

# Town of Los Altos Hills City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 21, 2010  
Council Chambers, 26379 Fremont Road

## CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Kerr called the City Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Breene Kerr, Mayor Pro Tem Rich Larsen,  
Councilmember Jean Mordo, Councilmember Ginger Summit and  
Councilmember Dean Warshawsky  
Absent: None  
Staff: City Manager Carl Cahill, Planning Director Debbie Pedro, Assistant  
Planner Nicole Horvitz, City Engineer/Public Works Director Richard  
Chiu, Finance Director Nick Pegueros, City Attorney Steve Mattas, and  
City Clerk Karen Jost

## APPOINTMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Appointment to the Los Altos Hills Youth Commission

MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED: Moved by Larsen, seconded by Summit and passed unanimously to appoint resident Eric Nevalsky to the Los Altos Hills Youth Commission.

2. Consideration of Request from Superintendent Jeffrey Baier for Appointment of Los Altos Hills Representative to Participate in the Los Altos School District's "Educational Blueprint" Planning Process.

MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED: Moved by Warshawsky, seconded by Summit and passed unanimously to appoint Standing Education Committee Chair Bart Carey to serve as the Town's representative in the Los Altos School District's Blueprint Planning Process.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Items Removed: Agenda Items 6 and 7 (Mordo)

*Mayor Pro Tem Larsen recused himself from consideration of agenda item #10 due to a potential conflict of interest.*

MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED: Moved by Mordo, seconded by Summit and passed unanimously to approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar with Mayor Pro Tem Larsen recusing himself from consideration of agenda item #10; specifically:

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: City Council Regular Meeting – September 16, 2010
4. Review of Disbursements: September, 2010 \$365,794.74
5. Acceptance of Right-of-Way; Lands of Yarlagadda, 12368 Melody Lane (Staff: R. Chiu) Resolution No. 47-10
8. Annual Approval of Investment Policy (Staff: N. Pegueros)
9. Authorization to Auction Surplus Equipment (Staff: N. Pegueros)
10. Acceptance of W. Loyola Sanitary Sewer Project (Staff: R. Chiu) Resolution No. 48-10
11. Authorization to Purchase Backhoe Loader (Staff: R. Chiu)

Items Removed:

6. Acceptance of Irrevocable Offer of Dedication of Right-of-Way; Lands of Johnson, 24182 Summerhill Avenue (Staff: R. Chiu)
7. Acceptance of Pathway Easement; Lands of Johnson, 24182 Summerhill Avenue (Staff: R. Chiu)

Council considered the two agenda items concurrently. Councilmember Mordo requested clarification from staff. City Engineer Richard Chiu offered that the two agenda items before Council were site development conditions of approval for a new residence at the site. Historically, Santa Clara County had maintained the section of Summerhill Avenue, however, the portion of the road being dedicated was located in the Town.

MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED: Moved by Mordo, seconded by Summit and passed unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 49-10 (Irrevocable Offer of Dedication of Right-of-Way) and Resolution No. 50-10 (Grant of Pathway Easement)

#### PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mark Jensen, Applied Materials Silicon Valley Turkey Trot representative, extended an invitation to the Council and residents to participate in the 2010 Silicon Valley Turkey Trot. The annual event has successfully raised over \$1 million for local charities since its inception. Last year Los Altos Hills won the Mayor's Cup and Jensen encouraged the Council and staff to compete again for the special award.

Barry Chang, Councilmember Cupertino, addressed Council. He requested Council's support in addressing the Lehigh Quarry and Cement Plant emission issues. Chang referenced the permit application currently being reviewed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management Board and the SCC Board of Supervisors. Council was apprised of the litigation filed against the plant.

Council thanked Councilmember Chang for sharing his concerns and his proactive stance on the critical health and environmental issue. Council discussed the feasibility of requesting an air monitoring station from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. It was noted that Los Altos Hills has submitted a letter under the Mayor's signature to the District, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board expressing their concerns about the permitting process for the plant and requesting that the health and welfare of the citizens of the region be considered when the permit for the plant was reviewed. Council reiterated their concern with the lack of monitoring of the plant by the appropriate agencies.

