

PORTOLA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING NO. 936, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Derwin called the Town Council's Special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Hanlon called the roll.

Present: Councilmembers Jeff Aalfs, John Richards, Ann Wengert; Vice Mayor Craig Hughes, Mayor Mary Ann Moise Derwin.

Absent: None

Others: Jeremy Dennis, Town Manager
Leigh Prince, Town Attorney
Sharon Hanlon, Town Clerk

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

CONSENT AGENDA [7:01 p.m.]

- (1) Approval of Minutes: Town Council Regular Meeting of September 14, 2016.
- (2) Approval of Warrant List: September 28, 2016, in the amount of \$306,493.16.
- (3) Appointment by Mayor – Request for Appointment of a Member to the Emergency Preparedness Committee
- (4) Appointment by Mayor – Request for Appointment of a Member to the Trails & Paths Committee
- (5) Recommendation by Town Manager – Adoption of a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley Approving Volume 1 and the Introduction and Chapter 14 (Town of Portola Valley Annex) and Appendices of Volume 2 of the San Mateo County Hazard Mitigation Plan. [Removed from Consent Agenda]
 - a) Adoption of a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley Authorizing the Adoption of the San Mateo County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (Resolution No. 2711-2016)
- (6) Recommendation by Planning Director – Second Reading Waive Further Reading and Adopt an Ordinance Amending the Town Center Area Plan Diagram of the General Plan and Amending the Zoning Map to Reclassify 900 Portola Road.
 - a) Second Reading of Title, Waive Further Reading, and Adopt an Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley Amending the Town Center Area Diagram of the General Plan and Amending the Zoning Map to Reclassify 900 Portola Road (Ordinance No. 2016-412)

Councilmember Richards moved to approve Items 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6. Seconded by Councilmember Aalfs the motion carried 5-0.

- (5) Recommendation by Town Manager – Adoption of a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley Approving Volume 1 and the Introduction and Chapter 14 (Town of Portola Valley Annex) and Appendices of Volume 2 of the San Mateo County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

- a) Adoption of a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley Authorizing the Adoption of the San Mateo County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (Resolution No. 2711-2016)

At the request of Councilmember Aalfs, Town Manager Dennis provided a summary of the hazard mitigation process. He said it is a valuable tool for the Town and the Region because it provides an opportunity for Town staff to look at what needs to be done to mitigate the types of disasters that could take place in Town, look at Code Ordinances to see what needs adjustment, and access grant monies to use before or after an emergency, either in implementing the mitigation measures or doing work post-emergency. Councilmember Aalfs expressed support and appreciation for the ongoing process.

Councilmember Aalfs moved to approve the proposed resolution accepting Volume 1 and the Introduction and Chapter 14 (Town of Portola Valley Annex) and Appendices of Volume 2 of the San Mateo County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Seconded by Councilmember Wengert, the motion carried 5-0.

REGULAR AGENDA [7:05 p.m.]

(7) Discussion and Council Action – Automatic License Plate Readers Discussion

Mayor Derwin announced that Brian Rodrigues from the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC) was in attendance to answer questions.

Town Manager Dennis presented the staff report regarding the potential purchase and use of automatic license plate readers (ALPRs) and reviewed the history of this topic, the steps taken since the robbery occurred that instigated the most recent conversation regarding ALPRs, crime statistics in the community, costs of the system, and next steps. He explained ALPR technology, academic research, privacy issues, effectiveness in various communities, and fiscal impacts.

Mayor Derwin called for questions from the Council.

Councilmember Wengert asked for clarification of the advantages and disadvantages of the mobile unit, considering the dramatic cost differential. She said that following the incident here in Town the mobile unit was allocated here and put into action for some period of time and she asked how that worked. Town Manager Dennis said the first advantage of the mobile unit is cost. He said the disadvantage is that it is more of a reactive than proactive tool. He said it is very unlikely the mobile unit will be in the same place and time that a single incident occurs; however, it may be more effective in situations where there are a rash of burglaries in a specific area. Councilmember Wengert asked if the mobile unit would stay in that area for some period of time. Town Manager Dennis said the mobile unit is also used in other parts of the County and the Sheriff's Department decides when and where it can be used and whether it's needed somewhere else, whereas if the Town had their own mobile unit, it would be under the Town's control.

Councilmember Aalfs confirmed that this discussion is centered around the trailer-based ALPRs that sit by the side of the road. He asked how many vehicles come in and out of Town per day. Town Manager Dennis guesstimated between 10,000 and 15,000 vehicles per day.

Councilmember Aalfs said it appeared there were more success stories with ALPRs attached to patrol cars. Town Manager Dennis said generally there were more success stories related to units on a vehicle spotting stolen cars. He said, however, there were also examples of fixed units that had some successes.

Councilmember Aalfs asked if there was any data available regarding the results of the Piedmont ALPRs in the last couple of years. Town Manager Dennis said in his conversations with Piedmont representatives there was a sense the ALPRs have helped, but they did not have data.

Councilmember Richards confirmed that the Sheriff's Office currently has a few patrol-mounted cameras. Town Manager Dennis said those show up in Town occasionally, but he was not aware of any stolen

vehicles that were identified while in Town. An attending Sargent said occasionally a camera mounted patrol car may come through Portola Valley but it is random and the camera may not necessarily be activated.

Brian Rodrigues, San Mateo Sheriff's Office, Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC), said that most of the agencies and jurisdictions in the Peninsula are using the ALPR technology. He explained how and why the cameras are used and described examples of their success. He said the mobile units on patrol cars are successful in quickly identifying stolen vehicles. He said the stationary units have also provided successes and also provide a great deterrent effect.

Mayor Derwin called for questions.

Councilmember Wengert said that installing the ALPRs would be a significant investment. She asked, given the resource commitments and time pull on the police forces throughout San Mateo County, if it was realistic to assume data would be combed through on a timely basis in attempts to solve the relatively low-level crimes and small losses that occur in Portola Valley. Town Manager Dennis said staff has discussed this point – whether or not data collected, given the types of crimes that occur here, would be utilized in the way that the systems typically allow. He said he made it a point to speak with the Sheriff's Office on this. He said that for the typical type of burglary that occurs in Portola Valley, resources are not allocated in the same way, if at all, as they would be to a home invasion robbery or worse. He said if there were a spree of crimes, data would be looked at in a different way, but it is not likely that resources would be brought to bear for individual incidents.

Mayor Derwin said she is concerned about racial profiling. She gave an example of a hypothetical crime occurring on her street on the same day her friend, who lives in East Palo Alto, drives an old truck, and has a Latino surname, visits her. She asked what information the ALPR would produce about her friend. Mr. Rodrigues said the imagery would show the license plate and that it was an old truck, but not the name of the registered owner or residence address without further research. He said any law enforcement officer could get that information, but it not an automated process by the ALPRs.

Councilmember Aalfs asked if those types of searches require warrants. Mr. Rodrigues said a warrant is not necessary, but everything is very aggressively audited and tracked.

Mayor Derwin called for questions from the audience.

Nancy Powell, Canyon Drive. Ms. Powell said she was a Deputy District Attorney in San Mateo County for a number of years and has been working the court system for 40+ years. She said she contacted a friend of hers, who was the #3 person in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office this last year. She asked her friend what her and her colleagues' experience was with the license plate readers. Her friend said they were terrific as long as the perpetrators didn't know about them. Her friend said once the perpetrators know about the ALPRs, it is very easy to switch or remove license plates. She said the ALPRs have absolutely no value if their use is publicized. She said there has been a rash of burglaries in the Monta Loma area, where the burglars first take license plates off cars parked on the streets, put them on their cars, do their burglaries, and then leave town. Ms. Powell said for those reasons she thinks it would be a misuse of the Town's resources to use ALPRs. She said it would be more effective for homeowners who have the concern to install cameras or other devices to protect their homes. She said there simply are not resources for law enforcement to review all of the cars entering and exiting Town in a timely manner to be effective.

Dave Ross, Canyon Drive. Mr. Ross pointed out there were some duplications in the list of crimes reported in Portola Valley in 2016 and the total is 16, not 19, crimes. He said that clearly the best use of ALPRs is for identifying stolen vehicles. He said that does not address the concerns that the people in Portola Valley have about crime. He said it is an unrealistic expectation that the data collected by the ALPRs will help solve property crimes. He said his family suffered a home break-in a couple of years ago. He said they were fairly certain of the perpetrators' identity and there was a lot of physical evidence. He said the Sheriff's Department interviewed people, but it just wasn't a high enough priority to be followed

up on, even though the loss was significant. He said they were told at the time that there was a lot of other crime going on in San Mateo County and there were just not the resources available to apply to residential burglaries. He said it is unrealistic to think there would be police resources available to go through the data on the thousands of cars that traveled in the area of a burglary to try to figure out who did not belong in that area. He said the plate readers could be valuable to assist in solving more serious crimes, but those types of crimes rarely occur in Portola Valley. He said investing in the ALPRs would be a misallocation of the Town's resources.

Jerry Schwarz. Mr. Schwarz said he is a volunteer for the ACLU. He said the ACLU thinks that license plate readers are generally ineffective. He said if the Town does go forward with the ALPRs, there should be a well thought out use policy that is publicly agreed upon by the Town and not just staff-generated. He said the use policy should be enforceable, such as with the Santa Clara County ordinance regarding surveillance equipment. He said there should be at least yearly performance reports on the equipment such as in Menlo Park.

Gene Chaput, Alamos Road. Mr. Chaput said he is in favor of the ALPRs. He asked if the equipment could be leased. Town Manager Dennis and Mr. Rodrigues said they are not aware of leasing opportunities. Mr. Chaput asked if, for aesthetic purposes, the readers could be placed in tall native trees in Town, such as with the cell phone transformers. Town Manager Dennis said the placement of the ALPRs require a field of view so the tall tree would not be a desirable location for the cameras.

Bev Lipman said she was against the ALPRs. She gave an example where someone comes home from work, finds their home has been broken into and things have been stolen, and they call the Sheriff. She asked what happens next. Mr. Rodrigues said the Sheriff has access to the information from the ALPRs. He said if they had any description on the vehicle or the suspects, perhaps if a neighbor saw an unfamiliar vehicle or had a partial plate number, it would help the Sheriff's Office pare down from the 2,000 vehicles that came in that day to maybe just a handful, which they could dig deeper. He said the Sheriff's Department looks at that information as the law enforcement agency. She said she believed being proactive is more effective than reactive and she thinks the Town's money would be better spent providing extra Sheriff Deputies to be closer than Emerald Hills in the case of an emergency.

Town Manager Dennis said the Town has a contract with the Sheriff's Department. He said the first year, for basic service, was \$692,000 and this year was \$712,000. He said the Town also pays for supplement service that takes it close to about \$1 million a year and is not necessarily broken out by individual Deputies, but more by task. He said at the conclusion of the contract, they plan to discuss any additional available services.

Vice Mayor Hughes said he wanted to clarify that NCRIC is not a company. He said it is a governmental agency, an interagency group so that all of the police departments can pool their data into one place. He said the Town buys the equipment from a company, the Town collects the data and shares that data with the Sheriff who shares the data with NCRIC for regional coordination.

Anne Kopf-Sill, Minoca. Ms. Kopf-Sill asked if it was possible to buy the three mobile units, use them full-time, and save the \$125,000 infrastructure cost. Town Manager Dennis said he would have concerns around their susceptibility to being tampered with or stolen and does not think that would be viable. He said they are battery powered. Ms. Kopf-Sill asked if it was known how many of the 10,000-15,000 cars that come through Town every day are unfamiliar cars that would be suspect if something bad happened. Mr. Rodrigues said across the Bay Area, perhaps 1 in 100,000 to 200,000 get on a hot list as a stolen vehicle or stolen license plate. She said she would like to know that number because she is against the ALPRs until she hears the false positive rate and aggravation that comes with that. She said, as in diagnostic testing, if you screen a lot for something that's rare, you have lots of false positives and the aggravation and costs drive people crazy. She said she maybe has 30 or 40 visitors a year and if a bad event happen on one of those days, she doesn't want her friends getting calls or being investigated.

Chris Atwood, Granada. He said he supports the ALPRs. He said he was the victim of burglary. He said he did have a camera, all the doors were locked, but his door sensors were not triggered. He said his

camera resolution was not sufficient to get the plate, but it was sufficient to get the make and color of the vehicle. He said the camera showed the time the burglary occurred, the make and color of the vehicle, and that there were three perpetrators wearing hoods. He asked if, given that information, the ALPRs would have been able to show that at 11:36 a 1997 gold Nissan with tinted windows drove into Town and left at 11:54. Mr. Rodrigues said they could narrow it by the time parameters, determine what cameras to look at, and then try to find matches based on the physical description provided. Mr. Atwood asked if there was any data regarding the use of ALPR data in the successful prosecution of crimes. Mr. Rodrigues said he has personally testified in two cases where ALPRs have been used successfully. Mr. Atwood suggested using the ALPRs on a trial basis for a year.

Stephen Gillett asked if the Sheriff's Department had an official opinion on record of support or non-support of ALPRs in Portola Valley. Town Manager Dennis said the Sheriff believes it's a decision that a community needs to make on their own. The Sheriff believes there is some evidence that ALPRs can help in particular situations, but did not articulate whether or not the Town needed to do it. Mr. Gillett said that purchasing the ALPRs would be a one-time cost but hiring an additional Deputy would be an ongoing yearly cost. Town Manager Dennis said there would be ongoing costs associated with the ALPR; however, an in depth cost analysis has not been done because that would depend on factors not yet determined.

Carol Sontag, Golden Oak Drive. Ms. Sontag thanked the Council for holding this meeting because it is very important to talk about the ALPRs. She asked if there was any data indicating whether a Neighborhood Watch program would be as effective as ALPRs. Town Manager Dennis said he has not seen a data point that shows that sort of comparison, but said he will reach out to the Sheriff's Office to see if something like that exists. He said it was fairly clear from the Sheriff's Department's presentation that they believe it is a very effective tool having neighbors talk to one another, understanding what's happening in their particular areas, and sharing that information amongst one another.

