



**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH THE MENLO PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT MINUTES**

**Date:** 3/16/2021

**Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Special Meeting Location:** Zoom.us/join – ID# 976 7090 9395

**Closed Session Meeting Location:** Teleconference

**Regular Session (Zoom.us/join – ID# 976 7090 9395)**

**A. Call To Order**

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

**Present:** Combs, Mueller, Nash, Taylor, Wolosin, Menlo Park Fire Protection District board members: Director President Jim McLaughlin, Director Vice President Chuck Bernstein, Directors Virginia Chang Kiraly, Robert Jones, and Robert Silano

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, City Attorney Nira F. Doherty, City Clerk Judi A. Herren, Menlo Park Fire Protection District staff present include: Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman, Administrative Services Manager Kathleen Jackson, General Counsel Steven Miller, and Clerk of the Board Michelle Kneier

**C. Regular Business**

**C1. Purchase of City property by District**

Mayor Combs introduced the item.

- Sheryl Bims spoke in opposition of eminent domain, requested information on the frequency of fire engine trucks from the Chilco Station, and on concerns related to the abandonment of the Chilco Station if purchasing is not an option

The City Council and the Menlo Park Fire Protection District (MPFPD) discussed the Chilco Street property and property values and City Council requested updated correspondence from the MPFPD related to the purchase.

The City Council and the MPFPD received clarification on the remodel timeline of station Nos. 4, 1, and 77, Station 77 average calls, Willow Road property and MPFPD interest, urgency of acquisition of Chilco Street property and current lease length, community outreach performed by the MPFPD, and life span of fire station facilities.

**C2. Emergency services in Menlo Park**

- Contract Between the City and the District
- Emergency operations center (EOC)
- Alerting system (LRAD)
- Default disaster plan (revocable by City at any time): District lead for first 12 hours

[Web form public comment received on item C2.](#)

Mayor Combs introduced the item.

- Lynne Bramlett spoke on emergency readiness expectations, required planning necessary for readiness, and in support of increased transparency.

The City Council and the MPFPD discussed COVID vaccine delivery and administration and default disaster plan and the initial leading organization(s).

The City Council and the MPFPD received clarification on the 2020 Menlo Park preparedness report, costs associated with MPFPD services in Menlo Park compared to other cities, MPFPD review of services report, and Menlo Park's relationship with MPC Ready and expectations.

C3. Homeless encampments and the threat to community safety

Mayor Combs introduced the item.

- Kim Novello spoke on concerns that community safety is related to homelessness.

The City Council and the MPFPD clarified that the agenda title is not reflective of homelessness impacting community safety.

**D. Adjournment**

Mayor Combs adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**E. Closed Session**

**Call To Order**

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Present: Combs, Mueller, Nash, Taylor, Wolosin,

Absent: None

Staff: City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, Assistant City Manager Nick Pegueros, City Attorney Nira F. Doherty, Outside Counsel Charles Sakai, Human Resources Director Theresa DellaSanta, Assistant Administrative Services Director Dan Jacobson, Public Works Director Nikki Nagaya,

Public Comment on these items will be taken before adjourning to Closed Session.

- E1. Closed session conference with labor negotiators pursuant to Government Code §54957.6 regarding labor negotiations with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 829 (AFSCME) and Confidential employees; Service Employees International Union Local 521 (SEIU); Menlo Park Police Sergeants Association (PSA); Menlo Park Police

Officers' Association (POA); and unrepresented management

Attendees: City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, Assistant City Manager Nick Pegueros, City Attorney Nira F. Doherty, Human Resources Director Theresa DellaSanta

No reportable actions.

- E2. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to § 54956.9(d)(2):  
One case ([Attachment](#))

No reportable actions.

**F. Adjournment**

Mayor Combs adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

These minutes were approved at the City Council meeting of April 13, 2021.

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, COVID-19, EMERGENCY ADVISORY NOTICE

On March 19, 2020, the Governor ordered a statewide stay-at-home order calling on all individuals living in the State of California to stay at home or at their place of residence to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, the Governor has temporarily suspended certain requirements of the Brown Act. For the duration of the shelter in place order, the following public meeting protocols will apply.

Teleconference meeting: All members of the City Council, city staff, applicants, and members of the public will be participating by teleconference. To promote social distancing while allowing essential governmental functions to continue, the Governor has temporarily waived portions of the open meetings act and rules pertaining to teleconference meetings. This meeting is conducted in compliance with the Governor Executive Order N-25-20 issued March 12, 2020, and supplemental Executive Order N-29-20 issued March 17, 2020.

- How to participate in the meeting
  - Submit a written comment online up to 1-hour before the meeting start time:  
[menlopark.org/publiccommentMarch16](https://menlopark.org/publiccommentMarch16) \*
  - Access the meeting real-time online at:  
[Zoom.us/join](https://Zoom.us/join) – Meeting ID 976 7090 9395
  - Access the meeting real-time via telephone at:  
(669) 900-6833  
Meeting ID 976 7090 9395  
Press \*9 to raise hand to speak

\*Written and recorded public comments are accepted up to 1-hour before the meeting start time. Written and recorded messages are provided to the City Council at the appropriate time in their meeting. Recorded messages may be transcribed using a voice-to-text tool.

- Watch meeting:
  - Cable television subscriber in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton, and Palo Alto:  
Channel 26
  - Online:  
[menlopark.org/streaming](https://menlopark.org/streaming)

Note: City Council closed sessions are not broadcast online or on television and public participation is limited to the beginning of closed session.

Subject to Change: Given the current public health emergency and the rapidly evolving federal, state, county and local orders, the format of this meeting may be altered or the meeting may be canceled. You may check on the status of the meeting by visiting the City's website [www.menlopark.org](https://www.menlopark.org). The instructions for logging on to the webinar and/or the access code is subject to change. If you have difficulty accessing the webinar, please check the latest online edition of the posted agenda for updated information ([menlopark.org/agenda](https://menlopark.org/agenda)).

According to City Council policy, all meetings of the City Council are to end by midnight unless there is a super majority vote taken by 11:00 p.m. to extend the meeting and identify the items to be considered after 11:00 p.m.

Agenda item C2  
Kathy Switky, Resident

I am pleased to see that the Council is holding a meeting with the MPFPD to discuss so many items of mutual interest to the City and the District.

Given that emergency water supply is of critical importance to both the City and the District, I would also like to urge you to discuss a potential partnership that would allow placement of an emergency water well site at Station 1 on Middlefield Road. In 2017, City staff identified this site as a top location for an emergency water well: it is centrally located, in the lower zone of the water district, adjacent to existing water mains, and would provide a convenient and reliable water supply for Fire District operations.

According to the May 2, 2017 staff report (17-097-CC), such a partnership was discussed eight years ago: “...staff met with the MPFPD Board in January 2013 to discuss the possibility of utilizing a corner of their property for an emergency well. The MPFPD Board expressed interest in having further discussions with the City to determine the terms of an agreement; however, further discussions did not occur as the MPFPD was still in the process of developing their plan for the redevelopment of Fire Station No. 1.”

Obviously, now that this planned redevelopment is further along, this is a time-sensitive matter. I urge you to discuss the possibility of such a partnership so that an agreement might be reached soon to incorporate a well and associated pumphouse into the planned remodel of this station.

This site offers a potential for a win-win project: it would be an excellent second well location for the City’s Emergency Water Supply Project (as specified in the MPMW Water System Master Plan) and would provide the District with easy access to plentiful water at the station for training purposes. Such a public partnership would be of great benefit of the entire community, and I urge you to discuss this promptly.

Thank you for your consideration.