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SPEAKERS

Speaker 2, Speaker 5, Speaker 3, Speaker 7, Thiel, Dolan, Hillis, Lisa Disbrow, McCluer, Speaker 4, Maglio, Bruzzone, Speaker 1, Town Manager, Woehleke, Speaker 6, Attorney



Hillis 00:00

Indivisible with liberty and justice for all. And now we move to presentations, and I don't look like I have a card copy of the proclamation we'll be reading. Thank you so much. So, as we said earlier, Council Member wallacky, I'm not as quite as organized as you, so we're just going to get started and leave it for me to read the last one, please. And I would like to say before we do this, I am proud of this town that we for the first time, just like last month, it was the first time that we recognize Holocaust Memorial Day, that this month we are also recognize, recognizing, through proclamation Black History Month, I tried to determine whether or not we ever done it before, and my the only resource that I really had to go for was la Miranda weekly. So thank goodness, a good community member got their website back working just about a week ago. And as far as I can tell, I mean, we got two Mayor two, three other mayors here. They might be able to correct the record. I don't think it's happened, but please correct me if I'm wrong. To that point, I'd like to start with council member Wallace, please.



Woehleke 01:14

Thank you. I'm honored a proclamation recognizing February 2026, as Black History Month. Whereas during Black History Month, the nation celebrates the many achievements and contributions made by black Americans to each community's economic, cultural, spiritual and civic development.

M Maglio 01:34

And whereas Black History Month grew out of the establishment in 1926 of Negro history week by Carter G Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

H Hillis 01:52

And whereas the town of Moraga acknowledges the legacy of black soldiers, activities and initiatives that encourage well being in the black community and scholars, I'm sorry,

D Dolan 02:06

whereas the observance of Black History Month calls attention to the continued need to battle racism and build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals, and whereas

T Thiel 02:17

the town of Moraga continues to work towards being an inclusive community in which all citizens past, present and future are respected and recognized for their contributions and potential contributions to our community, to California, the nation and the world, and

W Woehleke 02:35

whereas the town of Moraga is proud to honor the history and contribution of black Americans in the community and supports the theme of honoring black families who are part of our town landscape.

H

Hillis 02:49

Now therefore, excuse me, be it resolved that the town council hereby recognizes February 2026 as Black History Month in the town of Moraga. Thank you so much. I am so proud of our town for doing this, and with that, we will move on. Oh, do I need to do a motion to Okay? We'll move on to public communication. And I just wanted to start out with a proviso. I know that some of y'all who have been presiding officers have done this historically in the past. Before we start public comment, I want to say for anyone, anyone that took offense of my mention of Al de Sayer at our last Council meeting, when we were discussing transit funding, I had absolutely no intention of impugning the reputation of a former member of this esteemed body. I was instead trying to make a point which I've heard, some of those present, or may not be present, have made themselves in the past on social media. Specifically, it was why county connection services are as low today as they are. I mean, after all, a bus service with a one hour headway is virtually useless, and I think we all can agree to that, and I'm on the county connection board of directors that said, if I'm offending folks to the point where you are upset, then you can't hear anything that I'm trying to make anyways. And it's my points are largely irrelevant. I respect all, including those here in the room today who do not sit on this dais, who have raised their hand to serve. Service is a sacrifice. I know that more than just about anyone, I have a full time job. I have three little kids. My wife. Is at home with my mom, who just arrived today, and I'm here. I haven't seen my mom in two months, but I'm here, and that is the sacrifice we sign up for when we choose to represent the people of Moraga, and it is a privilege and a privilege I never overlook. I never think twice on I know why I am here. I want to say, Al, if you're listening, I doubt we would agree on very much policy wise, but I respect and honor your commitment to our town as a fellow man in the arena. I apologize sincerely, if any of my words cause defense. Now, thank you for that. I will now open the meeting to public comment. I have a stack of comments here, and we will move through them. You will have two minutes, as we have a quite an audience, but not quite enough for me to say you only have one with that. I call up. It's either Craig or Greg Crossley, of course, I should know it was Greg.

B

Bruzzone 06:19

I'm Greg Crossley, longtime member of the community of Moraga, I'd like to thank you for your apology for Al. I've known Al for over 45 years. He has been a dedicated person to the community and a volunteer to the community for over 45 years. You talk about the headway on CCTA through Moraga, at one point, he is what kept us having a headway having a bus through town. So if it's an hour, it's still ahead of what was going to have been because of budget concerns. So Al gets appreciation for us having a headway through town. Okay, I want to make that clear now if you take a look at the busses that do go through town, when are they occupied, really, during school time. Okay, when you see one, two or three people on a bus, CCTA has chomped at the bit at wanting to cut that back because there isn't the ridership. So Al gets a thank you for at least having us bus come through the town. Okay? Thank you.

H

Hillis 07:24

Thank you. And I would just say, there we are still fighting to help increase or decrease those headways. I will add that because of what I heard from our public Mr.

A

Attorney 07:39

Mayor, this is public comment. So we should just say, take the public comment.

H

Hillis 07:43

75% of the public, in long run to agree with you. So okay, thank you. Can never get 100% of people for anything. Now I call up Lisa Disbrow. I

L

Lisa Disbrow 08:05

Good evening. I'm Lisa Disbrow, 20 plus year resident of beautiful Moraga and La Mirinda and a swim mom, and I want to address the Council on a very important issue, and that is anti semitism. And I'm a Richmond native, born on 23rd street Richmond hospital. I know Mr. Eduardo Martinez personally, and I was thrilled to hear that Moraga signed the letter of unity criticizing his anti semitic statements and the fear that he caused in so many residents and the Bay Area at large, and caused a terrible stain on the Bay Area. And so I want to thank you, Mayor. I was grabbed when I heard that Moraga was included in the 70 to 80 plus elected and former elected officials that signed that letter. And I just want to say next, next situation, could we have everybody sign it. And the second thing I want to ask is, could you post it some place, findable on the Moraga website? I searched, I searched, I searched. Maybe I'm not that good at research, but I couldn't find it. And I think it would be an important statement, given the rise of anti semitism here, right where we live, and I will mention that the humas badega is an issue, and a lot of anti semitic comments are being expressed, and it's it's not positive, it's not inclusive, and it does cause fear. Thank you.

H

Hillis 10:00

Brent, thank you, and I just want to add, really quick, I'm sorry that that was me acting in my personal capacity. So the reason it's not on our website is it's not because there wasn't, I think, support for the message. It was that it was timely, and I also was helping to organize the signatures, so I can help put it in a place that's more visible. But thank you for the comment. And next, I'll call Wendell Baker please. Hi, I'm Wendell Baker from the Moraga ikind project. I'm starting really early this year. We want to fly the pride flag in June. In previous years, we've heard that there's ordinances against that, but we don't know what they are, and we don't know what the path forward would be to do that, so we'd like to start early and find out what we need to do. And thank you for doing the resolution for Black History Month, and thank you for being on the town council. Thank you. And now we're going to call Sheree Sweeney, or is it sherry?

S

Speaker 1 11:13

Good evening, Mayor Hillis and council members. My name is Sherry Sweeney. My family and I have been residents of Moraga for 23 years. I'm here this evening because, as we know, as most of us know, 2026 has been a year when LGBTQ rights that we all thought were moving forward have been rolled back in some frightening ways that are causing harm to members of our families and our friends and our communities. In fact, this week, our federal administration ordered the removal of the pride flag from the Stonewall Memorial, and I was surprised to learn that the Marat the town of Moraga has not been flying the pride flag over the last few years, our family does fly the pride flag at our home every day in June. We're proud parents of a gay daughter, and we'd really like to see the council agendize a discussion of flying the flag here in Moraga for all to observe pride month in June.

H

Hillis 12:23

Thank you. Thank you so much, and now we have sorry my reading vision is going. Mike McClure,

M

McCluer 12:37

good afternoon. Excuse me. Good evening, Mr. Mayor and town council, first, I want to say thank you. Thank you to the mayor. I appreciate that. I think there are times we all have said, including myself, things that I wish I could have said that better. So I think it shows courage and leadership to do what you just did. And I thank you here, I will modify my comments now based upon what you just said. First, maybe some positivity about Al, for those that don't know everything, a 47 year community leader. He was involved in the corporation of our town in 1974 so we could control our destiny, versus the county. He saw the opportunity to buy excess land, which later became the Moraga Commons Park, a crown jewel, fantastic idea, elected to the town council three times, voted to be mayor three times, served on the county board. Connection for 34 years, and after all these achievements, he was given to me the highest designation you can get in this town. He was elected, voted as the Moraga Citizen of the Year. Al was a special person. I do want to share. I'll skip over some other things, but I did talk to a recent county connection board member that you work with that also worked with Alan early 2000s and I said, Hey, did you see this? Would you share your opinion? Because I didn't know back then. And this person said, you know, oh my god, Mike, that was just horrible. It was false. It's not true. Al brought us what we needed, a finance view that we didn't have, and Al and his finance expertise helped us immensely. He created the cafeteria benefit plan for the county connection that saved millions of dollars versus the CalPERS Plan. It was thanks to Al that we were able to run the county connection busses. So at the end of the day, I just thank you for your statement. Felt I needed to come and say something and good luck and enjoy your evening. Thank you. Thank you so much.

H

Hillis 14:49

And next we have Michael Gaffney,

S

Speaker 2 14:56

thank you so much for allowing me to speak my name. Michael Gaffney and I've been a resident on and off for about 20 years. I love Moraga so much. I love shopping at TJ Maxx and home goods. I love having lunch at Royal Siam. I love picking up general chicken at Golden Palace. I love working out at the 24 hour fitness and before I bum my knee, I love going up into the Mulholland ridge in the spring and watching the poppies. That being said, I always feel like I'm just visiting this town. I'm not your typical moragon, I'm not wealthy, I don't have children, and I'm not straight. Currently, there are 15 cities in the town of the East Bay that identify and fly the pride flag during pride month. Those cities are Oakland, Richmond, El Cerrito, Concord, Emeryville, Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek, Antioch, Clayton, Hercules, Martinez, Pinole, Pittsburgh, Lafayette and Orinda. Why not Moraga? Why not Moraga? The pride flag is a beacon of hope and safety for the LGBTQ community, particularly for the young people. Gay youth face significantly higher rates of homelessness, suicide attempts and victimization. This is not about politics, as much as this administration would like it to be. As Cherie mentioned just yesterday, they silently removed the pride flag from the Stonewall Memorial across the street from the Stonewall Inn, which is the birthplace of the gay rights movement, and I truly appreciate that you do a proclamation or whatever, but that's not enough. Have the courage to raise that flag, and I just want to end I have a dear friend that I work with, a trans person that was born and raised in Moraga, and I asked them to write something in short, but they they didn't want to be identified. They said I could do it, and that that broke my heart. But dear Moraga Town Council, I am writing this letter as a concerned resident of the town of Moraga. It has come to my attention by my dear friend Michael, that the town government is refusing to fly the pride flag during the month of June, also known as Pride Month. I find this extremely disappointing to hear. As a member of the LGBTQ plus community who was born and raised in Moraga, I can't express enough how meaningful it would have been for me as a young queer child to see the flag being flown in my town. It is all too common that I feel unsafe and alone, but something as simple as seeing this flag in a window or on a flagpole is a reminder that I am, in fact, not alone, and that there is a space for me in this world, and if it is an argument of not wanting to be political, may I remind you that the colors of the pride flag represent life, healing, sunlight, nature, harmony and spirit, all beautiful and important things that deserve to be celebrated. Thank you for your time, and I also thank you for your time.

H

Hillis 18:22

Thank you. Next comment we have is from Ron Schumacher.

S

Speaker 3 18:36

Hello, everybody. Welcome guys. Probably surely know who I am, but I own Moraga motors. Been trying to figure out how to handle some of the things and comments and discussions over the use of our property. I do understand the clear codes that are on there the Bureau of Automotive Repair the state of California, none of them have issues with anybody working on RVs. We literally work on probably about 10 a year. I've put a ton of energy trying to figure out how to have a conversation with you guys, and it's not really happened very much. Steve is probably the only one that's really kind of reached out. Had conversations with your planning director, not a very good conversation, not to what I think it should be all of our citizens, we service a large, large majority of these folks in Moraga, every customer asked me, where'd your fifth wheel go? Well, the town wanted me to move it. I'll give you that fine. I'm okay with that not being able to. Service our community on stuff that they need. Here's two things people look at when they come to a town where's a good dentist and where's a good, honest mechanic. We're only one of those. I mean, if you look at any of the next door apps, we are recommended a ton. We don't do any advertising besides the church and St Mary's. 90% of ours is almost probably more than that is referenced from somebody else. I don't know how to get this conversation going. I've been coming up here for about eight months, same conversation every time, and we have not had a discussion. I've sent emails. I don't think all the emails are very accessible. I've tried to find most of them. Some keep getting kicked back. I'm not sure somehow we need to figure this out. I have a lot of customers that want their vehicles service, their motor homes, small trailers, fishing boats that's smaller than a Volkswagen bug that needs a wheel bearing, got an email that same day from your planning department. The citizens of Moraga do want me to work on their stuff. It is literally about 10 of those times a year. That happens 90% of the time. It is a one, maybe at best, a two day thing. Hopefully you guys can see some light in it and either amend the code like it should be again, the Bureau of Automotive that's in charge of every automotive repair shop in California does not have a problem with it.

H

Hillis 21:46

Thank you for your comment. That is all I have in my in my pile over here. Does anyone else in the audience wish to leave comment? Mr. Brent, only if you wouldn't mind coming to the microphone and stating your

B

Bruzzone 22:02

name. I Good evening. Good evening. Dave berzoni, I thought it was necessary for me to come by because I read the paper, the local paper today, and that was a follow up on comments that were made at a previous town council meeting. I'll frankly say that, you know, I read a lot of things that were hurtful, not only to me, but to my family. And I think there are more productive means to achieve what we're I think all hopefully, hopefully, hopefully want to achieve, which is an improvement of our downtown center. I think there are a lot better ways to do that, you know, using social media and, you know, politics, you know, unfortunately today, it generally shows discord. And I think we can do better. You know, one comment I do have here is, you know, one step forward, two steps back. And that seems to be the issue that we the brezon, is keep on confronting with the town here. I think the town, in the last few years has done a great job. I think we have a great team assembled, starting with the town manager and then the planning director, and also Nate at public works. And in addition, I think the brezonis can work with the council. You know, we have this slight hiccup here. I don't like the way things are going, but I think I want to make clear that, first of all, I think this narrative is a mischaracterization of our intent, our desire to improve our property and the downtown that is something that we've been looking to achieve for years. We've spent 1000s of hours over the last many years trying to work with the town to correct policies and zoning issues that stop or make it more difficult to develop in town. The last couple of years there has been a mark market change. I think that's positive, and like I said, I want to reinforce I like the team that the town has together. Now I've talked to a lot of you. Personally, I think I've conveyed to you that we have a love and desire love of Moraga and want to see it improved, and we don't take kindly to mischaracterizing our actions or motivations. I don't think that's fair, and I don't think that's going to help us reach the deadline. So the final comment that I had the Moraga center specific plan is one of the areas where the Brent zone is on their own, not ream center, not other areas of the community have spent. And tremendous amount of money and time identifying issues on how and what we would like to see the downtown. So it wasn't exactly everything that we wanted, but it was on its way that specific plan was approved in 2010 it was not implemented until 2020 and it is still undergoing corrections to take out housing constraints and zoning constraints that stop not only building of housing, but retail, which we view as being important. And the final thing, whatever kind of study you want to do, make sure you understand, and the specific plan did say this, we need a critical mass of building housing units that will help rejuvenate our downtown Retail and shopping. Finally, we have we love the Moraga ranch. We've been involved. I've been involved with the Moraga ranch going back to the days where I picked walnuts and pairs with my siblings. So that facility, those buildings and those uses have changed and matured over the years. We look at that as being a treasure. We we loved. We would love to see it revitalized, but it takes the approval of plans that are profitable to us and the community, so that we can make money reinvest in the community, because we plan on being here a long time. And like I said, I would hope that we could have a positive future. If the whole council, or part of the council is not with us, we'll still, we'll still go ahead, but I think, I think, I think we have, we share a lot of common goals and interest, and I think we can get a lot done. But I think social media and things that we're seeing published are inaccurate, and I think we should get into more productive endeavors. Thank you.

