

PORTOLA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING NO. 867, OCTOBER 9, 2013

Mayor Richards called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Pegueros called the roll.

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

Absent: None

Others: Nick Pegueros, Town Manager
Leigh Prince, Town Attorney

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Caroline Vertongen, Palmer Lane, asked the Town Council to consider signing a proclamation supporting "Freedom from Workplace Bullies Week," which is October 20-26, 2013. People don't like to talk about bullying, she said, but it's happening and it's being covered up. She said she cannot enforce the law, but she can increase awareness of the bullying that occurs behind closed doors.

STUDY SESSION

The joint study session of the Town Council and Planning Commission to begin the Town's work to update the housing element was cancelled due to a lack of quorum of Planning Commission members.

CONSENT AGENDA [7:38 p.m.]

- (1) Approval of Minutes: Town Council Regular Meeting of September 25, 2013 [*removed from Consent Agenda*]
- (2) Ratification of Warrant List: October 9, 2013 in the amount of \$ 190,197.86

By motion of Vice Mayor Wengert, seconded by Councilmember Derwin, the Council approved Item 2 on the Consent Agenda with the following roll call vote:

Aye: Councilmembers Aalfs, Derwin and Driscoll, Vice Mayor Wengert, Mayor Richards

No: None

- (1) Approval of Minutes: Town Council Regular Meeting of September 25, 2013

Councilmember Aalfs moved to approve the minutes, as amended, of the Town Council Regular Meeting of September 25, 2013. Seconded by Councilmember Derwin, the motion carried 4-0-1 (Driscoll abstained).

REGULAR AGENDA [7:41 p.m.]

- (3) Recommendation by Mayor and Vice Mayor: Resolution amending the Employee Compensation Plan and authorizing a one-time Bonus to Town Staff effective January 1, 2014

Mr. Pegueros said the proposed Employee Compensation Plan would change the Town's benefits program structurally, primarily for health benefits. As also explained in his memorandum dated October 3, 2013, the current "cafeteria" package provides employees with a flexible spending plan that includes an allowance that's been sufficient to pay Kaiser premiums for the employee and his/her eligible dependents. Employees use their allowance to select from various HMO and PPO plans available through CalPERS

health under the Public Employees' Hospital and Medical Care Act (PEHMCA). In 2014, CalPERS Health will offer a total of nine plan options; six HMOs and three PPOs.

Due to escalating health-care costs, Mr. Pegueros said, the new plan he's recommending would phase in a cost-sharing feature for employees with eligible dependents over a four-year period beginning in January 2014.

- No dependents: Beginning in 2014, the Town's flexible dollar allowance for employees with no dependents would be 125% of the Kaiser premium.
- With one dependent: By 2017, the Town allowance will equal 80% of the Kaiser premium to cover the employee and one dependent.
- With two or more dependents: By 2017, the Town allowance will equal 62.5% of the Kaiser premium to cover the employee and two or more dependents.

When the phase-in is complete, the Town's allowance for all employees in terms of dollars will be roughly equal, thereby closing the gap that currently exists where an employee with two or more dependents receives a benefit that is 259% of the benefit provided to an employee with no dependents.

Mr. Pegueros also recommended the Town Council authorize a one-time bonus to all Town staff members payable in the pay period ending on January 15, 2014. He said a \$1,750 per employee bonus across the board would neutralize the first-year impact of the cost-sharing arrangement on employees with two-plus dependents. The one-time payment would cost the Town \$24,490, or 2% of total payroll, but it isn't considered CalPERS wages and won't affect pension benefits or liabilities, Mr. Pegueros said.

Vice Mayor Wengert said that thanks in large part to the terrific preparation work, the September 26, 2013 meeting she and Mayor Richards had with employees about the need for benefit cost-sharing went well. Mayor Richards agreed that it was very well-received.

In response to a question from Councilmember Derwin on the impact of new health-care legislation, Mr. Pegueros said it would cost him 25% less if he were personally to purchase his insurance through Covered California versus through the Town. He said that in preparation for 2015, we'll learn more about how Covered California works in March or April 2013.

Thanking Mr. Pegueros for working through several iterations to bring the recommendations to this point, Vice Mayor Wengert moved to approve the resolution amending the Employee Compensation Plan and authorizing a one-time bonus to Town staff effective January 1, 2014. Seconded by Councilmember Aalfs, the motion carried 5-0.

COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(5) Reports from Commission and Committee Liaisons [7:53 p.m.]

