

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Special Meeting
6:00 P.M.

December 15, 2020
Meeting Conducted Remotely

The City of Antioch, in response to the Executive Order of the Governor and the Order of the Health Officer of Contra Costa County concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), held Antioch City Council meetings via Comcast channel 24, AT&T U-verse channel 99, and live stream (at www.antiochca.gov). The City Council meeting was conducted utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology. Anyone wishing to make a public comment, may do so any of the following ways: (1) by filling out an online speaker card, located at https://www.antiochca.gov/speaker_card, (2) by emailing the City Clerk prior to or during the meeting at cityclerk@ci.antioch.ca.us or (3) by dialing (925) 776-3057 during the meeting.

5:15 P.M. - CLOSED SESSION

1. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION** Initiation of Litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(c): Two cases.

City Attorney Smith reported the City Council had been in Closed Session and gave the following report: **#1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTIICIPATED LITIGATION**, no reportable action.

Mayor Thorpe called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. in recognition of the retirement of Director of Parks and Recreation Kaiser.

Council acknowledged Director of Parks and Recreation Kaiser accomplishments and wished her well in her retirement.

City Manager Bernal, on behalf of City staff, thanked Director of Parks and Recreation Kaiser for her dedication to the City and her professionalism.

Director of Parks and Recreation Kaiser stated it had been a pleasure and honor to serve the City.

City Clerk Householder called the roll.

Present: Council Members District 1 Torres-Walker, District 2 Barbanica, District 3 Ogorchock, Mayor Pro Tem (District 4) Wilson and Mayor Thorpe

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Wilson led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Attorney Smith reported the City Council had been in Closed Session and gave the following report: **#1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTIICIPATED LITIGATION**, no reportable action.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following public comments were read into the record by City Clerk Householder.

Leslie May, Antioch resident, provided written comment expressing concern the shelter in place order was not being enforced.

Eric Kahler, Antioch resident, provided written comment thanking the City for scheduling the Ceremonial Swearing-In of elected officials on December 11, 2020 and expressing concern the way the meeting was conducted.

Anonymous, provided written comment expressing concern regarding an elected official who blocked them from their social media accounts.

Councilmember Ogorchock congratulated Councilmember Barbanica for accepting a position on the policy committee on tax and revenue.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. ACCEPTANCE OF WORK AND NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS REMODEL (GENERAL CONSTRUCTION) (P.W. 247-P)

On motion by Councilmember Ogorchock, seconded by Councilmember Wilson, the City Council unanimously approved the Council Consent Calendar.

COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA

2. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS FOR THE BRACKISH WATER DESALINATION PROJECT (P.W. 694)

City Manager Bernal introduced Regular Agenda Item #2.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Samuelson recommended the City Council continue the following items to a future date to allow City staff additional time to complete bid protest process: Adopt a resolution: 1) Rejecting the bid protest of C. Overaa & Co. (“Overaa”); 2) Authorizing and directing the City Manager or designee to make the necessary Fiscal Year 2020/21 budget adjustments to increase the total budget for the Brackish Water Desalination Project (“Project”) to \$110,000,000; 3) Awarding the construction agreement (“Agreement”) for the Project to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder Shimmick Construction Company, Inc.; and 4) Authorizing and directing the City Manager to execute the Agreement with Shimmick Construction Company, Inc. (“Shimmick”) for a total amount of \$86,689,000.

The following public comments were read into the record by City Clerk Householder.

John White, representing Shimmick Construction, provided written comment stating that he was on standby to respond to any questions this evening.

Lucas Stuart-Chilcoat, Antioch resident, provided written comment requesting staff provide information on how it was determined that Shimmick Construction was the most responsible bidder.

The following public comment was made by an individual utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.

Thomas Feerick representing Shimmick Construction questioned if staff was recommending the entire agenda item be continued.

Mayor Thorpe responded that the recommendation was to continue the entire item.

On motion by Councilmember Ogorchock, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica the City Council unanimously continued agenda item #2.

3. BRIDGING THE GAP VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

City Manager Bernal introduced Regular Agenda Item #3.

Assistant City Manager Bayon Moore presented the staff report dated December 16, 2020 recommending the City Council provide staff direction.

The following public comments were read into the record by City Clerk Householder.

Jackie Hooke and Lucretia Shaw, Antioch residents, provided written comment in support of the "Bridging the Gap" virtual roundtable discussions.

Following discussion, the City Council supported the proposed format for the "Bridging the Gap" virtual roundtable discussions.

4. RECONSIDERATION OF THE CITY'S ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COPS HIRING PROGRAM GRANT FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

City Manager Bernal introduced Regular Agenda Item #4.

Assistant City Manager Bayon Moore presented the staff report dated December 16, 2020 the City Council consider whether to adopt the resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2020/121, which accepted grant funding in the amount of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program to fund six (6) additional police officer positions to serve as School Resource Officers (SROs) and authorizing the City Manager or designee to amend the budget to reflect the cost savings as appropriate.

Due to the amount of speaker requests and in consultation with City Clerk Householder and the City Council, Mayor Thorpe reduced speaker times to one-minute.

The following public comment was made by an individual utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.

Wendy Marchetti, Antioch resident and retired teacher, spoke in opposition to Council adopting the resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2020/121, which accepted grant funding in the amount of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program.

Shagoofa Khan, Frank Sterling and Lukas Carbone spoke in support of Council adopting the resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2020/121, which accepted grant funding in the amount of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program.

Matthew Dawson spoke in opposition to Council adopting the resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2020/121, which accepted grant funding in the amount of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program.

The following public comments were read into the record by Administrative Services Director Mastay and Director of Parks and Recreation Kaiser. In instances where a proper name was not provided, pseudonyms used identified the commenter.

Joseph Ramos and Mark Jordan, Antioch residents, Mark Lambert, retired Pittsburg Police Officer/SRO, Anita Murdock, Kerry Ingvarlsen, Milanka and Larry Schneiderman, Paul Flood, Kathryn Fitzpatrick, Hilda Parham, Mickie Marchetti, Jamie Rackley, Chris Coffey, Libby Willis, Sheila Honey, Jackie Hooke, Melissa Case, Maritza Magarin, Shannan Ragelmann and Allison Norris, Antioch residents, Aurora Solorio, Roy Ledford, John Passur, Jenna Wesenhagen, Michelle Kuslits, Kathy Cabrera, and Al Hajjar Antioch residents, Conan Moats, Oakley resident, Beverly Knight, Antioch resident, Gerald Thomas, Kacie O'Neil, Anonymous, Lindsey Amezcua and Sandy Hartrick Antioch resident, Brittany Hartrick and Amy Hilton Antioch residents, provided written comment in opposition to Council adopting the resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2020/121, which accepted grant funding in the amount of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program.

Igor Tregub, Amy Prindle, Mia Murphy, Rosemary Su, Shellie Wharton, Rachel Brown, Emma Cairns, Kaylyn Goode, Danielle Mirano, Sara Valbuena, Zoe Gocuan, Amber Martinez, Antioch resident, Michael James, Kelley Ho, Megan Leita Lester, Trent Specher, Evan Brandt, Wyatt Montgomery, Transgender Cancer Patient Project, Emma Yamamoto, Allison Jacques, Lorenzo, Skye Taylor, Ava Ebrahimi, Jordan Kaitapu, Mary Locher, Jenna Foster, Jessica Duran, Dezirae Webster, Siena R., Lilianna Arias, Jasmine Larmour, Tommy Meriam, Jennifer Notman, Laura Gentile, Antioch resident, Leila O., Michelle Parmenter, Giselle Cisneros, Zevin Acuna, Natalie Gutierrez, Sarah Kabir, Michelle Liev, Jessica Perez, Kendell Craycraft, Barbara Carini, Emily Harris, Daisy Valdivia, Emily Lambert, Zoe Davis-Watkins, Kaitlyn Sutherland, Sarah J., Katherine Macintyre, Max Orozco, Aileen Rubio, Kristina Sevcik, Danny Elser, Kevin Almazan, Jazmin, Isabella Meza, Yahzee Mendez, Parker Stephens, JJ Noblitt, Katie Rose, Rico Villa, Kalista Villa, Samuel Giovannoni, Lacy Ferguson, Kelli Berryman, McKenna Peterson, Julio

Mendez, Patricia Granados, Melissa Tomlinson, Lafayette resident, Kevin McManimen, Autumn Goolsby, Sabrina Bento, Aaron Orellana, Moxie Marsh, Walnut Creek resident, Y3LIR, Jonathan Ferrari, Phillip Tripp, Lisa Gregory and Amirah Johnson, Antioch residents, Dakota Spencer, Deanna Gordon, Lucretia Shaw, Antioch resident, Maria Brown, Anonymous, James Florioli and Jordyn Reddic Antioch residents, Makaia Villegas, Adriana Argueieta, Siena Villegas Antioch resident, Athena Hernandez, Walnut Creek resident, Daniel Hernandez, Nicholas Sessions, Antioch resident, Alliyah Thomas, Caitlin Pambid, Antioch resident, Sienna Nepacena, Sequoia Tomahn, Mary Thomas, Diane Ahlborn, Antioch resident, Jasmine Allam, Jade Dijeau and Matty Whitlow, Antioch residents, Jamie Yoo, Los Angeles resident and Zoe Gocuan, provided written comment in support of Council adopting the resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2020/121, which accepted grant funding in the amount of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program.