Gene Chaput said they tried to form a Neighborhood Watch a couple of years ago on Alamos Road but most of the neighbors had no interest.

Ms. Sontag asked if the ALPRs needed to be hidden. She said she thought seeing cameras and stickers saying your property is under surveillance was a deterrent. She said she didn't understand why the presence of the ALPRs being known and having a public meeting to discuss them made them ineffective. She asked if Piedmont, who had a 30 percent reduction in crime, hid their ALPRs. Town Manager Dennis said the vast majority of cameras bought by municipalities are in plain sight and are very visible, which has a deterrent factor. He said it is difficult to determine causality for the 30 percent reduction. He said there may be some reduction because perpetrators avoid the area due to the cameras or it could be just the trend. He said, for example, in the seven years of data for burglary crimes in Portola Valley, last year there were 9 and the year before there were 29. In response to Ms. Sontag's question, Town Manager Dennis said it does appear that Golden Oak Drive had been targeted.

Lance Vaughan, Groveland Street. He asked how many of the 10,000 to 15,000 are unique trips versus one driver three or four times in and out of town. Town Manager Dennis said he could ask staff if they've got that level of detail. Mr. Vaughan said the actual number of unique entries is probably smaller. He said he is fearful that Portola Valley's reputation as an enlightened rural community starts to get tainted by the ability to profile. He said that profiling is easily done by vehicles, by trades, by names, and by registered addresses. If data is available, he said people will subpoena that data and attempts will be made to use it for other things. He said we live in an environment where it is increasingly harder to be anonymous, which is one of our rights. He said it is an erosion of one of those rights for something that is a normal occurrence of living in a society – there are bad things that happen. He said the use of ALPRs is not a preventative action but is a reactionary response which does not provide the ability to prevent that from happening. He said bad things will happen whether the readers are there or not by using stolen plates or obscuring their plates, etc. He said, however, it does give those who have been wronged a sense of retribution. He said he does not want to live in a gated community and it becomes a virtual gated community by using license plate readers. He said it is not in keeping with the Town's rural character. He

said if Portola Valley was taken off of 280 northbound sign as it was done on 280 southbound sign that may help. He was not supportive of the ALPRs.

Cameron Vaughan, Groveland Street. Mr. Vaughan said he was not in favor of the ALPRs. He said he is 16 years old and not old enough to remember society pre-9/11, but said he sees an increasing erosion of rights. He said that historically mass collection data has proven to be an ineffective resource in both preventing and deterring crimes. He questioned whether this is a good allocation of resources and if it is worth the Town's time and money. He asked if the ALPRs were responsible for reducing the crime in Piedmont or if it was just a combination of factors that happened at the same time the ALPRs were installed. Mr. Rodrigues of NCRIC said they only have the before and after statistics. He said it is impossible to pinpoint exactly what caused the reduction in crime because there were a number of factors such as the police force training, knowledge of the equipment, regularity of use, etc. Mr. Vaughan asked, if the data collection requires no probable cause and drivers have broken no laws, is it really necessary to track them just based on the idea that maybe they might commit a crime? He asked if that's something that, as Americans and as a community, this Town really wants. He asked the Council to vote no on the ALPRs.

Dave Carlan said he works for Hewlett Packard in the data space. He said their customers include large well-known companies and government agencies. He said tracking and profiling occurs anytime anyone goes to a gas station, travels by plane, or comes in and out of any country. He said with any free website, your profile is the product. He said we have all been profiled for the last seven years whether we like it or not. He said that the United States has not been attacked by a foreign terrorist since 9/11 and it's only been done by homegrown terrorists. He said the reason for this is the military and federal government have the tools to prevent foreign attacks, but will be 10 years before local law enforcement has those tools. He said the ultimate tracker is the smart phone. He said when you look at the cost of the tool, you have to look at what you're getting. He said the tool gives you time value of money. He described a scenario where a child is abducted on the way home from school. He said you have 30 to 60 minutes to identify the car that abducted that child and it cannot be done without this system. He said every resident of Portola Valley should be in the system and then the timestamp of 3:00 to 3:20, for example, could be looked at, eliminating everyone who is a resident of Portola Valley, leaving a much smaller data set. Then times of entry and exit reduce the data set more. He said machine learning would then be employed, which is being used today all over the world, and does not affect people's lives. He said hit and run cyclists are another example of when this could be used. He said burglaries are way down the list in his opinion and that this technology would be used in violent crimes, abductions, murder. Mr. Carlan was supportive of the ALPRs.

