

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, January 28, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:31 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, Melvin Willis, Vice Mayor Ben Choi, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** None.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

None.

ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR FOR 2020

E-1. A motion by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, appointed Councilmember Bates as Vice Mayor by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND COMMENDATIONS

F-1. Samantha Caygill of the League of California Cities presented the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence to the City of Richmond Community Services Department's Recreation Division.

F-2. Mayor Butt presented a proclamation declaring February 2020 as Black History Month in the City of Richmond to President Willie Robinson of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Richmond branch. Cordell Hindler and Mark Wassberg gave comments.

F-3. Mayor Butt announced recent resignations from City of Richmond boards, commissions, and committees; and announced vacancies as of January 17, 2020, and asked that interested individuals send applications to the city clerk. Cordell Hindler gave comments.

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

The new city manager, Laura Snideman, introduced herself to the community. Ms. Snideman gave remarks and thanked the Council for the opportunity.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Cordell Hindler welcomed Ms. Snideman to the City of Richmond. Mr. Hindler requested a future agenda item for the Council to receive a presentation from Andy Katz regarding healthcare. Mr. Hindler also requested a future agenda item regarding the establishment of policy committees.

Don Gosney provided information and invited community members to apply for the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 342 apprenticeship program February 3-7, 2020. Mr. Gosney announced that he had sign-up packages available by calling him at (510) 233-2060 or sending an email to dongosney@comcast.net.

Rafael Torres gave comments in support of the proposed Hilltop soccer complex in Richmond. Mr. Torres invited the Council to visit the Rumrill Soccer Complex, Monday through Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., or Saturdays or Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Torres urged the Council that more soccer fields were needed in the area.

Mark Wassberg gave comments regarding accomplishments made by African-Americans in music, sports, and movies. Mr. Wassberg requested Councilmember Willis to prove his ethnicity.

Rick Perez gave comments regarding the shooting of Eric Reason in Vallejo on November 10, 2019. Mr. Perez stated that the police needed oversight.

Patricia Perez gave comments regarding the Richard "Pedie" Perez case. Ms. Perez expressed her appreciation for the Richmond Community Police Review Commission (CPRC). Ms. Perez requested the City of Richmond and Richmond Police Department to provide the Perez family with "the letters" in accordance with the CPRC bylaws.

Michelle Johnson stated that she had not received a response to a letter she submitted on December 11, 2019, regarding issues and concerns in the Eastshore area of Richmond. Ms. Johnson reiterated the issues and concerns to the Council.

Estella Medrano requested the Council to consider the use of vacant houses and buildings in Richmond to shelter the homeless.

Nat Bates expressed his appreciation to the Council for electing him as the new vice mayor.

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

Councilmember Johnson reported on political and policy education trips to Washington, D.C. and Kenya, Africa. Councilmember Johnson advised that the government of Makueni County in Kenya was very interested in the City of Richmond for partnering cultural-educational exchanges.

Mayor Butt reported on attendance to the United States Conference of Mayors, January 22-24, 2020, in Washington, D.C. Mayor Butt stated that he met with Housing and Urban Development officials and requested assistance to finalize the transition of the Richmond Housing Authority to Contra Costa County. Mayor Butt announced that he received passes to watch the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump at the Senate gallery.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m., in memory of Kobe Bryant and the eight other Calabasas helicopter crash victims, and Councilmember Bates' grandson, Jabar Anderson, to meet again on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor