

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 26, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:32 p.m., by Mayor Thomas K. Butt who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Nathaniel Bates, Demnlus Johnson III, Eduardo Martinez, Jael Myrick, Vice Mayor Ben Choi, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Councilmember Melvin Willis was absent for the entire meeting.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

None.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

E-1. Mayor Butt announced the vacancies on the City of Richmond's boards, commissions, and committees as of March 26, 2019, and asked that interested individuals send applications to the City Clerk. Cordell Hindler gave comments.

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Carlos Martinez announced that the City of Richmond Community Services Department (CSD) was accepting mini-grant applications to support Richmond-serving organizations that partnered with the CSD. Detailed information was available by calling (510) 620-6553. Applications were due to the attention of Guadalupe Morales at the CSD by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 29, 2019. Mr. Martinez also announced that the Richmond Fire Department was conducting Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training for community members on March 30, 31, April 13, 14, and 27, 2019. CERT training registration was available by calling the Richmond Emergency Services Manager, Genevieve Pastor-Cohen, at (510) 620-6866. Mr. Martinez recognized the following exceptional employees: Fire Captain Michael Rodriguez awarded City of Richmond Fire Fighter of the Year; and the Department of Infrastructure Maintenance and Operations, Trees Lead Worker Cruz Caldera and crew, for providing exemplary service to a Richmond resident.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Cordell Hindler expressed concerns regarding the City of Richmond budget. Mr. Hindler requested the Council to place an item on a future agenda establishing a financial oversight committee. Mr. Hindler stated that he was recruiting new Richmond Youth Council members.

Antwon Cloird expressed concerns regarding the lack of change and opportunities in Richmond. Mr. Cloird urged the Council to change the direction of Richmond for the benefit of the community.

Rick Perez expressed concerns regarding the cost he was charged by the Richmond Police Department to receive requested records. Mr. Perez suggested that individuals should not be charged for police records requests if they were directly related to the incident. Mr. Perez was opposed to the idea of police having military weapons and gave comments regarding Richmond police officers.

Patricia Perez gave comments regarding City Manager Carlos Martinez. Ms. Perez expressed concerns regarding the Richmond police shooting near the Nevin Community Center on February 27, 2019.

Mark Wassberg announced that he was presenting a documentary of Richmond crime during the years 2004 to 2010 on March 30, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. in the Richmond Main Library. Mr. Wassberg gave comments regarding the challenges police experience with criminals.

Jan Gilbrecht expressed concerns regarding the homeless issues and highlighted the following “good news”: (1) Richmond resident Commieolla Duncan worked to get a volunteer commitment from the National Association for Black Veterans to help construct ten Conestoga Huts in Richmond for emergency shelter; (2) the Richmond Recreation and Parks Commission Chair, Maryn Hurlbut, offered to organize a meeting to discuss using land donated to the City of Richmond, as an urban recreational vehicle and camping park, supported by Proposition 68 funds; and (3) Mrs. Gilbrecht announced that she successfully completed a “Potty Bags” pilot program and urged the Council to adopt the program for use by the homeless community. Ms. Gilbrecht stated that the homeless volunteers needed help and urged the Council to step up and take ownership of the issue.

Debbie Bayer expressed concerns regarding the developer, SunCal, selected by the Council for Point Molate. Ms. Bayer urged the Council and staff to do their due diligence concerning SunCal’s background and history.

Ben Therriault announced that the Richmond Police Activities League was hosting its Annual Board Meeting Luncheon fundraiser on Thursday, March 28, 2019, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Richmond Memorial Convention Center. Mr. Therriault requested the city manager to attend the next Annual Public Safety Awards ceremony. Mr. Therriault clarified the events that led up to the Richmond police shooting near the Nevin Community Center on February 27, 2019.

STUDY AND ACTION SESSION

H-1. The matter to receive a presentation from the city manager regarding Strategic Plan priorities developed at the City Council retreat on February 8, 2019, and approve City Council strategic priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019/2020 was presented by City Manager Carlos Martinez. Mr. Martinez’s Powerpoint presentation highlighted the following: City Council Priorities for 2019 and 2020; aligned strategic plan areas; aligning priorities with the Five-Year Strategic Business Plan and Health in All Policies; Richmond’s Open Data Portal: (1) governance, finance, and leadership; (2) full service and safe communities; (3) environment, health equity, and sustainable communities; (4) residential and built environment; (5) economic development and

education; and next steps. Discussion ensued. Cordell Hindler and Antwon Cloird gave comments. Further Discussion ensued. The Council requested staff to conduct an internal evaluation of the response rates when attempting to contact City of Richmond staff by telephone. On motion of Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, approved said strategic priorities by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

H-2. The matter to receive a progress report from the Richmond Police Department on its plan of action efforts to date, designed to keep the organization on track toward optimization was introduced by Richmond Police Chief Allwyn Brown. Chief Brown provided an oral report. Discussion ensued. The Council requested staff to make Richmond police disciplinary actions public to the extent of the law. The Mayor requested Chief Brown to provide the Council with the written progress report that included the chief's reference notes. The following speakers gave comments: Antwon Cloird, Mark Wassberg, Rick Perez, Mike Parker, and Ben Therriault.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS: REFERRALS TO STAFF, AND
GENERAL REPORTS (INCLUDING AB 1234 REPORTS)**

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m., in memory of Mrs. Brenda Patterson Usher, the mother of Deputy Fire Chief Emon Usher, to meet again on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor