



**City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft**

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

1:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Rogers called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Present: 4 - Mayor Chris Rogers, Vice Mayor Eddie Alvarez, Council Member Natalie Rogers, and Council Member Tom Schwedhelm

Absent: 2 - Council Member Victoria Fleming, and Council Member John Sawyer

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

No public comments were made.

Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting to closed session at 1:34 p.m. to discuss Item 2.1 as listed on the agenda.

Council Member Fleming and Council Member Sawyer joined the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

**2.1 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
(Government Code Section 54957.6)**

Agency Designated Representatives: Alan Alton, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Amy Reeve, Human Resources Director, Jeremia Mills, Deputy Director - Human Resources and Jeff Berk, Chief Assistant City Attorney.

Employee Organizations: Fire Safety Management Represented by Santa Rosa Police Management Association (Employee Unit 9), Santa Rosa City Attorneys' Association (Employee Unit 17).

This item was received and filed.

Mayor Rogers adjourned closed session at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened to study session at 2:13 p.m.

3. STUDY SESSION

Present: 6 - Mayor Chris Rogers, Vice Mayor Eddie Alvarez, Council Member Victoria Fleming, Council Member Natalie Rogers, Council Member John Sawyer, and Council Member Tom Schwedhelm

3.1 DOWNTOWN CITY ASSET SURPLUS STRATEGY

It is recommended by the Planning and Economic Development Department, Transportation and Public Works and Real Estate Services that Council hold a Study Session to receive information, ask questions, discuss, provide feedback and give direction to staff regarding the Downtown City asset surplus strategy.

Jill Scott, Real Property Manager, Raissa De La Rosa, Deputy Director - Economic Development, and Andrew Trippel, Senior Planner, presented and answered questions from Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Natalie Balfour, Airport Business Center, spoke asking for an explanation on what it means to replace public parking, how the parcel was deemed to be under utilized, and expressed concerns that a short-term disruption will have long-term negative impacts on the community.

Calum Weeks, Generation Housing, spoke in support of the project, and Generation Housing excited about the variety of projects being developed in the Railroad Square area.

Natalie Cilurzo, Russian River Brewing, spoke in support of removing Lot 10 from consideration, and for affordable housing in the downtown area.

Madonna, Project Director at Disability Services and Legal Center, spoke in support of affordable housing in downtown.

Duane De Witt spoke expressing concern property lists were not made available to the public, the City tearing down housing for projects that should be used for housing, and that the Sonoma County Housing Advocacy Group is interested in helping with

affordable housing.

The time not yet being 4:00 p.m. to start the regular session, Mayor Rogers recessed the meeting at 3:38 p.m. and reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Mayor Chris Rogers, Vice Mayor Eddie Alvarez, Council Member Victoria Fleming, Council Member Natalie Rogers, Council Member John Sawyer, and Council Member Tom Schwedhelm

5. REPORT, IF ANY, ON STUDY AND CLOSED SESSIONS

City Attorney Sue Gallagher reported Council met in closed session on Item 2.1 Conference with Labor Negotiators, provided direction, and no final action was taken.

6. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS - NONE.

7. STAFF BRIEFINGS

7.1 COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

This will be a standing item on the agenda. No action will be taken except for possible direction to staff.

City Manager Maraskeshia Smith provided an update on the Omicron variant cases surging in Sonoma County, reported large gatherings continue to be restricted until February 11, 2022, per the health order from the Sonoma County Health Officer, provided information on getting boosters through the County at the Sonoma County fairgrounds, and reported the federal government has launched a website for the public to register to get four at-home COVID tests free of charge.

This item was received and filed.

7.2 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PLAN UPDATE

This will be a standing item on the agenda. No action will be taken except for possible direction to staff.

