

Draft **MEETING MINUTES**
CITY OF MILPITAS

Minutes of: **Special Meetings of Milpitas City Council**
Date: **Friday, August 9, 2019**
Time: **4:00 PM**
Location: **Council Chambers, Milpitas City Hall,
455 East Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tran called special meeting to order at 4:02 PM. City Clerk Mary Lavelle called the roll.

PRESENT: Mayor Tran, Vice Mayor Dominguez, Councilmembers Montano, Nuñez and Phan

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC FORUM

None

**ANNOUNCEMENT
CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

City Attorney Chris Diaz asked if Councilmembers had any conflict of interest on any agenda item and all replied no.

**APPROVAL of SPECIAL
MEETING AGENDA**

By motion of Vice Mayor Dominguez and seconded by Councilmember Nuñez, the City Council approved the special meeting agenda by unanimous vote.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Citywide Community

Motion: to adopt the consent calendar including the following one action

Adopt Resolution No. 8894 directing a Ground Level Flag Ceremony with the flag of Pakistan at Milpitas City Hall Outdoor Plaza on August 14, 2019.

Motion/Second: Councilmember Phan/Councilmember Nuñez

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 5
NOES: 0

AGENDA ITEMS

2. Public Hearing

Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Albert Zamora presented a brief report of actions taken to date for the annual weed abatement program. At this meeting, Council was asked to hold a public hearing and then to adopt a resolution for the liens on the properties to be assessed, after weeds were cleared – and property owners notified - by the County Department of Agricultural & Environmental Management.

Mr. Moe Kumre from the County Agriculture office was present to answer any questions.

Mayor Tran opened the public hearing and no speakers came to the podium.

Mayor Tran asked staff for explanation of individual homeowners with overgrown weeds on their property and how to report those. From the County, Mr. Kumre replied to his question explaining the process of notification and inspection of properties, as performed.

The Mayor wanted staff to put out the information to the community. Mr. Kumre requested that the City be sure to include contact information for the County so those concerned could call or e-mail his office directly about the weed abatement program.

Councilmember Montano inquired about Caltrans properties with weeds. She asked whom to contact and the Fire Marshal said it was him. Mr. Zamora would then reach his contacts at the state agency requesting work done to clear weeds on state property in Milpitas. He complimented recent work done by Caltrans, especially at freeway on/off ramps.

(1) Motion: to close the public hearing, following no speakers

Motion/Second: Councilmember Montano/Councilmember Phan

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 5
NOES: 0

(2) Motion: to adopt Resolution No. 8895 confirming tax assessments for weed abatement in 2019, for those properties listed by parcel number on the list provided by the Office of Santa Clara County Agricultural and Environmental Management to the City of Milpitas Fire Marshal

Motion/Second: Councilmember Phan/ Councilmember Nuñez

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 5
NOES: 0

3. Council Staffing

Assistant City Manager Ashwini Kantak addressed the Mayor and City Council regarding potential new staffing for the City Council, describing two proposed options. First option was to hire interns from nearby universities, while the second option was to hire professional staff at the Analyst level.

Councilmember Nuñez asked various questions about interns, time frame, and students. He supported Option 1.

Vice Mayor Dominguez sought someone pursuing a degree and favored Option 1 to help those young persons gaining experience. She wanted to have a “good fit” of each intern.

Councilmember Phan felt Option 1 had a lot of value for young adult and for Councilmembers. He did not want the City to limit to only two specific universities (Santa Clara University and San Jose State University, noted by staff), and to open up the opportunity to community college students.

Mr. Phan inquired as to who would supervise interns. City Attorney replied that City staff would need to supervise interns, while the work done and research requested would be directed by Councilmembers. Some guidelines for interacting with interns would be necessary for City Councilmembers.

Councilmember Montano agreed with Option 1 and felt it would create a symbiotic relationship for both intern and Councilmember.

Mayor Tran seconded the thoughts of Councilmember Phan’s so as not to limit interns only from political science or public administration studies, and not to exclude community college students.

The Assistant City Manager responded to Council, stating staff would bring back some guidelines, open the program to all areas of study to any full time college or university student, noting the working relationship and who can be hired along with information on how the program could be set up and how to hire an intern.

Councilmember Montano asked to make sure there would be parameters for interns. Also, if she was unable to use 20 hours of an intern’s service time, perhaps staff could use the intern.

Councilmember Nuñez said the City could use his office for the interns, since he was not in there very much.

No vote was taken on the City Council staffing matter, while staff understood and heard the clear preference for Option 1 (interns).

Following the conclusion of agenda item no. 3, a woman came forward who wanted to address the City Council for the weed abatement hearing.

City Attorney Diaz advised the City Council it could re-open public hearing for a speaker who arrived late.

Motion: to re-open the public hearing regarding weed abatement

Motion/Second: Councilmember Nuñez/Councilmember Montano

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 5
NOES: 0

Carol Chen, 32 year Milpitas resident and property owner, explained that she owned a parcel at Dixon Road near Milpitas Blvd. Last year, for the first time, she received notice of a lien on her tax bill for the trimming of weeds performed by a contractor. When she contacted the County staff, an adjustment was made. This year, she was unsure why she got a tax notice again for the same parcel.

Mayor Tran referred her to County staff Mr. Kumre and to the City Fire Marshal Mr. Zamora.

Motion: to close the re-opened public hearing regarding weed abatement, after hearing from one property owner/speaker

Motion/Second: Vice Mayor Dominguez/Councilmember Montano

Motion carried by a vote of: AYES: 5
NOES: 0

CLOSED SESSION

City Council then departed from the dais to convene in Closed Session at 4:57 PM to discuss one item listed on the meeting agenda.

When City Council returned to the dais following the Closed Session, City Attorney Chris Diaz stated there was no announcement.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tran adjourned the special meeting at 5:18 PM.

*Meeting minutes respectfully drafted and submitted by
Mary Lavelle, City Clerk*