

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, November 2, 2021

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 5:00 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, on September 15, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Assembly Bill 361 that allowed cities to continue to hold public meetings via teleconferencing.

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 Assembly Bill 361, 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/KCRRTV>.

*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 November 2, 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 Claudia Jimenez, Eduardo Martinez, Gayle McLaughlin, Melvin Willis, Vice Mayor Demnlus Johnson III, and Mayor Thomas K. Butt. **Absent:** Councilmember Nathaniel Bates 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):

Aulday v. City of Richmond

SPRAWLDEF et al. v. City of Richmond

The Guidiville Rancheria of California, et al. v. The United States of America, et. al. North Coast Rivers Alliance et al./Point Molate Alliance et al. v. City of Richmond

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL -
ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of Subdivision (d) [as applicable] of Government Code Section 54956.9):

In light of the California Court of Appeal's decision in Fowler v. City of Lafayette, the City Attorney's Office attached to the agenda two letters regarding the amended judgment and various agreements related to development at Point Molate. Those letters provided the existing facts and circumstances for going into closed session on those items pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) and (e)(3).

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
(Government Code Section 54957):

Title: City Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION

The following individuals gave comments via teleconference regarding the Point Molate litigation items: Janet Johnson, Doria Mueller-Beilschmidt, Shirley Dean, David Helvarg, Elsa Stevens, Jeanne Kortz, Deborah Bayer, Tarnel Abbott, Tony Sustak, Andres Soto, and Sally Tobin.

Randy Joseph gave comments via teleconference regarding the performance evaluation item.

Bob Mandel gave comments via teleconference in support of Item I-6, regarding adult school classes for older adults, which was on the regular meeting Consent Calendar.

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 5:20 p.m.
Closed Session adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 7:39 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 I-1 was removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion at the end of the agenda. Item M-2 was moved for discussion before Item M-1.

The council requested that the report from the city attorney on final decisions made during the Closed Session be placed on the

November 19, 2021, City Council meeting agenda for a full explanation of the options the City of Richmond was presented in resolving the legal matter pertaining to Point Molate.

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 made the following announcements: several job training and opportunities were available through the RichmondWORKS program, including youth internships; two grant programs were available through ICA particularly for early and late-stage businesses owned and operated by people of color and women; and craft kits were available from the City of Richmond Main Library for children and adults.

F-1. The matter to report on Chevron flaring was introduced by Ms. Snideman. Chevron (outgoing) Process Safety Manager Patricia Roberts provided an oral report on the definition of flaring; an explanation for recent flaring incidents; and the history of flaring. Chevron (incoming) Process Safety Manager Laura Leeds provided an oral report on air quality. Discussion ensued. The council requested a future presentation by Chevron on air quality limits and health detection thresholds measured against the actual amounts produced that were associated with the October 24, 2021, flaring incident and air quality testing. Ms. Leeds advised that air quality data was posted on Chevron's and Contra Costa County's websites. The council requested Chevron to provide flaring reports as previously agreed. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Andres Soto, Mark Wassberg, Floy Andrews, Don Gosney, Lidia Perdomo, Cheryl Davila, Sally Tobin, Randy Joseph, and Tarnel Abbott. A motion was made by Councilmember Bates, seconded by Councilmember Willis, to direct staff to forward a link to the video segment for this item's discussion to the Richmond Chevron Refinery president, vice president, and general manager. A friendly amendment made by Councilmember Jimenez to request Chevron to provide a written report of the type of chemicals and quantity released into the air during the recent flaring event was not accepted. The motion passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

ABATEMENT REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Public Works Director Joe Leach presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: Hilltop Green neighborhood clean-up; illegal dumping; encampment abatements; property board-ups; graffiti removal; and partnerships with Chevron. The council reported the following abatement issues: encampment located on 23rd Street across from the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program building; mattresses on the freeway off-ramp at Cutting Boulevard and Canal Boulevard; and an encampment behind the Target building on Macdonald Avenue.

OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals gave comments via teleconference:

Tarnel Abbott and Pam Stello acknowledged the councilmembers that voted in favor of not defending the City of Richmond concerning Point Molate legal matters. Ms. Abbott advised that the City Council agenda packet website was not functioning over the weekend.

Hulan Barnett expressed appreciation for the report on sideshows and reckless driving given by the interim chief of police at the October 19, 2021, City Council meeting. Mr. Barnett praised the City of Richmond for the street light repair located on Shane Avenue and Hilltop Drive. Mr. Barnett expressed concerns regarding elderly residents.

Don Gosney gave comments regarding the sale of Hilltop Mall to Prologis and the potential economic benefits. Mr. Gosney gave comments against extortion. Mr. Gosney expressed concerns regarding employee turnover at the City of Richmond.

Deborah Bayer expressed appreciation for the presentation given by Community for a Better Environment regarding hydrogen and carbon at the October 19, 2021, City Council meeting.

Amy Aldrich and Mike Parker gave comments in support of Item I-6, regarding adult school classes for older adults. Mr. Parker encouraged the community to write letters of support to state legislators and West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Andres Soto gave comments regarding the history of Hilltop Mall and expressed opposition to the proposed logistics development.

Mark Wassberg gave comments regarding his view of the politics surrounding the Hilltop Mall proposed development. Mr. Wassberg advised the history of events that contributed to the destruction on Macdonald Avenue several years ago.

Randy Joseph expressed concerns regarding the unhoused population in Richmond. Mr. Joseph urged the council to find solutions for the unhoused such as a Housing First program.

Leisa Johnson gave comments regarding Assembly Bill 361, allowing for the continuance of legislative meetings via teleconference. Ms. Johnson expressed concerns that some councilmembers video cameras have been turned off during meetings. Ms. Johnson recommended hybrid City Council meetings.

Bhavin Khatri gave comments regarding the proposed development at the Hilltop Mall site. Mr. Khartri advised that the Hilltop community desired to have residential, retail, entertainment, open space, and parks. Mr. Khatri urged the council to approve Item I-1, regarding the Hilltop Specific Plan.

Nathaniel Bates expressed concerns regarding the disrespectful behavior of councilmembers at the October 19, 2021, City Council meeting. Mr. Bates urged his fellow councilmembers to be patient during meetings and wait until they are called upon by the mayor to speak.

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:

I-1. CONTINUED to the November 16, 2021, City Council meeting – the matter to accept and appropriate a \$750,000 Priority Development Area grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; and approve contract amendment no. 1 with Environmental Science Associates in the amount of \$850,000, not to exceed a total amount of \$1,450,000, through December 31, 2023, to assist the City of Richmond in preparing the Hilltop Specific Plan.

***I-2.** Authorized the port director to enter into a five-year lease with two one-year options with Northland Nautical Foundation to continue to provide youth maritime training, water and boating safety education, clean-ups, removal of floating logs from the water, rescue services, and to provide cruising and training opportunities to other youth groups as well as the Police Athletic League and Richmond Summer Camp.

***I-3.** Approved an agreement with The Dutra Group in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, to complete the maintenance dredging of Terminal 2.

***I-4.** Approved a contract for repairs to John Deere loader (VIN ending 17154) with Pape Machinery, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

***I-5.** Adopted **Resolution No. 128-21** authorizing the placement of liens and special assessments for unpaid garbage collection service fees on Contra Costa County property tax records.

***I-6.** Adopted **Resolution No. 129-21 to:** (1) support adult school classes for older adults; (2) recognize that adult education classes for older adults are a vital resource for the City of Richmond and for the State of California; (3) send a letter to Governor Newsom, State Superintendent Tony Thurmond, State Senator Nancy Skinner, and Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, requesting that funding for adult school classes for older adults be added to the Masterplan for Aging; (4) respectfully encourage the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education and other cities and school districts to send similar letters to Governor Gavin Newsom; and (5) respectfully encourage that the West Contra Costa Unified School District find a way to keep funding the Older Adult program while efforts to raise money from the state or find other ways to continue funding the program.

