



# TOWN of PORTOLA VALLEY

Town Hall: 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028 - Tel: (650) 851-1700 Fax: (650) 851-4677

## Town Council Meeting Summary – October 26, 2022

### 1. The Town Council took the following actions at their October 26 meeting:

- Reviewed and approved updates to the Building Code. These changes include:
  - Updates the Town’s Home Hardening code, including expanding materials that may be used to replace and build new decks, wildland urban interface requirements for ADU construction, discouraging ADU construction within 30 feet of a property line, and no longer allowing energy storage systems (batteries) in habitable spaces
  - Standard updates based on the California Building Code update which occurs every three years
  - Implementation of a reach Green Building code that furthers the Town’s goals of reducing the impacts of climate change by requiring all new construction to be all electric, requiring major (50%+) remodels to be all electric, and some new requirements for the installation of a heat pump air conditioner on the replacement, upgrade or relocation of an air conditioner as well as pre-electrification requirements when replacing or upgrading the main electrical panel. No resident will be required to replace their gas-powered devices, if they fail, under this reach code. Note that new buildings which have already received planning approvals may apply for exemption from new green building amendments.
- Received a presentation from the [Emergency Preparedness Committee](#) prioritizing mitigation measures from the [Town’s Evacuation/Traffic Capacity study](#)
- Held a discussion of the upcoming [San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office contract](#) for police services. Vice Mayor Wernikoff and Councilmember Aalfs serve as the negotiation subcommittee with the Sheriff’s Office. Formal negotiations shall not begin until after the start of the calendar year. The Town will continue to solicit resident input through a website [portal](#) (at the bottom of the page) and through committee meetings
- Received a recommendation from the [Race and Equity Committee](#) to send a letter to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors calling for the creation of a committee to establish civilian oversight of the Sheriff’s Office
- Received a recommendation from the Race and Equity Committee for use of the Town’s Inclusionary Housing Fund
- Approved changes, recommended by the Vice Mayor, to the ADU Ambassador program expanding its membership to eight
- Adopted a recommendation from the [Race and Equity Committee](#) on approving a revised land acknowledgement statement with the unceded territory of the Muwekma Ohlone, Ramaytush Ohlone, and Tamien Nation. The statement will be on every Town Council agenda, and also placed in the Historic Schoolhouse
- Waived the second reading and adopted an update to the Town’s zoning code to comply with state law regarding supportive and transitional housing
- The Council moved its discussion of Council Priorities to the November 9 meeting

### 2. Items mentioned during the Council Liaison/Town Manager reports:

- The draft Safety Element is available [for review](#). The four committees with responsibility for safety issues ([Emergency Preparedness](#), [Geologic Safety](#), [Sustainability](#), and [Wildfire Preparedness](#) Committees) met jointly on October 26, and each body will hold meetings over the next several months to discuss the draft. The four committees are expected to meet again as a group in early 2023, and work to complete the draft is expected to conclude next summer. You can add your voice by submitting comments [here](#).
  - The Town Attorney prepared a memo on the “builder’s remedy” issue that is being utilized by developers in Southern California to greatly increase density for housing projects in communities without an adopted Housing Element. The memo is on page 119 of the [agenda](#).
  - The State Housing and Community Development Department has not yet reached out to staff to discuss the Draft Housing Element.
  - Trish Heald and Patty Dewes will serve as liaisons for the ADU ambassador program. Thank you to all eight ambassadors for volunteering.
  - The Planning Commission held the first meeting on zoning changes to support the Draft Housing Element. The Commission will hold multiple meetings over the next few months.
  - The Town’s first movie night on was a great success. Thank you to the Cultural Arts Committee and the Portola Valley School District for sponsoring the event.
  - Smart water meeting installation by CalWater are expected to begin later this fall. CalWater will be sending a letter to all residents regarding their installation.
  - The redwood tree at the corner of Brookside and Portola Road is slated for removal after discussions at the [Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety](#) and [Conservation Committees](#). Some residents of Brookside advocated its removal due to its interference with road and bicycle traffic.
  - Committee hybrid zoom meetings are expected to begin in December.
3. Future Council meetings will include the following agenda items:
- November 9
    - Annual Library Presentation
    - Annual Study Session with the [Town’s Lobbyist](#)
    - Overview of the Administration Department
    - Council Priorities Report Review
  - Future meetings
    - Horse Sculpture Donation Discussion
    - ADU Survey
    - Fire Code Update
    - Housing Element Adoption
    - FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21 audits (to be reviewed concurrently on their completion, per the direction of the Finance Committee at their October 18 meeting)
    - Stanford Wildfire Preparedness Update on their properties
    - Discussion of Inclusionary Housing Fee Policy
    - Discussion of [Stanford Wedge](#) project – affordable housing criteria

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Please click [here](#) should you wish to review materials from this meeting; to subscribe to these summaries, click [here](#) and choose “Council Meeting Updates” under “News”. Zoom video recordings and previous meeting summaries are available [here](#).