Magali Telles, Deputy Director of Community Engagement, provided an update on the Mary Lou Low Rider car being unveiled on March 26, reported on the Multi-Cultural Roots Project by thanking those

who participated in the project with telling their stories, and thanked the Vistas who are recent Sonoma State graduates and community organizations who are working on the project. Ms. Telles announced the Community Advisory Board (CAB) meetings are open to the public, the CAB will be making funding decisions on their Community Improvement Grants at their January 26 meeting, and provided an update on the Choice Cycle 11 grants.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Duane De Witt spoke expressing his concern the older community who may not have access to Zoom to be engaged, and on having access to Measure O funds.

8. CITY MANAGER'S/CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

City Manager Smith reported the City's north trunk sewer replacement project achieved a major civil engineering milestone by completing the installation of approximately 1,000 linear feet of 18 inch sewer pipeline using trenchless technology. City Manager Smith thanked everyone who contributed to the completion of the project.

8.1 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE UPDATE

Staff will provide an update on the work of the Charter Review Committee.

City Attorney Gallagher reported the Charter Review Committee has been meeting to discuss the issues recommended by the Council and introduced Charter Review Committee Chair Patti Cisco.

Chair Cisco provided an update on the work and discussions of the Committee and discussions conducted by the Charter Review Committee.

City Attorney Gallagher noted a calendar will be placed on the City's website showing the progress of the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Duane De Witt spoke on the topic of a directly elected mayor being put to the voters 26 years ago and losing at the ballot, expressed concerns the Chamber of Commerce has the power on who becomes the mayor, and for the Committee to ask the community what they would like to see in the Charter review.

8.2 UPDATE ON COUNCIL VACANCY FOR DISTRICT 3

The City Attorney will provide an update on the vacancy appointment to Council District 3.

City Attorney Gallagher reported that Council, at a special meeting on December 21, 2021, approved going through an appointment process to fill the District 3 vacancy with a term ending December 2022, after the November 8, 2022, election is certified by the Registrar of Voters Office, and that District 3 will be placed on November 8, 2022, ballot. City Attorney Gallagher reported six applications were received, are available for the public to review on the City's website, and interviews will be held on February 8, 2022, at a public meeting that will be broadcast.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anonymous spoke requesting any applicant who receives money from the government be excluded from consideration.

9. STATEMENTS OF ABSTENTION BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Vice Mayor Alvarez announced he will be abstaining from Item 12.3 due to his business in the industry.

Council Member Sawyer announced he will be abstaining from Item 11.3 due to not being in attendance at the meeting.

Mayor Rogers announced that he would be reordering the agenda to take Item 10 as the last item on tonight's agenda.

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No public comments were made.

- 11.1 November 16, 2021, Regular Meeting.
Approved as submitted.
- 11.2 November 30, 2021, Special Meeting.
Approved as submitted with Vice Mayor Alvarez abstaining.
- 11.3 November 30, 2021, Regular Meeting.
Approved as submitted with Council Member Sawyer abstaining.

12. CONSENT ITEMS

No public comments were made.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Alvarez, seconded by Council Member Sawyer, to waive reading of the text and adopt Consent Items 12.1, 12.2, and 12.4. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Rogers, Vice Mayor Alvarez, Council Member Fleming, Council Member Rogers, Council Member Sawyer, and Council Member Schwedhelm

- 12.1 RESOLUTION - ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF COMPUTER AND SERVER EQUIPMENT FROM DELL MARKETING, L.P.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Information Technology Department that the Council, by resolution, approve additional funding for the purchase of Dell computer and server equipment through the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) cooperative purchase agreement under the Minnesota WSCA-NASPO Master Agreement Award with Dell Marketing, L.P. No. MNWNC-108 and California Participating Addendum No. 7-15-70-34-003, in the amount of \$451,358.79 through the period ending as of the current termination date of the NASPO Agreement and California Participating Addendum or as it may be extended through July 31, 2022, for a total not to exceed amount of \$3,016,358.79.

This Consent - Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2022-011 ENTITLED: RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA APPROVING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CONTINUED USE OF THE WSCA/NASPO COOPERATIVE PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND CALIFORNIA PARTICIPATING ADDENDUM FOR THE PURCHASE OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT THROUGH DELL MARKETING, L.P. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$451,358.79 OVER A PERIOD ENDING JULY 30, 2022, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,016,358.79

12.2 RESOLUTION - SANTA ROSA TOURISM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Planning and Economic Development Department that the Council, by resolution: 1) appoint the Program Specialist of the Economic Development Division to the Santa Rosa Tourism Business Improvement Area (SRTBIA) Advisory Board to serve as representative Chair; and 2) appoint the Economic Development Division's Arts and Culture Manager as an alternate representative to the Board on behalf of the City.

This Consent - Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2022-012 ENTITLED: RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE SANTA ROSA TOURISM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA

12.4 RESOLUTION - APPROVAL OF GRANT OF TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT TO PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY ON A PORTION OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 55 STONY POINT ROAD, APN 010-320-019 AND 2100 WEST COLLEGE AVENUE, APN 010-320-030 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BATTERY ELECTRIC BUS CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Transportation and Public Works Department and Real Estate Services that Council, by resolution: 1) approve a Grant of Temporary Construction Easement to Pacific Gas and Electric Company on City owned property located at 55 Stony Point Road, APN 010-320-019 and 2100 West College Avenue, APN 010-320-030 for the development of battery-electric bus charging infrastructure in connection with the CityBus Electrical Vehicle Fleet Electrification Project; and 2) authorize the Director of Transportation

and Public Works Department to execute the Grant of Temporary Construction Easement and any additional and other documents necessary to grant the temporary easement and access rights.

This Consent - Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2022-013 ENTITLED: RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA APPROVING A GRANT OF TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT TO PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY ON A PORTION OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 55 STONY POINT ROAD, APN 010-320-019 AND 2100 WEST COLLEGE AVENUE, APN 010-320-030 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BATTERY ELECTRIC BUS CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO EXECUTE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

12.3 RESOLUTION - AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY PLAN TO ADD 2.0 FTE LIMITED TERM SENIOR PLANNERS AND 1.0 FTE LIMITED TERM CITY PLANNER POSITIONS IN THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT; REALLOCATE LEAP GRANT FUNDS; ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE STATE DEPARTMENT OF CANNABIS CONTROL LOCAL JURISDICTION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS; AND APPROPRIATE PG&E SETTLEMENT FUNDS

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Planning and Economic Development Department and Human Resources Department that the Council, by two resolutions: 1) amend the City Classification and Salary Plan to add 1.0 FTE Limited Term Senior Planner for one year, 1.0 FTE Limited Term Senior Planner for 3.5 years, and 1.0 FTE Limited Term City Planner for two years; 2) reallocate \$500,000 in California Department of Housing and Community Development Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) grant funds from the Mendocino Avenue Specific Plan to the House Santa Rosa project; 3) accept and appropriate \$775,841 in State Department of Cannabis Control Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program funds; and 4) appropriate \$240,550 of the PG&E settlement funds.

A motion was made by Council Member Fleming, seconded by Council Member Sawyer, to waive reading of the text and adopt Consent Item 12.3.

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2022-014 ENTITLED: RESOLUTION OF THE

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA AMENDING THE CITY CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY PLAN TO ADD 1.0 FTE LIMITED TERM SENIOR PLANNER FOR ONE YEAR AND 1.0 FTE LIMITED TERM CITY PLANNER FOR TWO YEARS IN THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT; REALLOCATE THE \$500,000 IN CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOCAL EARLY ACTION PLANNING GRANT FUNDS FROM THE MENDOCINO AVENUE SPECIFIC PLAN TO THE HOUSE SANTA ROSA PROJECT; AND APPROPRIATE PG&E SETTLEMENT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$240,550

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2022-015 ENTITLED: RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$775,841 IN STATE DEPARTMENT OF CANNABIS CONTROL LOCAL JURISDICTION ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDS AND AMENDING THE CITY CLASSIFICATION AND SALARY PLAN TO ADD 1.0 FTE LIMITED TERM SENIOR PLANNER FOR THREE AND A HALF YEARS IN THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Rogers, Council Member Fleming, Council Member Rogers, Council Member Sawyer, and Council Member Schwedhelm

Abstain: 1 - Vice Mayor Alvarez

14. REPORT ITEMS

14.1 REPORT - 2022 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

BACKGROUND: The 2022 federal legislative session is now underway. To be best positioned to respond to what is anticipated to be a very active year, City staff have identified federal legislative priorities in a proposed 2022 federal legislative platform for consideration by the City Council. Defined priorities, approved by the City Council, will help communicate the City's federal legislative and project priorities to the California Federal Delegation, Congress, regional and federal agencies.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Communications & Intergovernmental Relations Office that the Council, by resolution, adopt the City's 2022 Federal Legislative Platform.

Scott Alonso, Intergovernmental Relations & Legislative Affairs Officer, and Kyriakos Pagonis and John O'Donnell from MMO

Partners presented and answered questions from Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Duane De Witt spoke suggesting Council look into extended stay suites and seeking federal funding to provide public housing.

Johanna spoke expressing water and drought issues be addressed more directly and suggested water collection systems be installed at each residence.

Madonna spoke thanking the Mayor for highlighting the mental health issues experienced by first responders, and supports looking into the extended stay housing program for public housing.

A motion was made by Council Member Fleming, seconded by Council Member Rogers, to waive reading of the text and adopt

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2022-016 ENTITLED: RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA ADOPTING THE 2022 CITY OF SANTA ROSA FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Rogers, Vice Mayor Alvarez, Council Member Fleming, Council Member Rogers, Council Member Sawyer, and Council Member Schwedhelm

13. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

Duane DeWitt spoke expressing his concern on environmental injustices and social inequities to the Roseland community.

Michael Hilber spoke expressing his concern on drug use and sales in the Roseland area.

15. PUBLIC HEARINGS

15.1 PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT FOR DUTCH FLOHR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

BACKGROUND: Dutch Flohr Neighborhood Park is 2.38-acre property

located at 1160 Exeter Drive in Northwest Santa Rosa, immediately adjacent to Albert F. Biella Elementary School. Amenities include adult fitness area, picnic areas, lawn with established ornamental trees, trash cans, drinking fountain, paths, and two play areas for ages 2-5 & 5-12.

The current play areas for preschoolers (age 2-5 years) and school age children (age 5-12 years) have equipment from 1989 when the Park was dedicated to the City. The two play areas are located at a distance too great to allow for supervision of children in both areas at the same time and need replacement and relocation. Additionally, associated pathways, benches and fitness equipment need to be updated to current standards.

On October 27, 2020 Council approved an Agreement Number F002247 with Plural, San Francisco, CA to provide landscape architectural and engineering services for Dutch Flohr Neighborhood Park Master Plan Amendment.

On February 18, 2021 City staff, in conjunction with design consultant, Plural, conducted the first in a series of virtual meetings with the neighbors from the Dutch Flohr Park area. Two additional virtual meetings were held on May 27, 2021 and August 19, 2021. At each new meeting, the previous comments collected were analyzed and presented in support of the updated draft Master Plan Amendment.

Design consultant, Plural, assisted City staff with a detailed review of the master planning process, and summaries of all input received cumulatively in support of the Master Plan Amendment at the October 27, 2021 BOCS meeting. The BOCS recommended approval of the Dutch Flohr Master Plan Amendment to Council.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Transportation and Public Works Department that the Council conduct a public hearing, and thereafter by resolution, adopt the Master Plan Amendment for Dutch Flohr Neighborhood Park to include ADA compatible paths, picnic areas, children's play areas for ages 2-5 and 5-12, table tennis, chess, corn hole, fitness stations, monument sign, and multi-use turf area.

