

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
INCLUDING THE ANTIOCH CITY COUNCIL  
ACTING AS HOUSING SUCCESSOR  
TO THE ANTIOCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**Special/Regular Meeting  
7:00 P.M.**

**April 8, 2025  
Council Chambers**

**4:00 P.M. - CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Bernal called the Closed Session to order at 4:01 P.M., and Acting City Clerk Rosales called the roll.

Present: Council Members District 3 Freitas, Mayor Pro Tem (District 2) Rocha and Mayor Bernal

Absent: Council Members District 1 Torres-Walker and District 4 Wilson

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bernal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: CITY MANAGER.** This closed session is authorized pursuant to California Government Code section 54957(b)(1).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Bernal adjourned to Closed Session at 4:02 P.M.

Councilmember Torres-Walker arrived during the Closed Session discussion.

**5:30 P.M. SPECIAL MEETING/BUDGET STUDY SESSION**

Mayor Bernal called the meeting to order at 5:47 P.M., and City Clerk Rhodes called the roll.

Present: Council Members District 1 Torres-Walker, District 3 Freitas, Mayor Pro Tem (District 2) Rocha and Mayor Bernal

Absent: Council Member District 4 Wilson (arrived at 5:57 P.M.)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bernal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BUDGET STUDY SESSION**

**SM-1. FISCAL YEAR 2025-27 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
(Continued from the April 1, 2025, Council Special Meeting for Council Discussion)**

City Manager Scott introduced Budget Study Session Item SM-1.

Councilmember Freitas reported he had met with staff who had responded to his questions regarding this agenda item.

Council engaged in a discussion regarding the Public Works Department presentation and provided the following direction to staff, which included:

- Direction to staff to determine how to sustain a Triple A minus bond rating
- Direction to provide Council with the details of the Chinese Art Project

In response to Mayor Bernal, Acting City Manager Helfenberger explained that the reported increase in the library contribution was an administrative error, and the amount would be reduced to approximately \$165k.

City Manager Scott announced she would be following up with Council's budget requests.

Councilmember Wilson arrived at 5:57 P.M.

## **SM-2. FISCAL YEAR 2025-27 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT – PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

City Manager Scott introduced the Budget Study Session Item SM-2.

Finance Director Merchant presented the staff report dated March 8, 2025, recommending the City Council provide feedback and direction regarding the budget development information provided for the Fiscal Year 2025-27 budget.

Acting City Manager Helfenberger introduced the Parks and Recreation Department staff in attendance. Acting City Manager Helfenberger, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation Wright, Recreation Supervisor Gandia, Recreation Supervisor Valenzuela and Recreation Supervisor Pires presented the City of Antioch Parks and Recreation FY2025-26 and 2026-27 Budget Overview PowerPoint presentation.

Mikki Estrada spoke in support of Antioch Parks and Recreation Department programming and encouraged Council to continue to invest in this resource.

Pat Jeremy, Antioch Friends of Seniors, discussed their contributions to the Antioch Senior Center and encouraged Council to continue adequately funding the program. Board Members in attendance were introduced.

Dorothy Ellis, Park and Recreation Commission Chair, supported the Park and Recreation Department and spoke to the importance of maintaining their services and programming.

Marie Taylor, Antioch Senior Center/Antioch Friends of Seniors, discussed her support of the Antioch Senior Center and commended staff for their professionalism.

Greg Feere discussed his support of the Antioch Senior Center and encouraged Council to adequately fund the program.

Salina Jones, Antioch resident, expressed her appreciation to the staff of the Antioch Water Park and discussed their professionalism.

Lynda Green, Be Exceptional Programs, discussed the recreational classes they provided at the Antioch Community Center and encouraged Council to continue adequately funding the Parks and Recreation Department.

Lucy Meinhardt, Friends of Antioch Seniors, encouraged Council to give special attention to the Antioch Senior Center so that it may continue to thrive.

Council consensus continued this agenda item to the April 10, 2025, Council Special Meeting/Budget Study Session for Council discussion.

Councilmember Freitas on behalf of the City Council thanked staff for the presentation and acknowledged the public testimonies given.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN SPECIAL MEETING/BUDGET STUDY SESSION**

On motion by Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Rocha the City Council unanimously adjourned the Special Meeting/Budget Study Session at 7:27 P.M.

