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SPEAKERS

Speaker 5, Larry Jacobs, Speaker 10, Speaker 4, Speaker 1, Dolan, Speaker 2, Speaker 3, Speaker 7, Hillis, Speaker 9, Town Manager, Speaker 13, Attorney, Speaker 11, Katie ADMINVCS, Martha White, Maglio, Speaker 6, Nate PUBWORKS, Speaker 8, InsuranceLady, RedCross Lady, Thiel, Ana Moon, Speaker 12, Woehleke



Hillis 00:00

In Red Cross month town attorney, I looked like there might be somebody here that wants to comment. Should we comment before or after the reading of the proclamation?



Attorney 00:08

I would recommend that you read the problem. I would recommend that you read the proclamation, and then you could take public comment on it, and then somebody could speak at that time.



Hillis 00:18

Sounds good. All right, so let's start reading this with council member Woeleke, and just move down and then back.

W

Woehleke 00:27

Very good, a proclamation recognizing American Red Cross month, March 2026, whereas March is American Red Cross month, when we recognize the compassion of people in our community and renew our commitment to lend a helping hand to our neighbors in need.

M

Maglio 00:47

And whereas American Red Cross volunteers have stepped up to deliver relief and care across our country and around the world, bringing out the best of humanity in times of crisis, as Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, did so, 140 years ago, and

H

Hillis 01:07

whereas the volunteers, blood and platelet donors and supporters, shine a beacon of hope in people's darkest hours, delivering shelter, food and comfort during disasters, providing critical blood donations for hospital patients, supporting service members, veterans and their families, saving lives with first aid, CPR, AED and other skills, or delivering international aid and recovering and reconnecting loved ones separated by global crises.

D

Dolan 01:38

And whereas with 11 148 volunteers in Contra Costa County, the American Red Cross assisted or responded to 101 disasters, assisting 190 families through our sound the alarm program. The American cross. Red Cross installed 778 smoke alarms, making 241 homes safer and trained 425 students through the youth preparedness programs and

T

Thiel 02:09

whereas Contra Costa County residents donated 18,299 units of life Saving blood, hosted 530 blood drives and trained 12,164 citizen citizens and first aid, CPR, AED and aquatics, and provided 463 case services to military members and their families and provided humanitarian aid internationally.

W

Woehleke 02:36

And whereas this work to uplift our community is made possible by those who selfishly answered the call to help whenever and wherever it is needed. We hereby recognize this month of March in honor of their remarkable service, and we ask everyone to join in their commitment to care for one another.

H

Hillis 02:58

Now therefore we, the town council of the town of Moraga hereby proclaim March 26 as Red Cross month. We encourage all citizens of Moraga to reach out and support its humanitarian mission. And with that, I will open for public comment.

R

RedCross Lady 03:18

I'm so glad to be here tonight to receive the proclamation. I also have something for you. We've had a good year with Moraga, and we really appreciate all the support we got. Mackenzie Brady and her staff from Parks and Rec have worked with us and done shelter training so that, and we continue to do that. We're going to have some more so that when we need to take care of our residents of whom I am one I would we will be ready. And so I really appreciate the fact that your staff has helped us this year in getting more capacity. We have a lot of volunteers, but we don't have enough to take care of everybody on the day when it may come. And so we are really trying to train others in the communities so that we can have as much help as we need. So I would like to present you with this lovely plaque.

R

RedCross Lady 04:11

Oh, thank you for your service to us. And I'd also like to get a

H

Hillis 04:18

picture absolutely and I just wanted to quickly give my my colleagues an opportunity to also comment if they have any, starting with council member teal, sure.

T Thiel 04:28

Just general, thank you for the work you do for our community. Just kind of looking back on what I've benefited and learned from the Red Cross, I think all of my first aid and CPR trainings going back for the last 20 years, if anything wasn't paid for by the general contractor I worked for. They came from various local Red Cross organizations. So thank you for the education.

D Dolan 04:53

Thank you for all you do, and thanks for coming tonight.

M Maglio 04:58

I would just like to also. Thank you and your colleagues for doing all the work you do and the training that you do. You make us feel safer.

R RedCross Lady 05:06

I hope we make you feel safer when the time comes. I hope we make you safer.

W Woehleke 05:11

And I had my thanks, and I've got personal experience with the Red Cross, both as installing smoke detectors around in Contra Costa County, which you get to see a wide variety of opportunities and environments in that and it's very rewarding. And likewise, I have given blood for many years via the Red Cross, multiple gallons of it at my my age. I'm taking so many medications, I'm off the list, but I I want to encourage everyone. In fact, used to be giving blood was a lengthy, long process. It has been significantly streamlined, not from a quality standpoint, but you know, it's usually 30 to 40 minutes, as opposed to, at least my experience,

R RedCross Lady 06:08

I would appreciate it if all of you thought about giving blood, it's really life saving. And we, of course, go through periods of the year where we have real blood shortages because it's a holiday period or summertime and people are gone who normally donate. So if you've never donated before, there's a blood blood center in Pleasant Hill that you can go to, and we're going to try and get a blood blood mobile to come we've already talked about that.

H

Hillis 06:32

So, and I would just like to also add my thanks. Y'all really like my blood because it's a negative, and apparently I a lot of that is needed, and I saw your Brexit. Yeah, you like my blood, so I'm also done. I'm also a platelet donor. So thank you for everything that you do. I am due, and it's part of the civic responsibility that I was taught growing up, which is that you have to do this as part of a member of our community and help people in need. So thank you. And I think the advice for us to go to Pleasant Hill is apt. And now with that, I have a copy of the proclamation for you. Okay, you've given us this. And I think we should all go down and take a picture and public comment.

S

Speaker 1 07:16

We did open for public is there any other Is

H

Hillis 07:18

there any other public comment before we go to pitches. Yes, there is. Okay, let's do that first.

S

Speaker 2 07:23

Thank you for all you do. I just wanted to say that at St Mary's, there will be, you guys will be at St Mary's. I think on, Oh God, I will come up with a date the end of March. Okay, so you can come to St Mary's and give blood.

H

Hillis 07:39

Town manager, would you mind forwarding that information to the Moraga community network so that we can be sure it's in their next email circulation and potentially to About Town. Thank you. So now we will go into the picture, and I will give my phone number.

H

Hillis 08:09

And Brent, I think you probably want to peel On this side. You

S Speaker 3 08:20
ready. Hold

R RedCross Lady 08:33
on one second. Thank

S Speaker 3 08:54
hand this to the shower

R RedCross Lady 09:02
manager.

H Hillis 09:10
We are at item 3.2 which is a proclamation for Irish aherent, Irish American Heritage Month. And I would like to start from council member Woeleke side. I can't remember which side I did before. And then I'll take the last paragraph

W Woehleke 09:34
a proclamation recognizing Irish American Heritage Month. March, 20 Oh, 2026, I whereas Irish American Heritage Month was first celebrated by proclamation of the President in 1991 for a month long recognition of the contributions that Irish immigrants and their descendants have made to US society. D virtually every realm of American endeavor, from steel working to biotechnology to literature, has seen improvement through Irish descended hands and minds

M Maglio 10:11
and whereas the tradition of the Presidential Proclamation continues on a yearly basis with the top political figure from Ireland, the Taoiseach or prime minister, visiting to conduct a shamrock giving ceremony at the Oval Office, followed in the evening by reception attended by the President and other key figures of both governments.

H

Hillis 10:34

And whereas most people know the basic facts of the influx of Irish families to the shores of the United States during the 19th century, with the image of the Irish immigrant being conscripted into the army minutes after stepping off the boat, perhaps the most ingrained in our minds of former grade school history students, and

D

Dolan 10:59

Whereas what is less talked about is the anti immigrant, immigrant sentiment that was often faced by new Irish Americans, largely a result of their Catholicism, which classed with the predominantly Protestant backgrounds of the majority of the families whose members had been among The original colonists. Irish Americans faced bitter competition, even slanted legislation in their search for good jobs and a place to call home, and

T

Thiel 11:28

whereas this month, we recognize not only the overcoming of those obstacles by Irish Americans, but also the incredible breadth and depth of their contributions to American society, from the union's edge over the Confederacy in the Civil War to the intellectual contributions that have kept our country on the top tiers of accomplishment.

H

Hillis 11:50

Now therefore we, the town council of the town of Moraga, hereby proclaim March 2026 as Irish American Heritage Month in Moraga, California. And with that, I will open this for public comment. If there is any, seeing none, I'll take it back for council member comments. And why don't we start with council members

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Thiel 12:14

Hill, I mean, as as a I guess with family members going back to Ireland. This is a neat one to see come across and appreciate the town, taking a moment to recognize this and other heritages that make up the beautiful fabric that is our both immigrants and members of our greater local and national community.

D

Dolan 12:42

Vice Mayor, nothing council

H

Hillis 12:45

member, Woeleke, I absolutely recognize the participation of the Irish

W

Woehleke 12:59

heritage Mike and you know, really do appreciate their contributions. Thank you.

H

Hillis 13:06

Well, I can say that the the main thing that I know of that I have gained from the Republic of Ireland is my first name, which, of course, is the same and same spelling as county carry. My first name was originally different. I though also am the first generation born in the United States from one side of my family, so I definitely know the challenge that many have experienced coming to this country, and I think that it is vital that we recognize the contribution of immigrants, both from Ireland and other backgrounds, and the contributions they make to our society. So thank you very much for us, or take listening to us as we go through that. And I will now move on, unless I need to take some other action. Seeing none we are now at the part of the agenda reserved for those in the oh, wait, nope, sorry, 3.3 the one of the most important things of the night, Moraga Education Foundation update presented by Anna moon, please approach the podium. Hello.

