

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
December 8, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE IN HONOR OF THE US MILITARY TROOPS

The City Council Meeting was held via Zoom videoconference and broadcast from the Pinole Council Chambers, 2131 Pear Street, Pinole, California. Mayor Swearingen called the Special Meeting of the City Council to order **6:06** p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL, CITY CLERK'S REPORT & STATEMENT OF CONFLICT

A. COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Roy Swearingen, Mayor
Norma Martinez-Rubin, Mayor Pro Tem
Peter Murray, Councilmember
Anthony Tave, Councilmember
Vincent Salimi, Councilmember

Devin Murphy, Councilmember
Maureen Toms, Councilmember

B. STAFF PRESENT

Andrew Murray, City Manager
Hector De La Rosa, Assistant City Manager
Heather Iopu, City Clerk
Eric Casher, City Attorney
Tamara Miller, Development Services Director/City Engineer
Neil Gang, Police Chief
Chris Wynkoop, Fire Chief

City Clerk Iopu announced the agenda was posted on December 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. All legally required notice was provided.

Following an inquiry to the Council, the Council reported there were no conflicts with any items on the agenda.

3. RECOGNITIONS / PRESENTATIONS / COMMUNITY EVENTS

- A. Proclamation – NONE
- B. Presentations / Recognitions – NONE

4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD (Public Comments)

Citizens may speak under any item not listed on the Agenda. The time limit is 3 minutes, and is subject to modification by the Mayor. Pursuant to provisions of the Brown Act, no action may be taken on a matter unless it is listed on the agenda, or unless certain emergency or special circumstances exist. The City Council may direct staff to investigate and/or schedule certain matters for consideration at a future Council meeting.

The following speakers submitted written comments that were read aloud and will be filed with the agenda packet for this meeting: **David Ruport, Ivette Ricco, Rafael Menis**

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and noncontroversial. These items will be enacted by one motion and without discussion. If, however, any interested party or Council member(s) wishes to comment on an item, they may do so before action is taken on the Consent Calendar. Following comments, if a Council member wishes to discuss an item, it will be removed from the Consent Calendar and taken up in order after adoption of the Consent Calendar.

- A. Approve the Minutes of the Meeting of October 6, 2020
- B. Receive the October 31, 2020 – November 13, 2020 List of Warrants in the Amount of and the November 13, 2020 Payroll in the Amount of
- C. Resolution Confirming Continued Existence Of Local Emergency **[Action: Adopt Resolution per Staff Recommendation (Casher)]**

ACTION: Motion by Councilmembers Murray/Tave to Approve Consent Calendar Items A-C.

Vote:	Passed	5-0
	Ayes:	Swearingen, Murray, Martinez-Rubin, Salimi, Tave
	Noes:	None
	Abstain:	None
	Absent:	None

6. COUNCIL REORGANIZATION & ELECTION MATTERS

- A. Accepting and Declaring the Results of Canvass of the November 3, 2020 Municipal Election **[Action: Adopt Resolution (Iopu)]**

City Clerk Iopu presented a summary of the staff report and recommendation.

The following speakers submitted written comments that were read aloud and will be filed with the agenda packet for this meeting: **Ann Moriarty, David Rupert**

ACTION: Motion by Councilmembers Tave/Martinez-Rubin to Adopt a Resolution Declaring the Results of the Canvass of the November 3, 2020 Municipal Election

Vote:	Passed	5-0
	Ayes:	Swearingen, Murray, Martinez-Rubin, Salimi, Tave
	Noes:	None
	Abstain:	None
	Absent:	None

- B. Proclamation of the City Council Expressing Appreciation for his Leadership as Mayor to Roy Swearingen and for his years of Public Service as Council Member

Mayor Pro Tem Martinez-Rubin presented a proclamation to Mayor Roy Swearingen in recognition of his many years of public service as a Council Member.

C. Remarks from Mayor Swearingen

Mayor Swearingen made remarks thanking the staff and community for their work and dedication to the City of Pinole.

County Supervisors John Gioia and Federal Glover made comments recognizing Mayor Swearingen and his service to the City of Pinole and the community.

Rebecca Roberts, representative of Congressman Thompson's office, read an official statement that was entered into the Congressional Record in recognition of Mayor Swearingen's public service.

Council members expressed their gratitude to Mayor Swearingen for his service and leadership during his time in office.

D. Proclamation of the City Council Expressing Appreciation to Councilmember Peter Murray for his years of Public Service as Council Member

Mayor Swearingen presented a proclamation to Council member Murray honoring his service to the City of Pinole as a Council member for many years.

