

**From:** [Pat Marriot](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM 4 APRIL 26, 2022  
**Date:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 1:35:43 PM

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Council Members:

I'm looking at two reports on priorities/goals/objectives:

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**Meeting Date: April 26, 2022**

**Subject:** City Council 2022 Strategic **Priorities**: Review the City's 5-Year Strategic **Goals** and provide modifications as needed

**Attachment(s):** Agenda Report dated February 23, 2021: City Council 2021 Strategic **Priorities**

"On February 23, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-09 setting the City Council 5-Year Strategic Goals. The five-year **priorities** were broken into eight **goals**: Housing, Land Use, Fiscal Sustainability, Community Safety, Asset Management, Environmental Sustainability, Community Engagement, and Transitioning Through Change."

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS**

**AFFIRMING THE CITY COUNCIL'S 5-YEAR STRATEGIC **GOALS****

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**Meeting Date: February 23, 2021**

**Subject:** City Council 2021 Strategic **Priorities**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-09**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS**

**SETTING THE CITY COUNCIL 5-YEAR STRATEGIC **GOALS** FOR 2021**

... It is expected that the Council will thoroughly review the draft language and adopt final **goals** and **objectives** that reflect their **priorities** for Los Altos.

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I can't help wondering if you know what you're voting for.

**There are no priorities.** A list of priorities indicates relative importance. You've got a list of eight all-encompassing items that pretty much cover everything city governments are responsible for. If everything is a priority, nothing is a priority.

**How do you budget to priorities if there are no priorities?** An effective organization focuses staff and funds on projects that will ensure its success. How can our city manager allocate resources if Council has not set priorities?

**How can commissioners provide meaningful proposals if they don't know the city's priorities?**

Our commissions work at master plans (climate action, complete streets, age-friendly city), which Council approves in theory, but may never be realized because they are not resourced.

**Nothing is measurable.** As in previous years, wiggle-words like "collaborate," "analyze," "report," "explore," "monitor" are used to define objectives. How will you know when the "exploration" is complete? What work product will you see? When will you see it?

**There's no built-in accountability.** At the January 2017 priority-setting retreat, Jan Pepper said,

“I want to understand what we’re going to do regarding schedules. In the past, nothing got done. Folks want to know we’re monitoring things. How do we measure?” That question has never been answered. We need schedules of measurable tasks and realistic due dates (not “spring” or “2024”) that Council reviews every month or quarter. I think our new city manager could provide such schedules if Council would give him clear priorities based on clear policies.

The priority-setting process changes every year, but always turns out to be a disheartening waste of time. With a new city manager, you have a chance to define a viable model – but NOT if you sign this resolution. You spent five hours on 5G nodes. Surely you can devote at least that amount of time to nail down a set of essential priorities for our city.

Thank you,

Pat Marriott