A

Ana Moon 14:15

Oh yes, I do neither. Okay, good evening, and thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. Scott gave me 10 minutes, so I'm going to go kind of fast, so I apologize for that. My name is Anna moon. I'm the Executive Director of Programs at the Moraga Education Foundation, and I'm here to talk about three things. First, the excellence of our public schools, why they face funding challenges and how our community has stepped up to support them. Moraga has five public schools, but these schools are actually a part of two different school districts. The Moraga school district contains Camino Pablo los Perales and Rheem Elementary and. Am Middle School, and camp lindo is a part of the ocalanus Union High School District. So throughout this presentation, you'll see two sets of numbers, one for each district, but the stories that they tell are essentially the same, and that story begins with something we should all be proud of, and that is the excellence of our schools. Just last week, the San Francisco Chronicle came out with a list of high schools in California that outperform expectations. Camp Belinda ranked sixth in the state and number one in Contra Costa County. This is because Campo lindo had 28 more admissions per 100 seniors at the most competitive UCS than expected in 2024 even when you compare outcomes to students at local, local private high schools, camp a lindo students excel when compared to six nearby private schools. Campus, average SAT score is the second highest. The green bars on this slide represent tuition and families at some of these schools are paying over \$60,000 a year, yet our public school students are achieving similar or better results. And it's not just our high school students who are excelling across all grade levels. Moraga students are performing in the top three or 4% statewide. This matters because strong public schools reflect our values as a community and

help sustain the values of our homes. In fact, homes in top school districts like Moraga sell for about \$50 more per square foot, usually increasing values by about \$100,000 we all know that we have great schools, and many people might have even heard that they are underfunded, but most people don't know just how underfunded they are or why. This graph shows state and federal funding for every high school district in California, the ocalanis Union High School District ranked 69th out of 71 that's the bottom 3% for funding. Even more dramatically, out of 490 elementary school districts in California, the Moraga school district ranks 480/8 that puts our elementary and middle school kids at the bottom one half of 1% for funding. To understand why this happens, we need to look briefly at how California funds public schools in 2013 the state adopted the local control funding formula, or LCFF, every district receives a base amount per student depending on their grade, and that is shown by the blue bar. Districts then Receive Additional Funding shown in green for each student who is an English language learner, foster youth or living in poverty. And districts with very high percentages of these students receive even more funding shown in red. There's another key part of the formula that you need to know. The state calculates how much funding a district should receive based on their student population. And you want to think of this as a bucket, and that bucket is first filled with the local property tax revenue. And here in Contra Costa County, about half of our property taxes go to fund schools. If the property tax revenue does not fully fund that bucket, then the state makes up the difference with income tax revenue. These types of districts are called revenue limit districts, and Moraga school district is a revenue limit district. Some districts, however, generate more property tax revenue than the state allocation, and when that happens, the districts get to keep the excess. These are known as basic aid districts to illustrate the impact of LCFF, This graph compares per pupil funding at several local districts. The blue bar is the state funding they receive. The yellow bar is the federal funding, and the green bar is local funding, such as parcel taxes and education foundation support. The top school district is the Moraga School District, and right below that are Orinda and Lafayette in communities like ours, we do not have the types of student population that generates additional funding. We also do not produce excess property taxes, so that is why we are at the bottom for per pupil funding. Next below Lafayette is the ocalanis Union High School District, which receives a little more funding because it is a high school, but there's they are still at the bottom of the list when compared to other high schools, the next bar is the average of all California districts. Then below that is Piedmont. They receive about as much as we do from the state and federal governments, but they have a huge green bar. That is because they have voted to approve parcel taxes of about \$4,300 Per parcel per year benefiting their schools, and they also have education foundation support. The bottom two bars are Hillsboro and Palo Alto. They have a much larger blue bar than we do, but their student population is similar to ours. This is because they are basic aid districts, where they generate significantly more property taxes than their LCFF allocation, and they get to keep that excess. In fact, Palo Alto has an average home value of three and a half million dollars. Hillsborough has an average home value of \$5 million this graph shows the funding for the Moraga school districts since 2009 the red line shows the statewide average for elementary districts. The percentage is how we compare to that average. Local support, shown here in green, helped keep us slightly above the average for many years, but since LCFF was implemented, we've fallen farther and farther behind by 2024 Moraga was just 78% of the statewide average, even with parcel taxes and education foundation support, the story is the same at Camp melindo. Historically, the high school district was below average, but in recent years, it too has fallen farther behind by 2024 the high school district was at 90% of the statewide average, even with local support. It's clear that this is a revenue problem. It is not a spending problem. Both districts operate on very lean budgets, and they also have been making cuts. Each school district has already cut about \$2 million and more cuts are to come. Our students are feeling the effects. Some people assume that these cuts are due to declining enrollment, but that is not the case here. While many districts across California are seeing

enrollment declines, Moraga actually saw an increase over the past few years, and enrollment is projected to continue to grow. So what gap are we trying to fill? Well, for the Moraga School District, funding is about \$6,600 per student, below the state average at camp a lindo that gap is about \$4,500 per student MEF, fundraising helps close that gap. After donations, the difference shrinks to about \$4,600 per student for MSD and \$2,300 for camp Olindo. But fundraising is not guaranteed year to year. What schools really need is reliable ongoing funding. Parcel taxes have long played a critical role in supporting maragas public schools. These are the parcel taxes that currently benefit the Moraga School District. Measure K is in blue that was passed in 2004 it's \$325 a year with no expiration and no inflation adjustment. Measure B is in red that was passed in 2013 at \$192 a year with a seven year sunset and no inflation adjustment that was replaced by measure m, which was passed in 2020 at \$192 a year with no expiration and an inflation adjustment not to exceed 3% a year. Currently, these annual taxes total about \$525 per parcel. However, their purchasing power has declined significantly. Adjusted for inflation, this amount would be \$822 per year. That's that green line measure i, which will be on the ballot in June, would restore the purchasing power of these earlier parcel taxes. It would add \$295 per parcel with a seven year sunset, an annual inflation adjustment not to exceed 3% and a senior exemption, a vote of two thirds is required to pass this parcel tax. Moraga residents also support camp alindo through parcel taxes. Measure G replaced an expiring parcel tax in 2009 at \$189

A

Ana Moon 24:15

per year. Measure A passed in 2010 at \$112 per year. Excuse me, neither of these have an inflation adjustment. These amounts, when adjusted for inflation, would be \$452 per year. This past year, measure T would have added \$130 for per year, the first new parcel tax for our high schools in 15 years, but it just fell short of passing. The district is considering returning to voters again in November. Moraga schools are extraordinary, but they are operating with far fewer resources than most districts in the state, and their success is fragile. It exists only because this community. Has historically stepped up to support its schools. It's what we do. If we want Moraga to continue to be the community it is today. Investing in strong public schools must remain one of our shared priorities. Thank you. I'm happy to answer any questions you have them.

H

Hillis 25:15

Do you have any questions from the council? Looks like council member, Woeleke,

W

Woehleke 25:21

thank you, Anna. And I appreciate the second exposure to this presentation.

S

Speaker 4 25:27

For some of you, it might be the

W

Woehleke 25:30

third receptive audience. There too. Two things. One is, what is the role of MEF going to be in the campaign? For the parcel tax?

A

Ana Moon 25:44

Yeah, that's a good question. So the MEF board has agreed that, in general, we support parcel taxes because we, as this image shows, we need all three of us together to come together to fully fund our schools, the measure, just received its letter a couple of days ago. Was measure I so they have not yet voted on whether or not to endorse, but I'm sure that that will be coming or be in front of our board soon. We will likely be asked to donate to the campaign, and while we can't do anything above what, you know, substantial activities, because we are a 501, c3, there will likely be a donation coming from the board for the campaign, and then our president of our board, who is here, is going to be one of the co chairs of the campaign. So while that's not you know in her capacity as the MEF President, as you all know as being volunteers in the community, we often wear many hats and volunteer in many places. So do

W

Woehleke 26:51

you have specific record? You have specific requests for the town council tonight? Or is this basically an informational?

S

Speaker 4 26:58

Is that appropriate to have

H

Hillis 27:00

a specific I think we, we have public comment, I

S

Speaker 4 27:03

think, yeah, I think this is just informational, yeah, thank you. Thanks. Ms

M

Maglio 27:12

Moon, I just like to thank you for a very excellent presentation and for all of the hard work that you do. Thank you, Lisa. I

D

Dolan 27:23

Hi, I just my second time. Also, I just wanted to say that I worked for many years for community that had a reputation for, unlike our community, for not passing parcel taxes. And they the the one time while I was there that they were successful was because they were super specific about what they were going to spend the money on, and you have such a small hump to get over, it seems like I'm just encouraging you to be as specific as possible in the campaign. Thank you. Thank you council member

T

Thiel 28:01

teal Sure. Hi, Anna, thank you for the presentation. I really appreciate it. I just wanted to clarify it sounded to me like you were making a direct correlation that the more we fund our schools, the more it increases the value of the homes that people own in Moraga, and the more the value of the homes go up, the more we can be able to fund our schools, kind of, sorta,

A

Ana Moon 28:23

that's a good question. Well, I don't know if there is, like, a direct correlation, but I do know that economists have shown that that there is a, you know, a premium on homes that are in a good school district. And yes, I suppose that would increase the tax base and then and increase funding for this so it's a cyclical

T

Thiel 28:46

not the solution. Yeah, solution is to be encouraging and in favor of what you're presenting this evening. I would have a question for town staff, but I can wait for that.

H

Hillis 28:58

I don't have any questions. I just want to say full disclosure. I've already endorsed this measure as an individual. But if there are no other questions from the council, and if you can remain on standby, in case somebody does have a question for you, sure, I'd like to open this up for public comment. First up, I have Larry Jacobs.

L

Larry Jacobs 29:36

Good evening, mayor and council members. My name is Larry Jacobs, I'm speaking you tonight as a private citizen, not as my role on the school board. I grew up here in Moraga and went through the school system myself. My mom was an educator in the district, so schools have always been part of my life. Years later, when my wife and I were deciding on where to raise our family, Moraga was at the very top. Top of the list, the schools and the sense of community here made that decision really easy. I've been lucky enough to watch my kids go all the way through the system, and they're both now away at college, and I am incredibly grateful to the district and the teachers who gave them such a strong educational foundation. In my day job, I sell real estate throughout Contra Costa, and I can tell you firsthand that the single biggest reason people look to move to Moraga is the schools. Families want to be part of a place that values education. But I'm not here tonight to talk about the schools just in terms of property value. I'm here to talk about the community. I spend a lot of time involved around the town, because I care deeply about Moraga, and I could care deeply about it continuing to thrive. I want this to remain the kind of place where people choose to raise their families and put down roots, and part of that means taking responsibility for the things that make this town special. Our schools are a big part of that. This year alone, the school board adopted reductions totally nearly a million dollars over the next two years. That's a lot of money, and even I'm

K

Katie ADMINVCS 31:13

sorry I just lost my place next year, even though I'm speaking to you tonight as a private citizen, I can tell you that these cuts are significant and they will absolutely be felt throughout the district. The parcel tax, already on the June ballot, would help alleviate the needs for many of these reductions and help maintain the quality of education that has defined Moraga for so long. So tonight, I'm simply asking for your support. I hope the council will publicly support the parcel tax and signal to the community that investing in our schools remains a priority for Moraga. Thank you very much for your time.

H

Hillis 31:47

Thank you. Next we have Jessica goehleke.

S

Speaker 5 31:57

Would it be all right if Megan Donnelly, who also filled out a card, joined me. I am one of the co chairs for the parcel tax, and we wondered if we could give our comment together. It's okay. If we can't, we can do it separate,

H

Hillis 32:09

seeing no objection from my colleagues. Yes.

S

Speaker 5 32:11

Okay. Thank you. Thank you for joining me.

S

Speaker 6 32:16

Go ahead. Hello everybody. My name is Megan Donnelly. I am a Moraga resident and also a proud alumni of Camp lindo High School. My family has grown up in the area, and Jessica and I are co chairing this

H

Hillis 32:29

you're being asked to get closer to the mic and speak a little louder.

S

Speaker 6 32:35

Jessica and I have come to this campaign as volunteers and raised our hands to help support because we understand the value of education, not only for the current students that are in school, but for our community and for the impact it makes on these students for their years to come. Jessica and I have quite a range of hats in this community, and have a deep knowledge around public education and the crisis that it is currently in Moraga is a town that has been founded on valuing education. MEF was founded almost 45 years ago, and it has a legacy of supporting our schools. It is critical to why people move to this area and what makes our town so special. Parcel taxes are the best way for our community to keep our local funds to support the programming and teachers for our local schools for only 80 cents a day for each parcel, we will be delivering over \$1.7 million for our schools on an annual basis, which will make a huge difference in protecting the programs and the teachers that are currently exist. We are also doing outreach, besides running the campaign currently in Moraga and doing engagement with community members and the different types of community members that we have in Moraga, we are also going to advocate for our town. As you have seen, Anna has done a lot of great work for us and explaining the whys of why we need this, we are also engaging on the state level, because no one is coming to save us. If this parcel tax passes in June, the money is automatically released to the school district. So it makes a difference for our students. Come August, we are to me, you and two years Sure.

S

Speaker 5 34:22

So Megan has done a beautiful job, as has Anna, of giving you the why, and I'm here to tell you about the how we are two parents, and what we have found in the last several months, as we've been gearing up for this campaign, is our parent community is extremely engaged. Obviously all the parents in our schools, many who moved here for the schools, care deeply about the schools, and we recognize that only 40% of Moraga are school aged parents, and so we recognize that. The work ahead of us, and what I personally am excited about in this campaign is not just that we get to do something to help build the legacy of our town, but we really want to make this a community building campaign. This is for us and our neighbors together to reinforce to everyone what our values are in Moraga, and all of us can work together to ensure the legacy of excellence in Moraga schools. So today, we're here to represent parents and to represent the schools in our campaign, and we're also asking for the town to endorse measure I so that we can list you also as private citizens, but certainly as a town on this parcel tax, which makes a tremendous difference for our town, as we know, the schools are really one of the gems of this community. So we are asking for endorsement, and we're really hoping for your help in advocacy of our work here. Thank you.

H

Hillis 36:09

I will move on now to the next comment on my list, which is Alexis maple,

S

Speaker 1 36:21

Hi, there. I'm Alexis maple, mom to a kindergartener and first grader at Rheem and active community member here to ask for your commitment to support this parcel tax. I think I was very fortunate that I went to one of the top all girls private schools in New York City for 13 years, and I would say my kids are equally as fortunate to go to Moraga public schools. When I was asked this weekend if I thought the education was comparable, I was able to say without hesitation, it absolutely is. Not only do I feel like the education is comparable, it is as warm an environment as I grew up in, and I'm so pleased about that, because, like most, we moved here for the great schools for our kids, in addition to the funding that this would provide for the services that are already potentially on the chopping block if we don't pass This parcel. I think at the end of the day, our kids love our teachers. Our teachers are the heart of this town of our school system, and we can't continue to ask them to do more for the same amount of money and expect them to want to keep coming back year after year, even though many of them have for decades. We want to keep the teachers that we have. We want to continue to recruit the teachers that we want so that our education system can remain as it is. Yes, does that benefit us all as homeowners in terms of resale values of our home? Absolutely, because I think we're more likely to sell our houses if we continue to have phenomenal schools, but at the end of the day, I think we also all want to raise our kids here. Have a love of education, like every student I see when I walk on the Rheem campus have, and that's unlike other places, it's what is part of what makes Moraga special. It's one of the reasons I am so committed to Moraga, so I hope that you all will publicly support, both as individuals but also as council members, the support of this parcel tax. Thank you.

H

Hillis 38:32

Thank you. And next we have Nikki quedas, yeah, I apologize for not pronouncing it correctly.

S

Speaker 7 38:45

Hi, I'm Niti Kodak, yeah, of course, yeah. I'm another parent. My two sons are at Los Perales elementary I also work. Get have the privilege of working with Anna and these lovely co chairs that you heard from earlier in different capacities in the community, I, like everyone else, moved here with my family for the schools, and would like to ask for your public endorsement as a town for measure. I'll share a little story from today to bring, I guess, bring this to life. We were at LP giving a tour to some of our community donors, and we got to hear from some really happy fourth and fifth graders about some of their teachers. We also saw first graders in their PE class, and they all adore their PE teacher. She teaches every elementary school student in our district at all the schools, and after we left, we were told that she is going to be cut because of the funding issue. And it's not just that they'll lose PE, their core teachers will now have to bear the burden of figuring out how to teach their kids PE, and they're going to lose critical planning time for the core curriculum that they are required by the state. To teach. So it's not the cuts go. They multiply. Each thing loses so many more things. So thanks for hearing us and hope to have your support. Thank you. Thank you.

H

Hillis 40:13

Do we have any other public comment? I see one more. Come on up and state your name, please.

S

Speaker 8 40:25

Hi, I'm Ryan lawless. Been a resident of Moraga for 13 years. Like many others, we moved out here for the schools. I did want to emphasize one point that was just made, which was so I have two girls that go to Joaquin Moraga, my wife, is a literacy tutor at CP, and recently, last few months, I've joined the MSD and the AU HSD boards, budget advisory committees, not the boards. But what I've learned in those four months is that this year, cuts will be painful. Next year, we will cut at bone. Next year, they will hurt. They will hurt a competitiveness to the point that Councilman teal was making, that will hurt, that will impact property values. So it's not just this year, but as you all know, schools budget out a few years. The next few years get ugly, so we should be mindful of that. The other point that the mayor has recently made, which I fully support, a vibrant commercial district helps us all. I think by even conservative estimates, there's probably 10s of millions of dollars being left on the table by our landlords of the town center that would not just benefit our landlords, but the residents that would that's could generate income for schools too. That's a unique scenario where everyone wins in this period of inaction, everyone loses. So I implore you to stay on that path. The good news is we're starting from a position of strength. Our schools are good. Our schools are competitive. Our landlords have a great asset. It's time to take that path. This needs to happen. Inaction has a cost, not just to them, but to residents too. So and then last point I was, I would make, is that this budget deficit is not insurmountable on a per student basis. It is really minor. This. There are much harder problems. This is a layup, so definitely support measure I and what MEF is doing. Anna, thank you for that, and thanks.

H

Hillis 42:51

Thank you comment and just please state your name. Sorry.

M**Martha White 43:00**

I just needed to say a few words. My name is Martha White. I have lived in Moraga for about 22 years. I a member of the MSD governing board, even though I'm not speaking to you as a governing board member, I'm speaking to you as a citizen of Moraga. For 22 years, I've had four kids. I've all gone through the through the school system. I'm one of those people that is in the let me say the sort of middle age group, and we're all laughing, but it like I don't have kids. Still don't go to school here, but I continue to live here because I love Moraga. I think it is a wonderful place to stay and to live. I'm in that 55 and over age group that doesn't get the senior exemption, but still is part of the community heavily involved in the community. I didn't join the school board until my kids were all out of school, but I I appreciate Moraga. We I hope we can get your support, and I hope that anyone that has any questions would please reach out to the the wonderful people who are running the parcel tax committee, Anna moon, any of the governing board members that have any questions, I can't give you all the answers, but I can give you what I know, as a private citizen of Moraga, I appreciate you being here, and I appreciate you listening. Thank you very much. And please support measure.

H**Hillis 44:11**

I thank you please. And please state your name on the for the record.

S

Speaker 9 44:19

My name is Nancy Kaczorski, and as in the same way as Martha, I am a member of the Oklahoma's Union High School District Board. But I'm here as a private citizen and citizen of Moraga for I think I've lost track of how many years. What I wanted to say was, the enthusiasm is great. I certainly, you know, want to ask for your help. You know, sort of ask please support. We also need, I think, a lot of help making sure that the information gets out everywhere. Anna does such wonderful, wonderful explanations. But first, I. Lot of people don't know there are two districts that your kids go to school through. It's, you know, your child goes to school. And you just think it's all just one thing. And the reason that I have to mention this is because when we come, you know, before the voters, we're likely to come in June and then in November, and if we haven't made the case so that people understand, wait a minute, didn't we just do this? So we want to make sure that the overall picture is understood, because that is the way that we're structured here. And it's not something that we can change quickly, just like it's not something we can't change the way that the state funds things. So we have to make sure that the information gets out, because the underlying financial problem is a problem for all of our local areas. And if your kids are going to school in the K8 they're coming to the high school to follow. So we just want to make sure that all of the work we're doing sets a path for all of us to be successful. And on a personal note, I will say that listening to the PE teachers being cut on the set of cuts, as a person who worked on the very first auction for Los Perales, where the reason that we were trying to raise the money was to bring a PE specialist to the schools. Yeah, you really don't want to see it cycle back to where it was before. And it is the return on investment for the investments that we put into the schools is just so huge, and we just need to basically get that information across. And Vice Mayor Dolan all of these, all of these caught the parcel tax amounts that we're talking about. And as Anna showed in her charts, these are to protect and maintain what we're doing, not to start lots of new things. It's it's a case of costs go up, and our revenue, a portion of our revenue, which was local, has been staying flat. And if we don't close that gap, we have to cut back, rather than, you know, sort of stay where we are, so it's not a reach for something new. It's protection to keep what we have. Thank you.

H

Hillis 47:27

Thank you so much. Is there any other public comment? Please come up and state your

S

Speaker 10 47:36

name. Good evening, Mayor, council members. I'm my goodness, I'm coming to you as a private citizen as well. I also happen to sit on the Moraga school board as well. Been a citizen of Moraga for 25 plus years, and God, I'm getting old. Two, three kids raised throughout the district. Two have gone on to college. I got one still at Camp olento, and I'm aware of the budget crisis there as well. You know, I came on to the board about a year ago, and one of the things that tears at my heart is seeing the cuts that have to be made throughout, throughout the district. You see people, I don't know, it's, it's, it's depressing. It's depressing, having to have, having, having to do that. It's, you know, I think about the property and property taxes, and yes, I complain, as a homeowner, is like, Ah, I got to pay more property tax. But in reality, the amount is minuscule. It's minuscule, you know, I'll go spend \$100 at Canyon club, brewery, and my God, I could spend \$250 on apartment tax. So I just thank you for your support. Thank you for hearing everybody today, and I we'd appreciate your endorsement.

H

Hillis 48:51

Thank you. Is there any other comment? Seeing none? I'm going to take it back, close public comment, and bring it back to my colleagues, Council Member teal,

T

Thiel 49:03

don't have any comments at this point in time. Next

D

Dolan 49:07

time you go to Canyon club and you're going to spend 100 bucks, I'd like an invitation.

H

Hillis 49:14

Council member malio,

M

Maglio 49:16

I do not have any comments at this time. Council Member Woeleke,

W

Woehleke 49:22

not sure why I'd like to get the scheduled for a future meeting so that we can consider endorsing it.

H

Hillis 49:29

And just a question to the town attorney, can we do that now, or do we need to wait for future agenda items?

A

Attorney 49:36

You it would be more appropriate to wait for future agenda items and then raise it as a future agenda item, thank you.

W

Woehleke 49:42

Having said that, you know I personally support this and already offered to Anna, or mentioned to Anna volunteering, although that's not the right. Understand you're not in charge of volunteering. Yeah, I know. I have. I. Experience walking neighborhoods.

