long vehicles; discussed the traffic study; stated the project would violate the Transportation Element: Ken Phares, Alameda.

Stated the project is scary to have launched due to her being visually impaired; the project will be dangerous because cars will not be expected to stop and there will be no way to know whether pedestrians are seen; it is difficult to cross streets with trucks and hybrids; expressed

support for a flashing, talking sign; questioned safety precautions in place for the project: Katie Phan, Alameda.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft called a recess at 9:47 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:09 p.m.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft inquired how people with disabilities will safely cross and navigate the roundabout and whether any consultation was conducted.

The Senior Transportation Coordinator responded staff and consultants have met with several members of the blind community who requested a tactile map of the roundabouts be created; a map was created for the roundabout at Third Street; staff created seven hard copies, three sets are at each Alameda Library and can be checked out.

Stefan Schuster, CDM Smith, stated that his team reached out to and met with the blind community and developed tactile maps; noted as designs are finalized, more specific and accurate models of the roundabouts will be created; stated the safety benefits are similar; displayed a Power Point presentation slide; stated the slide illustrates design component considerations for the blind and visually impaired; the roundabouts have shorter crossings and provide a center refuge; there is a traffic calming element to the roundabouts with significantly lower vehicle speeds; the landscape and buffer areas keep pedestrians and cyclists separated from traffic lanes; other physical elements, such as fencing, may be used; tactile domes and guide strips would be used to help signal the transition to a travel lane; the use of flashing and auditory signals will help guide people across certain legs of intersections and will also warn motorists about pedestrians; considerations will be made on a case by case basis; all features will not be on every leg of the roundabout; motorists may become de-sensitized to too many flashing beacons; there is no guarantee of a safe crossing at any intersection; overall roundabouts benefit all users and are a safer option than a signalized intersection.

Erin Ferguson, Kittelson & Associates, stated her firm has been involved with National research for visually impaired and disabled users; the research has found consistency with the comments provided by Mr. Schuster related to design; it is important to provide the protected refuge island; the crosswalks are setback about one car length from the circulatory roadway; giving more space allows visually impaired users the ability to hear better to the left; flashing beacons activated by push buttons can also be implemented.

Councilmember Knox White stated that he appreciates the additional outreach performed due to concerns being raised; inquired whether the roundabout as-deigned would be safer than the current situation.

Mr. Schuster responded in the affirmative; stated that he has looked at several variations for Sherman Street; the design closing Sherman Street provides much greater flexibility in the roundabout design, which will truly calm traffic.

Councilmember Knox White stated that he anticipates the need to have an option to keep Sherman Street open; expressed support for a motion supporting approval of all four roundabouts, with a condition that an option to keep Sherman Street open return for consideration; stated keeping Sherman Street open is a less safe option; it is important to realize that up until Marina Village was built, Atlantic Avenue was similar to other streets; streets

will be reconfigured along Atlantic Avenue near Clement Street that will travel down to Grand Street; the designs expect that traffic will drop; staff has done a great job of explaining why roundabouts are going to help traffic flow through the Central Avenue corridor; the roundabouts will help to improve cut through traffic; expressed support for the staff recommendation.

Councilmember Daysog inquired whether maps showing an open Sherman Street are available.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director responded the presentation includes alternative designs; stated slide 31 shows different ways of providing access to Sherman Street; staff has taken Council direction from 2016 as well as the Vision Zero policy and has come forward with the safest alternative; staff has looked at a number of different ways to design the roundabout at Sherman Street; the City does not currently have the money to build the roundabout at Sherman Street; with the funding available, the City can currently build two of four roundabouts; staff recommends building two roundabouts at the most dangerous locations first; Council may have a discussion at a later time regarding the two other roundabouts.

Councilmember Daysog inquired whether the other roundabouts are considered safe in terms of professional engineering standards.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director responded the safest option is proposed; stated the other options provided are safe, but not as safe as the one recommended; the worst case scenario is to leave the intersection as-is.