Karen Lemes, resident, shared that she had heard Councilmember Chang speak before the Board of Supervisors and had invited him to share his concern with the Los Altos Hills City Council.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

12. Consideration of Amendments to the Zoning and Site Development Ordinances to incorporate the Fast Track Guide and Checklist as part of the Fast Track Process (Section 10-2.1305.1) and remove the term "Design Guidelines" in Sections 10-1.502, 10-1.503, 10-1.504, 10-1.505, and 10-2.1305; (Staff: D. Pedro)

Planning Director Debbie Pedro introduced the item to Council. She proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the key amendments to the Zoning and Site Development Ordinances that would incorporate the Fast Track Guide and Checklist. The Fast Track Guide for New Residences had been adopted by the City Council at their July 15, 2010 meeting. In addition to the language proposed by the draft ordinance, references to the term "Design Guidelines" would be deleted from the Municipal Code.

The Planning Commission had reviewed the ordinance amendments at their September 2, 2010 regular meeting and vote unanimously to recommend approval of the draft ordinance.

### OPENED PUBLIC HEARING

No public comment.

### CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Pro Tem Larsen queried the Council subcommittee members that had participated in the development of the new Fast Track Guide (Mordo and Summit) on their opinion of the recommendations. He questioned if they were supportive of the proposed language. Councilmember Mordo offered that he believed the revisions would reduce the subjectivity that could be a factor in site development reviews and would provide assurance that the review process was rational and fact based. Councilmember Summit suggested that the new Guide and supporting amendments to the Code would help to provide a clear idea of expectations for applicants.

**MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED:** Moved by Summit, seconded by Mordo and passed by a 4-1 voice vote (No-Councilmember Warshawsky) to waive reading and to introduce Ordinance No. 522.

13. LANDS OF LOS ALTOS HILLS (Applicant: T-Mobile) 26379 Fremont Road; File #92-10-CUP; A request for a Conditional Use Permit for a wireless communication facility consisting of three (3) new panel antennas to be co-located on an existing 70' tall monopine and a 184 square foot addition to an existing storage/cutting shed on the property to enclose the associated ground equipment. CEQA Review: Categorical Exemption per Section 15301 (a) (Staff: D. Pedro)

Planning Director Debbie Pedro introduced the item to Council. She provided an overview of the application. The proposed T-Mobile wireless communication facility was to be located at Town Hall. The applicant was requesting to collocate on the existing 70 foot tall monopine with AT&T wireless, Verizon and the Town's Emergency Communications Committee's antennas.

Pedro proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation that included: a vicinity map of the town hall site and neighboring properties; a town hall site plan; an enlarged site plan that included an illustration of the proposed addition to the equipment shed; elevation of the monopine that include the location of the antennas; photo simulations of the existing and proposed antennas on the monopine; and text of the requested clarification on the Planning Commission's recommended Conditions of Approval.

Council Questions:

Councilmember Mordo requested clarification on the level of radiation that would be emitted from the addition of another wireless facility to the existing monopine. He questioned if the radiation was cumulative and if the addition of the new facility would exceed the recommended level of emissions.

Planning Director Pedro reviewed the radio frequency (RF) analysis for the project that had been submitted by the consulting engineers. The report concluded that the proposed wireless service along with the existing service (AT&T, ECC and Verizon) would be in compliance with the FCC exposure standards.

Councilmember Summit asked if the monopine would now be considered "full". Pedro acknowledged that she had received an inquiry from Clearwire but she was unsure if its microwave dish could be accommodated.

City Manager Cahill explained that the carriers would enter into a lease with the Town for their ground equipment that would support their wireless facility on the monopine. Location on the tree would be negotiated with AT&T.

Emergency Communications Committee member Ray Egan acknowledged that the committee supported the proposal.

OPENED PUBLIC HEARING

Resident, Snell Court, questioned if the appearance of the tree could be improved.

Planning Director Pedro noted that the Town had a maintenance agreement with Cingular Wireless and staff could contact them regarding the tree's appearance. Council directed staff to continue to monitor the tree's appearance.

## CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING

### Council Discussion:

Mayor Pro Tem Larsen requested an opportunity to question the project's Radio Frequency (RF) consulting engineer.

Bill Hammett, P.E., Hammett & Edison, Inc. addressed Council. He summarized his report that had been included in the staff report before Council. Hammett noted that the maximum calculated cumulative level of emissions at ground level for the simultaneous operation of all four carriers was 1.2% of the public exposure limit; the maximum cumulative level at the second-floor elevation of any nearby building was 1.8% of the limit. The calculations included the proposed Clearwire facility. Hammett explained that this was 50 times lower than the recommended safety factor.

Discussion ensued regarding the methodology used for the calculations and measurements.

**MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED:** Moved by Mordo, seconded by Summit and passed unanimously to approve the request for a Site Development and Conditional Use Permit subject to the recommended conditions of approval and recommended findings of approval that were included in the staff report as attachments 1 & 2.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 14. Town Goals

- Environmental Leadership and Outstanding Recreational Facilities

Mayor Kerr reported that the boarding and use operations were back to normal at Westwind Barn.

Following a brief discussion, the City Council directed the City Manager to remove the "coke" machine at the Barn.

### 15. Receive Response to the Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury Report and Consider New Policies to Control Personnel Costs (Staff: N. Pegueros) (item continued from 9/16/10 regular city council meeting)

Finance Director Nick Pegueros provided an overview of the staff report. The item before the City Council was receipt of the response to the 2009-2010 Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury Report that focused on employee costs. The report was a countywide effort that had reviewed compensation and benefit costs for all cities in the county. At the completion of the analysis, the report had made several recommendations to be considered by the agencies.

Pegueros proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the Civil Grand Jury's recommendations and the response from management to implement two of the

recommendations. First, the report had recommended that the salary schedule be expanded. The proposed action by Town management was to increase the current 5 steps to 9 steps. The new scale would reduce the percentage increase between merit based salary increases and provide a 2.469% differential between steps. If implemented, this change would have the effect of slowing growth in employees' salaries. Second, the Civil Grand Jury report recommended reducing the pension provided to future hires. The pension benchmark would be raised to 2% at 60 years of age. Management concurred with the recommendation.

Pegueros reviewed the report's additional recommendations which included employee contributions to pension and medical benefits.

Pegueros provided an overview of the Town's participation in the CalPERS risk pool and pension costs. The Town is one of 428 member agencies with a total of 11,827 members. As a percentage, the Town is 0.0017%. It was noted that given that the Town did not participate in Social Security, this was the only pension retirement option for staff.

In addition to the discussed recommendations, Pegueros offered that management was recommending the creation of a \$700,000 pension contingency reserve fund over a ten year period. Management recommended using the \$70,000 annual pension expense savings that had been realized by paying off the CalPERS pension side fund liability in June 2010. The funds would remain with the Town and would be reported as a designated fund balance available when deemed necessary by the City Council.

Council Discussion:

Councilmember Summit questioned if the Finance and Investment Committee had reviewed management's response to the Civil Grand Jury's report. Pegueros offered that the Committee had reviewed the report.

Councilmember Mordo noted that he did not support the current "steps" formula for merit salary increases. He supported the option of using a salary range for each position. This would afford more flexibility for management. In addition, Mordo recommended a full review of employee compensation and benefits and suggested that a Council subcommittee be created for the review process and with the possible retention of a consultant. Council briefly discussed the feasibility of creating a subcommittee's and its composition. Mordo added that he did not favor the implementation of a two tier pension plan.

OPENED PUBLIC COMMENT

John Lemes, resident, spoke to the two recommendations under consideration. With regards to the step increases, Lemes acknowledged that the process was widely pervasive in very large government institutions. It afforded the employee the opportunity to start at step 1 with the knowledge that there was room for growth and what the successive merit salary increases would be. Lemes added that the pension plan for staff (2% at 55) was "cheap" given there is no social security. He offered that many institutions pay both and noted that the Grand Jury's report did not focus on the Town's level of pension but on other institutions with an enhanced level plan. He recommended that the Town consider paying social security in addition to the pension.

### CLOSED PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED: Moved by Mordo, seconded by Larsen and passed unanimously to eliminate the step formula for merit pay increases and to replace the process with a salary range for each position.

Council discussed the formation of the Council subcommittee that would be tasked with reviewing staff compensation and the inclusion of a consultant to advise the committee. City Manager Cahill suggested that the Council consider the option of providing management with a goal and afford him the opportunity to meet that benchmark. He felt it was important for management (City Manager) to be included in the review process.

