

MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF MILPITAS

Minutes of: Special Meeting of the Milpitas City Council
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Meeting held via teleconference/zoom webinar online
Milpitas, CA

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tran called the special meeting to order at 1:00 PM. City Clerk Mary Lavelle called the roll. The meeting took place online via teleconference/zoom webinar.

PRESENT: Mayor Tran, Vice Mayor Nuñez, and Councilmember Dominguez

ABSENT: Councilmembers Montano and Phan were absent at roll call. He arrived online for the meeting at 1:08 PM and she did so at 1:15 PM.

PLEDGE

Mayor Tran led all in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Tran stated comments would be welcomed after the staff report.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

City Attorney Chris Diaz asked the Mayor and City Councilmembers if they had any personal conflicts of interest or reportable campaign contributions. By roll call, no conflicts or contributions were reported.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the October 15, 2020 special meeting agenda, as presented

Motion/Second: Mayor Tran/Councilmember Phan

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 4
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Montano)

AGENDA ITEM

City Manager Steve McHarris introduced the meeting topic – developer Jamboree Housing Corp.'s proposal along with the County of Santa Clara to apply state-granted housing funds to transition the current Extended Stay America hotel into a supportive housing site, assisting homeless people to move into 130 units at 1000 Hillview Ct.

Planning Director Ned Thomas provided an overview of the process for a typical application to the City's Planning and Building departments for a commercial or residential development project. He explained how Project Homekey by Jamboree and the County was exempt from the usual process, due to California Assembly Bill 83, effective this year.

Mayor Tran complimented City planning staff members on diligently performing their jobs, similarly the Milpitas Planning Commission, and understood the impact of AB83 which took away the City's authority on land use decision making for this County housing project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & DISCUSSION

34 speakers addressed the City Council with live comments until 2:30 PM. The following people spoke to the Council via zoom webinar:

Lisa Moreno
Andre Krammer
Louise Auerhahn
Urvishkumar Mehta
Rachel Wang
Charles Schletzbaum
Anh Bui
Paul Kwan
Tom Lin
Simon Wang
Ann Zeise
Rita Yu
Quin
Joy Wu
Roger Kinoshita
Suraj Viswanathan
Jackie Romero

Zhoutong Fu
Jessica Yu
Lan
Phong Nguyen
Victor San Vicente
Ken Chan
Nolan Yan
Janani Hari
Tina Broyles
Linda Wang
AJ Lal
Kimphuong Tran
Loreto Dimaandal
Rekha Pardeshi
Jen Lee
Penny Lee
Keng Ng

At 2:30 PM, Mayor Tran asked Ms. Consuelo Hernandez, Director of the Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing, to speak and answer some of the residents' comments and questions.

The Mayor next turned to Councilmembers for their questions of the County staff. Ms. Hernandez replied about a partnership between the City and the County for \$75,000 in services. She referred to the informative City staff report to City Council previously provided, explaining the services to homeless persons by the County and how those were allocated. She answered multiple questions from the Council.

At 3:30 PM, after Ms. Hernandez departed the meeting, and the Mayor invited additional public comments. 27 more speakers addressed the Council:

Allysson McDonald
Ling Kong
Tiffany Vuong
Simon Tan
Premal Parekh
Andi Cho
Andy Wong
Jennifer Strohfus
Alan Tran
Tyson Chu
Ting Kong
Janki
Sherlyn Wong
Linda Brennan

Christina Yeh
Peter Ng
Debra Chia
Gino Relampagos
Eva Tsui
Reylen Bangoy
Michelle Dai
Yuling Zhao
Yang Liao
Ron Lam
Wendy Duong
Ricky Davis
David

Mayor Tran and all City Councilmembers commented on the project, homeless people, mental health issues, City of Milpitas budget and the ongoing needs for service.

Councilmember Dominguez asked the Council to take immediate action on the \$75,000 commitment (noted earlier by County staff) and to help the Milpitas Unified School District in its services to homeless families.

Councilmember Phan wanted to know if Measure A funds could be used to help house Sunnyhills residents.

(1) Motion: per Mayor Tran, to ask staff to prepare a final letter to the County of Santa Clara from the City of Milpitas City Council, showing the City's identity in Santa Clara County, show existing partnerships including Elmwood Jail, Milpitas Library, Ed Levin Park, the County Health Center, the history together, with the City expressing voices of its residents from all neighborhoods across the City, with freedom of speech and equal treatment. The letter shall be a firm statement that the City would like for the project to stop, for the County to strongly consider withdrawing its application due to a lack of transparency within the confines of the Project Homekey Milpitas project and due to AB83 regulation and funding, while re-affirming the City's commitment to the County, which would make a decision for all residents, to have some peace going forward on housing advocacy. Per Councilmember Dominguez, the letter shall include a "local jurisdiction" preference in housing projects built in Milpitas, and a specific date for the County to respond, with Mayor Tran asking the County to reply to the City by the following Friday (Oct. 16) or Monday (Oct. 19).

City Attorney Chris Diaz directed that the letter shall be signed by one staff member, not himself due to the agenda item next Tuesday on potential litigation. Mayor Tran designated the City Manager to sign the letter.

Motion/Second: Mayor Tran/Councilmember Montano

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 5
NOES: 0

(2) Motion: to direct staff to bring back to City Council a Milpitas Plan on what to do for the unhoused, including costs, and on what to include: safe parking, a grant for assessment, a social worker, a shower/washer dryer trailer, port-a-potties, and other ideas discussed at this meeting, in a proposal the following Tuesday October 20, 2020 during the discussion of the City's budget

Motion/Second: Vice Mayor Nuñez/Councilmember Dominguez

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 5
NOES: 0

(3) Motion: to direct the City Manager to send a letter to advocate modifying the system of selection so the City would have some say in the process of placing homeless residents, and send it the day after this meeting

Councilmember Dominguez asked to include "local jurisdiction" priority in projects.

Motion/Second: Councilmember Montano/Councilmember Dominguez

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 5
NOES: 0

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tran adjourned the special City Council meeting at 5:40 PM.

The foregoing minutes were approved by Milpitas City Council on November 10, 2020.

Mary Lavelle
City Clerk