Bill Leckonby, Golden Oak. Mr. Leckonby said his home had not been hit yet. He said they have an alarm system with a sign, a camera, and the doorbell alert. He said they've lived there 27 years and have never worried about it until this last year. He is in favor of the ALPRs. He said there was overwhelming support at a meeting earlier this year as well as on the PV Forum. He said the Sheriff supports it. He said they have proven effectiveness. He said it is unrealistic to expect that police agencies putting more boots on the ground will be able to do anything of significance to improve the situation. He said he believes he did not get robbed because he had a big sign publicizing his alarm system and that many perpetrators will choose another town when they know that Portola Valley has cameras. He said it is a relatively small investment for something that will not intrude on privacy and that can possibly help.

M. J. Lee, Meadowood. Ms. Lee said she is in favor of the ALPRs. She said her neighbors across the street were robbed a few years ago. She said she had fake security cameras at the front of her house so the police came over and asked if they had any recordings. She said they later got real cameras but they do not capture license plates. She said Neighborhood Watch will not work because younger people are not usually home. She said she has in automatic garage door open that sends alerts if the garage door is open; however, it is unreliable. One time she got an alert, so she tried calling six neighbors to check her garage door. No one answered and it was three days before anyone got back to her. She said the cost, when amortized over the life of the system, is not that high. She asked what Menlo Park's experience has been with the ALPRs. Town Manager Dennis said Menlo Park has had the cameras approximately two years. He said they have identified stolen vehicles and there were a few burglaries that had a relationship

to being solved because of the cameras. He said these results are very similar to other jurisdictions he's talked to.

Mayor Derwin said she was at a meeting today with Peter Ohtaki, who is on the Menlo Park Council, and he said their greatest value is the stolen car identification.

Meredith Rothrock, Granada Court. Ms. Rothrock said she lives between two houses that have been robbed within the last year. She said that while she has a lot of protection (cameras, alarm system) for her home, she does not necessarily believe that will prevent her house from being robbed. She said she was also not concerned about loss of privacy with using the ALPRs, being fully away she is tracked all the time anyway. She said is not in favor of the ALPRs because of the cost and the lack of effectiveness. She said we are told that burglaries are relatively low in Portola Valley and there have been no child abductions, rapes, or murders. She said when we are told that the most of the examples of success are in hot zones or high crime areas, when used in conjunction with a number of other mechanisms, we should listen to that. She said they are perfect for stolen vehicles, another thing Portola Valley is not particularly concerned about. She said it is too expensive, it is aesthetically undesirable due to the need to be conspicuous, and she does not think they will solve our problem. She would be in favor if she believed the Town would go from 20 to 5 burglaries a year and those five burglaries would be solved, but she does not believe that installing ALPRs will do that. She said that money could be used to hire a consultant to help work on Neighborhood Watches or exploring other creative ideas.

Laura Chase, Stonegate Road. Ms. Chase said she was supportive of the ALPRs. She said she's lived her for 30 years and the Town is much less rural than it used to be. She said we are in a unique position to take advantage of the three entry/exit points by installing these ALPRs as a deterrent.

With no further speakers, Mayor Derwin said she was very impressed with the Town that an issue such as this could be discussed in such a civil manner. Mayor Derwin brought the issue back to the Council for discussion.

Councilmember Aalfs asked who in the Sheriff's Department would have access to the database. Mr. Rodrigues said it would be limited to training, need, and right to know. Councilmember Aalfs asked how quickly the data got from the camera into the database. Mr. Rodrigues said it was instantaneous. Councilmember Aalfs asked if there would be real time filtering for residents of Portola Valley versus visitors from outside of Portola Valley. Mr. Rodrigues said they haven't done any subtractive analysis. He said the hits would be those on hot lists for stolen vehicles or plates.

Mayor Derwin said staff has asked the Council to give general direction, whether they would like to go forward and explore ALPR or if they would like to stick with their previous determination.

Councilmember Aalfs said the Council had discussed this issue two years prior. He said he has not heard anything since then that has changed his opinion. He said it is an expense that the Town can probably afford but is a benefit he does not think the Town is likely to achieve. He said he does not believe it will significantly reduce burglaries, given the likelihood of pulling the right needle out of the haystack. He said in the success cases, somebody sees a car or a license plate. He said Neighborhood Watch or cameras were very valuable. If there were enough of those, he said he may change his opinion. But the idea that someone will come home, find they've been burglarized, call the police, and then a number will be magically pulled out, is not going to happen. Councilmember Aalfs said he does not believe it is a good allocation of resources.

Councilmember Wengert said she would guess this issue will resurface. She agreed with Councilmember Aalfs, and said that the most effective use of ALPRs, stolen vehicles, does not match the primary needs of Portola Valley. She said it is certainly appropriate for violent and serious crimes. She said that while she understands how traumatic a burglary or theft is at any level, and she herself has experienced it, she does not think that the resource allocation issues related to how much time the Sheriff's Department would have to spend on relatively low level crimes warrants the potential cost. She said she has fewer concerns about the privacy issues because she agrees that metadata is relatively available on all of us

and we are all being tracked all the time. Councilmember Wengert said she does not believe it is the right allocation of resources for Portola Valley at this time.