### OPENED PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Lemes, resident, provided Council with a report that focused on the current economy in Silicon Valley and its effect on lower and middle class incomes. She noted that the Town had a very small staff (21 employees) and encouraged the Council to treat them well because it would benefit the wealthy people who reside in Los Altos Hills.

### CLOSED PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED: Moved by Mordo, seconded by Larsen and passed unanimously to form a Council subcommittee consisting of Mordo, Larsen, and the City Manager to review employee compensation and benefits.

Council consensus was to engage consultants on an as needed basis to address specific questions. The subcommittee would return to Council with their recommendations.

MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED: Moved by Kerr, seconded by Mordo and passed unanimously to authorize management to establish a Pension Contingency Reserve of \$700,000 over 10 years utilizing the \$70,000 annual pension expense savings.

Councilmember Warshawsky noted that the Town's employee costs and "fiscal house" were a complete anomaly to the rest of the state and were in excellent condition.

### NEW BUSINESS

16. Consideration of Ordinance Amending Title II, Chapter 6 of the Los Altos Hills Municipal Code deleting the Appendix and amending Sections 2-6.03 and 2-6.10 and approving a Resolution updating Los Altos Hills "Designated Officials and Employees with Disclosure Obligations" (Staff: K. Jost)

City Clerk Karen Jost introduced the item to Council. She provided an overview of her staff report. The Political Reform Act requires every local government agency to review its conflict-of-interest code biennially. Following review of the code appendix, it was determined that certain amendments should be made to the Town's List of Designated Employees. The recommendations included: deletion of titles Public Works Manager, Town Planner; the addition of titles Finance Manger, Associate Engineer, Senior Planner

and Associate Planner; and, revision to the Planning Technician title to Building /Planning Technician.

In addition to the amendments to the List of Designated Employees, the City Attorney had identified two additional minor code modifications. The first modification was to delete reference to the Appendix and replace that list with a list approved by City Council resolution. The proposed change would avoid having to process an ordinance amendment every two years. The second ordinance amendment related to identification of the maximum value of any gift that a designated official or employee might receive. The current amount under state law is \$420 per year.

It was noted that both the City Attorney and City Clerk had reviewed the proposed amendments.

**MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED:** Moved by Larsen, seconded by Summit and passed unanimously to waive reading and introduce Ordinance No. 523 amending Title II, Chapter 6 of the Los Altos Hills Municipal Code and approval of Resolution No. 51-10 amending the “List of Designated Officials and Employees with Disclosure Obligations.”

17. Consideration of Ordinance Amending Title 6, Chapter 4, Section 6-4.435, of the Los Altos Hills Municipal Code, Regarding Sewer System Connection fees for secondary dwelling units (Staff: R. Chiu)

City Engineer Richard Chiu introduced the item to Council. Chiu summarized his report. At their September 16, 2010 meeting, the Council had directed staff to return to the Council with a draft ordinance that would clarify that a secondary dwelling unit on a single residential parcel would not be assessed an additional Sewer Connection Fee.

Chiu reviewed the current code that authorized the Town to charge for each new and additional connection to the public sanitary sewer system. The fee amount is based on the number of fixture units. The proposed ordinance would amend the provision with a provision that secondary dwelling units not be required to pay the fee provided that the sum of the fixture units for all dwelling units on the parcel did not exceed sixty (60) fixtures. For parcels where the addition of the secondary dwelling unit results in the total number of fixture units exceeding sixty (60), then the applicant would be charged a proportionate amount of the formula for the connection.

**MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED:** Moved by Warshawsky, seconded by Mordo and passed unanimously to waive reading and introduce Ordinance No. 524 amending Title 6, Chapter 4, Section 6-4.435 of the Los Altos Hills Municipal Code, regarding Sewer System Connection fees for secondary dwelling units.

18. Consideration of December City Council Meeting Schedule (Staff: K. Jost)

Council discussed their December meeting schedule. There was a consensus that the reorganization of Council, installation of new Mayor and Oath of Office for the councilmember-elects be scheduled for their regular meeting (December 16).

COUNCIL RECESS: 8:55 P.M.

COUNCIL RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION: 9:05 P.M.