***I-7.** Introduced an ordinance (first reading) amending Chapter 3.50 of the City of Richmond Municipal Code entitled "Commission on Aging" to add treasurer as an officer to the Commission on Aging.

***I-8.** Approved a first amendment to an existing legal services agreement with the law firm of Sloan Sakai Yeung and Wong LLP to advise regarding labor and employment matters in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

***I-9.** Adopted **Resolution No. 130-21** amending the City of Richmond's Salary Schedule to reflect the classifications of Communications Dispatcher III, Emergency Services Analyst, Senior Resident Housing Manager, and Telecommunications Manager.

***I-10.** Adopted **Resolution No. 131-21** accepting and appropriating \$235,000 in grant funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety awarded to the Police Department to combat deaths and injuries in motor vehicle crashes resulting from impaired driving within Richmond.

***I-11.** Approved a three-year contract with Verizon Connect (formerly Networkfleet) for monthly Global Positioning System tracking and management in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

***I-12.** Approved a five-year sole-source contract with ShotSpotter, Inc. for the maintenance, service, and support of the Police Department's ShotSpotter Flex gunshot detection system, in an amount not to exceed \$1,050,117, for a five-year period from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2026.

***I-13.** Appropriated funds in the amount of \$79,367.92 for contract expenditures and related administrative expenses; and approved a one-year contract with Ron Holthuysen, Scientific Arts Studio in an amount not to exceed \$65,000, to sculpt, fabricate and install the Osprey bird, a bronze sculpture per the specifications defined in the Request for Proposals for a term beginning November 3, 2021, and ending December 31, 2022.

***I-14.** Approved a first amendment to the contract with HR&A Advisors Inc. to increase the contract amount by \$70,000, for a payment limit total not to exceed \$230,000, extended the contract term to December 31, 2022, and amended the Service Plan to interview City of Richmond councilmembers and other pilot implementation.

***I-15.** Received a written update on the development of a city-wide Community Benefits Policy.

***I-16.** Authorized the city manager or designee to enter into a collaboration agreement with AllHome to partner on the development of a Homelessness Strategic Plan and approved a contract with Homebase/The Center for Common Concerns, for up to \$100,000, to prepare a Homelessness Strategic Plan to reduce and prevent homelessness in Richmond and strengthen the physical health, mental health, and social service supports for unhoused residents in Richmond, through December 31, 2022, to be paid for by American Rescue Plan Act funds and AllHome partnership contribution.

***I-17.** Approved the minutes of the October 5, 2021, regular meeting of the City Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

J-1. CONTINUED to the November 16, 2021, City Council Meeting - the matter to introduce an ordinance (first reading) establishing certain fees for the proposed Master Fee Schedule.

RESOLUTIONS

K-1. The matter to adopt a resolution authorizing the staff to execute a Task Authorization to NHA Advisors, LLC for Municipal Advisor services and authorize the city manager to execute professional services agreements with Willdan Financial Services (special tax consultant) and Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth (bond counsel) for services related to land-secured financing district(s) for the Point Molate Development was introduced by Public Works Director Joe Leach. Mark Northcross of NHA Advisors, LLC presented a Powerpoint presentation that highlighted the following: infrastructure financing options; land secured financing options; Community Facilities Districts formation process; and policy considerations. Discussion ensued. *(At 10:57 p.m. - a motion by Councilmember Jimenez, seconded by Councilmember Willis, to extend the meeting to complete Item K-1 passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council).* The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Tarnel Abbott, Sally Tobin, Jim Hanson, Andres Soto, Michelle Hayes, and Paul Carman. Further discussion ensued. A motion was made by Councilmember McLaughlin, seconded by Councilmember Martinez, to allocate up to \$50,000 to NHA Advisors, LLC to do a risk-benefit one-sided analysis and return to the council in two weeks. A substitute motion made by Mayor Butt, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson III, to support the staff recommendation failed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmember Bates, Vice Mayor Johnson III, and Mayor Butt. **Noes:** Councilmembers Jimenez, Martinez, and McLaughlin. **Abstentions:** Councilmember Willis. **Absent:** None. The main motion passed by the following vote: **Ayes:** Councilmembers Bates, Jimenez, Martinez, McLaughlin, Willis, and Vice Mayor Johnson III. **Noes:** Mayor Butt. **Abstentions:** None. **Absent:** None.