### **7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Bernal called the meeting to order at 7:38 P.M., and City Clerk Rhodes called the roll.

Present: Council/Agency Members District 3 Freitas, District 4 Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem (District 2) Rocha and Mayor Bernal

Absent: Council/Agency Member District 1 Torres-Walker (arrived at 7:45 P.M.)

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bernal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **CITY ATTORNEY TO REPORT OUT ON CLOSED SESSION**

Assistant City Attorney Kunding reported the City Council had been in Closed Session and gave the following report: **#1 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION: CITY MANAGER**, no reportable action.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Doug discussed the need for traffic calming measures on roadways leading to the Brentwood Costco.

Hector Navarez expressed concern regarding criminal activity in Antioch.

Councilmember Torres-Walker arrived at 7:45 P.M.

Chris Shackelford, Flex Your AI, expressed interest in bringing AI job training to Antioch.

Angela Jones reported her daughter was involved in an altercation at the Antioch Teen Movie Night event and she expressed concern that the City had not provided adequate security.

Gavin Payton, NAACP Youth, advocated for justice for youth in the community.

Flori Paniagua, Team Jesus Outreach Ministries, invited the community to attend their event on Sunday.

Denise Rundall, Dillon's Dream a World Without Cancer, announced Childhood Cancer Awareness Month would take place in September and encouraged the City to bring awareness to childhood cancer.

Ron Muhammad encouraged the City to prioritize Economic Development in the City's budget.

## **COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA – Continued from March 25, 2025, Council Meeting**

### **1. REVIEW AND APPROVE THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF THE BICYCLE GARDEN PROJECT (P.W. 394-17)**

City Manager Scott introduced Council Regular Agenda Item #1.

Acting City Manager Helfenberger and Andrew Dillard, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, presented the staff report and PowerPoint presentation dated April 8, 2025, recommending the City Council review and approve the conceptual design of the Bicycle Garden Project.

Andrew Becker expressed concern about the current bicycle garden design and noted the City should have used these funds to improve bicycle infrastructure throughout Antioch.

Public comments submitted in writing were entered into the record from the following individuals: Dani Lanis and Nancy Hernandez.

Councilmember Freitas expressed concern regarding the proposed entrance to the park intersecting with a transmission line operated by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). He discussed EBMUD's policy to prohibit any infrastructure or crossings over certain areas.

Mr. Dillard reported there had been discussions with East Bay Mudd and they were confident they would be able to place the pathway in the proposed location. He discussed integrating e-bikes into the park design.

Acting City Manager Helfenberger reported that a discussion on policy recommendations would be brought back to Council.

Assistant City Attorney Kunderer added that a legal risk assessment would be done as part of the policy discussions.

In response to Councilmember Wilson, Acting City Manager Helfenberger reported the disk golf group, and the Parks and Recreation Commission were in support of the preliminary plans to relocate that facility from Prewett Park to Country Manor Park.

Councilmember Wilson expressed concern regarding the risks associated with the bicycle garden.

Councilmember Torres-Walker encouraged the City to discuss access to the bicycle garden for children from the north side of Antioch. She stated she supported pursuing additional funding opportunities to improve pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure throughout the City.

Mr. Dillard stated it was the role of CCTA to assist City's in applying for funding. He announced there would be one more round for the Safe Streets For All (SS4A) grant funding soon.

City Manager Scott added that Townsend Public Affairs was also tasked with seeking additional funding.

In response to Mayor Bernal, Mr. Dillard commented that the materials used would be low maintenance and vandal proof. Additionally, the landscaping would be low maintenance and drought tolerant.

Mayor Bernal suggested that this facility be incorporated into the City's wayfinding program and requested the maintenance costs be included in the FY26 budget.

On motion by Councilmember Freitas, seconded by Councilmember Wilson the City Council unanimously approved the conceptual design of the Bicycle Garden Project.