Tim Bernard, Assistant Park Planner, Jen Santos, Deputy Director - Parks, Haley Waterson, Design Consultant from Plural, presented

and answered questions from Council.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing at 6:08 p.m.

Bruce Diktor spoke on recently becoming aware of the project and on the importance of planting vegetation that is drought tolerant and can support a wide range of wildlife.

Elizabeth spoke asking Council to consider putting a bathroom in the park.

Jeanelle spoke asking for a grill and horseshoe pits be added to the park.

Lennie Moore spoke on the this project being a great example of community engagement, and supports the planting of native drought resistant vegetation.

Mayor Rogers closed the public hearing at 6:14 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Rogers, seconded by Council Member Sawyer, to waive reading of the text and adopt

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2022-017 ENTITLED: RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA ADOPTING A MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT FOR DUTCH FLOHR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK TO INCLUDE ADA COMPLIANT PATHS, PICNIC AREAS, CHILDRENS PLAY AREAS FOR AGES 2-5 AND 5-12, TABLE TENNIS, CHESS, CORN HOLE, FITNESS STATIONS, MONUMENT SIGN AND MULTI-USE TURF AREA

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Rogers, Vice Mayor Alvarez, Council Member Fleming, Council Member Rogers, Council Member Sawyer, and Council Member Schwedhelm

15.2 PUBLIC HEARING - REDISTRICTING OF CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS (FAIR MAPS ACT) - SECOND OF FOUR PUBLIC HEARINGS

BACKGROUND: On December 7, 2021, the Council held its first of four public hearings in the process for the decennial review of City Council

Member district boundaries. Cities with district-based elections are required to update (“redistrict”) the district boundaries every ten years, following the receipt of updated population data from each federal decennial census. Santa Rosa is required to redistrict the Council district boundaries prior to the next City Council election in 2022.

The Fair and Inclusive Redistricting for Municipalities and Political Subdivisions (FAIR MAPS) Act requires cities and counties to engage communities in the redistricting process. The process must include at least four public hearings, one of which may be conducted as a community workshop. This will be the second of those four public forums.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the City Attorney and City Clerk that the Council hold a public hearing to receive input from the community regarding the composition of voting districts for the district-based election of Council Members, in accordance with Elections Code section 21627.1.

City Clerk Stephanie Williams introduced Sophia Garcia from Redistricting Partners, who presented and provided a demonstration on the DistrictR mapping tool.

Mayor Rogers opened the public hearing 6:54 p.m.

Duane De Witt spoke on being disappointed when District 1 was split by Hwy. 101, and asked Council to look at districts from a geographic perspective as well as population perspective when drawing maps.

Michael Hilber spoke in support for Map B, and expressed the South Park area deserves the best representation.

Brian Ling, District 4 resident, encouraged Council to support Map A noting it will have minimal disruptions to the downtown core, and reported the Charter Review Committee discussed giving district election cycles a chance before making any big changes to districts.

Mayor Rogers closed the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

This item was received and filed.

Mayor Rogers recessed the meeting at 7:22 p.m. and reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

**14.2 REPORT - CITYBUS TEMPORARY TRANSIT SERVICE
MODIFICATION TO ADDRESS STAFFING SHORTAGE**

BACKGROUND: As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued, the City has been unsuccessful in recruiting enough new bus drivers to replace retiring drivers, inhibiting CityBus' ability to restore service to the desired pre-pandemic levels. CityBus has experienced a net reduction in bus operators which threatens to impact service reliability on a near daily basis. To ensure consistent, reliable service for the public, the Transit Division proposes a minor temporary service reduction to be in effect until enough new drivers are recruited and trained to sustain higher service levels.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Transportation and Public Works Department that the Council, by resolution, approve a temporary minor reduction of weekday frequency on Santa Rosa CityBus Route 1 to ensure service reliability during the current staffing shortage.

Rachel Ede, Deputy Director - Transit, presented and answered questions from Council.

No public comments were made.