The following public comment was made by an individual utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.

Lacey Brown spoke in support of Council adopting the resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2020/121, which accepted grant funding in the amount of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program.

Mayor Thorpe declared a recess at 7:50 P.M. The meeting reconvened at 8:03 P.M. with all Councilmembers present.

The following public comments were read into the record by City Clerk Householder. In instances where a proper name was not provided, pseudonyms used identified the commenter.

Michael Pohl, Sophia A., Michael Sagehorn, Jennie Dunlap, Arne Simonsen, Mark Hadox Lakisha Jarvis, Phillip James, Anonymous, Anonymous, Martha Parsons, Courtney Campbell-Reich, Manny Soliz, Pamala Colley, Nicole Fromme and Velma Wilson, Antioch residents, provided written comment in opposition to Council adopting the resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2020/121, which accepted grant funding in the amount of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program.

Dejah Younger, Victoria Williams, Haley Hastings, Adrienne Cao, Lucas Stuart-Chilcote, Antioch residents, Laeontae Thomas, Tannar Wells Antioch resident, Brendan McFeely, Orinda resident, Megan Watson, Antioch resident, Jorge Silva, Oakley resident, Michelle C., Fernando Palacios, Cheyanne Ramirez, Jordan Bonwell, Johnny Ramirez, Wendell Watkins and Olga Smith, Antioch residents, Heath Galiwango, Kayla Singleton, Maria Maricio and Ellie Maricio Antioch residents, Katrina Allam, Brentwood resident, Anonymous, Kristine Aillam, Brentwood resident, Antonio Hernandez, Kimberly Grandi and Isabella Meza, Antioch residents, Tracy Davis Watkins, Julia R., Bryant De Groot, Harvey Crane, William Davis-Watkins, Jose, Kai Montgomery and Jenna Shaikh, Antioch residents, Lucas Carbone, Walnut Creek resident, Cherisse Montgomery, Adreinne Davidson, Tamana Sharifi, Audrey Davis, Karen Bee, Cat Colima, Tania Swanson, and Angelica Tripp, Antioch residents, provided written comment in support Council adopting the resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2020/121, which accepted

grant funding in the amount of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program.

The following public comments were read into the record by Administrative Services Director Mastay. In instances where a proper name was not provided, pseudonyms used identified the commenter.

Anonymous, Antioch resident, Anonymous, Anonymous, Danny Elser and Chuck Kuslits, Antioch resident, provided written comment in opposition to Council adopting the resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2020/121, which accepted grant funding in the amount of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program.

Debra Vinson, Antioch resident, Gabby Lazzeretti, Zepatitis B., and Boombot Brinkerhoff, provided written comment in support Council adopting the resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2020/121, which accepted grant funding in the amount of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program.

Karen A., and Harcord Mudd, Antioch residents, provided written comment in opposition to Council limiting speaker time to one-minute for this agenda item.

Mayor Thorpe thanked staff for reading the public comments and the public for participating in the discussion.

In response to Mayor Thorpe, City Clerk Householder reported that 210 public comments were received on this agenda item.

Councilmember Barbanica stated that division was occurring throughout the country and they needed to try to resolve it locally. He explained that SROs were in Antioch schools until budget reductions were made due to the economic downturn. He provided a history of positive experiences between SROs and students. He read excerpts of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed between AUSD and Chief Brooks. He reported that he spoke with community members, teachers, school principals and the Superintendent who overwhelmingly supported the SRO Program. He explained the selection process and reviewed the biographies for the officers chosen to participate in the program. He commented that after a death at Deer Valley High School, other schools did not want to come to Antioch for sporting events due to the lack of police presence. He stated this was not an issue of money and urged Council to consider what educators were advocating for, in their support of the program.