Councilmember Richards said the applicability to the type of crimes that occur in Portola Valley is just not there. He said he does have privacy concerns, mostly because it does not make sense to dig the hole any deeper. He said he is not comfortable with using Town resources for what would really be more of an insurance policy for traumatic events. He said he was recently backpacking and came across a couple of female backpackers who carried an emergency beacon. He said he has backpacked for 50 years and has never carried a beacon. But their beacon saved one of their lives a few months earlier, so it does make you stop and think. He said his desire to have Portola Valley be a more rural place and not be a virtual gated community pushes that aside for him. He said the financial issues are a controlling factor for him. Councilmember Richards was not in favor of the ALPRs.

Vice Mayor Hughes said the difference in the privacy aspect is that the police and government generally have powers that Apple and Google and Facebook don't have. He said the police can put you in jail, which makes their collection of data and their tracking of effectively large numbers of innocent people as profile data particularly worrisome. He said it is already understood that everywhere you go with your iPhone, every time you log onto Facebook, every time you do a Google search, every time you open a web page, you are being tracked and going into a database and private company's cross-correlate that data to figure out what ads to show you, etc. But, he said, when the government or police are doing it, there is a qualitative difference and it does deserve more attention. He said that with the types of crimes we have or have historically had in Portola valley, he doesn't know that the cost versus effectiveness makes sense. He said the bigger crimes – abductions, rapes, murders – are usually domestic crimes committed by people already in your house, so knowing when a car went in or out of town will not help significantly in that situation. He said there are potential scenarios where the ALPRs could be useful and help in certain hypothetical situations, but for the specific concerns of Portola Valley, he is not convinced they would help. He said there was a rash of burglaries and the home invasion that happened earlier this year. He said without installing ALPRs, a number of other actions were taken, such as stepping up police presence, and the burglaries seem to have tailed off. He said no one has actually been caught for any of these specific incidents. He said sometimes they do get caught, sometimes they don't, which is true with or without the cameras. He said the primary concern is to reduce the amount of crime. He said revenge or retribution has a place as part of the justice system, but prevention is a lot more useful. He said he hopes that the changes that have been made in terms of more visible and higher levels of police presence and more focused activities will continue even as the most recent crime spree seems to be tailing off, and the Town can focus on prevention as much as possible. He said the money could be used with staff and other resources in Town to help facilitate some of these kinds of preventative measures such as Neighborhood Watch, which he said will have a better payoff than retribution after the fact. He said he does not see a big difference between what's being presented now versus two years ago, except for the huge amount of staff time in putting this report together. He expressed his appreciation for the work and effort staff put into this excellent, solid staff report that pulled together the wide range of issues. Vice Mayor Hughes said he did not see the benefit of putting up ALPRs in Town.

Mayor Derwin said she does not disagree with anything she's heard tonight, but is of a different opinion because she has lived through the worse-case scenario and she knows that sometimes devastating things happen in life that you can't plan on. She said she would support license plate readers, but sees there is not enough support among her fellows. She asked if anyone was in support of mobile units.

Vice Mayor Hughes said after the most recent crime, the Sheriff deployed their floating mobile ALPR unit. His understanding from talking to the detectives was they had a particular suspect that they believe was involved and they were hoping he would drive by their machine and they could jump on it if he showed up. He said that is a specific scenario when a mobile unit could be extremely useful because the units and patrol officers are there nearby and can immediately respond to a very specific plate they're looking for. He wondered if it made sense for the Town to have their own unit or to rely on the Sheriff, noting that the Town relies on the Sheriff for all other police resources.

Councilmember Aalfs said he is not dead-set against doing any of it. He said of all of the options it just doesn't seem like the best choice. He said he is not sure what they would do with one mobile unit. Mayor Derwin said staff would move it around.

Councilmember Wengert said she suspects this will change in the next few years, but they are looking at the weight of evidence tonight. She said if circumstances changed in any material way, no community will jump on it more quickly than Portola Valley. She said the Town is responsive and the staff is primarily responsible for that terrific level of service. She has no doubt that if some patterns or changes are seen, this issue will be readdressed, with hopefully even more data about its use and application and the Council will feel better about its applicability to whatever is being addressed at the time.

Councilmember Richards said he received a few phone calls from Townspeople. He said one caller encouraged the Town to use the resources in other ways such as advancing affordable housing and other things that are on the priority list. He said that's where he would lean to try to solve the issues in a more global sense.

Gene Chaput asked how many Councilmembers have earthquake insurance. He said the ALPRs were tantamount to the same thing.

