

PORTOLA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING NO. 845 AUGUST 29, 2012

Mayor Derwin called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Hanlon called the roll.

Present: Councilmembers Jeff Aalfs and Ann Wengert; Vice Mayor John Richards; Mayor Maryann Derwin

Absent: Councilmember Driscoll

Others: Howard Young, Public Works Director  
Sharon Hanlon, Town Clerk  
Leigh Prince, Town Attorney Representative

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS [7:32 p.m.]

Nicole Pasini, Branch Manager for the Portola Valley Library since late June 2012, said she wanted to introduce herself and let Councilmembers know she's available to answer their questions and address any concerns they have about library services.

CONSENT AGENDA [7:33 p.m.]

- (1) Approval of Minutes: Regular Town Council Meeting of August 8, 2012
- (2) Ratification of Warrant List: August 22, 2012 in the amount of \$108,381.17
- (3) Recommendation from Public Works Director: Approve purchase of 2012 John Deere tractor
  - (a) Adoption of a Resolution of the Town Council of Portola Valley Approving and Authorizing the Disposition of Surplus Property (Resolution No. 2569-2012)

By motion of Vice Mayor Richards, seconded by Councilmember Wengert, the Council approved the Consent Agenda with the following roll call vote:

Aye: Councilmember Aalfs, Wengert, Vice Mayor Richards, Mayor Derwin

No: None

COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- (4) Reports from Commission and Committee Liaisons [7:34 p.m.]

Councilmember Aalfs:

- (a) Nature and Science Committee

Town Historian Nancy Lund updated Committee members on the Hawthornes/Woods property at their meeting on August 16, 2012.

Councilmember Wengert:

(b) Trails and Paths Committee

Primary topics discussed at the August 14, 2012 meeting were:

- The Portola Road Corridor Task Force report.
- Potential Dwight Crowder (C-1) Trail improvements.
- Trail maintenance work at Hayfields and Black Oak Trails.

Vice Mayor Richards:

(c) Open Space/Historic Resources

The Hawthornes/Woods property subcommittee met with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) representatives. Members are pleased with the process of looking into options for the property.

(d) Conservation Committee

Meeting on August 28, 2012, the Committee:

- Approved a tree permit request to remove redwoods at the Ranch House.
- Adopted guidelines for removing redwoods.

Mayor Derwin:

(e) Sustainability Committee

Meeting on August 20, 2012, Committee members:

- Enjoyed a presentation by Town resident Camille Bossut on High Energy Homes and how to identify causes of unnecessary energy use. Ms. Bossut also discussed a project that won a Best Environmental Project award. It was based on the hypothesis that more than 5% of home energy is consumed by vampire current, such as plugloads. In addition, she shared energy-saving tips for various homes, depending on the power they use (e.g., conventional versus solar).
- Heard from Steve Schmidt, developer of the High Energy Homes model and founder of High Energy Audits. He announced that the program has exceeded California Energy Commission's energy-reduction goals. He said they expected it would take 1,000 homes to hit the CEC target, but they did it with only 176. The program has signed up 200 households in Mountain View, he told the Committee, which he attributes to sending homeowners inserts with their water bills, offering free smart strips and hosting educational workshops.
- Received updates on the Green Towns SunShares group buy program, the Regional Integrated Climate Action Planning Suite (RICAPS) project; and Cal Water's conservation goals.

- Discussed the Tuesday Harvest Series, which starts up again on September 11, 2012, with a speaker on water harvesting and conservation. Marc Hellmann, founder of Earth Energy Landscaping & Premier Ponds, has entitled his talk “Blue is the New Green.”

Committee member Virginia Bacon reported an estimated count of 576 pools in Town, based on a list she obtained via First American Title. According to research, pools use 49% more energy, so the Committee will target pools next year.

In addition, Mayor Derwin reported:

- Los Altos Hills is discussing a controversial proposal to require disclosure of energy bills as part of home sales.
- A Green Home Tour of two or three properties is planned for October 2012.
- The next Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2012.