Councilmember Torres-Walker offered her condolences to those who had lost loved ones to violence and discussed the loss of her brother and friends to gun violence. She stated that she believed violence spilled over into schools and the priority should be making the community safer and more secure. She commented that adults should see themselves as role models for youth that were struggling because they lacked resources to address trauma they experienced. She reported that she had a conversation with Chief Brooks, and she did not believe this was the process in which to improve police services. She felt that the City/School Standing Committee should have focused on resolving safety issues in the schools and community. She thanked

Councilmember Barbanica for discussing the MOU and highlighting the SROs and noted the skills they possessed could be a resource through comprehensive community policing strategies. She expressed concern that this item had come to Council when it should have been handled at the by AUSD. She stated that she hoped to work on future grant opportunities that would not create a division in the community. She thanked everyone for their input on this agenda item.

Councilmember Ogorchock offered her condolences to Councilmember Torres-Walker for the loss of her brother. She stated that appreciated everyone who submitted public comments this evening. She highlighted the goals of the MOU and reported that she had confirmed that all high school and middle school principals were in support of SROs. She added that youth were involved and consulted in the interview process for the officers who were looking forward to working with the youth. She explained that SROs would replace Strategic Threat Management who had been in schools for the past 8-years. She commented that AUSD employed 34 counselors and received a grant for 14 mental health clinicians. She reported that following a death of a Deer Valley High School student, parents were pleading for SROs in the schools. She urged Council to keep an open mind and suggested providing Antioch Police Department the opportunity to try the program.

Councilmember Wilson stated that she appreciated all the comments this evening and discussed the importance of hearing all opinions of this issue. She noted that Council should consider that there were different kinds of trauma and experiences. She further noted that she believed 14 mental health clinicians were not sufficient to serve a student population that were struggling with trauma. She stated long-term solutions were needed to address mental health and she believed the same as she did in August when she opposed SROs in schools.

Mayor Thorpe spoke to the importance of listening to the youth's opinions on this matter and discussed his experiences as a former teacher. He provided statistics for the students of AUSD and commented that teachers needed all the help that they could get. He reminded the community that the school district's director for site safety position was eliminated and AUSD made budget cuts that affected several key positions. He noted two months after the latest budget cuts the City and AUSD funded \$1M on the SRO program. He further noted there were other ways to achieve school safety, increase student success and provide for the needs of district, and they needed to be smart with limited resources. He stated that he also believed the same as he did in August when he opposed SROs in schools.

Councilmember Torres-Walker stated that by working together, she believed they could achieve a safer community.

Councilmember Barbanica thanked everyone for their comments and reminded Council that the AUSD budget was separate from the City's budget.

Mayor Thorpe clarified that he had discussed the AUSD budget because as a father their spending priorities had frustrated him.

Councilmember Wilson made a motion to rescind the funding and recommended they move the funding to youth services.

City Attorney Smith clarified that Councilmember Wilson could not attach the youth services spending to the motion because it was not included in the agenda item; however, it could be requested as a future agenda item.

On motion by Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Torres-Walker the City Council adopted the resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2020/121, which accepted grant funding in the amount of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program to fund six (6) additional police officer positions to serve as School Resource Officers (SROs), and authorized the City Manager or designee to amend the budget to reflect the cost savings as appropriate. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Torres-Walker, Wilson, Thorpe

Noes: Barbanica, Ogorchock

5. CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

Mayor Thorpe made the following appointments for City Council approval:

- Transitional Housing Ad Hoc Committee – Mayor Thorpe and Councilmember Barbanica
- Cannabis - Councilmember Wilson and Councilmember Torres-Walker
- City/School – TBD

Councilmember Ogorchock stated she would like to review all committee assignments.

City Attorney Smith clarified that the scope of this item were the new appointments to the Committees included in the staff report (attachment A).

Councilmember Ogorchock stated she would bring all Committee assignments back as a future agenda item.

On motion by Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica the City Council unanimously approved all appointments for Mayor Thorpe.

On motion by Councilmember Barbanica, seconded by Councilmember Torres-Walker the City Council approved all appointments for Councilmember Wilson. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Torres-Walker, Barbanica, Ogorchock, Thorpe

Abstain: Wilson

On motion by Councilmember Barbanica, seconded by Councilmember Wilson the City Council approved all appointments for Councilmember Torres-Walker.

Ayes: Barbanica, Ogorchock, Wilson, Thorpe

Abstain: Torres-Walker

On motion by Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Torres-Walker the City Council approved all appointments for Councilmember Barbanica.

Ayes: Torres-Walker, Ogorchock, Wilson, Thorpe

Abstain: Barbanica

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brittany Hayes, Antioch resident, requested the City consider providing the public access to the Antioch Police Department scanner.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS – None

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilmember Barbanica, seconded by Councilmember Wilson, the City Council unanimously adjourned the meeting at 10:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Kitty Eiden

KITTY EIDEN, Minutes Clerk