

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Nikki Bufford called the study session to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Brett L. Wittner, Karen Mauer-Smith, and Joe Barrentine were present.

Councilmember Shannon Reynolds attended the meeting virtually.

Councilmember Hunter T. George joined the meeting at 6:22 P.M.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were none.

WASTEWATER FLOW PRESENTATION

Parametrix Consultant Brian Casey presented the findings of the City's I&I analysis and stated that the study evaluated wastewater system performance and flow conditions. He reported on several items to include that the City's I&I levels were classified as non-excessive under EPA and Department of Ecology standards, the Contra Costa lift station pumping rate, varying peak flows, and results indicate a well-performing system.

There was a brief discussion on recommendations to include continued system maintenance and monitoring, video inspection of pipes, and updating agreement language with the City of Tacoma.

Council discussions included analyzing rainfall data versus drier years. Mr. Casey reported that the results were overall consistent.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT/STEP HOUSING DISCUSSION

Kim Gunderson, Mahoney Planning, provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan amendments related to STEP Housing and stated that House Bill 2266 is currently awaiting the Governor's signature, which impacts the City's implementation schedule.

Ms. Gunderson reviewed the supplemental memo that provided two options for Council consideration. The first option was to proceed with House Bill 1220 implementation to maintain Growth Management Act (GMA) compliance and address House Bill 2266 at a later date. The second option was to pause current work and revise the code to align with House Bill 2266, which would impact the implementation schedule.

Ms. Gunderson highlighted the impacts of House Bill 2266 to include a prohibition on treating STEP Housing differently than other residential uses, removal of proposed permit processes specific to STEP Housing, and limited ability for Cities to regulate STEP Housing without public engagement.

There was a brief discussion on the need for additional legal review for any potential risks associated with the options presented.

There was a consensus from the Council to pause the project until the Governor has signed House Bill 2266 and the City Attorney has provided legal guidance.

COUNCIL RULES UPDATE

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the purpose of the Council Rules Update discussion and highlighted that the last major update to the Council Rules occurred in 2018. The intent was to initiate discussions and gather Council feedback for potential updates.

The Council identified several topics for future consideration to include clarifying requirements for presiding officers' physical appearance, remote participation, establishing a three-minute public comment limit, consent calendar criteria, updating outdated language, public hearing processes, codifying procedures for the selection of Council officers, quasi-judicial rules update, committee appointment processes, clarifying the role of Council liaisons and adding language related to Council decorum.

Council discussions included public recording/photography, safety during public meetings, and compliance with ADA requirements.

Councilmember Viafore commented on the importance of understanding City priorities and stated that the Council Rules update was not a current priority.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember George MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.

The Motion Carried (7-0).



Nikki Bufford, Mayor



Arlette Burkhart, City Clerk