(At 11:17 p.m. - a motion made by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Willis, to extend the meeting to complete the discussion for Item L-1 passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council).

ORDINANCES

L-1. The matter to introduce an ordinance (first reading) adding Chapter 9.64 to the Richmond Municipal Code, to prohibit natural gas infrastructure in newly constructed buildings was introduced by Community Services Director Lina Velasco. The ordinance would take effect on January 1, 2022. Ms. Velasco and Environmental Initiatives Manager Samantha Carr presented a Powerpoint that highlighted the following: background, summary, key differences and exceptions between Energy Reach Code and proposed natural gas ban; and policy synergies. Discussion ensued. *(At 11:32 p.m. - a motion made by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Willis, to suspend the rules and extend the meeting to complete the discussion for Item L-1 passed by the unanimous vote of the City Council).* The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Andres Soto, Annie Frankel, Cheryl Davila, Floy Andrews, Zei (last name

not stated), Leisa Johnson, Claire Brown, Tarnel Abbott, and Melissa Yu. Further discussion ensued. A motion made by Councilmember Martinez, seconded by Councilmember Willis, to introduce the ordinance for first reading passed and said ordinance received first reading and was laid over for two weeks for second reading by the unanimous vote of the City Council.

L-2. CONTINUED to the November 16, 2021, City Council meeting – the matter to introduce an ordinance (first reading) amending Richmond Municipal Code Chapter 11.05 entitled "Fireworks" to add host liability such that a property owner, tenant, or person who organized or controlled access to the possession, manufacture, sale, offer for sale, use or discharge of fireworks at a residence, other private property or on a vessel was strictly liable and discuss the challenges to enforcing the ordinance if it was ultimately adopted given the staffing shortages in the code enforcement division of the community development department, fire department, police department, and public works.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE

M-1. CONTINUED to the November 16, 2021, City Council meeting – the matter to approve the Fiscal Year 2021-22 multi-year comparative position listing and amend the salary schedule to implement the city manager's reorganization of specific city departments.

M-2. CONTINUED to the November 16, 2021, City Council meeting – the matter to direct staff to draw up a Measure U regulation to provide for the crediting of the rent board fees paid by small landlords with four rental units or less and submit this to the City Council for approval as soon as possible.

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

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:51 p.m., in memory of Henry "Hank" LaRue Royal, Jean Knox, and in recognition of Elana Bolds and Michelle Milam for hosting the Crescent Park Halloween event, to meet again on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Clerk of the City of Richmond

(SEAL)

Approved:

Mayor

From: [Deborah Bayer](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Closed Session November 2, 2021, Conference with Legal Counsel
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 12:57:30 PM

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I would like to thank Council Members McLaughlin, Willis, Martinez and Jimenez for their vote on Point Molate. The City should never have moved on this controversial plan without the support of the people of Richmond. The "public process" was a sham, the backdoor dealing did not comply with the Brown Act, and privatizing our public shoreline was never a good idea. I can only think of "Waist Deep in the Big Muddy." Mayor Butt and his cronies had a vision that was not shared by the community and did not benefit the community. Each step of the way, by refusing to stand up to Jim Levine and Upstream in court and instead negotiating a bad settlement, and then by signing an unpopular contract with SunCal, Richmond was going further and further into the swamp, until it seemed impossible to back out. But as Martin Luther King said, "The time is always right to do right." Please stick to your decision and don't get intimidated.