Councilmember Aalfs said he completely understands that. He said it might help for a situation like that and it might not. He said he would like to think about things they could to make sure crime is as low as possible, and this does not feel like the best approach.

Dave Carlan said being in the industry, it's all or nothing. He said the mobile thing is a total waste of money and time. He said the Town is in a unique position with very few ingress/egress spots and is totally manageable. He said he thinks the Council sort of likes the idea but doesn't see how it would work. Mayor Derwin said she thinks the Council does see how it would work but there is not the support yet.

Mayor Derwin asked what more can be done for the folks on Golden Oak.

Town Manager Dennis said the Town is blessed to have incredibly responsive Sheriffs. He would like direction from Council to continue to talk with them very specifically about what the Town can do. He said there may be opportunities within the contract that he alluded to. He said he has found the Sheriff's Office to be a very easy group of people to work with. He said they understand this issue intimately and want to see the best for the community. He said he would like direction from the Council to allow him to speak with the Sheriffs further about available options.

Councilmember Aalfs said it is an ongoing responsibility to continue that conversation. He said the Town also should continue to look at the efficacy of the ALPRs as more data becomes available, keeping it on the table as a possibility in the future.

Vice Mayor Hughes said a number of people in Town would like to form Neighborhood Watches. He said, as mentioned, there are some neighborhoods with a low amount of interest. He said there may also be pockets or groups of people in Town that are interested. He said if the Town could provide some way in assisting these groups to find each other and help them set those things up, that might be an area where the Town can actually help in a way where Townspeople may not be able to as easily on their own. Town Manager Dennis said staff will be happy to help in any way they can.

Councilmember Aalfs said cameras and security systems tend to be helpful for individual houses. He said there's a big difference between a camera that takes a picture of a car pulling out of a burglary site versus a camera that catches everybody leaving town. He said the Town could certainly encourage and try to find more opportunities for people to install those systems. Mayor Derwin suggested a group buy, as was done with solar. Town Manager Dennis said he would look into that.

Councilmember Wengert said one of the most helpful sessions was when the Sheriff's Department brought representatives and went through all the different points – the Neighborhood Watch, surveillance cameras – and doing that regularly would be a good exercise so that all interested people in the community had those resources available, as well as learning about new developments.

In response to Mayor Derwin's question, Town Manager Dennis said the crime report information is available to those who sign up for the e-notifications. He added that he's been speaking with Sheriff's representatives about putting together a meet and greet with all of the Officers, Deputies, and Detectives who work in the community, and he is hoping that will occur in October. He said one of the points he has heard from residents is that people don't know who their representatives are in the Sheriff's Office. He said in a Town as small as Portola Valley, and the kind of character we want to continue to have, building those relationships is critical.

The Council directed staff to not pursue Automated License Plate Readers at this time. Council directed staff to continue communications with the San Mateo Sheriff's Department and NCRIC about possible future technology and to research group buys of cameras for residents. Council suggested an annual community meeting with the Sheriff's Department.

Mayor Derwin thanked the audience for attending and called for a five-minute break.

STAFF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(8) COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL AGENCIES REPORTS [8:57 p.m.]

Councilmember Aalfs – Attended a Peninsula Green Energy meeting last week where they discussed two contracts. He said there will be a press conference next Thursday announcing that their first customers will come online on October 3, 2016. He said the opt-out rates are well below 1 percent, with opt-up percentage comparable – with about 600 opt-out and about 400 opt-ups or early adopters. He said Portola Valley has more opt-ups and opt-ins than opt-outs. He attended a Connect the Dots community forum organized by Debbie Mytels at Acterra last week, where they discussed sustainability.

Councilmember Wengert – Attended a Firewise Meeting with Mayor Derwin where they discussed a lack of water pressure from hydrants and water agencies' inability and lack of attention to the hydrants. She said Woodside and Portola Valley Town Attorneys will be sending a letter to Cal Water requiring checks and flushing. Town Manager Dennis said that meeting is occurring tomorrow morning. They also discussed mills not accepting dead wood, the Hazard Mitigation Plan, satellite phones, bridges and weight restrictions and a successful chipper program. She also attended a Town Center Master Plan Update Ad-Hoc Committee with Vice Mayor Hughes today, which was attended by the Community Foundation Fund Group, the group that raised the money for the last renovation of the Town Center. She said they were surprised that despite thinking they had done a pretty good job at outreach with cards, online surveys, mailer, banners, PV Forum postings, and Almanac articles, some said they didn't know anything about it. She said the most difficult charge for the Committee is how they come to the Council with what level of input and what level of recommendation, because it requires prioritization, which requires dollars and willingness of the Council. She said the Ad-Hoc Committee's goal is a consolidated report of all the committee reports and input from various community events and surveys. Vice Mayor Hughes said today's meeting was positive in that they were focusing on what to present to the Council after having collected all the data.