E. Remarks from Councilmember Murray

Council member Murray made comments about his service on the Council. Expressed gratitude to City staff and community members for their contributions and dedication to Pinole.

County Supervisors John Gioia and Federal Glover made comments recognizing Council member Murray and his service to the City of Pinole and the community.

Rebecca Roberts, representative of Congressman Thompson's office, read an official statement that was entered into the Congressional Record in recognition of Council member Murray's public service.

Council members made comments in honor of Council member Murray for his extraordinary service and tenure of twenty-eight years as a Council member.

F. Certificate of Recognition from the City Council Expressing Appreciation to Debbie Long for her year of Public Service as Appointed City Treasurer

Mayor Swearingen presented a Certificate of Recognition to Debbie Long for her year of service as Appointed City Treasurer.

G. Remarks from Treasurer Long

City Treasurer Debbie Long expressed her thanks to Mayor Swearingen and Council member Murray for their service. City Treasurer gave a report highlighting recommendations that she has made to City staff for policy improvements.

City Council members made comments thanking Treasurer Long for her service.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Citizens wishing to speak regarding a Public Hearing item should fill out a speaker card prior to the completion of the presentation, by first providing a speaker card to the City Clerk.

NONE

8. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

The following speaker submitted written comments that were read aloud and will be filed with the agenda packet for this meeting: **David Rupert**

- A. Administer Oaths to Newly Elected Council Members
[Action: Oaths Administered by City Clerk (Iopu)]

City Clerk Iopu Issued the Oath of Office to Devin Murphy as Council member.

Council member Murphy made comments. Thanked staff, Council, and the community for their support throughout his campaign. Made statements highlighting his areas of interest for work while serving on the Council.

City Clerk Iopu Issued the Oath of Office to Maureen Toms as Council member.

Council member Toms thanked the Mayor Swearingen, Council member Murray, and Treasurer Long for their expertise and service. Recognized her family for participating in a swearing in ceremony. Thanked the voters of Pinole for their interest in city politics. Provided some details about her history and involvement in the Pinole community.

Honorable Judge Ben Reyes issued the Oath of Office to Roy Swearingen as City Treasurer.

Mayor Swearingen called a short recess and reconvened after five minutes.

At 8:24 pm. Mayor reconvened the meeting.

- B. Selection of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem
[Action: Nominate Officers & Adopt a Resolution of Appointment (Iopu)]

City Clerk Iopu provided a brief summary of the report and overview of the action.

ACTION: Motion by Councilmembers Toms/Murphy to Nominate Martinez-Rubin and Vincent Salimi as Mayor Pro Tem

Vote:	Passed	5-0
	Ayes:	Martinez-Rubin, Salimi, Tave, Murphy, Toms
	Noes:	None
	Abstain:	None
	Absent:	None

ACTION: Motion by Councilmembers Toms/Salimi to Adopt a Resolution of Appointment

Vote: **Passed** **5-0**
 Ayes: **Martinez-Rubin, Salimi, Tave, Murphy, Toms**
 Noes: **None**
 Abstain: **None**
 Absent: **None**

ACTION: Motion by Councilmembers Toms/Murphy to Approve the Mayoral Rotation Schedule

Vote: **Passed** **5-0**
 Ayes: **Martinez-Rubin, Salimi, Tave, Murphy, Toms**
 Noes: **None**
 Abstain: **None**
 Absent: **None**

- C. Administer Oaths to Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem
 [Action: Oaths Administered]

Honorable Judge Ben Reyes issued Oath of Office to Norma Martinez-Rubin as Mayor. Mayor Martinez-Rubin made thanked Judge Reyes. Shared photos from her childhood exposure to student and local government. Shared her beliefs about her role and goals serving as Mayor.

Paul Tour-Sarkissian, Esq. issued the Oath of Office to Vincent Salimi as Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Pro-Tem thanked Mr. Sarkissian, introduced his family, provided some history of his life and thanked his family and community for helping him achieve his position.

- D. Comments by Newly Appointed Mayor

(Above)

- E. Approve Resolution Ratifying the Council Meeting Procedures approved under Council Resolution 2019-03
 [Action: Provide Direction to City Clerk (Iopu)]

City Clerk Iopu provided a brief report outlining the report and recommended action.

City Council member asked question to clarify the action. Staff responded to question.