Sincerely,
Debbie Bayer

From: [Doria Mueller-Beilschmidt](#)
To: [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Tom Butt](#); [Nat Bates](#); [Demnlus Johnson](#)
Cc: [Laura Snideman](#); [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: CLOSED SESSION NOVEMBER 2, 2021:CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION AND CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:59:14 AM

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Dear Richmond City Council Members and Mayor,

Thank you, Melvin Willis, Claudia Jimenez, Eduardo Martinez and Gayle McLaughlin, for leading our City with a clear healthy vision for the future of Richmond by voting in support of the Community Plan for Point Molate as supported by Point Molate Alliance and many other Richmond/Bay Area organizations, and especially the Ohlone People.

Respectfully,

Doria Muller-Beilschmidt
(Giuseppe & Matteo Salvato)
Richmond residents

From: [Dorothy Gilbert](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Melvin Willis](#)
Subject: CLOSED SESSION NOVEMBER 2, 2021: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION AND CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 12:47:21 PM

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Dear City Council Members McLaughlin, Willis, Martinez and Jimenez:

I write with heartfelt thanks to you, and to commend your courage, for your votes instructing the City Attorney to file an appeal in the federal appeals court in support of the Point Molate Alliance and other community groups. Please do not yield to pressure to change your votes; I suspect pressure will be heavy, but stand your ground! Point Molate is public land and should remain in public hands; do not allow it to be privatized! Its best use is as a world-class park for this community and as a site where historic artifacts--some sacred to native peoples--and natural resources important to science are protected and cherished.

Again, many [thanks.to](#) you and to the City Clerk for her assistance.

Dorothy Gilbert

Richmond resident 23 years

Former Member, Point Molate Community Advisory Committee, 6 years

From: [Jin Zhu](#)
To: [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [Melvin Willis](#); claudia@claudiajimenezforrichmond.com
Cc: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: CLOSED SESSION NOVEMBER 2, 2021:CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION AND CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 8:13:05 AM

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Council Members,

Thank you for your votes instructing the City Attorney to file a brief in the federal appeals court in support of the Point Molate Alliance. Your brave votes to support the Alliance allows public land and should remain in public hands. I support this course of action and I know that many concerned Richmond residents do too!

Thank you,
Jin

From: [Larissa Kelly](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Nat Bates](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Demnlus Johnson](#); [Gayle McLaughlin](#); [RichCityServant@gmail.com](#); [Melvin Willis](#); [Lina Velasco](#); [Laura Snideman](#); [Teresa Stricker](#); [Tom Butt - external](#)
Subject: 1) Public comments – Open Session prior to Closed Session; 2) Public comments – Open Forum
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 12:59:46 PM

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Hi all,

Just wanted to comment that I was disappointed by the City Council's recent decision to side with the anti-housing groups suing Richmond over the prospective development at Point Molate. By instructing the City Attorney to go along with the plaintiffs' dubious claims, the Council may have caused Richmond to violate contractual obligations, and exposed the city to further costly litigation. I'm concerned by the potential repercussions of this risky move.

Beyond the legal issues, I hope that the RPA members on the City Council will reconsider what often seems like reflexive opposition to increasing the city's housing supply. It's been very heartening to see progressive politics in the Bay Area moving away from the Marin-style, anti-development models of the '60s and '70s, to a new framework that emphasizes the social, environmental, and economic benefits to be gained from creating dense housing across the region. I urge the Council to work towards a future in which Point Molate provides homes for thousands of new neighbors, while also offering green space and recreation to the community.