(f) Firewise Committee

The Committee met on August 9 2012, and:

- Received an “inside scoop” briefing on the brush fire that burned about five acres near Arastradero and Alpine Roads the day before.
- Discussed the new High Fire Danger Signs program, which is ready to begin.
- Heard a presentation about a Rapid Notify, Inc. system that uses notification software to send alerts out to residents in emergency and disaster situations. Mayor Derwin said Portola Valley may consider joining Woodside in making that service available. Ms. Hanlon, who also attended the meeting, said she’d like to learn how the system handles an overload of calls.

Mayor Derwin pointed out another service that’s ready to go county-wide, but the absence of a Spanish translator in the Sheriff’s Office apparently put it on hold.

Mayor Derwin also told the Council that a Citizens Emergency and Response Preparedness Program (CERPP) refresher class originally scheduled for October 6, 2012 must be rescheduled.

(g) Council of Cities

Featured at the August 24, 2012 dinner meeting at the Ritz Carlton in Half Moon Bay was a historical presentation about the U.S. Marshals Service, presented by Don O’Keefe, U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of California. A former Half Moon Bay Police Chief, he also served more than 25 years in the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office.

For the September 28, 2012 Council of Cities dinner in Belmont, Mayor Derwin expects the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir to be the presentation topic.

(h) Local Government Commission

The Local Government Commission has been hosting dinner forums with elected officials, to which Councilmembers have standing invitations. Mayor Derwin said she attended the last forum, which featured presentations on EcoDistricts by a Portland architect and a member of the Portland Sustainability Institute.

As Mayor Derwin explained, the EcoDistrict concept basically represents a way of achieving sustainability rapidly within neighborhoods and districts. One example she relayed involved a housing development near a school, with the graywater from the homes used to flush the toilets at the school.

She said the EcoDistrict discussion brought to mind places such as The Sequoias, where sustainability involves not only the built environment but also infrastructure and the community of people.

(i) City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG)

At the C/CAG Board meeting on August 9, 2012, one item on the agenda involved a legislative update, plus reviewing and acting upon C/CAG legislative policies, priorities, positions. As for the resolution prompted by the City of Needles – a Resolution Requesting Consideration of Suspension of Implementation or Revision of the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32 of 2006) – C/CAG's Legislative Committee had recommended a neutral position be presented to the League of California Cities, which will vote on the resolution at its September 7, 2012 conference.

Mayor Derwin explained to the Council that she spoke up, providing a distilled version of Ms. de Garreaux's presentation at the Town Council meeting on August 8, 2012, during which she (Ms. de Garreaux) made a strong case for opposing the resolution. The argument won over C/CAG, which is now on record in opposition to the resolution.

An item on the OneBayArea Grant (OBAG) Cycle 2 also was on the C/CAG agenda. Adopted by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the program would involve a swap of transportation funds with the San Mateo County Transportation Authority and a way for communities to opt in.

Finally, Mayor Derwin said, Executive Director Rich Napier announced his plans to retire in October 2012.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [7:50 p.m.]

(5) Town Council August 10, 2012 Weekly Digest

- (a) #6 – Memo from League of California Cities (Peninsula Division) – Ballot for 2012-2013 Executive Committee of the Peninsula Division and announcement on the League's 2012 Annual Conference

Mayor Derwin will attend the 2012 Annual Conference, Cities Guiding Health Government, September 5-7, 2012 in San Diego.

(6) Town Council August 17, 2012 Weekly Digest

- (a) #5 – Letter from Cliff Lentz, Mayor of Brisbane – Request for appointment to HEART Board

Mayor Derwin reported that Mayor Lentz was reappointed to the HEART (Housing Endowment and Regional Trust) Board.

(7) Town Council August 24, 2012 Weekly Digest – None

- (a) #3 – Newspaper article forwarded by Town Manager – “City Housing Called Discriminatory”

Mayor Derwin said the article that Town Manager Nick Pegueros included in the Digest was very interesting.

CLOSED SESSION [7:54 p.m.]

(8) Conference with Real Property Negotiator

Government Code Section 54956.8

Properties: 900 Portola Road and Town-owned lots in Blue Oaks subdivision

Town negotiators: Town Attorney and Councilmember Wengert

Negotiating parties: Geoff and Colleen Tate

Under negotiation: price and terms of payment

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Prince reported that Council agreed to the purchase and sale agreement for property located at 900 Portola Road.

ADJOURNMENT [8:20 p.m.]

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Mayor

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Town Clerk