H Hillis 27:10

Thank you so much for your comment. Do we have any other public comments Seeing none? I will close public comment, and now we are on to adoption of the meeting agenda. Unless I'm missing something, I missing something. All right, that's why I rely on staff to keep me honest. Over here,

W Woehleke 27:34

move for adoption of meeting agenda.

M Maglio 27:36

Is there a second? Second? The motion?

H Hillis 27:39

All in favor? Aye. Opposed Moving now to the consent calendar. Are there any requests from my colleagues to remove any items from the agenda?

W Woehleke 27:52

I Yes, yes. I had my hand

H Hillis 27:56

council member woolicky, sir. Thank you. Thank you. I Brent,

W Woehleke 28:06

yeah. Where is it the Oh 6.3 I'd like to remove 6.3 which is adopt a resolution, ratify and Marauder into fire district ordinance 2601 right.

H

Hillis 28:20

Are there any other requests I have one? I think my agenda may be an older one. I have it as 5.2 but I think it might be 6.2 this is regarding the culverts. 6.2 Do I have a motion on all of the remaining items

W

Woehleke 28:37

Move for approval of consent calendar items, 6.1 and 6.4 as proposed.

H

Hillis 28:46

And is there a second? And I will ask for public comment. Second. Thank you. Public comment. Hearing, none. I pull this back for a vote. All in favor, Aye. All opposed eyes have it. Let's see we are now on to item. I think it's 6.2 town manager,

T

Town Manager 29:16

thank you, Mr. Mayor. Members of the Council Deirdre will come up, and our acting public works director for this this week will come up and answer questions, if you have any on this project.

S

Speaker 4 29:31

Good evening, Marin and council members, I did throw together, like a few slides, but it would help me to know, like, what you want to hear about the project, or just like a general overview,

T

Town Manager 29:42

or why don't you start by explaining what the project is, where it's located, okay? And then and remind them what the agenda item is, the final acceptance. Okay, all

5

Speaker 4 29:53

right, so the what you have before you is the authorization to accept this project as. Complete, for the town manager to execute the notice of completion and for the town engineer to file the notice of Completion with the county recorder. So it's just our standard process of closing out a project. So what I have in front of you on the screen is just an overview of Augusta drive. Augusta drive is is, you know, surrounded by the country club. So in the bottom right hand of the screen, you can see the the tennis courts. So this project, it was located right on the right across from the tennis courts, really close to the intersection with St Andrews. And what happened is we're getting ready to do a pavement rehab project, and before we go in there and start paving a road, we go in we videotape the storm drains first. You don't want to put a brand new street under bad pipes. So this is what we found. Raise a whole bunch of red flags. Like, you know, we had the rainy season coming up, we've got to get this fixed now. So what we immediately did was to remove traffic from the top of the pipe. We didn't want any more loading on the pipe. And then we did, like, just a really quick analysis, okay, how are we going to fix this? Just really basic plans and specs and obtain quotes. And that's where our quote from, Fj and I engineering came in. So they performed work right before Thanksgiving. The whole thing took about a week. So this is the very start of the project where they're just going in there and excavating. They had a portion of the roadway closed during the time, but we still had two lanes of traffic. The bottom right hand photo is a picture of the pipe that they uncovered with a hole in it. So this is the big reason why we wanted to take care of this before, you know, we didn't want the pipe to collapse. We did some calculations, replaced the concrete pipe with an HDPE pipe, and the pipe is really shallow, so we put a concrete cap over it, and that's the rebar that you see on the right, and then there's the concrete being poured, and then our finished product. So we were really happy with Fj and I. They did good work. So we asked them to give us a price to perform another repair, and we paid for that one via change order, and that was at 196 Moraga Road, right around camp Olindo. There was a couple of, I think three drainage pipes. We can see two in this picture going into a catch basin, and there was no outlet. And so our maintenance staff had to go out there and pump the water out of there. You know, it was just every as soon as it would fill up. And so it was just a maintenance issue. So Fj and I gave us a good price to perform this work, and we just designed a little system to route the the drainage to the gutter. The catch basin is located in the public right of way. We don't know how it was built. It doesn't look like something that a homeowner would build. You know, it's pretty significant. So we, we think it was built as part of the town's project when this, when this system was first installed, and that was why we went ahead and took care of this problem. It just cost us a lot of maintenance time. And then here's the finished product on the right. It looks good. Property owners happy, and then we won't be called back for maintenance. So that's my little presentation. Do you have any questions?

H

Hillis 33:49

Any questions for my colleagues? I do have a couple. So one, can you go back to the catchment basin? Image, the catch basin? Yeah. So my question is, on this are as we are going through and finding these things? I used to work for PG and E, P, G, and doesn't know where half of its its underground utilities are. Some of them were built by other companies that got acquired a century ago. I'm afraid that we have the same situation here when I hear that we didn't know the basin was there. So my question is, when we are going through and discovering these issues with culverts and on streets, are we documenting it for posterity? So yes, we actually have it identified. Yes.

S

Speaker 4 34:33

So we have a GIS system. We have a storm drain layer. It's okay. It's not the best storm drain GIS layer I've ever seen. We are in the process of trying to update it. In fact, we still have an open agreement with Harrison associates to do some work on our shape files. So these are the type of things that we want to be able to put into into that system so it's all documented, and then we don't have to. Go look for them on Excel files. So that's just an ongoing thing that Nate and I are are tackling, along with many other things, but we do have a system.

H

Hillis 35:11

Thank you. And then I'd also like to go back to slide one, yeah.

H

Hillis 35:21

So looking at this image, I see a green line going off to what looks like vacant parcels, right? Is that an additional area that's been identified for storm drain repair?

S

Speaker 4 35:33

No, that is a private street. So what I did is I went in here and all of the areas that have color in them, those are all private streets, and they're different colors because they were parts of different subdivisions. So there are a lot of Country Club subdivisions, so I just went in there and highlighted the ones that are private. Sonia could probably tell you if there's been more interest in developing those lots at the end of Augusta, I know I was asked to do some research on it recently, so, you know, she would have to verify if there's more interest in that. But that is not something that we would look at, because it is a private Street.

H

Hillis 36:18

Thank you. And to that point, I've received a lot of questions from folks that live in the country club about why it's a road to nowhere, what exactly is going on there. I know what I think, but I want to just verify that with town staff, who's the owner of the land, with all the vacant parcels at the road to nowhere,

A

Attorney 36:38

I think we're getting a little bit off track of the agenda item. I don't know offhand who are the owners, but that's something you can ask staff to return, or give direction to staff if Council is inclined to do that. But for right now, what's before the council is just the project itself and approval of the project.

T

Town Manager 36:56

Mr. Mayor, Members of Council, I'll let each council member know separately, privately, answer that question.

H

Hillis 37:04

Thank you. And just if it helps, my hunch is that it's the rezoning family and it's been vacant for 30 years. And it would be wonderful if there was a thought to move forward with some of these parcels that have remained vacant. I've received a number of complaints from the community about this, and I can see head shaking, yes,

T

Town Manager 37:22

okay, Mr. Mayor, Members of Council, I'm a little latitude just say this there, there is interest to develop some of those parcels. We're working cooperatively with the property owner, and I will. I would be happy to talk to each council member privately. I think there's good progress being made. Just be patient. Property owners have property rights, and I'm going to stop now. Thank you.