## **COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA – Continued from March 25, 2025, Council Meeting**

### **2. AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND OPERATING BUDGETS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$225,000 FOR THE AMTRAK STATION UPGRADES (P.W. 708)**

City Manager Scott introduced Council Regular Agenda Item #2.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Buenting presented the staff report dated April 8, 2025, recommending the City Council adopt the resolution approving an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement and Operating Budgets in the amount of \$225,000 utilizing Gas Tax funds for a total budget of \$375,000 for the Amtrak Station Upgrades.

Andrew Becker expressed concern about the future operational status of the Antioch train station, particularly in the context of recent discussions at the San Joaquin Rail Authority meetings. He opposed the City spending significant dollars and time on improving a station that they had no authority to keep. He requested the City disclose if any discussions occurred with AMTRAK regarding stipulations to keep the station operational.

Dean Webber encouraged the City to prioritize revitalizing the downtown area.

City Manager Scott reported that an Amtrak Station Working Group had begun meeting and indicated that the Antioch stop could be decommissioned either now or in three years. She emphasized the necessity of maintaining city-owned property and ensuring ADA compliance. She also mentioned that they would return to the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to discuss the possibility of keeping the station open permanently.

In response to Councilmember Wilson, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Buenting stated the landscaping would be low maintenance drought tolerant native plants.

Councilmember Freitas requested landscaping be vibrant and the pathway to be continuous.

Mayor Bernal spoke in support of improving the area to ensure it was viable and attractive to those using the station with the hopes of keeping the station open permanently.

Councilmember Rocha stated he had received communications from community members who advocated for keeping the station open.

City Manager Scott reported that the average ridership at the Antioch train station was 100 passengers per day, highlighting the importance of keeping the station open.

Mayor Bernal encouraged staff to contact AMTRAK to seek their approval of the design.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025/53**

On motion by Councilmember Rocha, seconded by Councilmember Torres-Walker the City Council unanimously adopted the resolution approving an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement and Operating Budgets in the amount of \$225,000 utilizing Gas Tax funds for a total budget of \$375,000 for the Amtrak Station Upgrades.

### **3. PROCLAMATIONS**

- National Fair Housing Month, April 2025

- Proclamation Honoring National Autism Awareness Month, April 2025

On motion by Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Freitas the City Council unanimously approved the Proclamations.

Elizabeth LaVasse, Leo and Charlotte, We Get It Foundation, accepted the *Honoring National Autism Awareness Month* proclamation.

Velma Wilson, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) thanked the City Council for recognizing National Autism Awareness Month. She recognized the Golden State Warriors for hosting Autism Awareness and Special Needs Night.

Councilmember Torres-Walker moved to suspend the rules and move Presentations as the next order of business.

Mayor Bernal made a substitute motion to move Regular Agenda Item #10 after the Presentations.

Councilmember Torres-Walker accepted the amendment.

**ON MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER TORRES-WALKER, SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER WILSON THE CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY SUSPENDED THE RULES AND MOVED ITEM #6 PRESENTATIONS AND #10 SUPPORT FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HOLISTIC WELLNESS AND RESOURCE HUB, TO BE HEARD AS THE NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS.**

## **6. PRESENTATIONS**

Youth and Government: Our Experience and Takeaways Presented by Scarlet McKenzie and Siran Kuppanda.

Mayor Bernal and Councilmember Rocha commended the youth for the excellent presentation.

Partnering for Wellness: Antioch's Role in a Countywide Healing Network – African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub (AAHWRH) Presented by Dr. Kerby Lynch, Lead Project Manager, Ceres Policy Research.

Andrew Becker suggested the County consider the area near BART for the AAHWRH location and encouraged them to reach out to developers to bring resources to Antioch.

## **10. SUPPORT FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HOLISTIC WELLNESS AND RESOURCE HUB (AAHWRH)**

City Manager Scott presented the staff report dated April 8, 2025, recommending the City Council adopt a resolution in support of the African American Holistic Wellness and Resource

Hub (AAHWRH) initiative, recognizing Contra Costa County's leadership, affirming Antioch's willingness to explore opportunities for collaboration, and reinforcing the City's commitment to racial wellness equity.

Dr. Kerby Lynch gave an overview of the feasibility study, JPA model and service plan for the AAHWRH initiative.

