

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, March 9, 2021

The Special Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 6:30 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 March 9, 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 Claudia Jimenez, Eduardo Martinez, Gayle McLaughlin, Nathaniel Bates, Melvin Willis, Vice Mayor Demnlus Johnson III, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** None.

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA REVIEW

None.

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

REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER

No report.

BUDGET SESSION

E-1. The matter to receive a presentation and provide feedback on budget guidelines and the budget development process

was presented by Councilmember McLaughlin, who gave an overview of the matter. Lift Up Richmond is a coalition of community groups, city workers, and concerned residents. Lift Up Richmond presented a PowerPoint, which highlighted the following: Guiding Principles; Budgeting Policies; Reserve Policies; Ongoing Resources and Operations; Use of One-Time Resources; Capital Projects; Fiscal Sustainability Planning; Debt Management; Encumbrances; Public Input; Environment; Sustainability, and Economic Justice. City Manager, Laura Snideman, and Deputy City Manager LaShonda White presented a PowerPoint, which highlighted the following: Proposed Budget Guiding Principles, Guidelines, and Policies; FY 21-22 Budget Proposed Budget Schedule. Community meetings would take place in April, May, and June. Discussion ensued. City Council requested that neighborhood councils, Chamber of Commerce, Council of Industries, and The 23rd Street Merchants Association, be involved in the budget policies and principles process. The police and fire unions should also be included. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Leisa Johnson, Mike Parker, Tarnel Abbott, Joey Schlemmer, Jamileh Ebrahimi, Emily Ross, Rob Smith, Elsa Stevens, and Deborah Bayer, Randy Joseph, Ben Therriault, Marlen A., Andrea Mularkey, David Sharples, Henry Powell, Ross Harris, Christina B, and Alyssa Smith. Further discussion ensued. This matter will come back to the City Council at a future date.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember McLaughlin, reported that the recent Sisters in Solidarity Woman's Day event was a success and thanked those that organized and participated the event, including event sponsors City of Richmond, Sims Metal Management, The Factory Bar, Richmond Neighborhood Housing Services, and M.A. Hays Company.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Public Comment E-1 Budget Session
Date: Friday, March 05, 2021 6:19:13 PM

hello Sabrina, i have reviewed the Presentations that Management Partners and Lift Up Richmond has prepared

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Rosie Sorenson](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept](#)
Subject: Request to make a public comment at tonight's meeting, regarding E1 of the Agenda
Date: Tuesday, March 09, 2021 12:10:29 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for allowing me to address the Council about Agenda item E1. The length is 398 words, well under the 3-minute time limit. I've practiced several times. I plan to phone in to the council tonight

My friends and I would be happy to give any interested council members a tour of the lake in case they've never been there.

Kind regards,

Rosie Sorenson, MA, MFT

Chairperson, Committee to Preserve Hilltop Lake Park

510-223-2009

Thank you for inviting me. I am referring to your agenda item, E1, from which I am quoting: "A proposed project must improve the health of the community and natural environment . . .;" ". . .open space and land for preservation, habitat protection and biological diversity."

The proposed Disc Golf Course works against these environmental mandates. In fact, it has the potential to do great damage to this pristine 36-acre wildlife habitat and oasis which the Parks and Rec Department has maintained beautifully for the 25 years I've been walking there.

Destroying this natural park with its permanent family of deer, who would have no other place to go, ducks, Canada geese, coots, buffleheads, the occasional Great Blue Heron, snowy egret, cormorants and others would set a very bad example for our youth.

This park is now available to everyone to walk with their children, push their- baby strollers, jog, even fish. The nearby Autism Foundation staff bring their autistic clients on walks every day. These important users should not be driven out by the few who see the park not for the rare urban wildlife refuge that it is, but only as a place to compete in their dangerous game, in which players toss their small sharp-edged discs at "highway speeds." Neither people nor animals, can outrun them.

The proposal developers failed to post a notice at the trail heads so that users could share their input. The cities of Martinez and Pleasant Hill rejected similar proposals, for similar reasons several years ago.

Even though the planners were warned that there would be some “blowback,” they never bothered to follow-up on that. We only found out by accident on Friday, February 26 when four of us were having a picnic at the lake. Mr. Scott Riley breezed by, told us they were going to put in a golf game, never mentioned the discs involved and never came over to explain this to us or ask our opinions.

The cities of Martinez and Pleasant Hill have rejected similar proposals, for similar reasons.

The Hilltop Lake Park is a jewel for Richmond to be proud of—as it is. Let’s not allow a few individuals to hijack it for a game that they can easily play on one of the many courses in the Bay Area.

Thank you.