19. Consideration of User Fees at Westwind Community Barn (N. Pegueros)

This item was continued to a future meeting.

20. Consideration of Contract to Provide Surveying Services for Old Page Mill Road and Authorization of Funding for Pavement Repair Work  
(Staff: R. Chiu)

City Engineer Richard Chiu introduced the item to Council. Chiu clarified that the survey would assist the Town in determining how much of the pavement on Old Page Mill Road was within the Town. With the information garnered from the survey, the Town would be able to establish which jurisdiction (Town or County) was responsible for road maintenance. Chiu noted that currently, there were no agreements in place for road maintenance and by default; the Town was responsible for the portion within its limits and the county was responsible for the other portion. With the findings from the survey, the Town could better calculate the cost of the pavement repair work and could coordinate the project with the county to improve their section of the road concurrently.

Council acknowledged that the area was an important bicycle route.

MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED: Moved by Summit, seconded by Larsen and passed unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 52-10 awarding the contract to Giuliani & Kull for surveying services in an amount not to exceed \$23,000 and authorizing the expenditure for pavement repair in the amount not to exceed \$30,000.

21. Consideration of Additional Funds for Storm Drainage Improvements Needed for Eastbrook Avenue Sanitary Sewer Diversion Project (Staff: R. Chiu)

City Engineer Richard Chiu introduced the item to Council. He explained that the project had been necessitated by the 2006 Los Altos-Los Altos Hills Sewer Agreement. The project had included the installation of a new sewer line to abandon the existing siphon that crossed Permanente Creek. High groundwater levels were not anticipated during the project planning and design and staff has determined that additional funds were needed to satisfactorily complete the sewer project.

MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED: Moved by Mordo, seconded by Warshaswky and passed unanimously to approve Resolution No. 53-10 authorizing the City Engineer to execute contract change orders for the Eastbrook Avenue Sanitary Sewer Diversion Project in an additional amount of \$65,000.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

22. Notification of Planning Commission Approvals: (Staff: D. Pedro)

- A. LANDS OF BUDGE, 24175 Dawnridge Drive; File #97-10-ZP-SD-GD; A request for a Site Development Permit for a new 5,706 square foot two story residence with a 2,883 square foot basement/bunker, 800 square foot swimming pool, and 315 square foot accessory building. CEQA Review: Categorical Exemption per Section 15303(a). Planning Commission Vote: 5-0 (Unanimous)
  
- B. LANDS OF CUE, 26491 Ascension Drive; File #122-10-ZP-SD; A request for a Site Development Permit for a landscape screening plan and an additional Grading Policy exception of 6” of cut to the previously approved 7’ of cut for the yard areas. Review: Categorical Exemption per Section 15304(b). Planning Commission Vote: 3-2 (Ayes: Collins, Clow, Abraham/Noes: Harpootlian, Partridge)
  
- C. LANDS OF MAKOWER, 14300 Miranda Road; File #118-10-ZP-SD-GD; A request for a Site Development Permit for a 5,437 square foot two story new residence with a 4,208 square foot basement which includes a 599 square foot secondary dwelling unit, a 1,326 square foot bunker, and a 671 square foot swimming pool. The applicant is also requesting a Grading Policy exception of up to 15’ of cut for the basement garage, backup area, and driveway. Review: Categorical Exemption per Section 15303(a)&(e). Planning Commission Vote: 5-0 (Unanimous)

Planning Director Debbie Pedro summarized the recent actions by the Planning Commission. The City Council had copies of the staff reports and supporting documents of the reviewed projects in their Council packets.

Councilmember Mordo requested further clarification on Lands of Makower, specifically; their request for an exception to the Grading Policy. He expressed his desire to appeal approval of the project for review by the City Council. Mordo noted that he was uncomfortable with the Town’s inconsistency with actions regarding the Town’s Grading Policy. However, following comments by Planning Commissioners Harpootlian and Partridge on the project and their reasons for voting to approve the exception, he withdrew his appeal.

