



# CITY COUNCIL ACTION MINUTES

Special Meeting  
April 25, 2022

The City Council of the City of Palo Alto met on this date in the Council Chambers and by virtual teleconference at 5:15 P.M.

Present: Burt, Cormack, DuBois, Filseth, Kou, Stone, Tanaka

Absent: None

## PUBLIC COMMENT

## SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

### **1. Presentation Honoring Palo Alto Day**

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

## ACTION ITEMS

### **2. Interviews for the Parks and Recreation Commission**

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

### **3. Review and Approval of 2022-2023 Work Plans for the following Boards and Commissions**

- Public Art Commission
- Utilities Advisory Commission
- Storm Water Oversight Committee

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Kou moved, seconded by Council Member DuBois to approve the 2022-2023 Public Art Commission Work Plan.

**MOTION PASSED:** 7-0

# ACTION MINUTES

**MOTION:** Council Member Cormack moved, seconded by Council Member Filseth to approve the 2022 Utilities Advisory Committee Work Plan.

**MOTION PASSED:** 7-0

**MOTION:** Mayor Burt moved, seconded by Council Member Cormack to approve the 2022 Stormwater Oversight Committee Work Plan.

**MOTION PASSED:** 7-0

- AA1. Revenue-Generating Ballot Measures for Fall 2022: Discuss 2nd-Round Polling Results and Feedback from Community and Stakeholder Engagement Activities; Review and Provide Staff Direction on Finance Committee Recommended Refined Parameters for a Business License Tax and an Affirmation of the Gas General Fund Transfer; and Provide Direction to Staff on Next Steps Including Launch of Third Poll, and Council's Non-Binding Intentions for Allocation of Potential Proceeds (Continued from April 18, 2022)

**MOTION:**

Direct staff to continue work regarding potential ballot measures for voter consideration during the November 2022 election, including execution of the third round of polling, drafting of ballot questions and the full ballot measure text in accordance with the following characteristics:

1. Continue to pursue a ballot measure seeking to affirm the natural gas utility transfer, at the current rate of up to 18% of natural gas utility gross receipts as outlined in Table 2 in the staff report;
2. Continue to pursue a ballot measure seeking to establish a new Business Tax based on square footage with the following characteristics:
  - a. Tax is determined based on a business's square footage in Palo Alto,
  - b. Tax rate of \$0.10/sq. ft. per month or \$0.12/sq. ft. per month,

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- c. Tax rate to increase by the CPI, capped at 5% per annum with excess CPI carrying over to future years,
- d. Two year phase-in provision: reduced rate of 50% in the year of initiation of the tax, and the full rate to be charged in the second year (initiation date to be refined later),
- e. No sunset
- f. Exemptions for the following:
  - i. Grocery stores (requires a given % of sq ft of food sales to qualify as a grocery)
  - ii. Seasonal businesses operating less than 90 days
  - iii. First 5,000 square feet
- g. Direct staff to evaluate the impacts of allowing an offset for hotels based on remittance of TOT
- h. Direct staff to research offsets for businesses based on remittance of sales & use tax where the point of sales has discretion and is designated in Palo Alto.
- i. Confirm that the City's Business Registry program will continue to operate and be required for all businesses except as exempted by the program ordinance.
- j. Direct staff to draft a non-binding resolution to inform the public of Council's intentions regarding the use of Business Tax proceeds,
  - i. Explore through polling regarding the use of Business Tax Proceeds: funds would be used for grade separation and rail safety, affordable housing and homeless programs, public safety, and improvements to University and California Avenue business districts

**MOTION PASSED:** 6- 1, Tanaka no

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 P.M.

# ACTION MINUTES

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:


*Lesley Milton*

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City Clerk

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:



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Mayor

NOTE: Action minutes are prepared in accordance with Palo Alto Municipal Code (PAMC) 2.04.160(a) and (b). Summary minutes (sense) are prepared in accordance with PAMC Section 2.04.160(c). Beginning in January 2018, in accordance with [Ordinance No. 5423](#), the City Council found action minutes and the video/audio recordings of Council proceedings to be the official records of both Council and committee proceedings. These recordings are available on the City's website.

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Patrick Burt

pat@patburt.org

Mr

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication  
(None)**Signature**DocuSigned by:  
  
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Lesley Milton

Lesley.Milton@CityofPaloAlto.org

City Clerk

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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	5/17/2022 5:33:17 PM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	5/18/2022 8:26:39 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	5/18/2022 8:27:03 AM
Completed	Security Checked	5/18/2022 8:27:03 AM
Payment Events	Status	Timestamps