Vice Mayor Vella stated the project has been before the Council a number of times and has been through numerous renditions with public input and comment; there have been a number of workshops on the matter with many designs; there is an eye specifically for safe multimodal transit; the project is the embodiment for Vision Zero; if Council is serious about implementing the policy, roads and infrastructure must be made safer for everyone, including pedestrians and other modes of transit; the inclusion of roundabouts is important; outlined living in London and the experience of bicycling through roundabouts; stated that she experiences more fear pushing a stroller down Central Avenue than her time spent in London; Central Avenue is essentially a freeway; the goal for the roundabouts is to calm traffic; roundabouts will reduce vehicle speed and improve safety; expressed support for the recommendation; stated that she is proud of the work being done; Council needs to value human life and safety; Council must support and implement the project as presented.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated that she is mostly behind the project and is fully behind Vision Zero; she loves roundabouts and the Central Avenue project; expressed support for the roundabout at Encinal High School; stated that she likes three of the four roundabouts; expressed concern about the roundabout at Sherman Street; stated that she cannot support the closure of Sherman Street; the intersection being closed had the lowest amount of accidents; the design shows closure of the street as not possible due to the triangular parcel; questioned whether the City could acquire more land in order to create a proper roundabout; expressed concern about people using the two nearest parallel streets, which are next to a school, in the event of Sherman Street closure; stated the Sherman Street roundabout is not ready for prime time; she is ready to support the project without the Sherman Street closure; an extreme treatment for an intersection that is unwarranted is not something that she can support.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated that she has many concerns; expressed concern about the lack of roundabout simulations; expressed support for consultants using simulations, not

static pictures; outlined an engineering firm providing simulations in Lafayette; stated other cities offer video simulations for projects; stated 1,400 students come out of Encinal High School at 3:00 p.m.; expressed support for a simulation video; stated the project is not ready to go; expressed concern about staff responses to daylighting outreach; stated the outreach should have already happened; the specifics are missing from the project; she cannot support a project which does not have daylighting addresses identified by phase; the public has a right to have public conversation; discussed bicycling through Alameda and Central Avenue; expressed concern about cars coming out of roundabouts; stated data provided from only 2020 is not realistic; she cannot support any of the roundabouts without being shown a simulation; a project of this magnitude needs to be phased; community members need to be identified and provided information if a parking space will be lost; many renters cannot afford a house with a driveway or garage; there is a problem for the visually impaired; videos show audio cues need to be heard; she does not want just a flashing light at the roundabout, she wants cars to stop; people do not know if cars are going to stop; it is Council's job to make dangerous intersections safer; cars do not always stop at crossings with flashing lights; she is disappointed there was not more work done before coming to Council.

(21-274) Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated a vote is need to consider new items after 11:00 p.m.

Councilmember Knox White inquired whether there are time sensitive items.

The City Manager responded the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) [paragraph no. 21-276] could be heard at the May meeting.

Councilmember Knox White moved approval of hearing the Long Term Financial Plan [paragraph no. 21-275] tonight and deferring the remaining items.

Vice Mayor Vella seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Daysog: Aye; Herrera Spencer: No; Knox White: Aye; Vella: Aye; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: Aye. Ayes: 4. Noes: 1.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft requested clarification about the data collection methods.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director stated staff did no traffic counts or analysis of existing conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vice Mayor Vella discussed the Sherman Street and Central Avenue intersection; stated the two crossings are barely able to be completed in time; questioned the proposal for Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft to support the roundabout at the intersection; stated there are currently no audio cues or safety measures in place; she would like to understand the vision for the intersection based on current concerns.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated one thing would be to time the signal lights to allow longer crossing times; outlined intersections with ample crossing times; stated the intersection could be made safer with audio cues; there have been major improvements to the design; the street closure is an extreme remedy and could be addressed in other ways; expressed support for acquiring more land in order for a logical roundabout design.