There was a concurrence by the City Council that the Town’s grading policy and basement ordinance should be reviewed in the near future by the Planning Commission.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, AND COUNCILMEMBERS ON OUTSIDE AGENCIES

- 23. Consideration of Senior Community Pilot Questionnaire and Funding-LA/LAH Senior Committee (Staff: S. Gualiteri)  
*By consensus of the City Council, this item was considered out of order of the agenda.*

Councilmember Summit introduced the item to the City Council. The request before Council was authorization to distribute a Questionnaire prepared by the LA/LAH Senior

Committee to residents over 55 years of age residing in the respective communities. Members of the committee were available to answer questions.

Committee member Tanya DeMare summarized the Committee's process for developing the Questionnaire and reviewed the draft with Council.

Council discussion ensued. They requested two additions to the draft: the identification of Foothill College as a resource for seniors and horseback riding as a senior activity.

MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED: Moved by Summit, seconded by Mordo and passed unanimously to authorize distribution of the Questionnaire as modified and funding of an amount not-to-exceed \$1,000 for distribution.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

Mayor Kerr reported that the VTA Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) would be making recommendations to the VTA Board of Directors on the grant submittals for funding for new bike routes. The Town had submitted an application (Safe Bicycle Route to Los Altos Hills Schools) for a new bike lane on Fremont Road.

Councilmember Summit reported that she had attended a Santa Clara County Cities Association meeting and a meeting hosted by Supervisor Liz Kniss on seniors.

24. Request from the Standing Environmental Initiatives Committee for Council Position on Proposition 23- (Peter Evans, Chair)

*By consensus of the City Council, this item was considered out of order of the agenda.*

EIC Chair Peter Evans addressed Council. Council had before them a request from the Committee to take a formal position on Proposition 23 to be voted on in the upcoming November election. Included in the Council meeting packet was a recommendation from the EIC for Council to oppose Proposition 23 and supporting arguments for the position.

MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED: Moved by Larsen, seconded by Mordo and passed unanimously to declare the City Council's opposition to Proposition 23.

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager  
No report given.

City Engineer:

- Emergency Call-Out Status Report

City Engineer Richard Chiu reviewed the costs incurred for Public Works in-house staff call outs for after hour emergencies. By using Town staff versus an outside contractor for the work performed for the seven month period, the Town had realized a savings of \$6,025.

- Natoma Road Sewer Project Status Report

City Engineer Chiu provided an overview of the project. The repair work to the sewer line was nearing completion with testing scheduled to begin on Friday (October 22) and paving tentatively scheduled for the following week.

- Stanford Trail Status Report

City Engineer Chiu reported that Town staff had been working with representatives from Stanford on the design details of the trail. The agreement between the Town and Stanford for the project was currently being reviewed by the respective attorneys.

City Attorney  
No report given.

City Clerk  
No report given.

### COUNCIL INITIATED ITEMS

#### 25. Discussion of Term Limits for Planning Commissioners (Councilmember Warshawsky)

Councilmember Warshawsky explained that he had requested this discussion in light of the Town's term limits for councilmembers (two four year terms) and the challenge that serving multiple terms presents to the Commissioners. He noted that he recognized the value of institutional knowledge that comes with time; however, he believed there was also a benefit to appointing new people to the Commission. Warshawsky suggested that a general discussion on the issue was appropriate given the influence and power of the Commission.

Council discussion ensued. Mayor Pro Tem Larsen noted that he was generally in favor of term limits. Mordo noted that the Council was the appointing authority and could choose to limit the terms by simply not re-appointing a Commissioner and could initiate a policy that gave a preference to new people if they were qualified. He offered that the position was difficult and required a familiarity with a wide range of information (zoning ordinances, site development ordinances, municipal code, and policies).

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Planning Commissioner Partridge concurred that it was a time consuming and difficult position. He acknowledged that it was an ongoing learning experience but personally, he was not sure that he would be interested in serving more than eight years.

Planning Commissioner Abraham had submitted a letter to the City Council that was available on the dais. He did not support term limits.

Planning Commissioner Harpootlian commented that the Council had the authority to remove a Commissioner if they wanted to or not re-appoint a Commissioner to an additional term. He concurred that it was a difficult position. Harpootlian questioned why Councilmember Warshawsky was interested in moving this dialogue forward at this time.

Councilmember Warshawsky suggested that the impetus for the discussion was the possibility that term limits would encourage more applicants. He noted that last year there were few applicants seeking appointment.

