

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, May 1, 2021

The Richmond City Council Special Meeting Workshop was called to order at 1:03 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>.

Public comments were received via teleconference during the meeting. There were no public comments received via email to CityClerkDept@ci.richmond.ca.us.

ROLL CALL

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

MEMO FROM JEAN BONANDER, FACILITATOR

City Manager Laura Snideman introduced the workshop facilitator, Jean Bonander of Finesse the Future.

PUBLIC COMMENT – LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA ONLY

The following individuals gave the following comments via teleconference:

Sally Tobin stated that everyone involved in Richmond city government should be treated with courtesy and respect. Ms. Tobin recommended a more welcoming environment for public speakers. Ms. Tobin expressed concerns regarding disrespectful behavior at City Council meetings.

Jeanne Kortz requested a City Council rule that ensured the Council was respectful of each other and public speakers. Ms. Kortz expressed concerns that members of the public feared being attacked for expressing their personal beliefs. Ms. Kortz also expressed concerns regarding the treatment of the presenter, Dr. Kristina Hill, at the April 20, 2021, City Council meeting.

Pam Stello supported the comments made by the previous speakers. Ms. Stello was hopeful that the Council found a method to censure Mayor Butt and limit his control over agenda items. Ms. Stello gave comments regarding the fearfulness of public speaking at City Council meetings and public distrust.

Tarnel Abbott supported comments made by the previous speaker. Ms. Abbott expressed concerns that changes to the public comment procedures caused confusion and were disrespectful to the public. Ms. Abbott gave comments regarding item D-1 and opposed consolidation of power. Ms. Abbott also gave comments regarding item D-2 and requested staff to support the community by legally extricating the City of Richmond from the development agreements for the Campus Bay and Point Molate projects.

Deborah Bayer pointed out that item D-1 did not include information for how the Council related to the public. Ms. Bayer expressed that she was offended by comments made on Tom Butt's E-Forum regarding Tamisha Torres-Walker.

COUNCIL WORKSHOP ON COMMUNICATIONS, COUNCIL AND STAFF RELATIONS

D-1. Ms. Bonander led the discussion of Council processes, Council Rules of Procedure and Order, and working relationships and communication strategies among councilmembers and with staff. Ms. Bonander presented a PowerPoint that highlighted the following: Richmond "Homework Assignment" of a life experience and lesson learned; shared experiences, lessons learned, and examining options; review of background materials and topics; productive communication tools; staff requests; doing things differently; and summary of priorities from individual Council interviews.

(At approximately 2:01 p.m., Mayor Butt departed the meeting and rejoined at 2:06 p.m.)

The Council suggested that the example resolution of another city's principles and operation (Exhibit A in the agenda packet) was not appropriate for Richmond. The Council recommended modifying their ability to address and respond to public comments during meetings.

(At approximately 2:38 p.m., the Council recessed for a break and reconvened at 2:53 p.m. with Councilmember Bates absent).

The Council expressed concerns regarding staff ulterior motives and factions. The Council recommended staff to advise how they were reaching the Council's goals and place focus on the Council's desired outcome as quickly as possible. The Council expressed concerns regarding distrust of staff. The Council suggested that more concise agenda staff reports would be helpful with decision-making. The Council recommended setting parameters that ensured direction to staff was made by the Council as a whole and showed staff progress. The Council recommended staff to provide a timeline of Council requests and actions. The Council requested staff to consider extending the deadline for Council-initiated agenda items from noon to 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the Council meeting. The Council was opposed to the idea of limiting the Council's ability to place items on the agenda. The Council requested staff to view the Council as a

collaborative body elected to move policies forward and give direction. The Council agreed to leave the noon deadline for Council-initiated agenda items unchanged. Ms. Bonander requested the Council to think about what they wanted to do differently for a future topic discussion. Ms. Bonander agreed to provide a summary report of the current discussion and suggestions for the Council's future consideration.

D-2. Ms. Bonander led the preliminary discussion on policy priorities and discussed a possible future workshop to establish policy priorities and goals. The Council's five common priorities were as follows: financial stability; council/council and council/staff relations; racial justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion; housing issues; and reimagining policing. The Council agreed to hold off on scheduling a future workshop. Staff welcomed an opportunity with the Council to order and prioritize the list of priorities.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m., to meet again on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor