

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Special Meeting  
6:00 P.M.

February 16, 2021  
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](http://www.antiochca.gov)). The City Council meeting was conducted utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.*

*Written public comments were received by 4:00 p.m. the day of the Council Meeting in the following ways: (1) Filled out an online speaker card, located at [https://www.antiochca.gov/speaker\\_card](https://www.antiochca.gov/speaker_card), or (2) Emailed the City Clerk's Department at [cityclerk@ci.antioch.ca.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.antioch.ca.us). Oral public comments received during the meeting were received by registering in advance to access the meeting via Zoom Webinar: <https://www.antiochca.gov/speakers> or by dialing (925) 776-3057.*

Mayor Thorpe called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., and City Clerk Householder called the roll.

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Thorpe led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were read into the record by Administrative Services Director Mastay.

Susana Williams, Antioch resident, Joanne Scott, SURJ Contra Costa (Showing up for Racial Justice), Teki Flow, Angelica Tripp, Antioch resident, Kathryn Wade, Warren Lutz, Antioch resident, Adey Teshager, Alexis Parsons, Antioch resident, AnDrea Neal, Antioch resident, Jim Becker, Antioch resident, Erika Raulston, Antioch resident, Audrey Davis, Antioch resident, Lucy Meinhardt, Antioch resident, Linda Laskowski, Berkeley resident, Phillip Tripp, Antioch resident, provided written comment in support of Councilmember Torres-Walker.

Anonymous provided written comment in support of body-worn and dashboard cameras for the Antioch Police Department (APD).

Tracey Davis-Watkins, Antioch resident, provided written comment in support of Councilmember Torres-Walker. She suggested the Council consider sustainable solutions for the unhoused,

police reform as well as implementation of a policies to improve neighborhoods and address race relations.

The following public comments were made by individuals utilizing Zoom Audio/Video Technology.

Patricia Granados, Frank Sterling, Moxie Marsh and Lacey Brown spoke in support of Councilmember Torres-Walker.

Tim Cotton discussed citations he received for violations occurring on his property and requested a meeting with City staff to discuss the issues.

Lukas Carbone spoke in support of Councilmember Torres-Walker and requested Council expand shelter in place to hotels for the unhoused.

## **COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA**

### **1. CITY COUNCIL AGENDA FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

Mayor Thorpe and City Manager Bernal introduced Agenda Item #1.

#### **Code of Conduct for Districts**

The following public comments were read into the record by Administrative Services Director Mastay.

Mariana Moore, Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa, Iris Podschun, Cortez resident representing Mobility LABs, Stacey Street representing RCF Connects and Kasey Carterelliot, Richmond resident, provided written comment in support of Councilmember Torres-Walker.

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

Leslie May spoke in support of Councilmember Torres-Walker.

Jen Grand-Lejano, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and Ryan, Program Coordinator for the Youth Tobacco Advocacy and Policy Project (YTAPP) thanked the City Council for considering policy to end the sale of tobacco products to youth.

Mayor Thorpe explained that Councilmember Ogorchock had requested this Item on June 25, 2019 and he had brought this item forward with other items she had requested that had never been agendized for discussion.

Councilmember Ogorchock explained that she had requested this item because there was a discussion at the League of California Cities Conference regarding Code of Conduct with several

cities indicating, they had implemented one and others reporting that they had added a specific section related to Districts. She requested the City Council create an Ad Hoc Committee to start a process for establishing a Code of Conduct for Antioch.

Councilmember Torres-Walker acknowledged the indigenous people of Antioch. She expressed concern that this item was being brought back two years after the initial request and at a time when there is civil unrest around police misconduct and racial inequity. She stated they had to expect everyone was moving ethically and taking the health and welfare of the entire community into consideration. She did not believe that she would be in agreement with a Code of Conduct; however, she was interested in hearing more on how it could be operationalized.

Mayor Thorpe stated when this item was originally brought forward around the idea of Districts and there was a genuine concern that Councilmembers represent the entire City.

Councilmember Ogorchock reiterated that this item came from the California League of Cities and it was twofold for Council at large and Districts. She suggested an Ad Hoc committee could gather data and bring it back to Council for consideration.

Councilmember Barbanica stated he believed that a Code of Conduct could bring clarity to Council's responsibilities.

Mayor Thorpe commented that they were built in mechanisms to moderate behavior.

There was no consensus from Council to form a Code of Conduct Ad Hoc Committee.

### **Restrictions on the Sale of Vaping Products**

The following public comments were read into the record by Administrative Services Director Mastay.

Raquel Wallin, Antioch High School Student representing Youth Tobacco Advocacy and Policy Project (YTAPP), provided written comment in support of creating change around youth use of tobacco. She offered to provide more information to the AUSD and Council on how to help the community address this matter.

Ryan Orihood, Antioch resident representing YTAPP, provided written comment in support of implementing a tobacco retail license that addressed the sale of e-cigarettes and youth marketed tobacco products.

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

Mayra Lopez, Senior Health Education Specialist with the County Department of Public Health Tobacco Prevention Program, spoke in support of establishing a comprehensive tobacco control policy.

Leslie May expressed concern regarding youth use of vaping products.

Councilmember Ogorchock reported previous Council had placed a moratorium on smoke shops and began a conversation regarding banning vaping products. She stated she believed it was in the youth's best interest to have a conversation regarding a ban. She requested Council direct staff to work on this issue and volunteered to serve on an ad hoc committee, if one was established.

City Attorney Smith reported in May 2020 they were looking at expanding the definition of smoking to include the use of e-cigarettes and cannabis. He noted they were also considering expanding locational restrictions and banning flavored tobacco. He noted if Council wanted to move forward with this item, he could bring it back in March in the form of an Ordinance.

Councilmember Ogorchock requested an ordinance prohibit the sale of tobacco products within 600-feet of schools.

Council directed City Attorney Smith to bring back locational restrictions for vaping and cannabis use. They also directed staff to work with youth to develop recommendations for a vaping and tobacco policy.

### **Historical Designation for the Trost Property**

Councilmember Ogorchock stated that Thomas Gaines' home was located on the Trost property and Mr. Trost offered to allow for the City to create a memorial honoring Mr. Gaines.

Council directed City Manager Bernal to communicate with Mr. Trost to determine the best way to memorialize Thomas Gaines on his property and bring the item back to Council for consideration.

### **Public Wi-Fi Access in Downtown Antioch**

Councilmember Ogorchock stated this request was to improve cell service for residents.

Council directed City Manager Bernal to investigate Wi-Fi and cell tower service to improve connectivity in Antioch.

### **Insurance for Sewer Lines**

Councilmember Ogorchock stated this request was related to homeowners having the opportunity to purchase insurance for sewer lines. She suggested the City provide information on this program to residents.

Council directed City Manager to research sponsorship of this program and bring options back to Council for consideration.

### **Northeast Annexation Utility Connection Fee Waivers**

Councilmember Ogorchock reported that residents in the Viera Lane area had expressed concern regarding the cost associated with connecting to the City's utilities. As the Councilmember appointed to the Northeast Antioch Annexation Committee, she expressed interest in working with staff to determine what Council could do to assist the residents.

City Manager Bernal explained that residents paid \$20k in addition to the onsite work for connections fees. He noted the area received approximately \$6.5M in revenue related to the annexation and \$2M remained to be utilized for infrastructure improvements.

Councilmember Ogorchock stated she was interested in determining if the City could offer loans for the improvements. She explained that these residents did not want to be annexed and felt the City should provide connections from the streets to their homes.

Director of Community Development Ebbs reported that PACE funding was available, and he would work with City Attorney Smith to determine if it was a viable option.

Council directed Councilmember Ogorchock to work with staff to look for options for residents to fund their utility connection fees in the Northeast Annexation area.

### **Perception of Antioch and Promotion of Community Safety**

Councilmember Ogorchock stated Council received an update that had indicated that there was a perception issue in Antioch and requested a report back to Council from the Public Information Officer (PIO).

Director of Economic Development Reed reported the perception issue was initial feedback from stakeholders participating in the creation of data collected by the Economic Development Consultant.

Following discussion, Council suggested Councilmember Ogorchock to reach out to City Manager Bernal directly to receive an update on the PIO.

### **Downtown Architectural Review, including One Way Streets**

Councilmember Ogorchock stated this item was an idea that had been discussed by the previous committee for downtown revitalization.

Following discussion, Council suggested the City postpone discussion of this item until traffic needs were identified for the area.

### **Beach Park Concept from Riverview to Marina**

Councilmember Ogorchock reported this item had been discussed during the Vision and Strategic Planning workshop and a beach park could replace what was removed when the parking lot was built for the marina.

Councilmember Torres-Walker stated she would like to receive community input and a report on environmental impacts of a beach park.

Following discussion, Mayor Thorpe stated he would schedule a Study Session on the downtown specific plan as well as past reports that have been completed regarding the downtown area and then the Council can build off that conversation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**STAFF COMMUNICATIONS** – None

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Councilmember Ogorchock, seconded by Councilmember Barbanica, the City Council adjourned the meeting at 8:04 P.M. The motion carried the following vote:

*Ayes: Torres-Walker, Barbanica, Ogorchock, Thorpe*

*Absent: Wilson*

Respectfully submitted:

*Kitty Eiden*

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KITTY EIDEN, Minutes Clerk