#### CLOSED PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION SECONDED AND FAILED TO PASS: Moved by Warshawsky, seconded by Larsen to impose a two four year term limit for Planning Commissioners. The motion failed to pass by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmember Warshawsky, Mayor Pro Tem Larsen  
NOES: Mayor Kerr, Councilmember Mordo and Councilmember Summit  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

#### 26. Request for Additional Funding-Los Altos Hills Families (LAHF) (Mayor Pro Tem Larsen)

*By consensus of the City Council, this item was considered out of order of the agenda.*

Mayor Pro Tem Larsen introduced the item. He spoke to the successes of the Los Altos Hills Families (LAHF) association during their first year and noted that the group was before the City Council for consideration of funding to continue their program.

Former Mayor Craig A. T. Jones thanked Mayor Pro Tem Larsen for sponsoring their item on the Council agenda and thanked the Council for their support during their initial year of development. He introduced Jennifer Carlstrom, member of the association. During their presentation, Carlstrom provided an overview of their events.

Jones proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation that illustrated their efforts, successes and funding request. LAHF is an association whose membership is open to all LAH residents with a current membership of 345 residents. Jones noted that the group was complimentary to the Town's Parks and Recreation Department and they have mutually co-sponsored events, including: pumpkin-carving, holiday tree lighting and movie night at Town Hall, and the LAH 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Jones suggested that the monies provided to LAHF was "low-spend/high-impact" funding that provided families a means to build community given the challenges of the Town (large-lot, hilly, multi-school district town).

Jones reviewed the group's request for funding in 2010-2011 of \$10,000. The funds would be used for outreach to increase membership, 8-10 annual events, continuation of the website forum, and the development of parent and teen events.

Council thanked Jones and Carlstrom for the presentation.

#### Council Discussion:

Council discussion ensued.

Councilmember Mordo congratulated the group on their successes but noted his concern that the Town was providing 100% funding for a “private” group and questioned if the members who directly benefited should minimally participate in the funding at a minimal cost (\$20/30 membership).

Mayor Kerr suggested that the Council consider approving the request for the next nine months and then revisit the funding allocation during budget discussions.

Councilmember Warshawsky added that he and his son attend the family oriented events and they were a wonderful resource for meeting neighbors and new families.

Councilmember Summit congratulated Jones and Carlstrom for their efforts and spoke to her experience as a new resident and how difficult it was to network and meet new people. However, she concurred with Councilmember Mordo’s comments and offered that she had been under the assumption that the initial funding of \$5,000 last year would help launch the group but that it was a one time funding request. The new proposal request of \$10,000, suggested that it would be an annual request. She expressed her uncertainty where the funding could be addressed in the annual budget and suggested that it might be considered as a subset of the Town’s Parks and Recreation program. She did not believe that it would be appropriate to include it with the grants to the non-profit organizations.

Council discussed the feasibility of integrating the group into the Town and the consensus was that it was more beneficial for them to remain a separate independent entity. Jones confirmed that the expectation was to return to the Town annually with a funding request.

**MOTION MADE AND CARRIED:** Moved by Mordo, seconded by Kerr and passed unanimously to approve the funding request of \$10,000 for 2010-11 and to recommend that the LAHF investigate ways to self-finance a portion of their expenses. The funding for LAHF would be reviewed as a line item during the annual budget discussions.

#### 27. Deer Creek Road Bike Lane Project (Mayor Kerr)

Mayor Kerr reported that Stanford had several proposals under consideration for Deer Creek Road including reducing the road to two lanes and stripping for bike lanes. He suggested that before the agreement with Stanford for the C-2 trail was signed, it would be prudent for the Town to have an understanding of Stanford’s proposal for Deer Creek Road.

City Engineer Chiu acknowledged that staff had made an attempt to have representatives from Stanford attend the Council meeting but due to the short notice, they were unable to attend. However, they did indicate that they could attend a future meeting if that was the desire of the Council.

### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Breene Kerr adjourned the meeting at 10:55 p.m. in memory of Mary Davey, former Los Altos Hills Councilmember, Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District Director, and long time community volunteer and environmentalist.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Jost  
City Clerk

The minutes of the October 21, 2010 regular City Council meeting were approved as presented at the November 18, 2010 regular City Council meeting.