Gavin Payton, NAACP Youth, Dr. Kimberly Payton, NAACP, Claire Obenson, Cornelius Johnson, Clyde Lewis, Debra Vinson, Velma Wilson, Ron Muhamad, Pastor Ed Harris and Yvette Williams, Back on Track Community Services, spoke in support of the AAHWRH initiative and encouraged the City to move forward with exploring opportunities in Antioch.

Council expressed gratitude to Dr. Lynch for her presentation and to the public speakers for their insights. They urged the City to continue advocating for resources from the Board of Supervisors and recognized the support for residents who had been negatively affected. Suggestions were made to address victims of human trafficking in Contra Costa County and including various public entities in the formation of the Joint Powers Authority (JPA). They highlighted the initiative as a unique model, while also thanking City Manager Scott for her contributions.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025/54**

On motion by Councilmember Torres-Walker, seconded by Councilmember Wilson the City Council unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub (AAHWRH) initiative, recognizing Contra Costa County's leadership, affirming Antioch's willingness to explore opportunities for collaboration, and reinforcing the City's commitment to racial wellness equity.

#### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CIVIC AND COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Acting Director of Parks and Recreation Wright announced the following civic and community event:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Eggstravaganza & Rec Expo – April 12, 2025, at the Antioch Water Park, 4701 Lone Tree Way

Councilmember Wilson announced the following civic and community event:

- District 4 Community Meeting from 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. on April 9, 2025, at the International Barber Shop.

Velma Wilson announced the following civic and community events:

- Antioch Jamboree Crab Feed/Tri Tip Dinner - April 26, 2025
- Antioch Schools Education Foundation Teacher of the Year Celebration - May 1, 2025, at the Antioch Historical Society



- Juneteenth Celebration hosted by The Forever Me Foundation - Paradise Skate

Gavin Payton announced the following civic and community events:

- NAACP Youth Council Swearing In – from 2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. on April 26 at True Light Missionary Baptist Church
- NAACP Youth Council Fundraiser for National State Conference, Juneteenth Choir and Praise Dance Competition

## **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF BOARD AND COMMISSION OPENINGS**

City Clerk Rhodes announced the following Board and Commission openings.

- Board of Administrative Appeals
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission

For more information and to apply, visit the City's website.

On motion by Councilmember Freitas, seconded by Councilmember Rocha the City Council unanimously extended the City Council meeting to 11:15 P.M.

- 7. CONSENT CALENDAR for City /City Council Members acting as Housing Successor to the Antioch Development Agency**
  - A. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 11, 2025**
  - B. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 18, 2025**
  - C. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 25, 2025**
  - D. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 1, 2025**
  - E. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL WARRANTS**
  - F. APPROVAL OF HOUSING SUCCESSOR WARRANTS**
  - G. RESOLUTION NO. 2025/55 SHARE COMMUNITY SHOWER SERVICES CONTRACT AMENDMENT**
  - H. RESOLUTION NO. 2025/56 THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE DESIGN CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BKF ENGINEERS FOR THE L STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (P.W. 234-15)**

**I. RESOLUTION NO. 2025/57 CONSIDERATION OF BIDS FOR THE PREWETT PARK CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE IV (P.W. 567-17)**

On motion by Councilmember Freitas, seconded by Councilmember Wilson, the City Council unanimously approved the Council Consent Calendar with the exception of Item H, which was removed for further discussion.

**Item H** – Andrew Becker requested more detailed staff reports and original contracts be included when Council considers contract renewals and extensions.

On motion by Councilmember Freitas, seconded by Councilmember Rocha the City Council unanimously approved Item H.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilmember Freitas announced that former City Engineer Stan Davis was dedicating time to the Antioch Historical Society for the First Congregational Church Bell Project 2025. He noted that fundraising for this project was underway and that they were requesting the City to waive the building permit fees. He also asked for a presentation from the organization to be scheduled on a future City Council agenda.

Councilmember Torres-Walker congratulated the East County NAACP for conducting a fair and equitable election and extended her congratulations to those who were elected. Additionally, she recognized the birthday of her brother, who was a victim of gun violence.