H

Hillis 37:46

Thank you. And you may have guessed my patience is at an end, but thank you. So now that's all the questions that I have. Are there any other questions? Can I make a comment? First, we need to open up a public comment. So thank you so much for your presentation, and I now open it up for public comment. Does any member of the public have a comment on this item? Seeing none. I open it up for council questions. Council member wall again.

W

Woehleke 38:09

Thank you. Just a quick note that one of the first uses of ARPA funds by the town was to conduct a comprehensive survey as to the degree we could of all the drainage systems, and I confirm, having looked through many of this the survey results, there are opportunities to enhance it, but I commend that that that survey really gave us a lot better capability to predict where we are in terms of the culverts and the risks associated with them.

H

Hillis 38:50

Thank you, David. Thank you so much, Mr. Former Mayor. As I said earlier, I appreciate the wisdom. Do we have any other of my colleagues that have comments? No comments.

H

Hillis 39:03

All right, so then I call for a Motion moved as approved. Is there a second? Second?

H

Hillis 39:12

All in favor. Aye. Measure passes. We now let me get to that page. Are to our 81 234, reports, Council Member reports, on out. No, no, I missed something. You have 6.3

W

Woehleke 39:27

6.3 Ah,

H

Hillis 39:29

sorry, apology. So let's go to item 6.3 I apologize. It should have given me a cue when I saw folks in crisp white uniforms here. Do we have a presentation on item 6.3,

S

Speaker 5 39:49

good evening, mayor and council members. We do not have a presentation. We're just available here to answer any questions that you may have. Mlfd staff, we have three representatives and. So I think we should be able to answer anything that you have in mind. And so what can we do tonight?

H

Hillis 40:06

So I first want to go to my colleagues and see if anyone has any questions for Mo, F, D, is that a raise hand? Yes. Council member Wallace,

W

Woehleke 40:16

Thank you, Mayor super. A few questions, and here we have updating of the fire code. At the same time we're waiting for CAL FIRE to provide us the results of the initiative about zone zero and the requirements regarding application of zone zero to the very the different fire zone hazardous or the fire hazard zones. And it was supposed to be rolled out by the end of 2025 and here we are into the second month of 2026, can can we get any update as to how that interfaces with this? If at all,

S

Speaker 5 41:12

I can ask my MO FD colleagues to join me at the mic. If anybody has CAL FIRE information, I do not. I do know that we that it's pending, that's as far as I know. But just to recall initiative started off by reminding that what's before you is the ratification of two ordinances. Mofd board in January approved the second reading was for the ordinance for 2601 which is the adoption of the State Fire Code, and 26 02 which is a wildland urban interface code, two different codes different from what you've seen in previous years. In previous years, you see one resolution for the state fire code. So this is a different experience for you. But do you have information about Cal Fire?

W

Woehleke 41:55

Asking if that's you know, when that gets rolled out or approved? Finally, is that going to affect this at all? Yeah.

S

Speaker 6 42:01

Good evening, mayor and council members. My name is Lucas Lambert. I'm a Deputy Fire Chief from Rock are in the fire district, and I'm joined by fire marshal Casey Irving and in our clerk, Marshall Holbrook here as well. So as as mayor had mentioned, our staff keeps me honest as well, I want to recognize the efforts by your staff in collaboration with Mo, F, D, as we work through this process, both with planning, Public Works and police, law enforcement as we, as we work through these process, we've had the opportunity to meet and collaborate as as we're reviewing these details with regards to your question, the multi million dollar question that we're all waiting on, in short, and I'll look to to my partner as our fire marshal, but the board of forestry is where it's held up currently. We certainly were expecting as as the rest of our state. They're the aftermath of the Palisades incident and others. And as local agencies, we inherit these questions. I'll be frank, we would love to have the answer to to our communities, however, we are at the process or at the mercy of the process, and currently that process holds with the board of forestry that's working through public comments and other things, just as this council does as well. So if and when we expect to have more information when that becomes available,

T

Town Manager 43:33

Lucas is that in April, they're going to do that isn't our public leave.

S

Speaker 6 43:36

The next one is March, or April is when we're expecting nice

D

Dolan 43:41

and I see vice mayor, yes. So I'm wondering, is it, is it there's a connection between that information and this interface code, right? And so isn't it premature to adopt this without that other information?

S

Speaker 6 44:00

So I'll turn to our fire marshal, but again, zone zero applies to our very to SRA or state responsibility areas. And just some background, something that was a bit of a surprise to me as the maps rolled out, with Moraga in particular, but much a majority of Moraga rendezvous Fire District jurisdiction falls within the very high fire severity areas that we've learned. What was a bit of a surprise to us is how much Moraga in particular picked up over this last viewing. So zone zero will fall if, if and when will fall within the state responsibility areas, and is that at the purview of our board, our governing board, to to adopt or men with what is proposed. But again, I'll turn to our fire marshal.

S

Speaker 7 45:03

Good evening mayor, good evening council members. So to clarify the defensible space requirements in the wildland urban interface code are for the state responsibility areas, most of our jurisdiction are, is local response areas. So that will be a separate local ordinance, which is separate the WUI code. The California WUI code has requirements for access and building standards, so that's what's in the WUI code for ratification today.

W

Woehleke 45:33

Thank you. So my understanding is we're waiting, and I guess we're not sure to what degree roll out or approval of that, that revision will affect what's being approved tonight.

S

Speaker 7 45:48

It will not affect what's being approved tonight. It will not affect it correct. Okay, good.

W

Woehleke 45:54

Thank you. I see in this in 5503, point 4.1, significant. Input on traffic calming devices, speed bumps and removal and design constraints are we? Are we going to be implementing new restrictions on speed, speed bumps, for example, and also requiring removal of those that exist in town.

S

Speaker 7 46:24

No, the fire code that you see here today only applies to new traffic calming devices, and the local ordinance did not, we did not change anything this year regarding the traffic calming devices.

W

Woehleke 46:39

Okay, good. And then in 990, 3.1 addresses automatic sprinklers. And it seems to me like there's an awful lot of new regulations with regard to automatic sprinklers. And I presume it's on new construction, and also I think it's major renovations or expansions, renovations, et cetera. Is this a big expansion of the requirements and how, to what degree, if at all, was the impact, or is the impact of this going to have on home construction? Because we're facing state regulations on on increasing housing units. And you know, housing is already outrageously expensive to build, any any Can you educate me on this at all, how that all fits together, the expansion of the sprinklers, or application of sprinklers and any considerations on, for example, any consideration of low income housing or changes, I suspect not. But I got asked the question anyway,

S

Speaker 7 47:52

yeah, so depending on the occupancy, fire sprinklers may be required for new construction or a substantial addition or alteration of the construction typically. So this code section that you see here today has been in the code, and basically it just says that the monitoring company has to have a UL certification, and that's what that's speaking to

W

Woehleke 48:17

I thought what we were looking at here in the code, when I looked at it, it seemed to be additive, not, you know, not seem to be the comprehensive code itself, but additive to the code, which was another document, or did I misread that?

S

Speaker 7 48:32

Yeah, this is in the state code. And then this amendment only clarifies it to say that the systems have to be UL Listed test, and basically that means it's underwriters, laboratory tested and listed,

W

Woehleke 48:44

and likewise for fire access roads. Is are these new requirements again? Are they existing? I just didn't. I just, I guess I misinterpreted that everything I was looking at was new or adjusted. But are we really making changes to requirements on fire, access roads to residents? Yeah.

S

Speaker 7 49:10

So the modification, modifications that you're seeing are amendments to the state code. The state code had some less restrictive requirements, and the modifications that we made were to keep the requirements the same, the 28 foot road with the 14 foot road width for a single lane, which is in line an alignment with the two previous code cycles. Okay, great. Thank you.

W

Woehleke 49:34

My questions, I'm happy to move this forward.