Councilmember Richards – Attended a County OES meeting where they announced they will hold a medical exercise of a train derailment on November 17. He said they reported that last month a group of 11 SWAT operation teams held an Urban Shield exercise involving a violent person in a house with a hostage. He said the group also discussed the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He also attended a Conservation Committee meeting where they discussed rodenticides and their upcoming presentation to the Town Council. He said the Committee received a summary of water usage on Town fields and projections for the new 10 percent water reduction. Town Manager Dennis said he had asked the Committee what they thought about the recent 10 percent reduction by Cal Water and they asked for additional data. He said

Public Works Director Young put together a stunning set of data that has proven incredibly valuable in the Committees' conversations. He said staff will be reporting to the Council in an upcoming meeting.

Vice Mayor Hughes – Attended the Ad-Hoc Committee for Seasonal Roadside Parking on Portola Road at Windy Hill Preserve meeting where they discussed parking signs at Portola Road at Windy Hill. He said they proposed leaving the view side of Portola Road as is and removing the two existing permanent signs and two temporary signs, replacing them with two small brown and white enforceable signs stating "Park Off Pavement." The proposed signs will be agendized at the ASCC and Bicycle, Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Committee meetings for their input and will then return to the Ad-Hoc Committee to finalize a recommendation to bring to the Town Council at a near future meeting.

Mayor Derwin – Attended a Water Conservation Committee meeting with Town Manager Dennis, where they discussed the new Building Codes, the Green Building Ordinance, and new regulations for gray water and rain tanks. She said they held a successful Smart Irrigation Controller workshop, but they still need a list of people who can deal with smart controllers and want classes for gardeners. She said they looked at the data regarding the watering of the fields and there was not much interest in doing better than the new 10 percent regulation. She said they also discussed thinking long-term about reclaiming and capturing water. She also attended a C/CAG Resource Management Climate Protection Committee meeting where they heard two presentations and an update on growth trends of solar in San Mateo County. She said Portola Valley has the highest percentage of solar households given its population. At the Library JPA, she said there was a presentation about the learning landscape project. They also discussed grants, discussed the investment report, and approved the budget. Councilmember Wengert and Vice Mayor Hughes said the library got the highest ratings on the Town Center Master Plan survey by far with the Farmer's Market coming in second. Mayor Derwin attended the Grand Boulevard Initiative this morning and heard a presentation on "Middle Housing." Town Manager Dennis described Middle Housing, which is housing density that falls between single-family homes or duplexes and very large apartment buildings, such as bungalows in a courtyard with 8 or 10 units. Mayor Derwin attended the annual lunch at The Sequoias. She attended the Farmers' Market with Fire Chief Dan Ghiorso and newly appointed Sheriff's Department Lieutenant Christina Corpus. She said she also attended the Council of Cities.

(9) Town Manager Report – Town Manager Dennis shared photos of the new outdoor furniture purchased by the Friends of the Library for the Portola Valley Library. He reported that the Town Center Master Plan community survey closed on September 20 and said he is very proud of the work the staff did on this project. He said the third Alpine Road Corridor public meeting is scheduled for November 1, with Public Works Director Young attending. He said staff will be meeting with ABAG to review numbers shared with Council a few weeks ago and they are preparing commentary on the San Mateo County Transportation Plan 2040. He said Sustainability & Special Projects Manager Brandi de Garneau attended a National Weather Service meeting to hear an update on the winter weather, announcing they have dropped the La Nina forecast. He said they expect a somewhat normal winter with slightly higher temperatures that may or may not be wetter. He expanded on the issue of dying trees that came up at the Firewise Meeting. He said it is very similar to the issues seen in the Sierra's right now where a combination of the drought and beetles are killing trees. He said it is more of an issue in Portola Valley than it is in Woodside and he will be working with the Fire Chief to come up with information to share with the Town so we know what to be looking for. He said he and Vice Mayor Hughes will be meeting for breakfast on Friday, September 30, with Jan Pepper, CEO of Peninsula Clean Energy, and Supervisor Dave Pine. He will meet for coffee Thursday, September 29, with the general manager of WestBay Sanitary District on Friday, September 30. Councilmember Wengert said GreenWaste has never fulfilled their promise to redo rates based on the Town's massive use of recycle. Town Manager Dennis said he is meeting with MROSD on Monday, October. He said staff has begun review of the Town's next garbage contract, which expires in June of 2018.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [9:41 p.m.]

(10) Town Council Digest – September 16, 2016 – None

(11) Town Council Digest – September 23, 2016 – None

ADJOURNMENT [9:42 p.m.]

Mayor Derwin adjourned the meeting.

Mayor

Town Clerk