H

Hillis 50:03

Thank you very good if I can just say and then I think the town manager would like to say something as well. So this was an easy decision for me to endorse. It's almost not fair on that purpose, because I have three small children. I have a second grader and a first grader at Rheem Elementary, and a little hike that will be for this Friday, and they will be starting and the TK class this fall. So I agree with the sentiment that I've heard. We moved here because of the schools, and I think that's a common story that everyone who's moved to Moraga, for the most part, has. Once you get here, you realize there's so much more to this community than the schools, but if it wasn't for the schools, we wouldn't be here. So I would just encourage anyone in the community that has questions. MEF, is available. Your elected members of the school boards. Boards are available. Also sounds like there's going to be quite a robust effort to try to see this past I would just say that anyone that has any questions positive or negative, come to us. Come to them. If we don't know the answer, we'll send you to them. So just please. This is something that is definitely needed, not just for our property values, that will help there. It's needed for our children and our children. It sounds like a platitude. They are our future, but without them, most of us would not be in Moraga. So to that comment, I think I may have have i town, Town Manager, please, Mr.

T

Town Manager 51:47

Mayor, Members of the Council. For those in the audience, the request for future agenda items comes at the very end of the meeting. So if a Council Member raises it, it'll be after we've gone through the regular agenda.

H

Hillis 52:01

So I think that was a nice way of saying, If you all want to wait through our the end of our agenda to see that otherwise, you know how to get a hold of us if, if there's an issue. So with that, I thank you all for coming, and thank you to Anna Moon for educating us. I think that this was a very valuable presentation. It, I believe, is it already included in our packet? Yes. And it, if it can be, if it can be added as part of the public record, it would really be appreciated. I think it would be helpful for a lot. With that, I'm going to close public comment. Oh, no wait, this is general public comment. Now, got it. Thank you, everyone that came to speak. I will now open general public comment. This is this area of our agenda is reserved for items not on the agenda. Anyone who wishes to come and speak before the council, either give us a card, or you can come up and state your name. You will have three minutes to speak. Do we have any general public comment? Seeing none, I will close a public comment, and now we'll move to item five on our agenda. Which adoption is? Adoption of the meeting agenda. Do I have a motion to adopt the agenda? So moved second All in favor. Aye, the agenda is adopted. Now we move to the consent calendar. Do any of my colleagues have any items that they would like to remove, seeing council member Woeleke.

W

Woehleke 53:44

Thank you, Mayor. I'd like to remove item 6.3 fiscal year 2025 26 mid year budget update.

H

Hillis 53:53

Do we have any other items to remove? Seeing, none. Can I have a motion on the remaining agenda items.

W

Woehleke 54:01

Move approval of consent agenda item 6.1 and 6.2 as proposed.

S

Speaker 11 54:09

All in favor. Second. I'll second that,

A

Attorney 54:12

Mr. Mayor, we need public comment. Any

H

Hillis 54:15

public comment on the items that are were added to the motion? Seeing none, I'll close, close public comment, and now I believe I can ask for a vote, unless there are members of my other council. Have any comments. Okay, so All in favor, aye, opposed, none. The measure passes measures now I would ask to see whether or not Katie Bruner has anything to report on, item 6.3 unless council member Woeleke Has anything to highlight Sure.

W

Woehleke 54:50

And first of all, thank you very much for the update. And in. Attachment.

W

Woehleke 55:06

I think it's attachment B, there's their schedule of the different funds and the expenditures and the revenues for each of the different funds. And in my reviewing it, I discovered, perhaps not too big of a surprise that I had trouble correlating the data with really how we are in terms of health, of our our budget for the year, our expenditures and so talked with our administrative services director, and requested, really just a more general comment, confirmation as to where we stand at this point in time in terms of meeting our commitments with regard to the annual Budget, noting we're we're halfway through and, you know, end of June, we need to have the end year end approach, or that data. So that's really my request. Is very high level, very short.

K

Katie ADMINVCS 56:16

Are we good? Yeah, so yes. Thank you. Council member, Woeleke, Katie breuner, Administrative Services Director. So the budget report presented on the consent calendar tonight is just an update based on our projections of revenue and where we are through December midpoint of the year, both in the general fund, which is the town's main operating fund, and then our other funds, which I'll say primarily feed our fund, our capital projects we staff, are not recommending any budget adjustments at this time, which means that we felt we did a good job projecting what we needed For the year, and while expenditures, especially in the other funds, a lot of those are transfers and happen kind of as we're closing our books for the year, we are on track for our budget. We don't anticipate being over budget at this point, and our revenues are coming in consistent with historical cash flow and historical receipts, and so we're continuing to monitor, but have no recommended adjustments at this time.

W

Woehleke 57:30

Thank you. Ed did not the AFC recently meet our finance committee.

H

Hillis 57:34

We did council member Dolan. Do you want to provide a quick summary of that meeting? Maybe if you want

W

Woehleke 57:38

to do that, accomplishments for the accomplishments for either way to hear your

D

Dolan 57:45

input, your preference, we can do it then, okay, sounds good.

H

Hillis 57:50

Okay, any specific, any questions from any of my colleagues on any information provided, no any public comment on this item. Seeing none, I'll bring it back to my colleagues for comments. Any other comments to provide on this item? Nope, I'm good. Okay, then I call for a vote motion.

W

Woehleke 58:13

Motion. I move that we approve the consent Item, Consent agenda, Item 6.3, fiscal year, 2025 26 mid year budget update as presented. Is there a second? Second?

H

Hillis 58:32

All in favor? Aye Opposed. None The measure passes. So we are now on to item seven, which is council member report on AB, 1234, activities, or council member announcements. Let's start with council member Woeleke.

W

Woehleke 58:49

Thank you, Mayor. During this last period, my primary focus in this area was to attend and represent Moraga at the Marana Brent district, Golden Gate Area Council scouting America 2025 recognition event, and this was held down at the Veterans Hall in Lafayette. It was a it was an excellent event, recognizing especially the many adults who helped support scouting in this region, which is broader than LA Miranda but has a really strong influence. La Miranda influence attendees exceeded 150 and we had representatives also mayor of Lafayette, Carl and bury and also council member Janet Riley from Orinda. So the three of us were there, you know, raving our hands raising or waving our hands and clapping, just an aside, I guess I chatted with some of the leaders. Meyers and asked about how scouting doing, including with regard to now no longer beings, just for boys. And the report is it's doing very well in the LA Miranda area. Just in case anyone's interested, there are troops that are pure boys or young men, excuse me, troops that are pure young women and also co Ed. And actually, it so happens that in the LA Miranda area, the most successful, largest troop, and most of the troops have the membership in the range of 50 is the troop 402, which is a all young women's troop, very active, very successful, with 150 members, really doing very well. That's my report.

H

Hillis 1:00:59

Council member Molly,

M

Maglio 1:01:01

thank you, Mr. Mayor. Actually, today, I attended two Recycle Smart committee meetings. One was the Personnel Committee meeting where we met to formulate recommendations to the board for compensation for the executive director and the staff that will so that recommendation will go to the board, and then secondly, as part of the member agency cost and revenue ad hoc committee, where we considered another number of rather complicated questions concerning cost and allocation to member agencies related to the new contract that will be upcoming, starting in 2026 some formulations will be changing. We will be talking about those with the board as well, because there are a number of things that will change with a new contract beginning. And actually it's 27 and and thank you. And that's all I have to report now.

H

Hillis 1:02:07

Thank you, Council Member teal,

T

Thiel 1:02:10

no items to report since last meeting, Vice Mayor,

D

Dolan 1:02:15

so I did attend with the mayor the audit and finance committee meeting. We got a preview of the budget, as was explained there. There wasn't anything unusual. The recommendation was to keep the budget pretty much as it has been. Most of the discussion was about or questions were about, departmental revenues that maybe didn't exactly match up with where you might think they would be at this point in time, but there was an explanation for when certain monies come in aren't necessarily tracking just because where we are in the in the year. So it was unanimously supported and sent to us.

H

Hillis 1:03:02

Thank you. Just have a few updates. One I was a I attended last week, the operating and scheduling committee for county connection board of directors. One of the important things that came up, which will soon be heard by the directors at our next meeting was the cuts that county connection may face. Should Bart be required to limit service this next year, which could be occurring in two different phases. We were presented with some options for how things could look. This is still an open topic of conversation. I suggested that county connection needs to do some presentations in a road show so that all of our councils throughout Contra Costa County really well, especially in the county connection area, are well aware of what those things can be, because they are rather significant. I also was honored to be able to attend the the sunrise rotary Moraga good character awards with one of my children, who was proud to wear their scouting attire to this and hear a lot of positive stories from all of the kids that were nominated by their teachers and ultimately selected to receive these awards. They were truly inspiring, hearing the stories of positivity that and support that a lot of these youngsters were offering for their classmates that may have been having difficult times, all lessons that we can all afford to hear. And I'm so glad that we had an award ceremony for all three of our communities so that these children could be recognized. In addition, I just wanted to highlight for my colleagues that yesterday I made a comment as myself condemning the anti semitic attacks that occurred on two individuals for what seems to be the simple reason that they were speaking Hebrew. I spent most of my life in the city of San Jose. This is not the city that I know. It's also not what we should be experiencing in any of our communities. And I would just again, remind all of the residents of our community that the Moraga Council is committed year after year to condemn hate in all of its forms, condemn bullying in all of its forms. No one should have to be experiencing this type of thing just for their background or the language that they speak. I also want to highlight that I individually was able to celebrate International Women's Day with the women's that women that are close to me, including council member malio. So just be sure that you recognize in all of the wonderful women that are in your lives, as we are also celebrating this month Women's History Month, which we will be recognizing, I believe, at our next council meeting, I already referenced the endorsement that I was, that I had made and as an individual for now, measure, I just wanted to highlight as well that there is a podcast that was released on Capstone conversations I had the benefit of being the first person interviewed shortly after I joined the Council. This was recorded last month. I think I made the report out in one of my A, b1, 24234, report outs. I think it was first or second week of February. So please be kind. I don't do these kinds of things very often, but I think I represented our community well last I just wanted to let my colleagues know and also the public. I had a very productive conversation with both Dave and Ted brezoni at Starbucks coffee this afternoon. I feel like it was a really valuable conversation for all to have and also just be receptive and hearing of a lot of their perspectives looking forward for our community to be able to move forward in a positive direction together, and with that, that is all I have for comments. And I town manager, would you like to make any comments here or save that for item 12? Item 12 sounds great. There are no public hearings. So moving on to Department reports. The first one up is item 9.1, which is regarding adoption of two separate resolutions. Do we have a presentation on this?

K

Katie ADMINVCS 1:07:55

Good evening, mayor and council members? I'm Katie Bruner, Administrative Services Director, and do a brief introduction here. Staff is recommending tonight that your council adopt two resolutions, one approving the amended and restated municipal pulling authority or MPa, joint exercise of powers agreement. MPA is the town's insurance provider for property workers compensation and general liability coverages, among others. And then the second resolution is appointing the primary and alternate members to the board of directors for MPa, and rescinding resolution 5220, 10, your town manager and I are currently the town manager is a primary board member and I am the alternate, and we are recommending that we swap those positions as I, in practice, am the attending board member and also was elected the treasurer of the MPA board. And then we have this evening to provide an overview of MPa and the services that they provide to us and our member agencies. Is Linda Cox, the chief administrative officer, and joining her are Frank Williamson and Laura Clark.

I

InsuranceLady 1:09:11

Is this thing on there it is. Thanks, Katie. Good evening. As she said, I'm Linda Cox, and I'm with my finance manager and risk analyst, and I just want to give you a little overview of who we are, what we do for your city, MPs. MPs been around for almost 50 years, and the town of Moraga has been with MPA for almost 50 years. We're this coming year, it'll be 50 which is very exciting for all of us. MPa was formed to offset the cost of general liability and workers compensation. We started out with workers compensation and added a number of different programs, as indicated in your staff report today, we also have to date 21 members of. The last member being added was the newest city in California, Mountain House is is also is now our member. So we were very excited to bring them on as being part of them being established as a new city. MPa is one of the last pools in California that has claims administration in house we we have claims administrators for both workers compensation and general liability, and that is just a great value for all of our members. Our claims adjusters are intimately involved with your with your city staff who deal with claims. And we also are one of the only pools in California that provides a very comprehensive wellness program, which you all have been benefited from as well, very hands on. Many other cities outside our pool want to join us, just for the wellness program that alone could be a pool. We are governed by the 21 members. Every member has a seat on the board and your council, as you're going to do today, you approve who your primary and alternate board members. We also have an executive committee which is involved with their primary functions are to oversee me, but also to review claims, review settlements, and provide that authority that is delegated to them by the full board. In addition to that, we have a coverage and governance committee that is the committee that has reviewed the document that's before you today, and in your staff report, it does indicate how many iterations it went through. It has been vetted by your city before it came to this final space. And that is just one of the many things that they do. They also look at our our memorandums of coverage. We have three of those. We have a workers compensation program, General Liability program, in our vehicle program, those three programs have those MOCs that the MP MPA board reviews considers and determines what will be covered and what will not be covered, or how it will be covered. The beauty of being self insured is we do have some flexibility in that area. Obviously, with workers compensation, we do follow everything as statutorily required. So the other documents that are looked at is the JPA agreement, which is here today, the bylaws, is another document that gets regularly reviewed. So moving on to what are some of the services? So we have many services again, workers compensation, administration and litigation, liability

administration and litigation. Our vehicle program, we provide coverage for police vehicles and city vehicles, property brokerage and coverages all of the property that is provided to our members who participate in this program include cyber, includes Eno coverage includes theft and crime in addition to overall property coverages and everything that is involved with that benefits. We have dental, vision, short term disability, long term disability and life insurance. We also, as I said before, have a very comprehensive wellness program. We also provide annual regular group trainings for safety and risk management, but we also provide customized safety and risk training as each member needs something specific to them. We also have a police risk committee and a Public Works and safety risk committee. Those two committees are very instrumental. It is a very interactive back and forth. These committees are very interactive back and forth, and they're truly for the employees in those departments. We bring them together, we ask them what they need, what they want to be trained on, what they want to learn more about, and we bring in subject matter experts for them to get that training that they need. The police committee meets three times a year, we feed them, and the Public Works and safety committee meets four times a year, and again, we feed them. Food brings everybody together. We also have an ergonomics program that provides every single employee in all of our cities, all 21 regardless of the programs you're in, to get an ergonomic evaluation. That is part of the but that is completely available to everybody, including council members. So in addition to we provide training, ergonomic, specific, we also, which is not listed here, through our pool. It's truly the only way you can access our employment liability pool. It's not ours. It's a pool that we all belong to, that you have to be in a pool to access. It's a pool of pools so and it is invaluable program for all of our members to be in. So let's quickly talk about what our layers of coverage are. So for workers compensation, we provide you with \$0 coverage up to 500,000 Dollars. Our excess coverage is in excess of that 500,000 up to statutory limits. And that's through prism, which is one of the largest pools in California and the oldest, I will say, General, General Liability coverage. Each member has an SIR, from 5000 up to \$100,000 and we provide up to a million dollars in coverage minus that, sir, but we have an excess pool which provides that excess coverage in total, providing us \$34.5 million they are self insured for 9 million so essentially, we're self insured for a total of \$10 million between the two programs. It has helped mitigate the cost of that excess insurance, which has just increased astronomically. So what else do we so our investments when I first came on board with MPa. 10 years ago, we were funded at approximately between 75 and 80% with the board's help and a very conservative approach, we're funded actually over 90% in both of our programs. What does that mean? Why is that a big deal? That means we have almost all of the money in assets to cover all anticipated claims for both general liability and workers compensation. It's very it's a very good position to be in. Just in July 120, 25 we're finishing up our first year. We created a captive this allows us for an alternative mess, alternative method for investment. It's riskier, but it's value for us, because it's making our it our money is working better for us. It's a way of offsetting those increased costs of insurance, and I will say it's doing very well to date, but it is a risky investment, as we know, could change tomorrow as well. So lastly, I'd like to say, if you'll see this, this is all the programs that your city currently participates in, absent, dental, no. Vision Correct. Okay, we did take it off. We corrected it. Thank you. So you get your vision or not somewhere else. So these are our programs that your city participates in, and I'm happy to answer any other questions that you may have.

H

Hillis 1:17:32

I want to actually ask a question of the town attorney. I believe I have a financial interest in the EAP portion of this. Do I need to recuse?

A

Attorney 1:17:50

I can't analyze it right now. So if you think you have a financial interest in EAP, the EAP portion of the program, I'm not sure my wife works for the company. Yeah, then I think you should just recuse as a matter of precaution, yeah? So you would just Yes. You should leave the room right now.

I

InsuranceLady 1:18:19

Any other question? Yeah.

A

Attorney 1:18:22

So the vice mayor, I'll need to lead the meeting from now, right?

D

Dolan 1:18:27

So what's next? Well, you have any questions for me, council members? Do you have any questions?

W

Woehleke 1:18:35

Just, stability of the insurance industry. And, you know, great extent, a lot, a lot of what you're providing is insurance stable. Is it, I think you, you mentioned that it's really going up. Is it projected to continue? And and how are you, how are you managing that? So we are

I

InsuranceLady 1:19:00

actually not insurance. We are self insured. So we have with this pool, all the city's money's money is in a fund. Okay? So we're not depending on a third party to provide provide us with coverage. However, we do through our excess carrier, they purchase excess liability coverage Absolutely, and those are the coverages that are costing more. Yes, California is expensive. It's become very expensive. Nuclear verdicts are definitely driving the cost of liability insurance. Work comp insurance is stable. Property Insurance lately, in spite of the fires and everything that were dealt with last year, is not impacting us. Actually, we're pretty surprised at that, and they're staying stable, which is, which is very good news for us in the for all of us in the industry, for all of those property coverages, we're not going to see these large. Hikes As anticipated, and although your homeowner's insurance might see it, but public insurance will not. And with regards to our general liability insurance and those excess coverages, there are very few insurance providers that are providing excess coverage for California. There have been many that have left in the public public sector area. It is a different insurance that ensures public sectors, and what we're doing is bringing more of that coverage in house. Our excess coverage changed from only providing 3,000,000x of 1 million, and the board voted to change that to 9 million that helps offset the requirement of purchasing that additional excess coverage. We are also many of the boards are ramping up to bring things to legislator, to put us put to try and put a cap on some of this, because it is getting out of control, and if you'll look back to the 70s, why were pools created? They were created because of what we're dealing with right now. Public entities couldn't afford this increased costs. So we are executives are coming together, pool managers are coming together and using the big pools like prism to bring we have legislative committees that do go to the Capitol, do put their foot down as best they can. So those are some of the things we can do, because we have to look at it globally. So I

W

Woehleke 1:21:30

think you've pretty much answered a bit. I saw this a little bit of now I more fully understand the self, self, you're self insuring, and there are risks associated with that. And you said you've got enough reserves to cover your risks, and I take it you're using this prism to provide additional coverage. Is that?

I

InsuranceLady 1:21:57

So we are MPa, right? We are our own pool, right, and we provide coverage for work comp, up to 500,000 and GL, up to 1 million. Of course, in today's world, unfortunately, claims do exceed that those layers not so much in work comp, more so in general liability. So we have to have an excess layer, so we join another pool that is also self insured. Why is this all a value? There's a share of cost, which it's outlined a little bit in your staff report, but it's a sharing cost. The 21 members share in the cost of claims. No one member pays full fair for a claim. There's a cap on what you pay if your claim, your there's a cap of \$100,000 for example, everything over \$100,000 is then spread amongst all the members, and that's where the share of cost comes in play, right?

W

Woehleke 1:22:51

So your explanation, this really gives me a lot of really helps me, and I really commend this. I think this is a really good way to address that risk. Thank you.

D

Dolan 1:23:02

Any other questions?

T

Thiel 1:23:06

Hi, couple, thank you. And I think council member Woeleke questions kind of got to it, but was just curious to ask if there's any trends, either in claim types or new and unique scenarios or future risks that we should be on the lookout for, given the material you've presented today and the types of coverage and services provided to our community,

I

InsuranceLady 1:23:33

future risks, no nothing is showing up in and we do pay attention to that. You know sometimes law changes will have will trigger some concerns for us, but that there is nothing our risks are the same for every single member, every single city, every single public entity throughout California and probably other states as well and truly it has, if you think about the work our folks do, where the claims going to come from, where the where the work is hard and risky. So it's it's pretty much similar across the board, and that is Public Works and safety, obviously, are the two, and that is true for workers compensation and general liability, because you're those are our most public facing positions workforce that we're responsible for, and so that's where it but that is the same

T

Thiel 1:24:29

everywhere Got it. Thank you. Second question on you mentioned the wellness program. Could you elaborate just briefly for general education on what the wellness

I InsuranceLady 1:24:39

programs try to be? Brent, we're very proud of it. So our wellness program, the hallmark of our wellness program is the biometric screening that we provide that comes out to your cities once a year. The Wellness Fair, if you will. Every city does it a little bit differently. Not all cities in our pool participate. I believe it's 16 that do. But in addition to that, we provide the fun team building events that we have. We've had the paint and sip, if you will, and the city provides the SIP, which sometimes it's hot chocolate and cookies and things like that. There's also fitness classes available every city, every member, can have two fitness classes a month. The city has to provide the space and the time. There's also first aid training that is provided. And we have the walking challenge, and every city participate, I think some of you are very familiar with the walking challenge, three time champions right here. So you guys do a very good job with the walking challenge. So that takes place twice a year. And you know, there's, there's, there's plaques and awards provided, and it is very competitive. And so those are the example of some of the things that are all provided through the wellness program.

T Thiel 1:26:03

Great. Thank you. And then lastly, we do have a legislative agenda shared amongst Orinda, Lafayette, Moraga, so if there's anything that we could bring to the attention to the benefit of those other community members, let us know

I InsuranceLady 1:26:19

they are also a member of our program, right? And they're going through the same process of getting that that resolution approved as well. So thank you.

D Dolan 1:26:29

Thanks. Okay, we don't seem to have any members of the public here, so we can move on to do we, Mr.