H

Hillis 49:37

Any other questions for my colleagues? Seeing none. We'll open this for public comment.

H

Hillis 49:45

Seeing none. I'll take it back for council member colleague comments. Any of my colleagues have comments? Seeing none. I'll say that I do, and I'll just re roll some tape to try to give context. To my comments last year, folks in Moraga were somewhat blindsided by proposals that we came to learn later were actually proposed by the Moraga representatives for mo F D, we joined mo F D, we invited Orinda to join mo FD actually because of the fact that Moraga had Moroccans died waiting for the County Ambulance Service to actually come to help them. That's why mo FD exists. We created it and we invited Orinda to join. So you can understand why folks in town were understandably in a panic when they found out that their elected representatives were contemplating cutting their ambulance hours in half. Fortunately, clearer heads prevailed, but what came out of that item was an agreement between mofd and the Moraga town council that we would establish the same thing that Orinda does, and is occurring as we speak. I don't not today, but they actively have two by two meetings with their council and with two members of of the moft board. Now it will be as diplomatic as I can here. I do not accept, given that it's been a year that we've asked for this, that because somebody is consistently out of town, or because somebody else is not available, that we should not have meetings so that we can be informed about exactly the questions that council member will look he had asked. We had desk. We had designated representatives for last year. They never got a meeting. We had a new designated representatives for this year. What I can say is you do have a director who is available. Steve Danziger, he also represents part of Moraga. I comment. I gave these comments directly to Chief Isaacs. I understand that is not something that the administrative staff at mo F D are providing. So this message is to the MO F D board. We need to meet and it needs to happen soon. We are contemplating development here in Moraga that requires close coordination between mofd and the town of Moraga. If no one else is available, I'm more than happy to just meet with whoever the designees are on the board that are available, and they can share the comments whenever the other two find time in their calendar. So thank you, and I will be supporting this measure. Any other comments Seeing none, I ask for a motion.

W

Woehleke 52:59

I'll move for approval of 6.4 or 6.3 as proposed, and thank you so much to our fire department personnel. Is there a second?

M

Maglio 53:11

I will second that motion, and also thank our fire department

H

Hillis 53:16

All in favor. Aye. We all thank you for your service. The measure passes. All right, going back and now we're at announcements from the Council on their activities since the last meeting. I will start with council member Wallace.

W

Woehleke 53:43

Thank you, Mayor. Reporting out activities and announcements. I've been pretty busy since our last town council member, first on January, 29 planning director erzuro Ursula and I participated in the Contra Costa County point in time survey for the homeless. This was my first time doing it, and I very much valued that experience. This is something that is required by the federal government for state and county funding, and the entire county had to be surveyed. So there was quite a crew that all got out there in Martinez for us by six, well, 5:30am and we did a three hour tour of looking for homeless, believe it or not. We were assigned northern Moraga and southern Orinda. We did not find many, but it had to be done because it was, you know. Acquired by the federal government, and I thank you, Sonya for doing that. I enjoyed that ride. So I've spent much of my activities focused on the town's existing and potential volunteers. Who will we will be interviewing next week, and who may have watched recent publicity, publicly broadcast town council meetings, and may be watching tonight's public broadcast, or who are present, and I'm going to briefly report on my work, the question I ask is, are existing volunteers and candidates wondering and concerned about how they will be publicly portrayed, resulting from their representing town citizens, even years after leaving the service of the town I report that the town council protocol set norms for a behavior for town council members, included in section two under Role of the town council. Furthermore, the town council members will strive to treat each other, staff and other parties with dignity and respect under Section 2.4 civility, it says the council members will strive to conduct themselves in an appropriate professional manner when dealing with each other, staff and all parties, we, the town council, are responsible for adherence to the protocols. We are self governing, and we need to collectively enforce the town council protocols. I'm going to modify what I'm going to say in following basis the comments made earlier this evening. But, you know, I don't think that the comments made about AI are consistent with the town council protocols. And I, you know, we're all imperfect, but, but there are certain areas that we really do need to do, abide by, and that's, that's, that's an example of that. And over the last couple of weeks, I've conferred with a cross section of past Meyers and conversations and writing, and have heard from residents. The feedback was consistently critical and challenged validity of the remarks I have here the article from the LA Miranda weekly, which is consistent with what was stated earlier. If you there are multiple copies, you can each have one that on AI to Sayers retirement from town service after all those years, we had a special event for him and that that gives a report on it, you know, To the citizen volunteers of town, commissions, boards and committees. So long as I'm in office, I commit to challenging any public critical personal judgments of volunteers, especially when publicly broadcast. I also announced that I find the blanket condemnations of the Moraga center owners from the January 14 10 town council meeting and this week's la Miranda weekly paper to conflict with town council protocols, and believe them to be very likely to be more hurtful than helpful in moving develop development forward. And I note, by the way, that I was misquoted in the paper, and I disavow such. You know, the degraded state of Moraga is commercial sector is the result of multiple factors, including due to zoning changes made as part of Moraga incorporating as a town, and the impact of that is having a continuing challenge or impact throughout the entire commercial sector, especially because the town does not have

a complete picture nor control of the commercial sector. We don't deal in business, commercial business issues. We can best serve the public by working with all Moraga entities to achieve success for all. And to this end, Town Manager Scott Mitnick has strategically focused on major opportunities, especially developing the two shopping center areas, including housing and improving the town gown relationship with St Mary's College, as stated by the mayor, I commend that progress is being made, and I commend Scott and especially his staff, and I do support enforcing the town codes. Thank you.

H Hillis 59:49

Thank you. I'll now go to council member Molly up.

M Maglio 59:53

I do not have a report for this meeting. Thank

H Hillis 59:56

you. I'll now go to council member teal. Thank you. You do that right?

T Thiel 1:00:01

Teal. Great. So my report just wanted to share, as liaison for art and public spaces committee, there was a handout provided for our upcoming event for the group, something fun, something playful, like we usually do on our committee. It's called a chalk a haiku. It is this Saturday, February 14, Valentine's Day, 11am to one o'clock. Should have good weather. Chalk will be provided. One can come up with a poem. One can draw held out in front of St Mary's road, in front of Moraga library. Other item would like to share, had the opportunity to observe something I thought that was very powerful in our community, that was also in the LA Miranda weekly, which is our students expressing their rights of free speech and assembly at a time where we are recognizing historical harms that were brought to some of the more vulnerable members of our community and our country, we've recently recognized Black History Month today. Thank you. We've recognized Holocaust awareness last month. Look forward to our recognition of pride as well too, so wanting to condemn our students, our town, our police, the administration for what I found to be just a very powerful message of our youth to give voice and speak out for the most vulnerable members of our community. Thank you.

H

Hillis 1:01:43

Thank you. Vice Mayor,

D

Dolan 1:01:46

I attended two of our sub regional transportation related groups, the LA Miranda Program Management Committee and the LA Miranda fee and Financing Authority, very light agendas. The first one, all we did was re elect officers. It's our turn to be vice chair. Next year. We'll move up, and that's the same for the other committee. The other committee had one other item in that there was a consideration of the annual updating of the fees. It's based on a construction index. Oddly, the fees are actually reduced to smidge. I never thought I'd hear that construction cost had gone down. It's a really tiny amount, and I think it has a lot to do with just the way they the Nexus study tells you you can increase it. It's month to month, from one year to the other, and I think some years we probably get the benefit of that. But this year, September to September, it was down a fraction of 1% and so the fees will be reduced accordingly.

H

Hillis 1:03:05

Oh, absolutely. Please.

M

Maglio 1:03:06

I have one more item that council member Dolan, I thought might mention this since the last meeting. Excuse me. Vice Mayor Dolan and I attended, worked with a professor at St Mary's, Professor Ahmed in a leadership political science class. We attended that class, and there will be four to five students who will be working on leadership skills in conjunction with the town, and they will be providing some research into two of the issues that will be coming becoming before us in the future. One of them is food trucks and the regulation of food trucks, and they will be providing us with some information, and it is still in the early stages. And the other item that they will be providing some support on is our livable Moraga Road project.