Vice Mayor Vella questioned whether the inclination is to direct staff to look at the intersection further and come up with another option.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated that she cannot support the matter as designed with a cul de sac at Sherman Street.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director stated if Council does not approve the roundabout at Sherman Street, staff will look at ways to improve the intersection; the intersection will not be taken out of the project; signal timing and striping options will be reviewed to try and make existing conditions safer.

Councilmember Knox White stated the intersection does not work well for anyone at this stage; inquired how bicyclists coming down Central will get to the other side of Sherman Street if Council decides to keep the intersection the same; questioned whether cyclists will need to cross the travel lane into a special slip lane.

The Senior Transportation Coordinator responded slide 30 of the presentation depicts the intersection; noted the slip lane is depicted on slide 31.

Councilmember Knox White stated the option will make Sherman Street a higher volume street; the design will indicate people should continue down Sherman Street and is not a great outcome for the project; the option shown is an improvement to current conditions; the intersection is convoluted, complicated and is cause for concern among many; inquired whether staff has looked at the impacts on traffic if Sherman Street closes.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director responded GPS already re-routes people around the intersection; there is currently diversion from the area; staff's goal is to make the intersection work better and reduce the current diversion; creating a Sherman Street cul de sac will no longer allow north-south users of Sherman Street; drivers will use an alternate north-south street; there will be a change for 20 residents of the street; the network and Central Avenue works better with the roundabout and less people will re-route through the Gold Coast with the changes.

Councilmember Daysog stated travelers coming down Santa Clara Avenue get to see Alameda at a desired pace; Alameda is a City built to the individual, pedestrian and bicyclist; Alameda is not suburbia, which is built to accommodate a fast-moving vehicle; Alameda does have fast-moving vehicles; residents should be proud of the fact that there is an abundance of 25 mile per hour signs; previously, he has not supported the Central Avenue project; Otis Drive has many cul de sacs which connect and have transformed it into a place that has slowed down; the project presented has some good coming out of it; expressed support for three of the four roundabouts; stated that he cannot support the roundabout at Sherman Street due to a feeling that Sherman Street should not be a closed cul de sac and should remain open; staff has provided and evaluated options; the other options provided also meet professional standards and are safe; staff needs to look at other ways of designing Sherman Street; the roundabouts can beautify different parts of Alameda and can be signature points; expressed support for seeing redesigned streets; stated the decision does not come without difficulty; some will lose parking due to the project; the bigger picture must be taken into consideration.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated that she is hearing some consensus on the project; expressed support for enough attention being given to people with disabilities, visual impairments and

specialized situations.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director stated staff already designed in the disabled parking space along Hoover Street; there will be another level of detail and design; staff has heard Council and the speakers; there is a general consensus for the plan and the fourth roundabout is yet to be determined; staff is ready to move to the next phase with Council direction.

Councilmember Knox White stated that he would be interested in understanding the consequences of Council sticking with the status quo and problematic design; expressed support for negotiating with property owners to have a better designed roundabout and for a vote on the safest solution staff has provided; stated the project has been kicked back and needs to move forward; he would consider approving what staff has come up with direction to try something even better and meeting goals, rather than rejecting the project and hoping something else fits in.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft expressed support for compromise; stated that she will support approval of three out of four roundabouts and bringing back Sherman Street with funding and an option that does not require creation of a cul de sac; the direction gives staff time for creative thinking, negotiation and outreach.

Councilmember Knox White expressed concern about kicking the decision further down the line.

The Senior Transportation Coordinator stated without Council selection of an option, there is difficulty in moving forward with CEQA.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated that she does not remember the closed street option being discussed by Council for eight years.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director stated it appears Council is okay with a roundabout; however, there is disagreement about the cul de sac; an option has been provided for a slip lane, which could be the alternative; the slip lane is not as safe as the proposed recommendation; however, the slip lane is safer than the current situation; the slip lane allows people to enter Sherman Street from the roundabout and to exit onto Encinal Avenue; Sherman will not work as a north-south corridor; if the goal is simply get into and out of Sherman Street, the alternative option will work; the slip lane was created to avoid conflicts.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft inquired whether the design would accommodate safety vehicles.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director responded in the affirmative; stated safety can enter from the north and exit from the south.

