

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

**TUESDAY, June 23, 2020**

1. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL** – The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Vice Mayor Wan on a virtual web meeting and telephonically (877) 853-5257. Councilmembers present: Mayor Pierce, Vice Mayor Wan, and Councilmembers Catalano, Diaz, and Wolfe. Councilmembers absent: None. Staff present: Assistant to the City Manager Laura Hoffmeister, City Attorney Mala Subramanian and City Clerk/HR Manager Janet Calderon.

2. **CLOSED SESSION**

Vice Mayor announced the City Council will adjourn into Closed Session for the following noticed item (5:39 p.m.):

A. Public Employment (Gov. Code 54957)  
Title: Interim City Manager

B. Conference with Labor Negotiators (Gov. Code 54957.6)  
Agency designated representative: Mayor Pierce  
Unrepresented employee: Interim City Manager

Report out of Closed Session (7:30 p.m.)  
Mayor Pierce reported there was no reportable action.

**7:00 P.M. or shortly thereafter      REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING**

3. **RECALL TO ORDER THE CITY COUNCIL** – The meeting was recalled to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pierce on a virtual web meeting and telephonically (877) 853-5257. Councilmembers present: Mayor Pierce, Vice Mayor Wan, and Councilmembers Catalano, Diaz, and Wolfe. Councilmembers absent: None. Staff present: Assistant to the City Manager Laura Hoffmeister, City Attorney Mala Subramanian, Police Chief Elise Warren, Finance Director Paul Rodrigues, and City Clerk/HR Manager Janet Calderon.

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – led by Councilmember Diaz.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**It was moved by Councilmember Wolfe, seconded by Vice Mayor Wan, to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted. (Passed; 5-0 vote).**

- (a) Approved the Engineer's Report and Declare Intent to Levy and Collect Real Property Assessments for the Diablo Estates at Clayton Benefit Assessment District for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and Give Notice of the Time and Place for a Public Hearing on the Levy of the Proposed Assessments.

Mayor Pierce advised there will be a re-order of Action items, with 8(b) and 8(c) to be heard prior to 8(a).

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON - AGENDA ITEMS**

Amy Hines-Shaikh expressed concerns of racist conversations on social media and lack of leadership regarding support of Black Lives Matter movement.

Melinda Merrion expressed concerns of racism in the Clayton community and wanted to know what the City is going to do about racism in Clayton.

Scott Denslow requested public apology from the Mayor and Chief of Police regarding misuse of the police force and over reaction of force in terms of the use of tear gas.

K. Alix Maiden-Baillie noted she has done less business in Clayton due to racism and Anti-LGBTQ bigotry.

Dee Viera provided suggestions on creating more diversity and inclusivity in Clayton.

Michael Broome believes conversation needs to happen for long-term change in Clayton. Mr. Broome does not feel a public apology is enough.

Matt Tillman feels that leadership can lead the way to change in the community.

Mayor Pierce closed public comment.

**7. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.**

**8. ACTION ITEMS**

**(b) Clayton Police Response to “8 Can’t Wait” Campaign.**

Police Chief Elise Warren presented the report.

Following questions by City Council, Mayor Pierce opened the item to public comment.

Bassam Altwal expressed concerns regarding the street closures and inquired if they were permitted.

Kim Newman inquired if diversity and sensitivity training is included for Police Officers.

Catherine Powleson disagreed with the de-escalation tactics of the Police Department during the protest, as the counter protestors did not receive the same treatment as the protestors.

Matt Tillman inquired on the difference of training our officers are receiving when compared to those in other areas of the country. He suggested a Town Hall forum with the community.

Amy Hines-Shaikh expressed her concern of the "8 Can't Wait" policy not aligning with the events that occurred on June 2, 2020.

Scott Denslow supports the campaign as a starting point and noted a need of more accountability.

Michael Broome inquired on training to change the mindset of officers when encountered with an African American.

Matt Foley inquired if numbers are kept on officer injuries in the line of duty when using force. He also added he was at the June 2 protest and heard the warnings and left the area.

Melinda Merrion expressed her concerns regarding the protest video, feeling the anti-protestors were more of a threat than the actual protestors.

David Sanchez asked the City Council if they will discontinue the use of chemical weapons in the City of Clayton?

Dee Viera inquired on how much experience officers receive relating to human development, psychology and youth training.

Terri Denslow expressed her concerns on the use of force and use of tear gas. She also noted she heard the curfew warnings.

Mayor Pierce Closed Public Comment

Sergeant Shaw advised the officers are trained in the use of pepper spray the only chemical weapon carried, foam batons and bean bag rounds are less lethal options. Mr. Shaw further noted the Clayton Police Department does not have flashbangs or smoke grenades.

Councilmember Catalano asked if the tear gas and riot gear on June 2 was brought on by additional resources and who made the decision to use tear gas?

Chief Warren confirmed the tear gas and riot gear was brought by our mutual aid partners that evening. When mutual aid is brought in they are led by a supervisor and that supervisor whether online or on-scene makes the determination as to what type of force is necessary in the situation they are facing.

Vice Mayor Wan indicated he received several communications from residents requesting the City to close off their streets during the June 2 protest.

Assistant to the City Manager Laura Hoffmeister confirmed authorization was given to the Maintenance Department to provide barricades to the Coal Mine, Easley, and Strahanan. Ms. Hoffmeister advised the residents that City Staff and Law Enforcement would not be available to monitor the barricades.

Mayor Pierce asked for clarification on the Police Officer training relating to diversity?

Chief Warren advised the 24 hours of mandated training included 8 hours of implicit bias training; in which all Clayton officers have received this training.

Mayor Pierce advised there is a desire to hold a Town Hall type meeting however due to the virus, logistics are being discussed for the most effective option.

- (c) Clayton Police Department – Enhance Community Engagement.

Police Chief Elise Warren presented the report.

Following questions by City Council, Mayor Pierce opened the item to public comment.

Bassam Altwal expressed additional concerns regarding the June 2 protest regarding anti-protestors not on private property, not having enough police officers and blocking people from entering neighborhoods.

Melinda Merrion also expressed concerns on the anti-protestor that was in the middle of the street and not on private property on June 2 without consequence. Ms. Merrion supported a public forum opportunity to enhance community engagement.

Mayor Pierce Closed Public Comment.

Direction was provided to staff to bring back more information on Option 3; Public Safety Sub-Committee.

Mayor Pierce requested a seven minute recess

- (a) Consider the Introduction/Presentation of the proposed City of Clayton Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 5-Year Budget, and set the date of Tuesday, June 30, 2020 for a Public Hearing to review and adopt the proposed City Budget.

Finance Director Paul Rodrigues and Assistant to the City Manager Laura Hoffmeister presented the report.

Following questions by City Council, Mayor Pierce opened the item to public comment.

Irina Liskovich inquired if the special assessment going to increase?

Vice Mayor Wan advised assessments typically go up with the CPI increase.

Mayor Pierce closed public comment.

**It was moved by Councilmember Diaz, seconded by Vice Mayor Wan to Set Tuesday, June 30, 2020 for a Public Hearing via Zoom to Adopt the Proposed City Budget. (Passed 5-0)**

9. **COUNCIL ITEMS** – None.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**– on call by Mayor Pierce, the City Council adjourned its meeting at 10:36 p.m.

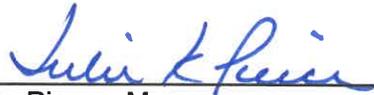
The next regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council will be July 7, 2020.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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Janet Calderon, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE CLAYTON CITY COUNCIL

  
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Julie Pierce, Mayor

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