Sincerely,
Larissa Kelly
District 6

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments- Open Forum
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 4:16:13 PM

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good evening Mayor Butt, council members and city staff, I have a couple of comments

1. I would like to Request that the council invite Ken Kirkey to provide a presentation on the Housing element for Homelessness
2. also to consider inviting DR Hurst to provide an update on the school district

Sincerely
Cordell

From: [Leisa Johnson](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [Pamela Christian](#); [Leisa Johnson](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Open Forum, City Council meeting 11/2/2021
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 8:25:19 PM

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Dear City Clerk,

Can you please include these written open forum comments in the formal supplementary meeting materials?

Thank you,
Leisa

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, Council and Staff:

On September 15, 2021, the governor signed into law AB 361, an urgency measure which largely continues the executive orders allowing for remote meetings. The Governor subsequently issued an order making the provisions of AB 361 effective beginning **October 1, 2021**.

AB 361 contains several requirements in order to continue the use of remote meetings, including that the Council must reconsider the factors to continue remote meetings **every 30 days**.

Last week, on October 26th, the City Council voted for the **first time** to extend their ability to continue remote meetings for 30 days, which as I would understand it would have covered the month of October.

We are now into November. As such, I would like for the City Attorney to clarify for the public why there is not another new vote tonight to cover the next 30 days proactively, as all other public bodies in the Bay Area are doing.

Importantly, the community wants to see this council go to a hybrid format whereby the Council and key staff are present at City Hall and the community and other participants can participate remotely via Zoom (as several other public bodies are doing).

As I have stated several times, the community is tired of council members shutting off their videos for the vast majority of the meeting and believe this is in violation of the Brown Act.

Indeed, the Mayor uses the camera views to state at the beginning of the city council meeting that it looks like a quorum has been met so that the meeting can begin. Having cameras live is the only way for the Public to know whether or not quorum has been met and is being maintained throughout the course of the meeting.

Moreover, we are tired of watching certain councilmembers talk to their spouses or be on their phones or computers throughout the course

None of these actions are allowed when you are on the dais at city hall and they should not be allowed on Zoom.

The best way to respect the Public and bring decorum back to the dais is to commence hybrid meetings, and this should happen ASAP just as with other public boards.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Leisa Johnson

From: [K SANDE](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments - Agenda Item I-6
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 2:34:40 PM

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City Clerk:

This is being written in support of agenda item I-6 on today's Consent Calendar.

Firstly, my thanks to council member Eduardo Martinez for proposing this resolution. I am a senior who has lived in Richmond for over 40 years. I am a staunch proponent of public education and specifically of the older adult program as offered in the adult school. I attended many adult school programs and paid the requisite fees as a younger person while I was still employed. Since my retirement, I have been an avid participant in the older adult program.

I've been participating in the Strong Bodies Stay Young program since its inception more than 10 or 15 years ago. In addition to the physical benefits, I have enjoyed meeting many other seniors who live in Richmond and surrounding cities. Some of us have become friends and gotten together for activities outside of the classes we were attending. This has really helped to me to feel connected to my community and to other retirees who live close by.

And then came the pandemic. Suffice it to say that we have all experienced loss during this period. We have grieved the loss of family and friends as well as suffered the loneliness of not being able to socialize together.

While it's still not clear how we're going to get back to some form of normal or when, it's pretty clear to me that imposing a fee for the older adult program classes will ensure that many of us not return. Which would be just another loss for us.

I urge you to support this resolution and do all you can to ensure that the classes offered in the older adult program remain free of charge to us.

Thank you,

Kokoye Sande

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Cordell Hindler](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Subject: Public Comments- M-1 Council as a whole
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 4:25:42 PM

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good evening Mayor Butt, council Members and staff, I will let the record reflect that I was responsible for the Proposed Reorg chart

, I would go with option 1. retain one Deputy City Manager in addition to the Assistant city manager.

so I am asking that the council to approve the 21-22 listing as presented

Sincerely
Cordell