

**MINUTES
OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
CLAYTON CITY COUNCIL**

TUESDAY, January 21, 2014

1. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL** – The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Stratford in Hoyer Hall of the Clayton Community Library, 6125 Clayton Road, Clayton, CA. Councilmembers present: Mayor Stratford, Vice Mayor Shuey (arrived at 7:07 p.m.), Councilmembers Diaz, Geller and Pierce. Councilmembers absent: None. Staff present: City Manager Gary Napper, City Attorney Mala Subramanian and Interim City Clerk Janet Brown.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – led by Mayor Stratford.

3. **CONSENT CALENDAR-** It was moved by Councilmember Pierce, seconded by Councilmember Diaz, to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted (Passed; 4-0).
 - (a) Approved the minutes of the regular meeting of January 7, 2014.
 - (b) Approved Financial Demands and Obligations of the City.
 - (c) Approved the recommendation of the City Council Interview Sub-Committee and appointed six (6) citizen applicants (Larry Casagrande, Anthony Chippero, Robert Erich, Harun Simbirdi, Alyse Smith and Howard Glazier) to the City Trails and Landscaping Committee for terms of office to expire on December 31, 2015.

4. **RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Certificates of Recognition to “Do The Right Thing” public school students chosen for exemplifying the character trait of “Kindness”

Mayor Stratford and Mt. Diablo Elementary School teachers Mrs. Shelley and Mrs. Coverdale recognized students Bree Meyer and Cody Ross.

Mayor Stratford and Diablo View Middle School teacher Mrs. Rush and Principal Patti Bannister recognized Rachel Carr and David Wishnow.

Mayor Stratford and Clayton Valley Charter High School teachers recognized Annemarie Hurley, Connor Calimlim, Tyler Llacuna and Cristofer Corpus (who was unable to attend the meeting).

5. **REPORTS**
 - (a) Planning Commission – Commissioner Sandra Johnson indicated the Commission’s approval of 50 Mountaire Place’s, 86 square foot second story addition and associated exterior improvements. A Site Plan Review Permit to remodel the existing Skipolini’s Pizza Restaurant and associated exterior improvements, use permit for bocce ball courts and a Lot Line Adjustment Public Hearing was reviewed but continued to the January 28, 2014 for final action by the Commission.
 - (b) Trails and Landscaping Committee – None.

- (c) City Manager/Staff – The City Manager announced the County’s release of a draft operational study on the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. A town hall type meeting on the Fitch and Associates report will be held by the County on Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:00 p.m. Any public comments are due by January 31st and should be directed to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
- (d) City Council - Reports from Council liaisons to Regional Committees, Commissions and Boards.

Councilmember Geller attended the Council’s Goals and Objectives session for Calendar Year 2014.

Vice Mayor Shuey met with David Linzey Executive Director of the Clayton Valley Charter High School, about the facility expansion plans.

Councilmember Diaz attended the CBCA meeting which discussed the upcoming Art and Wine Festival. He was also in attendance at a Clayton Library Foundation meeting.

Councilmember Pierce attended the Mayors Conference hosted by the City of Hercules. She was also in attendance at the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Economic Prosperity Strategy and several ABAG committee meetings. Councilmember Pierce attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Carter Newton.

Mayor Stratford attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Carter Newton. He also announced the “Do the Right Thing” focus for February/March is “Self-Discipline”.

- (e) Other- None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS –

Denise Pursche spoke to the City Council of her concerns for additional findings about Common Core and the federal tests called National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS- None.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- (a) Council Member request for discussion on the merits of a statewide ballot initiative to reform Proposition 13 (1978) and institute a “split property tax roll” for the regular reassessment of commercial real properties in California.
(Vice Mayor Shuey)

Vice Mayor Shuey noted he received email contact from an organization “Evolve” seeking the Council support of a statewide ballot initiative to reform portions of Proposition 13 (1978), as it pertains to commercial real properties in California. Since commercial properties rarely change hands they are rarely reassessed to market valuations. Vice Mayor Shuey invited Alex Aliferis from Contra Costa Taxpayers Association to provide more information and thought the Council ought to be aware of the pros and cons of this possible ballot measure.

Mr. Aliferis advised Proposition 13 passed in 1978 in response to out of control property tax increases. It protects homeowners, small businesses and seniors with tax certainty and prevents them from being forced from their properties, while providing the government stable revenue, which is California's largest revenue source. Mr. Aliferis provided the Interim City Clerk with handouts on Proposition 13.

Vice Mayor Shuey asked if the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association had any rebuttal talking points to the split tax roll concept? He is interested in specifics. Is there more information? Websites?

Mr. Aliferis referred the Council to the handouts provided by Californians to Stop Higher Property taxes. He noted businesses and people are leaving California, putting additional strain on city resources.

Councilmember Geller agreed with Mr. Aliferis that California is chasing businesses out of state.

Mr. Aliferis advised small businesses typically lease properties where the cost of property taxes are passed through to the tenant; employment losses would be disproportionately concentrated in small businesses, and especially those owned by women and minorities.

Councilmember Pierce commented it is premature for the Council to take action on this matter; it has not even qualified for a state ballot measure.

Vice Mayor Shuey noted he received more information from City staff since he had received the email regarding Proposition 13 (1978), and he will be listening to both sides before making a decision

Mayor Stratford commented he has learned a lot about Proposition 13 (1978) since receiving Vice Mayor Shuey's email.

The City Council took no action on this Agenda item.

9. **COUNCIL ITEMS** – limited to requests and directives for future meetings.
None.

10. **7:52 p.m. CLOSED SESSION** – on call by Mayor Stratford, the City Council adjourned into Closed Session for the following purpose:

- (a) Government Code Section 54957.6, Conference with Labor Negotiator
Instructions to City-designated labor negotiator: City Manager.

1. Employee Organization: Clayton Police Officers' Association (CPOA).

8:24 p.m. Report out from Closed Session: Mayor Stratford announced Council received information and gave direction to its Labor Negotiator.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**– on call by Mayor Stratford the meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,



Janet Brown, Interim City Clerk

APPROVED BY CLAYTON CITY COUNCIL



Hank Stratford, Mayor

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