T

Town Manager 1:26:39

Vice Mayor? Yes, members of council, can I say a couple things? Sure, so I'd like to augment the good work of the MPA and then our staff. And Linda, thank you. A few years ago, we had some challenges with premiums and so on and and we had some tough conversations, and I appreciate the professionalism, and we were concerned about our rising premiums, and we thought they were allowed out of the sink, but I think we're back to where we feel very comfortable. We appreciate the service on both sides. For Moraga, though, just a reminder, it's a challenge to be in this pool. There's 21 members, and there are various sizes. We're one of the smaller ones, and we don't have some of the higher risk exposures that some of these other cities that are more urban, that have different aspects of their their community, they're just with more retail, freeways and other things, and different police exposure and that type of thing. So we're always nervous that, and there's been some sensational cases over the years that have cost a lot of money. So we get nervous that our premiums go up, but we do feel we're being treated fairly. But just a reminder that we're always mindful of that, and we have a very open and frank discussion. So I just wanted to throw it out there, we're very happy, but we do keep an eye on who some of the other members are, and we just don't have that exposure, but we'd have, we still have difficulty getting access to insurance that we can afford, so it's a delicate balancing act. Great job. Thank you for listening. Thank you.

S

Speaker 12 1:28:20

Yes. Yes, thank you. I would also just really like to highlight especially things like the well wellness program. We have a small, limited staff, and so this is allows my team to provide additional services to our staff as a town that we otherwise would be unable to provide. It helps us leverage our limited resources to be able to make sure that we are offer programs that are engaging our employees. And then also, I commend MPAs work on providing the education and the committees, because they allow us to provide training, education and risk management that overall helps educate our staff so then that we can help reduce the risk to the town in manageable ways. And so they are really on the forefront of helping us find ways to reduce that risk through smart through trainings, through ergonomic access, and it helps us protect the town's resources as well.

D

Dolan 1:29:21

Thank you. Any other comments by council members?

T

Town Manager 1:29:26

I have one other thing, sorry, I forgot to mention we're not just a passive member or an active member. Katie will now be the primary but Katie was also selected by her peers in this group to be the treasurer of MPa, so she's keeps a closer eye on the investments and the money, but it really reflects well on Katie, our organization, and we're trying to be a good active member.

I InsuranceLady 1:29:51

That's very good point. She's also part of the executive committee and also part of the captive board, so Katie does a lot with us.

D Dolan 1:29:58

Thank you. So. More Duke, good. Do we have to do these separately? Thank you. Anyone like to make a motion?

W Woehleke 1:30:12

I will do so. Thank you. One motion, huh? Okay, I move that we approve the municipal pooling authority amended and restated joint exercise of powers agreement for providing property, workers compensation, public liability and other insurance coverages, as documented in 9.1 attachment B and I move that we approve appointing the primary and alternate members to the board of directors for municipal pooling authority of Northern California and rescinding resolution 52 dash, 2010, as presented in 9.1, dash, attachment, a Okay.

D Dolan 1:31:11

Do we have a second?

M Maglio 1:31:14

Second the motion.

D Dolan 1:31:17

All those in favor? Aye, any opposed passes four to zero. Thank you.

H Hillis 1:31:36

Apologies for that last minute recusal. I didn't know until I saw the slide, I was like, oop. So we are now on to item 9.2 regarding the town facilities and energy reliability project. Do we have a presentation at some town manager, Mr.

T

Town Manager 1:31:57

Mayor, Members of the Council, Nate Levine, your interim public works director, will make the presentation, I just want to say a few comments to thank the Council for your patience and understanding over the years on this project, this has been a long and windy and interesting road. We are where we are, and I also want to express appreciation and gratitude to Nate for taking this on and getting us to where we are today. This is a collaborative, sorry, collaborative effort between town staff and a consultant to try to get to a win win. When they didn't have to, they could just walk away and said, Kings x, we're done. So with that, appreciate the hard work. Now. Council Nate will give you an overview of where we're at and what's being recommended. Thank you.

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:32:43

Thank you. Scott. Good evening, mayor and council members. Levine, your interim public works director, town engineer. I just want to quickly echo that I again have the unique honor of taking a project that's been in the works for a long time and bringing it hopefully to the finish line. And I really want to stress that this was a team effort from former public works director Sean Knapp, other council members from previous councils, the consultants. We've engaged members and experts within the community, including clean coalition, as well as expertise with vendors and so forth. So this was not just an individual effort. This really was collaborative, and we think that what we have to present is the result of that, which hopefully we find a win for the town. We certainly think so. So with that, we're here tonight to provide you all with an update on the project, and ideally select the recommended option, option three as the preferred option to move forward with. As such, we also are hoping to direct staff to finalize the scope schedule and other specifics, including financing and return to council in the future to award the project under government code 4217, just quickly so everybody's oriented. There have been other sites that were looked at, but we are focusing on three the three sites are town hall and police department right next door the building we're in, count council chambers and the corporation yard and the Moraga library. These are all facilities that the town owns and maintains and operates, again, quickly, to kind of orient everybody. The project objectives stemmed from, initially, what was happening back in 2019, 2020, the emergency shut off, or the PSPS is from P Genie. That led to some creative thinking of, what can we do to build some resiliency, and then at the same time, try to implement the overall goal of trying to reduce carbon footprints in greenhouse emissions. At that time, we were not part of MCE deep green. That has changed, but overall, we were looking for resiliency at our locations, focusing on backup generators. As well as solar options to help cut down on the reliance of power that's transmitted through PG E or other providers. Also find something that's financially stable. You know that everything costs money for these types of projects. We understand that we could spend money, but ultimately, what is the return? How does that work with resiliency, and how does that fit into utility bills? And then lastly, finding smart solutions for Moraga. And what I mean by that is site appropriate. We do have some real estate, so to speak, but if we pack everything with solar panels and we don't leave room for existing infrastructure or future expansion, that can be problematic. So something to think about. There's a long history here. I'm going to go through this very quickly. If anybody has questions at the end, we can always circle back. But as I mentioned, this originated in 2019 mainly from the pspss in 2021 the town turned this into a CIP project to actually do what was called an energy generation study, looking at areas we could improve, areas that we could enhance, and kind of what our overall footprint was. There is some good findings that came out of that report, but it was more of a study that helped guide some

direction. It didn't necessarily tell us exactly what to do or create the next steps in a timely manner, in 2022 the we came back with the updates, but during this time, one of the big changes was that nem two turned into nem three, changing the economics. As some of you may know, nem two allowed you to basically sell back power to PG E under nem three, you're not able to do that. You can still store power, but you don't get that return in investment, which changed kind of the project, as well as part of the aspect that was studied. There is a little bit of a pause here, trying to reorient and come up with a clear direction. But in 2025 former public work director Sean Knapp worked to put together a an RFP, or at least permission to release an RFP, because we determined that we really needed to get some real world costs and analytics, thinking about the problem and going in circles wasn't going to solve it. So that allowed us to, then in 2025 release the RFP. From that, we saw some results, and in working with some of the consultants that provided responses, we now have a recommendation that we believe fits the project parameters, just real quickly, because some of you may have seen this, but things have changed in the RFP. This was the schematic that was released. It was based on what would have been a PPA or a power purchasing agreement. The idea there is, we really wanted to maximize power generation, but it had some trade offs, which we'll talk about later. So it's just kind of a wanted to just quickly show this. This was the solar layout and generator locations for town hall right next door. Here we see the again, what was proposed in the RFP for this facility that we're in, and then lastly, at the library as well. And what you will see as I get later in is that things have changed a little bit about what we're recommending and proposing, and I'll explain the reasons why. So with that, as I mentioned, going out for the RFP really allowed us to come up with some ideas and better understanding of what was going to work and what wasn't going to work. So the market test did confirm that a PPA or this larger system would work, but there was a cost you PPA is, at the end of the day, just a financing vessel. It costs money to use someone else's dollar to own the system, maintain that system, and be responsible for that system. You have to pay for it one way or the other. But if you're able to generate enough power, maybe you offset the bottom line is, these sites, yes, they use power, but they're not a huge, huge power draw, and we have no way to then further sell back that power. So the PPA economics aren't attractive, is the bottom line for our sites, at least at this time, we also understood that resiliency and being able to support town functions during a power outage was really the primary goal, regardless of whatever we did with a PPA or any other type of agreement, we need to have backup generators that could work in an emergency when we're not able to get power. And that really came to top as the primary goal for this project. The site constraints mattered. Every site was a little different. Maybe we had some space on the roof at one location, but then another location became tricky. So what I mean by that is, at town hall. There's a newer Composite Roof out there. Works great to mount solar panels. But we also were proposing, or thinking about, putting a raise in the parking lot, which creates an issue with access, future improvements fire access as well, and then just the overall esthetics. And found that that wasn't something that we wanted to pursue. And that there still was a way to just put the solar on the roof. Moving to this site, similar thing that the energy generation here didn't quite pencil for the amount of panels, and actually it made a little bit more sense to remove it completely from the project. And then moving to the library, as we know, Spanish tile roofs over there, really nice and esthetic. Mounting the solar panels on those roofs was going to be difficult, and we actually found that we could put the arrays behind the building in a way that doesn't impact the esthetics, but still get the solar improvements that we were looking for. That kind of goes to what I'm talking about here, right sizing solar fit for what we're really looking for for the project. And also the last part, which was interesting, under nem three, you're looking at batteries, which does help with resiliency, storing power for basically on and off peak time, so you can kind of cycle between them, but there's a cost to the batteries, and there's a maintenance cost as well. So increase the finances in a way that we don't think is as beneficial for the town. So with that, I'll run through the options. Option one, simplest, we do nothing that

we know that that's really not what we're looking for. We've committed to making sure that we move something forward. Here. It's part of town goals and council priority. So option one, just have to put it out there, but it would be no change other than just improving the parking lot, which has been part of the CIP project and program for some time, option two generators only. So again, this would include the parking lot improvements, which are part of the CIP but then we would also use available funds to purchase the generators at the sites. It basically is a net neutral. We have the money, but we wouldn't get any return from it. And then there would be a potentially small but unfunded ongoing maintenance cost for those generators. We're paying a small fee right now for what we have. It would expand Under this option, option three, and I will come out and say it, this is the recommended option. And the idea here is we are getting the generators the parking lot work that we needed to do at Town Hall, as well as solar at town hall and at the library, but no batteries and no solar at the courtyard. The overall project cost is about 1.4 million, where we have 900,000 available, giving us a financing need 480,000 I'll speak a little bit more about how that financing kind of works in a minute. But based on the cash flow, the annual payments, as well as the federal direct pay that we receive, it's a positive cash flow for the town, meaning that every year, even in the beginning, where, with the loan at a conventional loan rate of about 5.65%

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Nate PUBWORKS 1:42:46

our costs may exceed what we're saving, but we don't actually see any of that coming out of our pockets. And then eventually the project turns overall positive, and we see a savings. We ran this for 20 years because that's what the loan is at it's also something I think we can all wrap our heads out. You do see a savings here of about \$265,000 after 30 years, this jumps up to about 1.2 million, I believe, or actually, yeah, I believe it's 1.2 million. I don't want to dive too much into that, because 30 years is a long time. It could be even higher, depending on escalation rates. But that also assumes that everything we keep, all these buildings, nothing changes. Some speculation. Option four is very similar to option three, but it's with the batteries as well. And as I mentioned, yes, you will see a larger savings overall, because now you're able to cycle between the peak and off peak times with PG and E and MCE generation. But there's a larger cost to those batteries that we don't see the savings for quite some time. So within 20 years, you can see here that the savings is about half. Now the overall long term savings at 30 years goes up, but again, that factors in some battery replacements that get a little bit complicated and unknowns, and during this time, at least for the first 15 years or so, we have some years where we would potentially have negative cash flow, meaning we actually have to pay out of pocket to support this option. For those reasons, we think option three is the best bet for the town. So here's what it looks like, solar panels on the roof provided an example of what that could kind of look like as far as trying to match existing composite shingles. I think many folks have seen this. Most of us have solar. Have seen solar on roofs, and there's ways to at least blend it in as much as possible. Little bit of tree trimming that's required, and then there's removal and upgrades to the existing generators at the site behind the PD council chambers where we're at here, no solar panels, just upgrades and replacement to the generators. I do want to note that in the future, if we ever want to expand service at council chambers. To add charging stations. There's a way to do that right now. The power here is what's called phase one. Phase three allows you to have better power distribution, essentially, or better energy dissipation. We could do that later. It wouldn't necessarily be impacted with this generator, so it's always an option later. But this at least allows us to keep the lights on, the air conditioning running, to some extent if there's a power outage, meaning people could come here. Our emergency operation center would still function. Our maintenance crew could still perform their work if there was a power outage. And then our third location, Moraga library. The big change here is putting the arrays behind the library instead of on the roof. We think that simplifies, simplifies things, reduces cost. There will be some tree trimming and maintenance. We factor that into the cost as such, as well as the generator behind the location as well. So next steps. Tonight, we're hoping we select an option. Then from there, we would finalize the specifics on all the terms. Everything that I've presented in the staff report is basically a conservative estimate. And what I mean by that is we're looking at all in costs using really kind of worst case scenario numbers. Now we're talking about potentially using what's called an internal loan. Perhaps we're able to do some trading internally on accounts, so we could actually finance this through the town at a 0% interest rate, which would reduce everything from what I'm presenting. But again, these are the most the worst case costs. So that's what we want everybody understand. But during this time, we would come back with basically what we think is the best case come and then return to council to present all of that, and assuming we're all in agreement, award a contract to a solar provider, so that way we actually move forward. There are some tax credits on the table that we have to act quickly on, or we will lose them if we wait too long. Brent, so with that, I leave the recommendation, and I am happy to answer any questions you all may have.

H

Hillis 1:47:11

Do my colleagues have any questions? Council member teal, great.

T

Thiel 1:47:18

Thank you. Really appreciate the pivot to the rooftop solar and especially locations, so we preserve the visual integrity of some of the buildings that we have so really creative. And thank you for one just doing all of the work to get there and then recognizing that there is what I'd like to think is probably a much more cost beneficial and esthetically pleasing way of integrating into our existing buildings with the rooftop. You'd mentioned some repair work, just general thing, given we're putting solar on top of existing roof surfaces. Have you guys gone through the exercises of understanding roof maintenance, roof repair work, just so that roof warranty matches with the PV system. Yeah.

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:48:03

So great. Great question. Smaller dollars. So the larger issue was actually at the library about how that would all work, but by not putting anything on the roof, we completely avoid those issues. And then over here at Town Hall, it's a newer roof, so we don't I think maybe your questions, twofold is future maintenance and whatnot, yep, so believe we are in about year, year eight of our 30 year roof. Okay, and then there will be, you know, you'll eventually have to remove the panels to maintain the roof. And my understanding is that's becoming a fairly routine task now for

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Thiel 1:48:37

roofers, sure. So curious, if we had some small dollars

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Nate PUBWORKS 1:48:41

to kind of further assuage that we did, I included a fairly aggressive O M escalation rate for everything, so that there might be years where we spend less and there might be years where we spend more, but over the life cycle kind of averages out. So we're trying to make sure it's self sufficient and

T

Thiel 1:48:59

funding and M operations and maintenance. Yes, awesome. I tend to throw acronyms around, and I try not to. So thank you for that on to so option three, you went through the batteries. I assume the cost Delta on the batteries is just the difference between those two numbers from option three And option four. So around 350,000

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Thiel 1:49:23

no need for anybody to do math on the fly, but that's what we're looking at. But long term cost, obviously, you've gone through the exercise of savings. I'd say my curiosity, and you did mention this a bit in your opening, is planning for future expansion. If we do look at option three generators plus solar.

T

Thiel 1:49:44

Would there be a future in which battery type technology, where we could be, say, instead of being, say, be battery ready for that, and what that would look like?

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:49:59

My understanding. Understanding, simply put, is, is it would be fairly there. So is a cost, but from an infrastructure standpoint, to add the battery system later is a fairly straightforward process. Gotcha. And, you know, none of us have a crystal ball. If we did, we would have jumped on this under them too, right? Previously, maybe something changes. In the future. We're having battery shortage makes sense, and we want to go through that. You go through the same financial exercise proving that makes sense, figuring out how you pay for it, and at that time, make a decision to move forward. But I think what you're asking is, is there a hurdle we're putting up? Not to my knowledge?

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Thiel 1:50:35

Okay, great. Thank you. Went over direct community benefit, obviously, to have town functional capability in the event of future outages. Ration for so as far as as timeline, and I know you'd mentioned, yet to develop construction timelines, but in a pending approval here, how quickly could we see option three in place.

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:51:04

So, one, optimistically, yeah, one, one of the I have to be a little careful on how much I speculate on this. One of the issues is there is a procurement time. So once we are able the solar panels, I know have to be, you know, once we have a contract, we're able to sign them. If you don't mind, I actually wouldn't. I would like to phone a friend on this one from our from our audience, who could be able to speak a little bit better to procurement time. If that's all right with with the council,

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Thiel 1:51:30

sure. Thank you.

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:51:33

Yes, if I, if I let you introduce yourself, but this is one of the consultants that we've been using has been very helpful with the the project. Hello.

S

Speaker 13 1:51:42

My name is John Burdette with excite energy. I'm the Vice President of program development and procurement. Time right now, in order to secure what's called the federal investment tax credit direct pay, the program would have to be implemented by the end of 2027 and we feel comfortable that if the the council moves forward today, that we will be able to meet that time frame and with implementation in the summer of 2027

T

Thiel 1:52:09

gotcha, if you could stay put for a second, since we're talking about procurement, I'll put my day job hat on any risk to cost of either critical equipment or infrastructure as you currently understand it, or is there a need for any type of early release or funding that we need to be prepared for?

S

Speaker 13 1:52:28

Yes and yes. Okay, so equipment procurement is critical. If you do choose option four with better energy storage systems, those are the longest lead time items. Solar panels are readily available. So there's no issue there Gotcha. And on the generator side, generators are also readily, readily available. You do have a manufacturing lead time of anywhere from about 20 to 30 weeks Gotcha.

T

Thiel 1:52:53

And anything that we need to do, from a proactive standpoint, to lock in a current cost as we understand it,

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Speaker 13 1:52:58

current costs are locked in for 90 days,

T

Thiel 1:53:01

move quickly within that and then, similarly, to be in alignment with the tax credit as well, too. That's correct. Okay, thanks.

D

Dolan 1:53:13

So the tree removal at the library, what do you know the species?

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Nate PUBWORKS 1:53:19

I believe it's mixed, and I think one of them, unfortunately, there is a redwood over there that needs to have some work done on it, but this is far less than what was previously proposed in the years, where they were looking, before they understood the easement out there, they were potentially looking at removing far more trees. So we, I we would do our best to minimize the amount of removal, but simply put, over time, we have to make sure that sun is able to go on the panels.

W

Woehleke 1:53:51

Thank you. And following on for council member Dolan, I understood that the redwood trees at the library were too close to the library and posing foundation issues. So I'm a bit surprised that this is an you know, that we're going to trim the redwoods, as opposed to remove those that are causing the foundation issues.

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Nate PUBWORKS 1:54:15

I believe that we will have to remove a few of them, and then the ones that are not posing issues to the building, we would do what we could to keep or trim, okay?

W

Woehleke 1:54:26

And that that's really not accountable to the to the project,

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Nate PUBWORKS 1:54:30

though, I that that would be kind of a large it's it's tied right? If we want, you want to coordinate that, make sure that we're understanding of all the risk and liability to the building, and then making sure that we're putting

W

Woehleke 1:54:44

lots of basis the cost is low, and it's probably not a medicine, I suspect. Thank you. And I spent a bit of time today with the public works director interim and and the town manager. On this project, and I very much appreciate your answering my many questions.

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:55:04

Thanks, if I may add one quick thing, I did not mention this, and I just want to make sure I mention it in case no one asked the question. We we have been in contact with various suppliers, actually, cccta County connection to talk to them about securing the availability of what they call renewable diesel. It's a cleaner burning diesel. The costs are very similar, slightly more but reasonable to regular diesel, assuming we're able to actually procure the agreement with them and guarantee it's a reliable source. We would run those diesel generators off of that fuel. It doesn't pose a risk, because we're already doing storage tanks within our sites, and if, for some reason, we weren't able to get that in the future, my understanding is the diesels have, the generators have no problem running off of regular diesel. So I just want to let everybody know that even within this already fairly green project focused on resiliency, there's a greener side to it as well. With that fuel,

M

Maglio 1:56:09

Council Member Molly, I want to thank you for your tenacity in reviving this project and bringing it along. It's been a long time coming and and we're building on prior Council's work and building on prior public works work, and I appreciate the fact that you've brought to us a very reasoned approach to resiliency and also, and also a reasoned approach with respect to cost. And marrying those two things, it does seem to me that option three is a good one. Your recommended approach, it can you just I one other question. We've asked some very good questions, and that that they've been they've been very beneficial, and so have has your presentation. But can you tell me how you will be coordinating this with the parking lot work in the town offices?

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:57:08

Yep, absolutely. So initially, the parking lot has been on the list of something to improve. It is aging. We also recognize that there can be some landscaping improvements that accompany that as well, trying to use green infrastructure for landscaping, also our new zone zero requirements as well, and kind of setting the stage for leading by example with the town. So that was kind of in the background. But then originally the project was looking at those arrays as well as some conduit installation. So it became very obvious that, hey, this is the time to take care of the parking lot. So from a budgeting standpoint, that kind of got lumped in there. There's still going to be some value. We want to basically install some conduit for future charging stations, although it's not going to be tied to the energy generation, it's still kind of setting us up better for the future. And then it gives us a really nice example to hey, we have solar on the roofs. We have new landscaping in the area that meets fire code and everything. And then we can point to our building and say, look, it is doable, and it's not, it's attractive, it's not an eyesore.

H

Hillis 1:58:17

Thank you. Thank you. I just have one question, and I can say I planted nine redwood trees this weekend, so I've made up for the mitigation that we might need on that item for at the library. But if you can go back to the library, image for me, please. So the only question I have about this is I know that there has been a concept that's been talked about by the park and recreation board about potentially using the surplus land up this hillside as a potential dog park. I'm just wondering whether or not the placement of the solar panels on I think one of the few flat spots there might create a challenge for that or whether or not it can be compatible with that use?

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:59:05

I will be honest, that was a good question. I am not sure of the overlap between the two. I've seen some preliminary layouts for some of the options for the dog parks. I'm not sure if they got this site in particular. I don't recall seeing it specifically in the area we have, but I could certainly make sure we coordinate as much as possible. I think, to your point, if you know, we put the solar arrays, and there was a recommendation for the dog park to go here, it would cut into it. But I do know, seeing from our parks and our park director Mackenzie, that she did have other locations that she was promoting, and that they seemed pretty, pretty attractive as well.

H

Hillis 1:59:51

And I appreciate that, and please do. And I don't think it's necessarily that it needs to be a zero sum if this is the ideal. Location. I think if they can be at the proper angle and higher, the dogs can still run under them with that. I want, I think, unless anyone else has any other questions that we should open this up for public comment. Town Manager, Mr. Mayor,

T

Town Manager 2:00:19

Members of the Council, I just wanted to augment some of the comments earlier, just for your benefit and bigger picture perspective, with respect to the trees adjacent too close to the library, the council member Woeleke is correct. We there are a number of trees are too close. They're growing into the building, into the wastewater line, water line, that type of thing. And we are aware we're going to have to deal with those trees, but for the viewing public and for council, we won't trim or remove a tree unless we have to. And the safety of the patrons of the library and our employees is paramount, right, as well as protect the integrity of the building. So as Nate indicated, if we are to do work, we try to do it at the same time. Then the other aspect, I can't remember, we talked about zone zero landscaping. Did you mention that? Very excited about the possibility to lead by example and do that at Town Hall. We have the space that we can do that, and we'll also try to plant vegetation that requires a little water. We can do a drip system.

H

Hillis 2:01:23

So if I can ask a follow up question on that, based on that point, are you I know that that the fire station down over on Moraga Road is exploring developing a zone zero demonstration planting, are we considering it all coordinating with them on those kinds of best practices, so that any zone zero landscaping can actually be demonstrative for members of the community on how they can do it right.

T

Town Manager 2:01:50

We will. We will make sure we achieve the objective. Thank you. Leave it at that.

H

Hillis 2:01:55

Thank you. And with that, unless there's any other questions, I want to open for public comment. Seeing none. I'm going to bring it back to the Council for comments, and I'm going to start over on this side. First Council member, Woeleke,

W

Woehleke 2:02:08

thank you, Mayor. I have the distinction of being, I guess, saddled with this for the longest, and I've got to profess of all the permutations that we've been through I like this the best. That includes the fact that it's really more in terms of application evolutionary as opposed to revolutionary. I note that I agree with focusing on the solar panels basis the historical data without the batteries added, the batteries always decrease the economics, and that was always a bit of a challenge, be it there was still at times positive economics, but but there were other issues. I like the fact that this design provides much better access to the 329 Rheem Boulevard. I've always had concerns about fire equipment access with the panels on the stanchions in front of the building, and likewise, I think having a generator only at this building makes better sense the previous designs, it was really kind of shoehorning in the panels. And there were complexities that I always worry about, the risk my my one Delta, potential delta is, I'm not, I'm still not sure that the library is the right place to have our emergency cooling center and what's driving the generator. My understanding is, what's driving the generators, or emergency power there is having it as a cooling location, emergency cooling yet. I don't know yet. I haven't been told yet that the CPAC the Campo lindo Performing Arts Center, which is a relatively new building, well insulated and would have access to power from the solar panels out in the parking lot. And I believe that it's set up so that they can still produce power when the main power is off or when the grid is off. That we shouldn't at least answer that question. And I talked very, very briefly with the Oculus Union High School District Superintendent, just in the casual conversation, and he seemed to think that that would be a possibility much bigger. Are better insulated, and in that case, maybe zero capital cost. Don't know. And that's my my concern is, I really, we haven't nailed that one yet, but I I'm not going to. That's not a deal breaker for me, so I'm happy to endorse option

H

Hillis 2:05:23

three. Council Member malio,

M

Maglio 2:05:25

I am also happy to endorse option three. I think it's as I said before, and I'll just say quickly, it's very well reasoned approach, and it covers all of our needs in terms of energy resiliency as well as cost. And I appreciate your efforts.

T

Thiel 2:05:43

Council member teal, yeah, again. Thank you for answering the questions I think that gives me obviously, just given the work historically and as presented to date, just confidence in supporting the recommendation for option three, just encourage, as you stated your commitment to doing just keeping options open for future expansion and and potential incorporation of future technologies. If we do see work in an industry where there is a benefit to battery storage, there are complexities with battery storage, cost, current technology risk with types of lithium ion thermal runaway. Don't want to scare anybody or sideline the conversation, but just pray a future proof and future expansion, just to keep that option open while we go with the option as recommended here today, Vice Mayor,

D

Dolan 2:06:44

yes, I'm very happy with the evolution of the project and where we ended up. I do think some of the earlier attempts were, I agree with council member Woeleke That there was just too much going on for the site. This the town hall site specifically, and I'm very relieved that we're not talking about sort of dramatically changing the esthetic of that building. I think this is a great solution. I'll be supporting your recommendation.

H

Hillis 2:07:17

Thank you. And I just want to make some some round out comments. I really appreciate the receptivity that staff had in my suggestion on looking into the alternative diesel. It actually reminded me that I actually brought up this very same idea. I'm on an ad hoc committee for the League of Cities, transportation, public works and communications committee and I raised, I'm on their ad hoc to actually revise the league's lobbying guidelines for the next two years on those areas. I brought up this idea specifically because it was something that we had staff was receptive to here. And for folks that don't know what this is, this is not biodiesel. It is a type of biodiesel, but it's not biodiesel. It's actually made from fish renderings. And this is something that county connection uses very reliably on their most reliable busses, because Gillig is in Livermore, and county connection is the biggest agency immediately adjacent county connection tends to get a lot of their prototypes. Well, we got electric busses early, and that

also meant that all the vendors that provided all the parts went out of business on those busses while they were still having useful life, and they are out of and they are out of commission, since I've been on the board maybe 50% or more of the time, but the diesels engines on the busses that run on this alternative diesel are the most reliable busses in the entire fleet. We've reported to carb that when we use those busses, the particulate matter coming from them is almost so non existent that I'm not sure I'm supposed to say this in a public meeting, but they actually have to rig the equipment just to sense any particulates coming at all. It's that clean. So what makes me more supportive of option three is that even though we can't do batteries, which have their own issues for storage, and I'll tell you, I'm I have two Tesla power wall twos that are currently non functional, and I'm waiting for Tesla to give me the the power wall threes as a mitigation for this very expensive tech going out of service almost two years after I got them. You have those kind of issues. If you have a diesel generator, it's tried and true. If you have a clean way of doing it, this is fantastic. And to be able to actually get panels at all on these buildings, which I when I believe. We also participate in MCE deep green. Is that correct? So not only are we now going to be having solar panels on town buildings to reduce the need for draws on the system, we also are already procuring power for Our Town services in a manner that ensures that we have clean energy, non carbon energy provided to run the lights in this building now, already, we now are also going to be having more reliable diesel backup generation using a clean type of fuel that almost entirely eliminates the particulate matter put into the atmosphere, a non carbon based fuel to keep these generators going, into the question that was asked before about the CRCS. So in another life, in 2819 I helped to write the policy for the CPUC on PSPs is I also had to do an evaluation of the entire large public utility service area on where we could do CRCS Community Resource Centers and the own and I built them. The Campo facility was already there for a variety of different reasons that were listed by our engineers, the only place in town that was deemed viable where we could have that facility in place was at the Moraga library. The only issues that were presented were, I believe, inappropriate striping for ADA purposes, which was one of the key criterion that was necessary. So ultimately, I think we ended up doing a CRC in the parking lot at at St Mary's because we didn't have the proper striping. So as long as we have the striping here, I can just tell you from the engineers that know this was the site that was identified for a variety of different reasons, be happy if there were other sites available. But thank you so much for helping us to solve this difficult nut to crack and do it in a way that I think really is smart, economical, and handles all of the environmental values that this council has expressed through numerous iterations of the council and iterations of this project that are what we desire To get this done. So good job. Thank you for listening. Thank you for getting this done in a way that the community really can support. And with that, I will ask for a motion on this item,

A

Attorney 2:12:34

we want a motion so a formal motion could be to receive the report and select option three as the preferred choice for the town facilities, energy reliability, re liability project, and directing staff to notice a future public hearing before the town council to determine The anticipated cost of the energy project.

W Woehleke 2:13:01
So moved, is there a second?

M Maglio 2:13:05
A Second? Motion? All in

H Hillis 2:13:07
favor, aye, All opposed. The ayes. Have it The measure passes. Thank you so much for all

N Nate PUBWORKS 2:13:13
of your work. Thank you really appreciate it.

H Hillis 2:13:18
And with that, going back to my agenda. We now are at item 10, council member requests for future agenda items. Do any of my colleagues have a request for an item? I believe I remembered hearing one from council member Woeleke earlier in the meeting.

A Attorney 2:13:36
Yes, you did. I

S Speaker 3 2:13:40
did. Okay. We want to bring back the proposed I move

W Woehleke 2:13:49
your microphone. I move that. We schedule a future agenda item at a release meeting practical to consider endorsing measure I the upcoming parcel tax proposal.

H

Hillis 2:14:09

Do we have a second? Second? Any other council members wish to express report? I don't think we have to vote, but we can say that we express support for the item. Okay, well, all in all in favor, aye, All opposed. The eyes have it look forward to that item in the future. Are there any other council member requests for future agenda items? Seeing none. We're on informational items, which I don't believe there are any, but now we are at item 12, which is town manager follow ups and announcements. And I see council member Woeleke raising his hand. No, I was

W

Woehleke 2:14:47

screamed back up. Thank you. Sorry, town manager, Mr.

T

Town Manager 2:14:50

Mayor, Members of the Council, no additional follow up from tonight. The next regular meeting will be on March 25 that'll be a joint meeting with the party. Parks and Rec commission, and you will be receiving input, or will be seeking input. You get a report and input on the Parks Recreation and open space master plan, really exciting project. We had the consultants work with the executive team this week. So really interesting information, very objective, very interesting as directed moments ago. We'll also bring back the measure I item, given how quickly the election will be coming to the voters, might as well just do it next, next meeting. We'll just do that at the beginning of the meeting, and the park and rec folks will have to bear with, with, with you on that, but that shouldn't take too long. That's it. Thank you.

W

Woehleke 2:15:42

No announcement, personnel. Announcement, I guess not.

T

Town Manager 2:15:51

Yeah, I think I'll hold off on that, but it's possible there might be a new person in the room the next meeting. So out of respect for that person, I'll just hold off. Fantastic.

H

Hillis 2:16:04

Exactly with that, I call this meeting adjourned at 747, and we get to be home for bedtime. And.