

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, January 5, 2021

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 6:00 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>.

*Written public comments were received via email to cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us. Comments received by 1:00 p.m. on January 5, 2021, were summarized at the meeting, put into the record, and considered before Council action. Comments received via email after 1:00 p.m. and up until the public comment period on the relevant agenda item closed, were put into the record. Public comments were also received via teleconference during the meeting. **Attached herewith all written public comments received.***

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Ben Choi, Demnlus Johnson III, Jael Myrick, Vice Mayor Nathaniel Bates, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Councilmembers Eduardo Martinez and Melvin Willis arrived after the Open Session adjourned to Closed Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The city clerk announced the public comment procedures and that the purpose of the Open Session was for the City Council to hear public comments on the following items to be discussed in Closed Session:

CITY COUNCIL

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
(Government Code Section 54957.6):

Agency Representative: Mayor Tom Butt
Unrepresented Employee: City Manager

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
(Government Code Section 54957):

Title: City Manager

There were no public comments via teleconference before the Closed Session.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 6:01 p.m. Closed Session adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Butt via teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Myrick, Willis, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** Councilmember Martinez arrived after the roll was called.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

On motion of Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Willis, items G-1, G-2, and G-3 were continued to the January 19, 2021, City Council meeting by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Myrick, and Willis. **Noes:** Vice Mayor Bates and Mayor Butt. **Absent:** None. **Abstained:** None.

The city clerk announced the public comment procedures published on the agenda.

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

Acting City Attorney Rachel Sommovilla stated there were no final actions to report.

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Laura Snideman reported that the City of Richmond's virtual after-school camps were underway as of January 4, 2021, through June 9, 2021, and registration was available for kindergarten to sixth grade youth. Ms. Snideman announced that applications for Environmental and Community Investment Agreement (ECIA) grants up to \$50,000 for community youth activities were due February 5, 2021. Ms. Snideman recommended ECIA grant applicants to attend an information session via teleconference held on January 14, 2021.

The city clerk provided information regarding the swearing-in ceremony and program for re-elected councilmember Melvin Willis and newly elected councilmembers Claudia Jimenez and Gayle McLaughlin held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, via teleconference.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals gave comments via teleconference:

Tarnel Abbott gave comments in opposition to the approved development agreement for the site owned by AstraZeneca. Ms. Abbott pointed out environmental impacts and potential liability to future homeowners and the City of Richmond.

Jeanne Kortz thanked Councilmembers Eduardo Martinez and Melvin Willis for their support of the community and opposition to the proposed developments at Point Molate and AstraZeneca. Ms. Kortz expressed her opposition to the proposed developments at both sites.

Noah Brownlow recognized the efforts made by employees, community members, and local businesses for their contribution to the annual Richmond Police and Fire Toy Program. Mr. Brownlow thanked Richmond Fire Captain Rico Rincon and Firefighter Marcus Faumui for their excellent work in the community and volunteering a significant amount of their time to the toy program.

CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Myrick, the items marked with an (*) were approved by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Choi, Johnson, Martinez, Myrick, Willis, Vice Mayor Bates, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** None. **Absent:** None. **Abstained:** None.

G-1. Continued to the January 19, 2021, meeting the matter to approve an appointment to the Rent Board: appoint Ayoka Medlock-Nurse, new appointment, seat #4, filling an unexpired term with an expiration date of March 21, 2021.

G-2. Continued to the January 19, 2021, meeting the matter to approve an appointment to the Design Review Board: appoint Michelle Hook, new appointment, seat #1, filling an unexpired term with an expiration date of March 17, 2021.

G-3. Continued to the January 19, 2021, meeting the matter to approve an appointment to the Planning Commission: appoint Jonathan Harrison, new appointment, seat #1, filling an unexpired term with an expiration date of June 30, 2022.

***G-4.** Authorized the City Manager to approve an agreement with WR Forde Associates for a total not to exceed \$44,480 to provide utility modifications at the Point Potrero Marine Terminal.

***G-5.** Adopted **Resolution No. 1-21** approving replacing NRC Environmental Services Inc. for American/ATI, to provide as-needed decontamination services at various City facilities in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for a three-year term with a two-year extension option.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

H-1. The matter to approve a new employment agreement with Laura Snideman as Richmond City Manager, providing for a three-year term commencing January 5, 2021, at an initial base salary of \$255,000 annually (approximately \$366,552 total compensation), with subsequent salary increases subject to a satisfactory performance evaluation, and other specified employment terms was presented by Human Resources Director Anil Comelo. Mr. Comelo presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: basic terms; changes to compensation; termination; severance; other changes in proposed agreement; and comparative and total compensation. Discussion ensued. On motion of Councilmember Myrick, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, approved said employment agreement by the unanimous vote of the City Council with one exception requiring the Council's approval for simultaneous employment.

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

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m., in memory of Marissa Snoddy, to meet again on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Open Session prior to Closed Session
Date: Friday, January 01, 2021 8:33:09 PM

hello Sabrina, i have some additional comments for the Record

1. Laura has brought a great Deal of knowledge when it comes to dealing with Housing and Economic Development
2. she is respected by not only her staff. but the department heads are lucky to have her on board

sincerely
Cordell

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
Date: Friday, January 01, 2021 8:39:36 PM

hello Sabrina, i have a couple of comments for the Record

1. my projects is coming along Exquisitely and i will update the council on the progress
2. for the next item, i would like to see an item in regarding the idea of a strategic planning session

sincerely
Cordell

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comments H-1 COUNCIL AS A WHOLE
Date: Friday, January 01, 2021 8:49:23 PM

hello Sabrina, i have some comments for the Record

the reason that the council should approve the Agreement is because she has done an exquisite job in managing our city affairs

also she has brought a wealth of Experience in housing and economic development

so i am asking that the council to approve the agreement

sincerely
Cordell