

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
February 25, 2020**

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

The City Council Meeting was held in the Pinole Council Chambers, 2131 Pear Street, Pinole, California. Mayor Swearingen called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order **6:04** 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
Vincent Salimi, Councilmember
Anthony Tave, Councilmember, arrived at 6:12 p.m.

B. STAFF PRESENT

Andrew Murray, City Manager
Hector De La Rosa, Assistant City Manager
Heather Iopu, City Clerk
Eric Casher, City Attorney
Neil Gang, Police Chief
Chris Wynkoop, Fire Chief
Andrea Miller, Finance Director

City Clerk Iopu announced the agenda was posted on February 20, 2020 at 4:00 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. 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 speaker addressed the City Council:

Rafael Menis, spoke regarding the Coronavirus and announced that the CDC is asking local officials to take precautions with regard to the spread of the virus.

4. WORKSHOP ITEM

A. Provide Direction On Propose Charter Measure & Real Property Transfer Tax [Action: Discuss and Provide Direction, per Staff Recommendation (Casher)]

Assistant City Attorney Mog presented the staff report. Discussed the history of the issue as it came before the Council.

City Manager Murray provided the City's current financial situation and budget outlook to provide financial context to the discussion.

Assistant City Attorney Mog reviewed the process of becoming a Charter City. Provided timelines for different stages of the steps necessary to put a charter on the ballot for the November 2020 election.

Council members asked questions.

City Manager Murray and Finance Director Miller addressed the questions of Council.

The following speakers addressed the City Council:

Rafael Menis, resident of Pinole, made comments regarding the financial details of the report. Stated that the City is not paying our safety personnel adequately.

Allen Faria, resident of Pinole, made comments in opposition of becoming a Charter City. Stated that home prices will escalate.

Maureen Toms, resident of Pinole, asked whether we are asking one question or two on the ballot measure. Asked for clarification on the timeline.

Debbie Long, resident of Pinole, made comments in opposition of becoming a Charter City. Stated that fees will increase on home sales. Expressed concern regarding the negative effect that additional taxes will have on seniors.

David Ruport, resident of Pinole, spoke regarding the need to look for additional revenue sources. Spoke in support of becoming a Charter City.

Ivette Ricco, resident of Pinole, spoke in support of becoming a Charter City. Stated that the City needs the additional sources of revenue.

Stacy McPhonson, resident of Pinole, stated that she is uncomfortable with a small group of people being able to change the laws and expressed concern regarding becoming a Charter City.

Bob Kopp, resident of Pinole, spoke against becoming a Charter City.

Irma Ruport, resident of Pinole, spoke in support of the Charter and the implementation of higher property transfer tax for increased revenue to the City.

City Treasurer Long made comments regarding details of the financial presentation.

Assistant City Attorney Mog responded to public questions.

Council members held discussion regarding the decision.

ACTION: Motion by Council Member Salimi/Tave to Become a Charter City

Vote:	Failed	2-3
	Ayes:	Salimi, Tave
	Noes:	Swearingen, Martinez-Rubin, Murray
	Abstain:	None
	Absent:	None

Council held continued discussion.

ACTION: Motion by Council Member Tave/Salimi to direct staff to work towards becoming a Charter City, providing that the Charter includes a Real Property Transfer Tax provision, only

Vote:	Passed	3-2
	Ayes:	Martinez-Rubin, Salimi, Tave
	Noes:	Murray, Swearingen
	Abstain:	None
	Absent:	None

Council held discussion regarding whether or not to retain a polling consultant to assist the City with gathering information on the public opinion regarding a Charter City ballot measure.

ACTION: Motion by Council Member Tave/Salimi to direct staff to retain a pollster with a contract amount not to exceed \$25K

Vote:	Passed	4-1
	Ayes:	Martinez-Rubin, Murray, Salimi, Tave
	Noes:	Swearingen
	Abstain:	None
	Absent:	None

Council held discussion regarding whether or not to retain a communications consultant to assist the City with communications and public engagement regarding a Charter City ballot measure.

ACTION: Motion by Council Member Martinez-Rubin/Salimi to direct staff to retain a consultant for communications and public engagement related to a Charter City ballot measure.

Vote:	Passed	3-1
	Ayes:	Martinez-Rubin, Salimi, Tave
	Noes:	Swearingen
	Abstain:	Murray
	Absent:	None

Council asked staff to provide a timeline of next steps. Staff will retain consultants, gather information and bring it back to Council at a scheduled or special meeting in next two months.

5. ADJOURNMENT to the Regular City Council Meeting of March 3, 2020 In Remembrance of Amber Swartz.

At 9:49 p.m., Mayor Swearingen adjourned to the Regular City Council Meeting of March 3, 2020 In Remembrance of Amber Swartz

Submitted by:



Heather Iopu, CMC
City Clerk

Approved by City Council: April 7, 2020

