



**City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes - Draft**

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

9:00 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor N. Rogers called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Council Member Alvarez joined the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Present: 7 - Mayor Natalie Rogers, Vice Mayor Dianna MacDonald, Council Member Eddie Alvarez, Council Member Victoria Fleming, Council Member Jeff Okrepkie, Council Member Chris Rogers, and Council Member Mark Stapp

2. STUDY SESSION (CONTINUED FROM THE MAY 9, 2023 REGULAR MEETING)

2.1 REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET

In this Study Session, staff will present City Council with an overview of the funding requests for FY 2023-24, as well as perspectives as to overall funding considerations. The Study Session is held in advance of the Budget Hearings in June to provide the opportunity for City Council to ask questions, provide direction, and gain a full understanding of the budget and resulting financial implications for the City ahead of formal budget adoption in June.

Information and department budgets will be presented in the following order:

Day 1 - May 9, 2023

City-wide overview and General Fund segment

Administrative Departments:

- City Council
- City Manager
- City Attorney
- Communications & Intergovernmental Relations
- Human Resources and Risk

- Finance Department
- Non-Departmental
- Information Technology
- Housing & Community Services

Day 2 - May 10, 2023

- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Planning & Economic Development
- Parks & Recreation
- Transportation & Public Works
- Water Department
- Capital Improvement Project

Veronica Conner, Budget and Financial Analyst Manager, introduced the budget team and provided an overview of day two of the study session.

Scott Westrope, Fire Chief, and Sarah Roberts, Administrative Analyst, presented and answered questions from Council regarding the Fire Department proposed FY 2023-24 budget.

John Cregan, Chief of Police, and Pam Lorence, Administrative Service Officer, presented and answer questions from Council regarding the Police Department proposed budget.

Clare Hartman, Director of Planning and Economic Development, Kate Goldfine, Administrative Service Officer, and Raissa De La Rosa, Deputy Director of Economic Development, presented and answered questions from Council regarding the Planning and Economic Development proposed budget.

Mayor N. Rogers recessed the meeting at 10:55 a.m. and reconvened at 11:11 a.m. with all Council Members present.

Jason Nutt, Assistant City Manager, Jen Santos, Deputy Director of Parks, Jeff Tibbetts, Deputy Director of Recreation, Jason Parrish, Administrative Service Officer, and Alan Alton, Chief Financial

Officer, presented and answered questions from Council regarding the Parks and Recreation proposed budget.

Jason Nutt, Assistant City Manager, and Rachel Ede, Deputy Director of Transit, presented and answered questions of Council regarding the Transportation and Public Works proposed budget.

Mayor N. Rogers recessed the meeting at 1:20 p.m. and reconvened at 1:50 p.m. All Council Members were present with the exception of Council Member Fleming who joined the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Jennifer Burke, Director of Water, and Nick Harvey, Budget and Financial Analysis Manager, presented and answered questions from Council regarding the Water Department proposed budget.

Jason Nutt, Assistant City Manager, presented and answered questions of Council regarding the Capital Improvement Project proposed budget.

Veronica Conner, Budget and Financial Analyst Manager, and Alan Alton, Chief Financial Officer, thanked all departments and concluded the presentations, and requested any changes to the proposed budgets from Council.

Maraskeshia Smith, City Manager, and Dominique Blanquie, Interim Human Resources Director, answered questions from Council regarding the proposed contract for the labor contract negotiator.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ken MacNab, KMac Advising, representing property owners in the 2010 area, thanked the Council, City Manager and staff for diligence in ensuring the responsible and productive expenditure of public funds and spoke in support of budgeting for resources needed to carry out the South Santa Rosa Specific Plan.

Chris Guenther, co-leader of Bikeable Santa Rosa, spoke in support of investment in multimodal transportation, planning and infrastructure, the need for reductions in motor vehicle trips resulting in reductions of traffic congestion and emissions, and reminded the Council that Bikeable Santa Rosa and the City have been working with City Thread to accelerate investment in the bicycle network.

Bob Gaiser, co-chair of the Southeast Greenway Campaign Committee, spoke in support of city staff needed for acquisition and planning of Southeast Greenway and in support of the Parks and Recreation budget proposal.

Tom Robertson, CEO of SCI Office, LLC, spoke on the need for safety in downtown Santa Rosa, multiple car break-ins and security issues in garage three, requesting two new police officers in the downtown area.

Duane DeWitt, member of the Sonoma County Housing Advocacy Group, spoke on the budget deficit, past cuts made due to budget issues, the need for replacement of 30 picnic tables and benches as discussed at a recent Board of Community Services meeting, offloading of city properties for revenue, and requesting a time certain for public speaking.

Joshua Shipper, Generation Housing, spoke on the importance of building more diverse housing and urged the Council to take action to reduce costs of building, encouraged Santa Rosa to join Petaluma in waiving most of the impact fees on affordable housing, and consider applying the fee structure that has been successfully used to encourage ADU development to affordable by design multi-family housing.

Chris Eggers, by speaker card, commented on prioritizing funds for protected and connected bikeways, noting that paint is not protection.

Gregory Fearon spoke on ARPA and PGE one-time fund

allocations, suggested a meeting to update the community on the funds and projects and how they are impacting residents, and requested all monies be utilized.

Rigel Bowen, a member of the North Bay Organizing Project Police Accountability Task Force, spoke in opposition to adding money to the police department budget from the general fund and suggested the general fund dollars should be used for departments such as Housing and Community Services, Planning and Economics, Parks and Recreation and Transportation and Public Works, and expressed disappointment in the Council for spending more time on the police budget than housing and in discussing student resource officers.

Kelsey Vero, a member of the North Bay Organizing Project Police Accountability Task Force, spoke in opposition to adding money from the general fund to the police department budget, especially for the use of school resource officers, and suggested funding to allow for alternative solutions that are evidence based or based on restorative justice practices.

Alyn Wolves, member of North Bay Organizing Project Police Accountability Task Force, spoke in opposition to the request for additional patrol officers and adding student resource officers in schools.

Elizabeth Ridlington spoke on bicycle and pedestrian safety, the Council's prior adopted Vision Zero by 2030, and the goal setting discussion of ensuring safe routes to schools and cross-walk safety, and requested funding in the budget to make city streets safer.

Brandon Cho, on behalf of Efren Carrillo, CEO of Gallaher Community Housing, spoke on affordable housing and suggested following other jurisdictions in modifying development impact fees for affordable housing developments.

Shaun Du Fosee spoke in favor of hiring in-house for labor relations

rather than an hiring an outside consultant for labor negotiations, and in favor of planning and budgeting for the potential need for school resource officers.

Cadance Hinkle Allinson with the Downtown District thanked city staff, spoke in support of hiring an assistant city attorney, in support of the comprehensive economic development plan and in continuing partnerships that will invest in downtown, and the importance of increasing services and resources as the population and needs of the downtown grows, specifically public safety measures and law enforcement, including possible expansion of the downtown enforcement team.

Lee with the North Bay Organizing Project Police Accountability Task Force and Sonoma County Tenants Union spoke in favor of funding for community programs rather than increased police funding, requested increased funding for community programs that help the unhoused community and others that are suffering, and spoke in opposition to police in schools.

Hugh Futrell of the Downtown Action Organization spoke in support of additional public safety investments, the budgeting for an assistant city attorney for code and misdemeanor enforcement, additional officers for the downtown enforcement team, and retaining park impact fees within the downtown core.

Stevan Stankovich, Santa Rosa Plaza mall manager, spoke in favor of a safe and secure downtown area, additional downtown enforcement team officers from the Santa Rosa Police Department, and an extra city attorney for misdemeanor and property claims.

Michael Lipelt spoke on investment in active transportation infrastructure to create safe, low-stress, protected bicycle lanes, rather than continuing to support vehicle infrastructure and refocusing on urban areas as vibrant places for people to walk, bicycle and use other forms of transportation.

Mayor N. Rogers addressed and provided reasons for consideration of the student resource officer program in this budget cycle.

PUBLIC COMMENT WILL BE TAKEN ON THIS ITEM ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, AFTER ALL DEPARTMENTS HAVE MADE THEIR PRESENTATIONS.

3. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Mayor N. Rogers adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held in Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at a time to be set by the Mayor.

Approved on:

Rhonda Bolla
Deputy City Clerk