W

Woehleke 1:04:15

Super Thank you.

H

Hillis 1:04:19

I'm going to start my comments by just reading one of my favorite quotes. It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who was actually in the arena,

whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives violently, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows? The great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows, in the end. Brent the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who never knew either victory or defeat. Theodore Roosevelt speech at Sanborn Paris, April 23 1910, since our last meeting, I was able to participate in a meeting with supervisor Candice Anderson on the development at South Camino Pablo i know a lot of residents, especially folks near Tharp, had very strong feelings on this. I myself had a lot of concerns when the development came to the planning commission while I was chair. In fact, I think some of my colleagues who were serving on the council at the time could tell you I was one of the loudest voices. Long story short, the time to appeal this project is over. There was a time, but folks, unfortunately didn't file within the period. This is according to what we heard from from the county and also from what we've heard from town staff. So where are we now? All I can say is the town of Moraga is not the jurisdiction that has authority over this development that was our choice. As construction moves forward, I encourage our residents to contact supervisor Anderson to be sure she's aware as issues with construction arise, if folks don't get timely responses, I'd encourage them to reach out to me. Reach out to the town manager. There's nothing nefarious going on here. It's just because people are busy. But we will work, as is our job, to get you information as quickly as we possibly can. Another topic of discussion in this meeting with supervisor Anderson was what to do and what jurisdiction would ultimately be responsible. And I this was a meeting I had with council member wall mallio. What's going to happen with these homes once they're built? Are they going to be County, as is the case with the Sky View neighborhood immediately adjacent, or are they going to be Moraga? Which, in my opinion, makes considerably more sense, more to come on this as this progresses. On February 2, I took my second meeting exploring the topic of a micro mobility solution for Moraga. Coincidentally, as I mentioned earlier, CCTA performed a survey a couple months ago of all the residents. Well, a scientific sample of the residents from LA Miranda, and what was found was a super majority support for some type of modified transit solution, transportation solution for Moraga and for Lafayette and for Orinda. The meeting I had last week was with Bert. It's a micro mobility company that utilizes scooters and electric bicycles. I'm hoping that they'll continue engaging in the conversation the town manager and I also, next week, have a meeting with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Program Manager for micro mobility solutions, and I look forward to reporting out to the public exactly where this is going and how much progress we're able to make. On Thursday, February 5, I attended the Contra Costa Meyers conference in the city of Richmond, and as those may know, that was not very easy. And also had the pleasure to speak to Ahmad Anderson, one of the candidates replacing, or running to replace Mayor Martinez in the city of Richmond on February 6, I intended the county connection, operating and scheduling committee. I also had the pleasure that same day, while I was on the way to that the first meeting I had to take on Zoom, using due cause, which I'm sure that we will have more of that once we implement those provisions. Here, I got to attend my first East Bay wildfire safety working group meeting hosted in Danville by Senator Tim Grayson. The most important item I want to report out to our community is a bill. SB, 949, this bill actually was something that came from law Miranda. This it's basically, it's the shortest bill that anyone in the legislature can remember. I worked over six years. I don't remember a bill so impactful that only changed two words of code, and it came from. Them right here, not me, but from our communities here. Essentially, what it would allow is for the fire department to work with the schools on high fire danger days to call the effective snow day. So as anyone that knows how schools are funded, if there's no kids, there's no money, this would allow them to continue receiving the funds if they have to make a decision out of protection of our children to call for a day where it's safer for folks to be at home. I find this

idea completely congruent with what a lot of our thoughts are here in the town, I forwarded all of the information to our town manager. And I would also say, on this point, and this is very important, the other major topic that came out of this were concerns with the administration of the Department of Insurance with the state of California. So that is something that voters will have the opportunity to decide in November. But I'm pleased to say that I have been tapped by our assembly member, Rebecca Bauer Kahan, to be one of her proxy delegates at the Democratic Party state convention in San Francisco in a couple of weeks. This means that I will have the opportunity to decide, help decide who gets an endorsement. This matter specifically, in my mind and for the benefit of our citizens. Here is one of the single most important endorsements, beside the governor that I think can play a part. It's very difficult for folks that are not Democrats, as we all know, to get elected in California. The last time it happened on a statewide basis was for treasurer, and before that, it required a recall vote on January, on February 7, I also had the opportunity at to be an invited guest speaking to the LA Miranda democratic Club's open house and update club members on all of the exciting things that we are doing here in Moraga. As anyone can tell you, that's driven through here. They haven't seen this level of a construction site probably in over 30 years, for what you can see across the street from us right now, I'm sure by now, as was mentioned multiple times, many folks have seen the article in the long run to weekly on the hiring of an economic development consultant. And to my comments, I'm happy to report the community reaction, both in direct emails, in direct messages, in likes, in comments, is over 95% in support of the comments that I made on my first evening as mayor. I look forward to continuing those conversations, and I can look forward to continuing to make those comments, and I stand by all of my comments related to item 9c that were made at that council meeting. I just wanted to also give a heads up, as I was urged by the by the town manager that this afternoon, I recorded an interview for a podcast called Capstone conversations. It was full circle to some part, because I was also the very first interview on this podcast. And the interviewer, Jared ash, had indicated that at this point, I believe they've had 151 well, I got to be 152 and I will say, for anyone that was pleased with the comments that I made on my first council meeting as mayor, they will be pleased with the message that I relay from this podcast, which will equally be echoed in my first mayor's statement in Our new magazine. Greet Moraga this This concludes my particular comment. I appreciate my colleagues for listening, and now I turn to the town manager. Do you have any updates you'd like to report?

T

Town Manager 1:14:12

Report? I'll make my comments at the end under town manager follow up and announcements. Thank you.

H

Hillis 1:14:17

Thank you. And now we will move to public hearing. Seeing none, we will move to Department reports, Item nine a, regarding the changes to the planning commission and park and recreation policies. Do we have a staff report

A

Attorney 1:14:37

on this? Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Members of the Council, Denise Pisano, the assistant town attorney, I'll be presenting this item this evening. So as indicated in the staff report, the town council adopted the board, committee and commission interview and appointment policy on November 12, 2025 the policy sets forth procedure. Meyers for the council's interview and appointment of boards, committee and commission members. It provides appointment details, reappointment guidance, vacancy guidance, and also interview guidance, as well as indications on how the appointments and the oath of office will take place within the town of Moraga. When that item was brought before Council, there was mention at that time about amendments to the code that would need to be made to be consistent with the policy, particularly with regard to the term of appointments and just cross referencing the policy in the ordinance, as opposed to having a lot of the information in the code which is very difficult and time consuming to amend. So this item tonight is a fulfillment of that indication. And we bring before you an ordinance that is pretty straightforward. We are amending two sections within Chapter 212 which is removal, I'm sorry, within Chapter 212 which is planning commission. And within Chapter 212 we're amending sections two point 12 O, 3o and two point 12 O, 4o and then we're also proposing amendments to chapter 216 which is a chapter for the Park and Recreation Commission, and the sections that we're proposing to amend are two point 16 030, and two point 16 040, both of those sections in each of the chapters reference The term of office in removal or vacancy. We've also included in the package the proposed ordinance and red lines. It's it's easier to look at the red lines, so if you have them in front of you, first the term of office for both chapter 12, 212, and 216, we're taking out a lot of the older language, so some of the reference dates start in like January 1, 1978 so we're removing those dates, and we're just sort of stating that the term of office for each of those commissions, the Planning Commission and the Parks and Rec commission, is two years, but that each member can serve from the date of appointment until they are basically their term ends, or until a successor is appointed, which is consistent with the policy. Members may be appointed to a maximum of three consecutive years, unless the council determines that continued service of a member is in the best interest of the town, and if that determination is made by the Council, the member may reapply and re interview for their position in the same manner as a new board, commission and committee member. And then we added language to the removal or vacancy sections that say a vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the town's policy. So those are the changes that are before you. Tonight is just an introduction. So if Council is supportive of the ordinance, you would introduce the ordinance, and then at the next meeting, we would come back for adoption, and then the ordinance would become effective 30 days after adoption. So with that, I'm available for questions.