A motion was made by Council Member Sawyer, seconded by Council Member Fleming, to waive reading of the text and adopt

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2022-018 ENTITLED: RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA APPROVING A TEMPORARY REDUCTION OF CITYBUS SERVICE DUE TO A STAFFING SHORTAGE

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Rogers, Vice Mayor Alvarez, Council Member Fleming, Council Member Rogers, Council Member Sawyer, and Council Member Schwedhelm

**14.3 REPORT - ROSELAND CREEK COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLAN:
RESCISSION OF MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND**

PROJECT APPROVALS AND DIRECTION FOR PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

BACKGROUND: The Roseland Creek Community Park is approximately 20 acres in size, located in southwest Santa Rosa on McMinn and Burbank Avenues, across Burbank Avenue from Roseland Creek Elementary School. The property is bisected by Roseland Creek in its southern portion and will be an important natural and recreational resource for the surrounding community.

Over the course of many years, Recreation and Park staff have worked with the Roseland community to develop a Master Plan for the Community Park. Well over 20 public meetings and listening sessions were held over more than twelve years. Developed with tremendous community input, the final Park Master Plan leaves more than 80% of the land in a natural open state. Traditional park amenities will primarily be centered in the southern parts of the Park and will include picnic tables, playground, sport court area, restrooms, lawn and community garden/outdoor classroom and nature center. A multipurpose trail will serve pedestrians and bicycles and a pathway will loop the entire Park with interpretive signage in at least three languages.

On September 28, 2021, after two public hearings, the Council adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Roseland Creek Community Park in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and approved the Park Master Plan. Development of the Community Park was slated to begin this coming summer, 2022.

On October 28, 2021, Roseland Action and Duane DeWitt filed a CEQA lawsuit against the City, challenging the City's adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approval of the Park Master Plan. The lawsuit seeks to compel the City to rescind the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Park project approvals and to instead prepare an Environmental Impact report (EIR) for the Roseland Creek Community Park Master Plan.

After review of the lawsuit, the City remains confident that a court would uphold the previously adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration and all Park project approvals. City Staff, however, has determined that

engaging in the litigation could delay development of the Community Park for up to three years and would likely cost the City over \$150,000 to defend its project approvals. On the other hand, although not legally required, preparing an EIR could be completed within approximately seven months at an estimated cost of approximately \$100,000. The City's primary focus is on delivering the Community Park to Roseland residents and it remains committed to realizing the vision that resulted from over a decade of community input.

Roseland Action and Duane DeWitt have placed the City in the unenviable position of choosing to spend its limited resources either on legal fees to defend its valid CEQA document and Park approvals or on an additional layer of environmental review that is not legally required.

From a simple perspective of time and money, the City believes that it would better serve the Roseland community by allocating its resources toward preparing an EIR and delivering a Park to the City's residents as expeditiously as possible rather than toward engaging in baseless litigation.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the City Attorney's Office and the Transportation and Public Works Department, Parks Division, that in order to avoid the significant expense and delays associated with engaging in litigation filed against the City by Roseland Action and Duane DeWitt challenging the Council's prior approval of the Roseland Creek Community Park Master Plan, the Council, by resolution: 1) rescind Resolution No. RES-2021-162 which adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Roseland Creek Community Park Master Plan; and 2) direct staff to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Roseland Creek Community Park Master Plan as currently drafted.

Jen Santos, Deputy Director - Parks, presented and answered questions from Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lennie spoke in support of Roseland Action's effort to have the City rescind the Mitigated Negative Declaration and to have an environmental impact report prepared for the project.

Madonna spoke in support of moving forward to open the park.

Susan Kirks, President of Madrone Audubon Society, spoke in support of having an environmental impact report prepared for the project, and asked the City to identify lands that are appropriate for a variety of public access and recreational activities, and asked this property be a nature preserve.

Johanna spoke in support of preserving the property as a nature preserve.

Duane De Witt spoke in support of having an environmental impact report prepared for the project.