Councilmember Daysog stated that he sees Sherman Street as a major thoroughfare for people to get to Marina Village towards the Posey Tube; the design alternative presented would cause difficulties.

Councilmember Knox White moved approval of substituting page 31 [Two-way on Sherman Street and Slip Lane] of the presentation as the Sherman Street alternative, with direction that if staff feels as though they can come up with an even better design, the design can be brought for Council consideration at the time when funding is available for the project.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft expressed support for exploring other options, including the acquisition of land.

Councilmember Daysog stated Sherman Street is a natural funnel; the design requires people to use Paru or Morton Streets; cars still need to funnel out of the Gold Coast to get to the Tube through Marina Village; the alternative design does not accomplish doing so.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated she disagrees that the changes are minor; the resolution should have articulated that Council is adding four roundabouts as well as closing a street.

Vice Mayor Vella seconded the motion.

Under discussion, Councilmember Daysog inquired whether there will be a separate vote on the three roundabouts from the fourth.

The Planning, Building and Transportation Director responded Council may vote on the entire project with just the three roundabouts with a second vote to add-in the fourth.

Councilmember Daysog expressed support for two votes.

The City Attorney stated that he has no objections to how the Council wishes to perform the vote; noted the resolution will need to be modified if the Council only approves three roundabouts.

Councilmember Knox White stated that his motion stands; he is happy to acknowledge that Councilmember Daysog supports three of the four roundabouts, but will vote no based on the fourth roundabout.

Councilmember Daysog stated the problem is that Sherman Street is a natural corridor to get people out of the Gold Coast to Marina Village; he would prefer separate votes.

On the call for the questions, the motion carried by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Daysog: No; Herrera Spencer: No; Knox White: Aye; Vella: Aye; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: Aye. Ayes: 3. Noes: 2.

(21-275) Recommendation to Accept the Report on the Long-Term Financial Forecast for the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds.

James Morris, Urban Futures Inc., gave a Power Point presentation.

Stated looking at long-term investment and value allows better chances for putting together infrastructure in Alameda; what is best for local funding must be thought about; projections are long-term; businesses should not be shut down; discussed businesses in Alameda: Gerald Bryant, Alameda.

Councilmember Knox White stated Council has discussed creating a forecast and identifying issues and strategies; inquired whether the model is the first step in the process and the next steps to identify the issues and potential solutions.

The City Manager responded the model will be used for scenarios; stated the model helps staff understand where the City is at today, where it will be moving and which factors affect positives and downsides; the model has shown, in the immediate term, the General Fund's susceptibility is not the General Fund itself, but more funds adding pressure due to needing support over time; pensions overall are a huge issue; the model shows pensions as a pinch point to continue monitoring through pension management.

Mr. Morris stated long-term financial decisions will be helped by the model; the aggregation of the General Fund with a Special Revenue Fund helps provide the big picture; when a baseline forecast is complete at the end of the fiscal year, there will be more refinement; the model can then be used to show the various financial benefits and risks, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) and pension liabilities.

Julio Morales, Urban Futures Inc., stated it is not always the General Fund; Special Revenue Funds are also a focus; pensions are a problem for everyone; staff can only help Council when the issue is recognized and ready to be addressed.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer inquired whether assumptions used to come up with the numbers can be specified.

Mr. Morris responded that he can provide the information; stated the assumptions are the drivers that go into the forecasting algorithms; he relies on Moody's Analytics to provide economic data; he is not an economist; Moody's Analytics goes down to the metropolitan statistical area level in creating economic forecast data for the long-term, which is beneficial due regions of California varying; the algorithms are developed by the economic data, the City's proprietary data, statistical analysis of the City's historic financial data and trend lines; there are customizable controls based on local knowledge to ensure the forecast represents understanding of the local economic outlook.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated that she would like to see the assumptions; requested the annual operating surplus deficit page be displayed; expressed concerns about the forecast; noted that she will not be supporting the matter.