H

Hillis 1:18:25

Colleagues. Do anyone have any questions?

W

Woehleke 1:18:29

No, I already talked with the town manager.

H

Hillis 1:18:32

Sounds great. I do have a couple of questions. Why do these roles have term limits?

A

Attorney 1:18:39

So every commission committee that I've seen for various cities has term limits, and the reason is because councils want to have a specific term to allow other people to rotate in. And also if, if there is unhappiness with that committee, Commission member, then it's, it's, I think, easier to not reappoint that person when their term ends, rather than just letting them continue in the position indefinitely.

H

Hillis 1:19:12

Do find that somewhat curious, given that if folks term limited out, frequently reapply for these same positions, we've also had tremendous difficulty attracting people to these which is one of the reasons why I've been putting out ridiculous things on social media to try to beg people to actually apply. But I would also note that council members of Moraga don't have term limits the voters, and in my view, that's the right call. If any at any point, the voters have a problem with any one of us, we're not going to be reelected, and that effectively minimizes any of the threat. In my opinion, I also feel, and my question is, do. Given how difficult it's been for us to actually attract applicants, even for the council, wouldn't you say, I mean, two of us were elected unopposed, the other three were appointed, and that was all because no one even filed to run against us. Doesn't it work as a disincentive to the highly experienced people that we have on the planning commission to actually reapply if we have the assumption that they have to come back to us and ask us for an extension. I know of at least one very qualified person who made that choice because she was term limited out.

A

Attorney 1:20:38

Yeah, I can't say whether it's a disincentive, I can say that that is the norm to have term limits for committees commissions. And I would say the distinction between council members and committee commission members is that council members do have term limits in the sense that they have to be either re elected or reappointed every four years. And so well actually, they have to be re elected every four years, like you can't be reappointed. So there are, in effect, some checks and balances on council members, for committee and commission members, it is really important for council members to, I think, revisit, to make sure that the person that they've appointed is doing, fulfilling the roles, the duties of that position, and so from my perspective, that that's the reason for the norm of having the term another question.

H

Hillis 1:21:36

These are all of the council's appointees. So in effect, there is a check, because they do have to regularly come back to us to re-interview for the same position, whether or not there's a term limit. So it just seems to me to be again whenever their two-year term expires, they have to reapply. Think one of my colleagues even forgot at one point to reapply. And I mean it in they do have a check so I would again just quite, isn't it a little insulting, from my opinion, to have term limits on roles when we're begging people to actually apply for them? Again?

A

Attorney 1:22:17

I can't say it's insulting. I've never been a committee commission member, so I can't speak for them, but what I'm saying is that it is typical to have term limits. I think if you didn't have term limits, then there wouldn't be any way. I mean, there wouldn't be any reason for them to come to reapply, to be before the council. So you would just that person would be out there year upon year, taking a seat that somebody else can't rotate in. So, for example, if you had a Parks and Rec commission that had five members and none of them, and there were no term limits, and they just continued in those seats year upon year, and nobody else got to rotate in, that would seem that there, there would be a lack of diversity, a lack of, I don't know, change or different opinions. So that's just my opinion, though. That's really up to the council.

H

Hillis 1:23:17

I'll come to you. I would just say that again, my my feeling is none of us are Robert Moses, and a lot of the things that he did, which really, I think, created this norm, don't really happen anymore. We also do have if it's ultimately the council's responsibility. If we're not appointing people that match the diversity of our community, people have an option to not vote for us. So I'll leave it with that council member.

W

Woehleke 1:23:44

Williekie, yes, thank you, Mayor. This is, this is something I've struggled with over the years. I've been through it a few times, and, you know, I don't find the reasoning to change to be compelling. There are some positive negatives to to, you know, the various options, but I do think, and I've come back for interviews many times, and it hasn't, I've never viewed it as a negative. And I've never, I've always found it worthwhile effort to also meet, you know, the new town council members and and interact with them. And I do think that even though there are elected officials that are in place for 22 years plus, I think it's good to have committees that occasionally will trade out members. And you know, having that periodic interview process gives that possible, that opportunity. And also, to be honest with you, you know, in this environment, the town council is members are generally pretty responsible in attending as many meetings as they can. My experience is that doesn't always follow through with the commissions. And so sometimes people need to be either counseled as part of that process or con charged to find another opportunity so,

H

Hillis 1:25:34

and I didn't hesitate to stop you, but I will before any of my other colleagues offer comment. Asked for public comment on this item, seeing none, I now open it back up for my colleagues to provide comment.

D

Dolan 1:25:51

I'm supportive of the term limits. I think the commission, committee and commission members, you're going to find more that are happy that their term is up than you are disappointed. I'm also supportive of council term limits. I don't think we should have the same people here. I i totally recognize the issue that we don't have a lot of people stepping up, and so that's why we have, we have a little safety valve built into this ordinance. I mean, this is a policy we adopted already, and we're just making it into law. So to me, this is a done deal. It's there's no substantive change from the decision we already made.

H

Hillis 1:26:36

Thank you. Any other comments?

T

Thiel 1:26:39

I just concur with a vice mayor. I'm similarly in support of the ordinance. I think term limits in all aspects of government would be a healthier practice and policy to see and as vice mayor mentioned, this is something we've already exercised based upon some of the challenges we've experienced in recruiting folks who want to commit time at various commission levels, so I think it's a good problem to have, and we'll continue to do the things necessary to encourage the participation that we'd love to see, and term limits give us an option of creating those opportunities.

H

Hillis 1:27:15

Thank you. Council member, Molly,

M

Maglio 1:27:18

I also concur that term limits are a wise and good practice. I frankly, don't think it's overly burdensome for members of committees to come back and to really have them think about whether or not continuation of service is something they really want to do, also with respect to the mayor's comments, with regard to having difficulty getting volunteers to be on these committees, I agree that sometimes we do have that situation, and that's a shame. But I think also we do have that safety valve, that if the council determines that if it's in the best interest to keep that committee member on the committee, we have that option.

H

Hillis 1:28:07

Thank you, and thank you for humoring me in that discussion. If you had to follow up, can I sort of

W

Woehleke 1:28:17

change the subject very slightly, but within this subject area, and that is, again, we're about to begin the interview process of new commissioners, committee members and board members, and something that I failed in last year because I was distracted, but I have been part of, and I really think we need to for for committee members who are leaving we don't recognize them. We need to, we need to recognize them. I have some plaques up on the wall in my office recognizing service on on the DRB and and the planning commission, and you know this, looking at this reminded me of that. And you know, I'm, I'm, I'd be happy town manager to help out, you know, if I get names, and you know, I'll go get plaques or something, and maybe we can, we can honor those people who have provided service to the to the community in this manner. Thank you.

H

Hillis 1:29:34

I think we absolutely should be doing that, as mentioned in earlier comments, service is sacrifice. Having served, as many of us have, on the planning commission, these meetings go later than council meetings. They are well considered highly qualified people. Man, I wish more of them would be willing to run for council, but that said, we should be appreciating their sacrifice. And commitment to this town. And I would just pass that message to our town manager that I know for a fact that some will be retiring in this cycle. And I would just ask that we invite them on a future council agenda to come to be recognized and thanked for their commitment and service to the town on the issue of term limits. My viewpoint is for is forged from six years working in the California State Legislature, legislature at a time when the place was decimated by what would be called the great ones from the past, the experts who had been there for a long time and actually knew how to run the system. But my story never would have happened pre term limits. I had three different members that I worked for in the Senate during that time. I was more of an expert than most of them were. One of them's a member of Congress now, and he doesn't have term limits anymore. So I would say, I don't agree with term limits. I think that people need to try to use their judgment. I think, you know, I would hate to be an elected official until, until I die. But at the same time, this expertise that we all get and the and the service that we provide. It only continues for the council if you all vote for us and for the people on these that serve on these boards, if they want to keep going, I don't have a problem, but I will be more than willing to bow to what I'm hearing from my colleagues. With that I ask for a motion.

