

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, May 4, 2021

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 4:00 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 online at <http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/3178/KCRT-Live> and <http://www.youtube.com/user/KCRTTV>.

*The methods to submit public comment were via mail, email to cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us, teleconference, and telephone during the meeting. Written comments received by 1:00 p.m. on May 4, 2021, were put into the record and considered before Council action. Written comments received after 1:00 p.m. and up until the public comment period on the relevant agenda item closed, were also put into the record. **Attached herewith all written public comments received.***

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Nathaniel Bates, Claudia Jimenez, Eduardo Martinez, Gayle McLaughlin, Melvin Willis, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Vice Mayor Demnlus Johnson III arrived after the roll was called.

CITY COUNCIL

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (paragraph (1) of Subdivision [d] of Government Code Section 54956.9):

Richmond Police Officers' Association v. City of Richmond, et al

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Government Code Section 54957.6):

Agency Representatives: Jack Hughes

Employee organizations:

1. SEIU Local 1021 Full-Time Unit
2. SEIU Local 1021 Part-Time Unit
3. IFPTE Local 21 Mid-Level Management Unit
4. IFPTE Local 21 Executive Management Unit
5. Richmond Police Officers Association RPOA

6. Richmond Police Management Association RPMA
7. IAFF Local 188
8. Richmond Fire Management Association RFMA

PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION

There were no public comments.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 4:01 p.m.
Closed Session adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Mayor Butt via teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt.
Absent: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO

The Public Comment Instructional Video was shown.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

Item K-2 was moved for discussion immediately following approval of the Consent Calendar. Item H-13 was removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion at the end of the agenda.

REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY ON FINAL DECISIONS MADE DURING CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Teresa Stricker stated there were no final actions to report.

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Laura Snideman announced that virtual community budget meetings were scheduled for May 6 and June 3, 2021.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals gave the following comments via teleconference:

Alicia Gallo announced that Richmond Main Street Initiative, Inc. partnered with the Nurturing Independence Through Artistic Development (NIAD) Art Center to revive the Richmond Art In Windows program. Ms. Gallo invited the community to art exhibitions on display through May 22, 2021, located at the NIAD Art Center and the Richmond Main Street Initiative, Inc. offices. Ms. Gallo also invited the community to participate in the opening virtual reception scheduled on May 13, 2021. Pre-registration and additional information was available online at:

www.niadtstore.org

Tarnel Abbott announced that the Richmond Main Library reopened to the public with limited hours and recommended various advertising methods to notify the community. Ms. Abbott gave comments regarding the Love Canal neighborhood in Niagara Falls, New York and chemical exposures. Ms. Abbott expressed concerns regarding the Richmond AstraZeneca site and environmental contamination.

Angelica Flint expressed concerns regarding overgrown dry grass in the open space owned by the City of Richmond in the May Valley neighborhood. Ms. Flint requested early fire mitigation by using goats in the defensible space near residences instead of gas-powered equipment and herbicides.

Mark Wassberg gave comments regarding transgender laws and rights.

Rhonda Harris gave comments in support of item H-10 regarding Military Appreciation Month honoring veterans. Ms. Harris provided information regarding services provided by the Veterans Resource Program in Richmond.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Vice Mayor Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember Willis, the items marked with an (*) were approved by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

***H-1.** Adopted **Resolution No. 46-21** approving the Engineer's Report for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 for the Hilltop Landscape Maintenance District ("HLMD"), declaring the Council's intention to increase the annual assessment in the HLMD, and announcing a Richmond City Council public hearing about the proposed increased assessment for June 1, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

***H-2.** Adopted **Resolution No. 47-21** approving the Engineer's Report for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 for the Marina Bay Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance District, declaring the Council's intention to increase the annual assessment in the Marina Bay Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance District, and announcing a Richmond City Council public hearing about the proposed increased assessment for June 1, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

***H-3.** Approved contract with OK CONSTRUCTION for Parchester Community Center Americans with Disabilities Act improvements, located at 900 Williams Drive, Richmond, in an amount not to exceed \$340,000.

H-4. On motion of Vice Mayor Johnson III, seconded by Councilmember Willis, adopted **Resolution No. 48-21** for the approval of revised salary schedules from 2015 to present to comply with California Code of Regulations, Subchapter 1, Employees' Retirement System Regulations section 570.5 (a) (2 CCR § 570.5) as required by CalPERS by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Abstained:** None. **Absent:** None.

***H-5.** Adopted **Resolution No. 49-21** authorizing and approving the execution of the side letter amendment to the Richmond Police Management Association Memorandum of Understanding providing clarification of holiday pay.

***H-6.** Adopted **Resolution No. 50-21** establishing the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Residential Rental Housing Fee in the amount of \$218 per Controlled Rental Unit and \$123 per Partially Covered Rental Unit.

***H-7.** Approved a sole-source justification with Crossroads Software for the collision data interface as well as the E-Citation software, at a cost of \$67,200.

***H-8.** Proclamation declaring May 2021 as Preservation Month in the City of Richmond.

***H-9.** Proclamation declaring May 2021 as Stroke Awareness Month in the City of Richmond.

***H-10.** Proclamation declaring May 2021 as Military Appreciation Month in the City of Richmond.

***H-11.** Proclamation declaring May 2021 as CalFresh Awareness Month in the City of Richmond.

***H-12.** Adopted **Resolution No. 51-21** to accept and appropriate into the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget \$278,146.16 in federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) pass-through grant funds received from the California Employment Development Department.

