

## **RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, January 12, 2021**

The Special City of Richmond Swearing-In Ceremony was called to order at 6:34 p.m., by Mayor Thomas K. Butt via teleconference.

*Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Contra Costa County and Governor Gavin Newsom issued multiple orders requiring sheltering in place, social distancing, and reduction of person-to-person contact. Accordingly, Governor Gavin Newsom issued executive orders that allowed cities to hold public meetings via teleconferencing (Executive Order N-29-20).*

*DUE TO THE SHELTER IN PLACE ORDERS, attendance at the City of Richmond City Council meeting was limited to Councilmembers, essential City of Richmond staff, and members of the news media. Public comment was confined to items appearing on the agenda and was limited to the methods provided below. Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting utilized teleconferencing only. The following provides information on how the public participated in the meeting.*

*The public was able to view the meeting from home on KCRT Comcast Channel 28 or AT&T Uverse Channel 99 and livestream on YouTube and online at <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3178/KCRT-Live>.*

*The public was able to submit written public comments via email to [cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us](mailto:cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us). Public comments were also received via teleconference during the meeting. **There were no written public comments received.***

### **INVOCATION**

Pastor Ulis Redic of Mount Zion Baptist Church, 253 5th Street in Richmond, gave the invocation.

Mayor Butt announced that a public comment period was added to the program before the Administration of Oath of Office and Presentation of Certificates of Election. Public comments were limited to one minute per speaker regarding new and departing councilmembers. The city clerk announced the public comment procedures.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Ben Choi, Demnlus Johnson III, Eduardo Martinez, Jael Myrick, Melvin Willis, Vice Mayor Nathaniel Bates, and Mayor Tom Butt.

**Absent:** None.

### **BEST WISHES TO DEPARTING COUNCILMEMBERS**

Mayor Tom Butt, Vice Mayor Nathaniel Bates, Councilmembers Demnlus Johnson III, Eduardo Martinez, Senator Nancy Skinner, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks' Representative Uche Uwahemu gave departing comments to Councilmembers Ben Choi and Jael Myrick.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SERVICE AWARDS**

Mayor Tom Butt read proclamations for departing Councilmembers Ben Choi and Jael Myrick which highlighted their distinguished service to the City of Richmond.

## **COMMENTS FROM DEPARTING COUNCILMEMBERS**

Councilmembers Ben Choi and Jael Myrick gave departing comments.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Robert Chaesty, Anne Tamiko Omura, Andrea Henson, Pam Stello, David Kafton, Luis Padilla, Janet S. Johnson, and Yenny Garcia.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION**

City Clerk Pamela Christian administered the Oath of Office to incumbent Melvin Willis and elected Councilmembers Gayle McLaughlin and Claudia Jimenez. The incumbent and newly elected councilmembers received Certificates of Election.

## **COMMENTS AND EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION**

Councilmembers Melvin Willis, Gayle McLaughlin, and Claudia Jimenez gave comments and expressions of appreciation.

## **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Councilmembers Claudia Jimenez, Demnlus Johnson III, Eduardo Martinez, Gayle McLaughlin, Melvin Willis, Vice Mayor Nathaniel Bates, and Mayor Tom Butt. **Absent:** None.

## **WELCOME TO RE-ELECTED AND ELECTED/NEW COUNCILMEMBERS**

Mayor Tom Butt, Vice Mayor Nathaniel Bates, Councilmembers Demnlus Johnson III, and Eduardo Martinez gave comments welcoming Councilmembers Claudia Jimenez, Gayle McLaughlin, and Melvin Willis.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

City Manager Laura Snideman and Mayor Tom Butt gave closing remarks.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Special Swearing-In Ceremony adjourned at 8:00 p.m., in memory of Lois Boyle. The City Council held its next meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

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Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

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Mayor