

Fairfax Town Council Minutes
Special Meeting
Wednesday, **December 15, 2021**
Via teleconference due to COVID-19

Mayor Hellman called the Special meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Ackerman
Barbara Coler
Chance Cutrano
Renee Goddard
Stephanie Hellman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Adam Politzer, Interim Town Manager
Michele Gardner, Town Clerk
Janet Coleson, Town Attorney
Ben Berto, Planning Director
Jonathon Goldman, Interim Public Works Director

Consent Calendar

1. Approve minutes for the September 22, 2021, Town Council Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission- Town Clerk
2. Reappoint Councilmember Bruce Ackerman to the Marin Sonoma Mosquito Vector Control District Board of Directors- Town Clerk
3. Reappoint Jesse Hoffman to the Fairfax Volunteer Board- Town Clerk

Mayor Hellman opened the meeting to public comments, and seeing none, closed the meeting to public comments

The Council thanked “Volunteer Extraordinaire” Jesse Hoffman for his wonderful work.

M/S, Coler/Goddard, Motion to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted.

AYES: Ackerman, Coler, Cutrano, Goddard, Mayor Hellman (through a roll call vote)

Public Hearings

4. Adopt a Resolution Establishing Maximum Rates Collected by Marin Sanitary Service For Solid Waste Services to be effective January 1, 2022 and Approving the Third Amendment with Marin Sanitary Services- Interim Public Works Director

Interim Public Works Director Goldman presented the staff report.

Garth Schultz, representing R3 Consulting, gave a PowerPoint presentation that included the following: 1) Review of Marin Sanitary Service (MSS) 2022 Rate Application; 2) Rate Adjustment Methodology; 3) Factors Affecting 2022 Adjustment; 4) 2022 Rate Adjustment; 5) Rate Comparison; 6) Q&A and Rate Adoption. He answered questions regarding the rate increase; future trends in terms of end uses for products; if the increase in MSS’s premiums gets passed on to ratepayers; how to monitor contamination; what would replace the buy-back

center; possible route adjustments.

Patti Garbarino, President of MSS, discussed the Bottle Bill, closure of the buy-back center, the need for more space in the recycling center processing area, and new technology.

Ruben Hernandez, MSS employee, discussed how drivers check and report on contamination.

Mayor Hellman opened the Public Hearing.

Pam Meigs, Cypress, stated she is speaking as a Fairfax citizen. This is the third increase over a short period of time. None of the comparisons were outside of Marin County

Mark Bell stated residents in West Marin pay much less and the trucks are quieter. This contract should be put out to bid.

Mayor Hellman closed the Public Hearing.

Town Attorney Coleson noted there was a Franchise Agreement Amendment.

M/S, Goddard/Cutrano, Motion to Adopt a Resolution Establishing Maximum Rates Collected by Marin Sanitary Service for Solid Waste Services to be effective January 1, 2022 and Approving the Third Amendment to the Franchise Agreement with Marin Sanitary Services.

AYES: Ackerman, Coler, Cutrano, Goddard, Mayor Hellman (through a roll call vote)

Regular Agenda

5. (A) Discussion of Safety Element progress including potential changes to the text, policies, programs, and graphics; the development of new wildfire safety programs, recognition of the efforts of FireSafe Marin, Neighborhood Response Groups, and the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority; and compliance with SB 379 (2015) to address climate adaptation and resiliency; (B) Planning Commission Safety Element recommendations (C) Housing Element Status Update

Planning Director Berto presented a staff report.

Richard James, representing EMC Planning Group, gave a PowerPoint presentation that included the following: 1) Background; 2) Schedule; 3) Re-organization; 4) Flooding Hazards; 5) Fire Hazards; 6) Issues for Discussion; 7) Community Preparedness; 8) Tonight's Objectives.

He answered questions regarding how many more times the Council will review the document; alerts and notifications; community preparedness groups; how the Safety Element speaks to the Housing Element; SB9 and lot splits; if the Town has a Stream Side Conservation Ordinance; cell service and cell towers; any recent discussions about a detention basin in Fairfax; if the next submittal would be a red-line version; local control over building in the WUI; software used for tracking of programs; Police Department evacuation protocols; the work that has been done on the maps.

Mayor Hellman opened the meeting to public comments.

Frank Egger, speaking for Save Fairfax and Fairfax Tomorrow, stated new landslide studies and maps already exist. He discussed the Creek Setback Ordinance.

Mark Bell stated the addition of cars and houses would make Fairfax unsafe.

Mayor Hellman closed the meeting to public comments.

The Council discussed the importance of the local steps and trails; better cell coverage; having an official refuge (Pavilion) and cooling centers; prioritizing the effective use of sirens; possibly increasing the stringency of the Fire Code; utilization of NRG's; community friendly evacuation maps; the culvert under Town Hall and Sherman; raising the Town Hall building; flooding downtown; a community survey; the need for legible address numbers; parking during red flag warnings.

Councilmember Goddard asked about installing a pop-up COVID testing facility in Town. Interim Town Manager Politzer stated he would look into it.

M/s, Goddard/Coler, motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Gardner, Town Clerk