H-13. The matter to approve a recommendation from the Environment & Community Investment Agreement (ECIA) Grant Review Committee for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 grant awards to 16 organizations in an amount not to exceed \$225,000 and adopt a resolution authorizing the city manager to negotiate and execute Grant Service Agreements with approved grantees was removed from the Consent Calendar for concerns regarding the eligibility of the Mindful Life Project. Discussion ensued. Hakim Johnson gave comments via teleconference. On motion of Mayor Butt, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson III, adopted **Resolution No. 52-21** excluding the Mindful Life Project, and directed staff to further investigate the concerns and report back to the Council, by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

***H-14.** Adopted **Ordinance No. 07-21 N.S.** (second reading) amending Chapter 9.40.015 of the Richmond Municipal Code entitled "Tiny Houses on Wheels Pilot Project" to extend the termination date of the project through June 21, 2024.

BUDGET SESSION

I-1. The matter to receive a budget status update and presentation on the first draft of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Annual Operating Budget was introduced by City Manager Laura Snideman. Ms. Snideman presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: good news, operational challenges, thank yous, and expectations; FY 2020-21 budget update and \$1,746,026 surplus; FY 2021-22 budget and process; major changes above baseline; addressing FY 2021-22 \$12,596,848 deficit; outstanding factors; and delayed investments and on-going issues. Discussion ensued.

The Council requested specific mandated and required financial obligations. The Council requested staff to consider using goats for overgrown open space maintenance. The Council requested staff to consider working with other agencies (that require volunteer hours) and community volunteers for illegal dumping abatement, through a potential new volunteer coordinator position. The Council requested an overview of community budget needs, departmental baseline budgets for FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21, and a list of city-wide position vacancies. The Council requested staff to confirm quarterly vacancy report distributions. The Council requested a timeline listing of new hires and retirees, the number of employees, vacancies, and frozen job positions. The Council requested line-item details for projected revenue reductions and a list of fleet vehicles to support projected expenses. Sean Stalbaum and Lisa Cody gave comments via teleconference. The Council requested a report regarding the current status of the position reclassifications passed by the Council in June and/or July 2017.

ORDINANCES

J-1. The matter to introduce an ordinance (first reading) repealing Chapter 12.62 "One-Percent for Public Art on Private Projects Program" and Resolution 70-97 "Establishing Public Works Improvements Arts Program" and adding Chapter 6.50 entitled "Public Art Program" to the Richmond Municipal Code (RMC); amend Chapter 3.59 of the Richmond Municipal Code entitled "Arts and Culture Commission," and adopt a resolution approving "Public Art Policies and Procedures" was introduced by Deputy City Manager Economic Development Shasa Curl. Arts and Culture Manager Winifred Day presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: background; document summary; update process and community engagement; amendments to RMC 3.59 Arts and Culture Commission; added Public Art Program ordinance; and Public Art Policies and Procedures. Discussion ensued. The Council expressed the following concerns: there was no definition of "art" in the enabling legislation; architects were not considered artists; and more clarity was needed for private developer options and the Design Review Board's purview. On motion of Councilmember Willis, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson III, said ordinance received the first reading and was laid over for two weeks for the second reading; and adopted **Resolution No. 53-21** by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Abstained:** None. **Absent:** None.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

K-1. The matter to direct staff to improve collection, analysis, and publication of data relating to small businesses, and to make recommendations on how to support small businesses to obtain funding and other opportunities available at the state and federal level; and bring a proposal to the City Council in 45 days was introduced by Councilmembers Jimenez and Willis. Richmond volunteer, Shiva Mishek, presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: American Rescue Plan Act \$28.6 billion country-wide relief; goals; findings; recommendations; and the Restaurant Revitalization Award application. Discussion ensued. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: James Lee, Katrinka Ruk, Gonzalo Ochoa, Emily Ross, and Brenda Posada. Further discussion ensued. The Council

recommended the need for a grant writer and improving communications with the business community. The Council also recommended holding a future study session on the business permitting process. On motion of Councilmember Jimenez, seconded by Councilmember Willis, approved said direction to staff and directed staff to apply for the Community Navigator grant by the unanimous vote of the City Council. The Council requested information for the Community Navigator grant.

K-2. The matter to discuss and provide direction to staff regarding scheduling a special meeting for presentation of recommendations from the Reimagining Public Safety (RPS) Task Force and to include staff analysis was introduced by Library and Community Services Director Jim Nantell. Discussion ensued. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Katrinka Ruk, Marisol Cantu, Emily Ross, Valerie Jameson, and Eddy Chacon. A motion was made by Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to hold a City Council special meeting on May 10, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. Further discussion ensued. The motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Noes:** Councilmember Bates and Mayor Butt. **Abstained:** None. **Absent:** None.

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

Councilmembers Jimenez, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III wished the community a happy Cinco de Mayo.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m., to meet again on Monday, May 10, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comments Open Forum
Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021 4:35:52 PM

good evening Mayor Butt, Council members and City Staff, I have a Couple of Comments for the Record

1. I think that the council should have reinstated the Finance and Public Safety Standing Committees
2. I had Recently talked with the chair of the youth council in regarding my Projects for transparency

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comments I-1 Budget Session
Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021 4:43:15 PM

good Evening Mayor Butt, Council members and city staff,

I must Commend the City Manager's Office with the assistance in the Finance department with a very thorough Presentation

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Maya Kosover](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: public comments agenda item #k-2
Date: Tuesday, May 04, 2021 7:54:39 AM

Hi there,

I have been attending all of the Reimagining Public Safety Community Task Force meetings for the past few months and believe in the work they are doing. As someone who teaches and lives in Richmond, I approve of their proposals and solutions to better care for our community. My ask is simply for the City Council to schedule a special meeting for their presentations so they can discuss and move forward with the task force recommendations. Ideally, this meeting would be scheduled for the week of May 10th so the recommendations can be considered for the 2020-2021 Budget Cycle.

Thank you.