ACTION: Motion by Councilmembers Toms/Tave Approve Resolution Ratifying the Council Meeting Procedures approved under Council Resolution 2019-03

Vote: **Passed** **5-0**
 Ayes: **Martinez-Rubin, Salimi, Tave, Murphy, Toms**
 Noes: **None**
 Abstain: **None**
 Absent: **None**

- F. Review, Discuss and Appoint to the 2021 Council Committee Assignments List
 [Action: Council Discretion to review, discuss and appoint Councilmembers (Iopu)]

City Clerk Iopu introduced the item and outlined the process for committee assignments.

The following speakers submitted written comments that were read aloud and will be filed with the agenda packet for this meeting: **Darlene Jones, Debbie Marsh, Diego Parada, Igor Tregub, Irma Rupert, Jackie Garcia, Jamela Folds, Jeffrey Mann, John Wallace, Julie Maier, Kunal Khaware, Lisa Jackson, Lorraine Heart, Maya Textor, Michael Gibson, Ogie Strogatz, Phil Moore, Phil Thear, Rafael Menis, Sarah Flashman, Shoshana Wechsler, Steve Jackson, Tim Turner, Kristen Pursley**

Mayor Martinez-Rubin led discussion on each committee assignment and the Council provided direction to staff for each item on the assignment list to be brought back for approval at the next meeting of the Council.

ABAG

Delegate Toms
Alternate Murphy

Marin Clean Energy

Delegate Murphy
Alternate Toms

Pinole/Hercules Wastewater Subcommittee

Delegate Salimi/Tave
Alternate Toms

WCCIWMA

Delegate Tave
Alternate Murphy

WCCTAC

Delegate Salimi
Alternate Murphy

WESTCAT

Delegate Martinez-Rubin or Toms (at mid-year)
Alternate Murphy

Honoring/Plaques Naming Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

Toms/Murphy

Municipal Code Update Subcommittee

Toms/Tave

Planning Commission Interview Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

Toms/Murphy

10. REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

A. Mayor Report

1. Announcements

B. Mayoral & Council Appointments

C. City Council Committee Reports & Communications

Council member Tave welcomed the new Council members and expressed excitement in working with the new group.

Council member Salimi stated he is excited to work with the new Council members. Recognized each Council member for their achievements.

Council member Murphy expressed his excitement to work with the Council and staff. Announced Recreation department's "Deck the Halls" contest. Announced temporary closure of Pear Street Bistro and importance of helping local small businesses impacted by the pandemic. Announced issue of bathroom closures during Covid-19 pandemic.

Council member Toms announced Covid-19 statistics that were provided by the County. Announced information regarding the vaccination phases that are being planned for implementation. Announced Mayors Conference committee appointments that will be coming soon; Airport Land Use Commission, LAFCO, EBRCSB, Contra Costa Elections Citizens Advisory Committee, Easy Bay Economic Alliance and CCTA. Encouraged public to wear lighter clothing and reflective gear and be vigilant for safety while walking in Pinole.

D. Council Requests For Future Agenda Items

Mayor Pro Tem Salimi requested a future agenda item of a Proclamation to recognize the public safety staff and first responders for their work during the Covid-19 pandemic. Consensus given.

Council member Tave requested an item to review future agenda items, strategic plan, and prioritize the work with the new Council members. Mayor Martinez-Rubin and City Manager Murray provided an update regarding the existing plan to bring this request back as a workshop special meeting in the near future.

Council member Toms requested a list of recurring agenda items for Council to review. Council gave its consensus. City Manager Murray advised that staff will be assembling and providing that list.

Council member Murphy requested an agenda item to discuss closure of public restrooms due to County health orders. City Manager Murray provided an update on recent activity with regard to the restrooms. Consensus given.

Council member Murphy requested a future item to discuss adding a native land acknowledgement section as part of the regular Council meeting agenda template. Consensus given.

Council member Tave requested a report regarding status of grant awards to the City for a period of two to three years. Consensus given.

E. City Manager Report / Department Staff

City Manager Murray welcomed the new Council members and congratulated the new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem on their new roles. Announced City-sponsored food distribution events. More information can be found on the city's website Facebook page.

F. City Attorney Report

City Attorney Casher welcomed the new Council and congratulated the new Council members and recognized the City Clerk for a successful virtual reorganization of the Council.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** to the Regular City Council Meeting of December 15, 2020 in Remembrance of Amber Swartz.

At 10:55 p.m., Mayor Martinez-Rubin adjourned the meeting to the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2020 in Remembrance of Amber Swartz.

Submitted by:



Heather Iopu, CMC

City Clerk

Approved by City Council: March 2, 2021