A

Attorney 1:31:39

And so this is an ordinance, and so we need to read the full title, and we can waive the first reading and introduce by title only, and then we need to take roll call vote, and I will be the one taking the roll call this evening.

W

Woehleke 1:31:56

I move that we consider waiving the first reading and introduction, introducing an ordinance amending chapter 2.12 Planning Commission and chapter 2.16 Parks and Recreation Commission, to revise terms of office and reappoint processes, reappointment processes to Be consistent with the town's interview and appointment policy.

M

Maglio 1:32:23

I will second that motion. Thank you all in favor, Mr.

A

Attorney 1:32:26

Mayor, so I need to do a roll call. Sorry about that. That's okay. So the motion was made by council member Wallace. It was seconded by council member Mallio. So I will take the roll call vote council member Woolaki Aye, Council Member Teal Aye, Council Member Mallio Aye, Vice Mayor Dolan Aye and Mayor Hillis Aye, passes unanimously,

H

Hillis 1:32:53

all right, and now we are on to item 10, council member requests for future agenda items.

W

Woehleke 1:33:03

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and I want to compliment you tonight and tonight, tonight's meeting, I think you handled things very, very well. I'd like to move that Maragas Town Council hold a special meeting at the practical date forward, focused on team organization, to celebrate our strengths and to identify means and plans to address challenges.

D

Dolan 1:33:28

Second, any discussion questions is this, can I ask a question? Mayor, yes, you may. Is this similar to what we did last year?

W

Woehleke 1:33:45

Hopefully, better. Hope so too.

T

Town Manager 1:33:50

Okay, manager, is this for goal setting? No, you have two year goal settings.

H

Hillis 1:33:57

What you hate? The thing that I call, like the kumbaya meeting. I don't mean to be glib about it, but I've said, and I mean it. I think I even mentioned it to you one point last year. I see no problem with doing it.

T Town Manager 1:34:11
So it's not to look at your the mission statement, top priorities and goals that this is because we're in a two year budget, okay? So you're this is with respect to council relations, right?

H Hillis 1:34:24
Council relations, dialog,

A Attorney 1:34:26
maybe, maybe council member Wallace, can you reread what you Yeah, what you stated.

W Woehleke 1:34:32
And I'm completely receptive and flexible. I move that moragas Town Council hold a special meeting at a practical date focused on Team organization to celebrate our strengths and identify means and plans to address challenges. It was seconded

H Hillis 1:34:59
All in favor. Meyers, aye, anyone else have a future agenda item?

T Thiel 1:35:05
Council member teal, yeah, would first like to thank members of the community tonight, Wendell, Michael and Sherry for speaking on behalf of compelling the council to include an agenda item to discuss the issue of raising the pride flag.

H Hillis 1:35:22
Second. Is

A Attorney 1:35:29
there any discussions? No, I missed the motion. I'm sorry, oh,

T Thiel 1:35:33
motion for an agendized item to discuss the raising of the pride flag. Okay, got it. Thank you.

H Hillis 1:35:42
All in favor, aye, opposed, none. Thank you.

T Town Manager 1:35:49
To adhere to your protocols on this new item, with the staff report or without a staff report or a modified staff report,

H Hillis 1:35:59
I'll ask the maker of the motion. Well, oh, the motion, either way,

T Thiel 1:36:04
I would appreciate a full and comprehensive staff report. Thank you.

H Hillis 1:36:10
Sounds great. And now we are at informational items, seeing none less.

A Attorney 1:36:18
I think, I think our manager has something or town manager follow up? Oh, I'm sorry, that was the wrong agenda item. It's okay, Mr.

T

Town Manager 1:36:29

Mayor, Members of the Council. One thing when Deirdre Casilla was here is she's the acting public works director. She doesn't come in front of the council very often, but she did a good job. She has actually a pretty strong background in public works. She was a department head elsewhere, and she's in this role because she loves doing what she does. So we're very fortunate to have her here by way of follow up items, in terms of recognizing outgoing board members, commissioners, committee members, and that type of thing, we can certainly come up with, like a certificate or a recommendation. Most organizations, my experience, they do something. So we'll, we'll follow up on that.

H

Hillis 1:37:12

Tell manager to that point, I'd ask you to follow up with council member Willickie, because it sounds like we used to do something in the past, just to be sure that whatever we do conforms with what we provided to folks previously.

T

Town Manager 1:37:25

Okay, wanted to share that on this fire wise signage issue that's been brought to your attention. I did talk to a representative of the group. We're going to resolve the issue that and okay, just for clarity on the recreational view vehicle service issue, the individual who spoke has been advised multiple times by staff that this is governed by two components, if you will, this type of thing. One is the municipal code. So the Municipal Code, there's a section there that spells out how automobile whether it's small, medium or large, how the repair and service works, that's clearly articulated, what's allowed and what isn't. So that's one governing mechanism for all the automobile repair and service facilities in town. The second mechanism is the land use permit. So for the business that was made reference to today, there's a land use permit with conditions of approval that was initially approved in the early 90s and then amended in the middle part of the 1990s so in both the Municipal Code and in the conditions of improvement associated with entitlement for the business servicing RVs is not permitted So, and this has been explained. So if the individual is interested in making changes to either, there's a process to go through, starting with the planning commission, so you have to go through a formal process and then ask for revisions to the land use permit and or the municipal code. And there's a process to go through. We can't just look the other way or unilaterally make all those changes and then the final comment, we do not do proactive code enforcement. We react to complaints that come in from community members. We have a legal obligation to those individuals as we have a legal obligation to the property and business owner to have due process and respect their rights to those comments

T Thiel 1:39:42

on that mask. Question You may, Town Manager, do you know if your town staff has advised the owner on the process of either a change of use or adding an additional use and or a variance? I.

T Town Manager 1:40:00

Know there's been multiple conversations between between between staff and the individual, and if that's not sufficient, we can schedule another meeting with the planning director and myself to go through the process.

T Thiel 1:40:11

Sure. Yeah, just be wanting to understand, if there's just been clarity provided on process, paperwork, cost, timeline, potential outcomes. Okay, thank you. Happy to do that.

D Dolan 1:40:26

Tell me if I'm going on too much, but I'm assuming the reluctance to go through the process is cost. What do we charge for a code amendment and land use permit amendment?

T Town Manager 1:40:41

I have no idea, but we can explain that to the to the individual. Are

H Hillis 1:40:50

there any other questions I would just on this point, we on the council can't play favorites. The rules are the rules. Yes, we can change the rules and make variances, but especially in the case of trying to limit liability,

A Attorney 1:41:11

we have problems. So, yeah, we just want to be careful. This is a non agendized item, and so clarifying questions. You know, we want to stay focused on those. But anything beyond that,

H

Hillis 1:41:24

I would refer people to my comments on January 14. To that point. Are there any other items from the town manager? Yeah.

T

Town Manager 1:41:39

So by way of future items. So on this Friday, no next Monday, February 16, it's President's Day, so town offices will be closed. It's a holiday. The next council meeting will be on February 17, as you'll be doing interviews for the vacancies on boards, commissions and committees. The next regular meeting will be on February 25 at this point in time, three items of note that may appear on that agenda. One is the food truck regulations update. It's an update and the next. Another item is livable Moraga Road project that was made a reference to earlier. We're coming back with an update to council on that. And if all goes well, we should have a proposed Moraga legislative platform for 2026 you recently adopted one to be part of the LA Miranda region, and now we need to do one just for the town of Moraga. That concludes the town manager's comments. Thank you.

H

Hillis 1:42:35

Thank you. We're adjourned. I have, can I borrow your pen? A bunch of stuff I.