Mayor Bernal reported on his attendance at the Mayor's Conference and reported that the East Bay Regional Park District had indicated they were working on a plan to restructure the pool at Contra Loma Park.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS** - None

**COUNCIL REGULAR AGENDA**

**8. SALES TAX CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT FOR THE PARTIAL-TERM VACANCY EXPIRING MARCH 2028**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025/58**

On motion by Councilmember Freitas, seconded by Councilmember Torres-Walker the City Council unanimously adopted a resolution approving the Mayor's appointment of Tam Ly to the Sales Tax Citizens' Oversight Committee for the partial-term vacancy expiring March 2028.

**9. PURCHASE OF TWO ARMORED RESCUE POLICE VEHICLES FROM THE ARMORED GROUP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$531,800**

City Manager Scott introduced Regular Agenda Item #9.

Captain Bittner presented the staff report dated April 8, 2025 recommending the City Council adopt the resolution approving the Purchase Agreement with the Armored Group for the purchase of two armored rescue police vehicles for an amount not to exceed \$531,800; amending the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 budget allocating \$531,800 from the Police Department's Asset Forfeiture accounts; and authorizing the City Manager to execute the Purchasing Agreement.

On motion by Councilmember Torres-Walker, seconded by Councilmember Freitas the City Council unanimously extended the City Council meeting to 11:30 P.M.

Mary Lutz, speaking on behalf of Together We Stand spoke in opposition to the purchase agreement and suggested the money be spent on training and community engagement for the Antioch Police Department (APD). She felt this purchase was in opposition to the resolution discontinuing further procurement of military equipment.

Tiki Flow spoke in opposition to the purchase agreement and suggested Council consider reducing the request to one vehicle and provide the cost for maintenance.

Andrew Becker discussed gun violence in the community and spoke in support of the purchase agreement.

In response to Councilmember Torres-Walker, Captain Bittner clarified that these were civilian vehicles retrofitted to withstand gunfire and were considered public safety equipment. He noted these vehicles were used for operations involving firearms when the public and officers were in danger. He gave an overview of Asset Forfeiture Funds and commented that \$100k would remain if this purchase were approved.

Chief Vigil reported that every piece of equipment from the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) was cataloged, checked out and utilized until it is checked back in to them. He noted once APD received a new rescue vehicle, they would give the Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle back to the DRMO. He further noted all DRMO equipment had been returned except for a few optics utilized on assault rifles by the SWAT team.

Councilmember Torres-Walker requested Council be invited to the sendoff of the MRAP. She also requested staff agendize a presentation related to Asset Forfeiture Special Revenue Funds.

On motion by Councilmember Freitas, seconded by Councilmember Rocha the City Council unanimously extended the City Council meeting to 12:00 A.M.

Councilmember Freitas discussed the importance of protecting law enforcement while they serve the citizens of Antioch. He noted these were restricted dollars and the vehicles were needed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025/59**

On motion by Councilmember Freitas, seconded by Councilmember Rocha the City Council adopted the resolution approving the Purchase Agreement with the Armored Group for the purchase of two armored rescue police vehicles for an amount not to exceed \$531,800; amending the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 budget allocating \$531,800 from the Police Department's Asset Forfeiture accounts; and authorizing the City Manager to execute the Purchasing Agreement. The motion carried the following vote:

Ayes: Freitas, Wilson, Rocha, Bernal

Abstain: Torres-Walker

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Andrew Becker expressed concern that Antioch's development growth rate was behind neighboring jurisdictions which limited potential sales tax revenue. He reported that a Community Infill Housing (CIH) project would be eliminating major commercial development and putting in apartments, with limited infrastructure to support it. He requested Council re-evaluate the CIH overlay.

**STAFF COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Councilmember Torres-Walker requested staff agendize a presentation on the CIH Overlay.

Councilmember Freitas spoke in support of Councilmember Torres-Walker's request.

Councilmember Wilson requested staff agendize a discussion on traffic flow in the area of Heidorn, Prewett, Sand Creek and Lone Tree Way near Brentwood Costco.

Councilmember Freitas requested that staff provide the City Council with Antioch's response regarding traffic concerns related to the Brentwood Costco Environmental Impact Report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Councilmember Torres-Walker, seconded by Councilmember Wilson the City Council unanimously adjourned the meeting at 11:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Kitty Eiden  
KITTY EIDEN, Minutes Clerk