Ryan submitted comment in support of having an environmental impact report prepared for the project and for keeping the park in a natural state without paved parking.

Rick submitted comment in opposition to the proposed parking for the property.

Mary submitted comment in opposition to the proposed parking for the property, and for leaving the property as natural as possible.

A motion was made by Council Member Fleming, seconded by Council Member Schwedhelm, to waive reading of the text and adopt

RESOLUTION NO. RES-2022-019 ENTITLED: RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. RES-2021-162 WHICH ADOPTED THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE ROSELAND CREEK COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLAN AND THE ROSELAND CREEK COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLAN AND DIRECTING STAFF TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE ROSELAND CREEK COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLAN

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Vice Mayor Alvarez, Council Member Fleming, Council Member Rogers, Council Member Sawyer, and Council Member Schwedhelm

No: 1 - Mayor Rogers

17. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS

No public comments were made.

10. MAYOR'S/COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS

Council Member Fleming made comments of praise and recognition to the Public Works team who worked on the installation of the sewer trunk line.

Council Member Schwedhelm attended a virtual Santa Rosa Rotary Lee Abramson Public Safety Award Program and congratulated Santa Rosa Fire Department Honoree Tim Aboudara and Santa Rosa Police Department Honoree Jason Jucutan, and noted Sonoma County Sheriff Lieutenant Andy Cache was also recognized.

Mayor Rogers announced his 2022 appointments to various Council Subcommittees, Ad Hoc Committees, and Council liaison regional positions.

A motion was made by Council Member Schwedhelm, seconded by Council Member Fleming, approving Mayor Rogers appointments to various Council Subcommittees, Ad Hoc Committees, and Council liaison regional positions. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Rogers, Vice Mayor Alvarez, Council Member Fleming, Council Member Rogers, Council Member Sawyer, and Council Member Schwedhelm

10.1 MAYOR'S/COUNCIL MEMBERS' SUBCOMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS (AND POSSIBLE COUNCIL DIRECTION TO BOARD REPRESENTATIVE ON PENDING ISSUES, IF NEEDED)

10.1.1 Council Subcommittee Reports

10.1.2 Sonoma County Transportation Authority/Regional Climate Protection Authority (SCTA/RCPA)

10.1.3 Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) - Water Advisory Committee

10.1.4 Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

10.1.5 Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District Advisory Committee

10.1.6 Sonoma Clean Power Authority (SCPA)

10.1.7 Zero Waste Sonoma (formerly known as Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA))

Council Member Sawyer provided a brief report.

10.1.8 Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

10.1.9 Home Sonoma County (HSC)

10.1.10 Renewal Enterprise District (RED)

10.1.11 Public Safety Subcommittee

10.1.12 Other

10.2 BOARD, COMMISSION & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

10.2.1 MOTION - APPOINTMENTS TO THE WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Mayor and City Clerk's Office that the Council, by motion, re-appoint Mark Neely, Kevin Sea, Steve Rabinowitsh, and Art Deicke (all incumbents) to fill the (4) At-large vacancies due to expired terms for the Waterways Advisory Committee. No other applications were received other than the four incumbents.

A motion was made by Council Member Schwedhelm, seconded by Council Member Sawyer, to re-appoint Mark Neely, Kevin Sea, Steve Rabinowitsh, and Art Deicke to fill the four At-large vacancies on the Waterways Advisory Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Rogers, Vice Mayor Alvarez, Council Member Fleming, Council Member Rogers, Council Member Sawyer, and Council Member Schwedhelm

16. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - NONE.

18. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONTINUED CLOSED SESSION ITEMS, RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION IN THE MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM, RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS [IF NEEDED] - NONE.

19. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Mayor Rogers adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on February 1, 2022, at a time to be set by the Mayor.

20. UPCOMING MEETINGS

20.1 UPCOMING MEETINGS LIST

This item was received and filed.

Approved on:

Stephanie A. Williams
City Clerk