Vice Mayor Wengert:

(a) Planning Commission

The Planning Commission opened the well-attended public hearing on the revised Neely/Myers application for 5.5 acres of vineyards, including some in the lower portion of the meadow at its October 2, 2013 meeting. Vice Mayor Wengert reported a good dialogue, both in favor and in opposition. The public hearing will continue on October 16, 2013 and conclude on November 20, 2013.

(b) Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting on October 7, 2013, members of the Parks and Recreation Committee discussed their proposed quarter-pipe skateboard ramp, which they'll bring to the Council at its November 13, 2013 meeting. The Council directed staff to publicly notice this proposal on the PV Forum and the Town website as well as at the Town Center sports court, where the ramp would be installed.

Vice Mayor Wengert also reported that the Committee decided against revising its charter.

(c) Trails and Paths Committee

Among items discussed at the Trails and Paths Committee meeting on October 8, 2013 were the driveway scoring program, bicycle use of trails, closer collaboration with the Conservation Committee, plants along the Dwight Crowder trail, and the condition of the trail from Springdown to Portola Road. Vice Mayor Wengert reported that Committee member Joe Coleman is approaching individual property owners one by one in approximately 10 locations where driveway scoring is important for equestrian safety.

Councilmember Aalfs:

(d) Teen Committee

Councilmember Aalfs was unable to attend the October 6, 2013 Committee meeting.

Councilmember Driscoll:

(e) Cable and Utilities Undergrounding Committee

The Committee, which held a special meeting on October 10, 2013, is considering revising its charter to expand its scope to address concerns about digital access. The group's next meeting isn't scheduled until January 9, 2014, but members are working on drafts to get to the Town Council for consideration before then.

Councilmember Derwin:

(f) FireWise Committee

At the recent FireWise Committee meeting that she and Mr. Pegueros attended, Councilmember Derwin said Fire Chief Dan Ghiorso and Fire Marshal Denise Enea recommended banning wood shake roofs, treated and untreated alike, in Woodside and Portola Valley. A follow-up meeting of officials and experts is planned for January 2014.

(g) Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety (BP&TS) Committee

At the Committee's meeting on October 2, 2013:

- The Sheriff's Department provided updated reports, indicating also that they are issuing more speeding tickets and cell-phone citations on Alpine and Portola Roads.
- Howard Young discussed Public Works Department initiatives involving the Alpine Road/I-280 intersection, lighted pedestrian beacons at certain crosswalks, and a study on shoulder improvements for bicycles scheduled for January 2014.

- Members discussed the Corte Madera School traffic situation. Councilmember Derwin noted that the problems have been ongoing since her children – who are now adults – were students there and neighborhood residents are antsy because the situation has been studied before. What they want is help addressing the problems. Councilmember Derwin agreed when Mr. Pegueros pointed out that the Sheriff's Department has stepped up enforcement.
- A discussion about parking at Windy Hill covered sign placement, what's working, and what's not working.

Councilmember Derwin told the Committee she'd check with C/CAG to work on funding for Safe Routes to School that may be available from Measure A sales tax via the San Mateo County Transportation Authority as well as C/CAG's own funds.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [8:23 p.m.]

(7) Town Council September 27, 2013 Weekly Digest – None

- (a) #8 – Notice – Portola Valley Neighborhood Clean-Up Day and Drug Disposal Program – Saturday, October 5, 2013

Councilmember Driscoll said this program was well-done.

- (b) #11 – Letter from resident Caroline Vertongen to the Town Council re: Request for consideration of a proclamation regarding "Freedom from Workplace Bullies Week" – September 23, 2013

After some discussion, Council directed Mr. Pegueros to review the proposed proclamation and bring the Council a recommendation for consideration to a future meeting.

(8) Town Council October 3, 2013 Weekly Digest

- (a) #4 – Agenda – Special Cable & Undergrounding Committee – Thursday, October 10, 2013

The Cable & Utilities Undergrounding Committee will bring a revised charter to the Council at a near future Meeting.

- (b) #9 – Notice – Household Hazardous Waste Event – Saturday, October 12, 2013

Councilmember Derwin said this is really a great service. Mr. Pegueros noted that the Little People's Park will be closed during this event, because based on Sustainability & Special Projects Manager Brandi de Garneau's experience, there's some concern about having household hazardous waste so close to the children.

ADJOURNMENT [8:30 p.m.]

Mayor

Town Clerk