Mr. Morris presented slide page 9.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer expressed concern about the deficit showing an increase until 2023 with the amount decreasing until a surplus is shown in 2028; stated that she is concerned about the accuracy and the public thinking the City can spend money based on the turn in funding; she does not know what the assumptions were for revenue streams; the problem could be a longer and bigger issue, which will impact the City's revenue; she is unsure the City will come out of a deficit by 2024; the City has been using reserves significantly for pensions and OPEB; she has not supported using reserves; the report is a good start; however, she would have liked to see more information.

Mr. Morris stated that he will share the information and provide the examples from the control panel; economics is a social science and is not a physical science; there is room for debate on the use of various revenue sources and whether to be aggressive, moderate or conservative; the City's reserve goes into a trust for OPEB liabilities and pensions; the use of reserves is not included in the forecast; part of the pension management strategy is to set money aside for said

liabilities; the key is to look at long-term liabilities and utilize opportunities and management strategies to knock down long-term liabilities and better assure the fiscal future.

Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft stated a previous Council looked at the high percentage of funding reserves being held; a percentage is still always held, with half of the remaining overage paying down the pension and OPEB liabilities; the result has saved the City carrying costs on the debt; it is not accurate to state that the City is drawing down on reserves.

Councilmember Herrera Spencer stated that she disagrees with Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft's comments; anyone can look at the numbers to see what has happened in the past; she supports the assumptions being provided in order to see how aggressive it is and in which categories; as the forecast unfolds over time, people will see where adjustments should have been and how much the forecasts will be impacted; hopefully, all assumptions are correct.

Mr. Morris stated that he tends to begin conservatively.

Councilmember Daysog stated it is important to look at historic trends for expenditure analysis; it is also important to look at the budget from a performance standards perspective; outlined the possible breakdowns of City personnel and Capital Improvement Projects (CIP); stated a budget is crafted from the expenditure side based on spending and Council values or expectations and actual spending; the sustainability on the revenue side will be shown; expressed support for budgeting from a performance measure angle; another area to consider is actual capacity; the analysis needs to be factored in.

Councilmember Knox White moved approval of accepting the model and report.

Vice Mayor Vella seconded the motion, which carried by the following roll call vote: Councilmembers Daysog: Abstention; Herrera Spencer: No; Knox White: Aye; Vella: Aye; and Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft: Aye. Ayes: 3. Noes: 1. Abstention: 1.

(21-276) Recommendation to Provide Direction to Staff Regarding the Allocation of an Anticipated \$28.95 Million of Funding from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 to Assist with Recovery from the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Not heard.

(21-277) Adoption of Resolution Adopting a Tier-Structured Annual Rent Program Fee for the City's Rent Control Ordinance and Implementing Regulations, which Establishes the Proposed Annual Rent Program Fee for Fiscal Year 2021-22 of \$148 for Fully Regulated Units and \$100 for Partially Regulated Units; Allocates General Fund Money to Pay the Rent Program Fee for Fiscal Year 2021-22 on Behalf of Landlords Participating in the Section 8 Program; and Extends the Due Date for Rent Program Fees for Fiscal Year 2021-22 from July 31, 2021 to September 30, 2021, with Penalties and Interest on Any Late Fees Not Accruing Until September 30, 2021. Not heard.

(21-278) Introduction of Ordinance Amending the Alameda Municipal Code by Amending Article XV (Rent Control, Limitations on Evictions and Relocation Payments to Certain Displaced Tenants) to Adopt and Incorporate Provisions Concerning Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) for Rental Units in the City of Alameda. Not heard.

CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

Not heard.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

Not heard.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

(21-279) Mayor's Nominations for Appointments to the Golf Commission and Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Not heard.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft adjourned the meeting at 12:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lara Weisiger
City Clerk

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