

TC 2026-02-25

Thu, Feb 26, 2026 12:49PM 2:26:56

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Moraga Town Council, Spring Festival, Lunar New Year, East Bay MUD, water conservation, fire safety, economic development, affordable housing, community support, public comments, infrastructure projects, water quality, climate change, housing element, public engagement., Livable Moraga Road, public outreach, traffic analysis, multi-use path, lane reduction, community feedback, safety improvements, grant funding, pedestrian signal, parking concerns, segment three, Corliss Drive, traffic impact, project timeline, council authorization.

SPEAKERS

Speaker 6, Speaker 10, Speaker 4, Town Manager, Woehleke, Maglio, Hillis, Thiel, Speaker 2, Speaker 7, Nate PUBWORKS, Speaker 9, EMBUD Young, Speaker 1, Dolan, Attorney, Speaker 3, Speaker 8, Schumaker , Speaker 5

-
- H** Hillis 00:09
Are we good? Okay, so I call this meeting of the Moraga town council for February 25 2026 to order at 530 and now I'd like to ask our vice mayor to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- D** Dolan 00:29
I pledge allegiance for
- S** Speaker 1 00:32
which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and God,
- H** Hillis 00:47
we will now move to the section of the agenda reserved for presentations,

A

Attorney 00:51

Mr. Mayor, we didn't do roll call.

H

Hillis 00:55

I will do roll call. Council member Woehleke Here, Council Member malio Here, vice mayor here, Council Member teal here, and I the mayor am here. So now we will move to presentations, and the first one up is a proclamation on the Spring Festival, Lunar New Year. And before we do, I just wanted to identify what I left on all of my colleagues tables. It is, I have a description in here somewhere. So these are called hong bao. I grew up getting these at elementary school every year because it was a little inappropriate for me to actually give my colleagues cash, I instead gave them, what are they? McDonald bucks to McDonald nursery, which you can use now, it's only a 10% discount, but if you wait a little later on, you can support a local business, and you get an even bigger one down in August. With that, I would like to move to reading the proclamation, and I want to see if we can start with Council Member Woehleke, a proclamation

W

Woehleke 02:17

recognizing Spring Festival, a proclamation recognizing Spring Festival, Lunar New Year celebration, February 2026 whereas archeological evidence from oracle bones inscribed with astronomical records indicates that the Chinese calendar existed As early as the 14th century of BCE during the Shang Dynasty, and was historically reset in accordance with the reign of each emperor.

M

Maglio 02:49

And whereas the traditional Lunar New Year, commonly known as the Spring Festival in China, Tet in Vietnam, so Lal in Korea and Losar in Tibet, is determined by a lunar, lunar Luna, solar calendar that follows both the moon's orbit around the Earth and the Earth's 365 day orbit around the sun, occurring on the second new moon after the Winter Solstice, and maintained through the addition of a 13th month approximately once every three years.

H

Hillis 03:26

And whereas Lunar New Year celebrations traditionally begin on Lunar New Year's Eve and conclude on the 16th day of the first lunar month, known as the lantern festival with the public with the public holiday in 2026 beginning on Chinese New Year's Eve, February 17.

D Dolan 03:49

And whereas, while Lunar New Year is celebrated uniquely across many Asian countries and cultures, it is universally a time centered on family reunions, gatherings, reflection, renewal and the strengthening of communal and familial bonds.

T Thiel 04:05

And whereas the Chinese calendar includes the Chinese zodiac, or Shang Tsao, a repeating 12 year cycle of animal signs, each associated with the distinctive characteristics and attributes.

W Woehleke 04:19

And whereas the spring the Spring Festival, marks the transition from one zodiac animal to the next, with February 16, 2026 concluding the year of the snake, and February 17, 2026 ushering in the year of the horse.

M Maglio 04:38

And whereas in Chinese culture, the horse symbolizes energy, vitality, charm and a spirit of adventure.

H Hillis 04:48

Now therefore we the town council of the town of Moraga hereby proclaims February 17, 2026 as the beginning of spring festival. Lunar New Year and encourages all residents to join in the 16 Day celebration of the year of the horse in the town of Moraga. Thank you. And I'll just remind my colleagues, if they look at their envelope, it actually does have the year of the horse on it with a horse.

W Woehleke 05:16

So, ah, well, thank you very much. Of course,

H

Hillis 05:21

now we will move on to East Bay MUD projects, Moraga, presented by East Bay MUD staff, Joe Volcker, not by Joe Volcker, okay.

E

EMBUD Young 05:35

I'm Marguerite Young. I'm the director for ward three, which includes Moraga, and I will be presenting. Thank you for the opportunity to be here. Oh, this is off to get used to the slides, so you'll apologize if I'm not looking at you. I'm looking over to make sure we're on the right side. I am Marguerite Young. I've been on the East Bay MUD board since 2015 representing ward three, which includes quite a bit of Oakland, the city of Piedmont, Orinda, Moraga, and down dam road to pick up el Sobrante, unincorporated parts of Richmond and a little piece of Pinole. I like to say that my ward hugs the watershed, because most of our local watershed is within its boundaries. Today, I'm going to talk about, you know, what East Bay Mud is, what we do, some of our, you know, plans for the future and the things that are impacting us today and you know, into the next decade, we are a nonprofit public utility governed by a seven member elected board. Every dollar that we collect from rate payers goes right back into our operations, maintenance and system improvements. So no, there's no there's operating reserve, of course, but there's not profit. We serve 1.4 million water customers and about 600,000 wastewater customers who are on the other side of the hill. Our water starts way up in the top of the Sierra in Alpine County, actually at the top of our watershed. And the party reservoir, which captures the water that comes downstream from the McCombie watershed, is about 90 miles away, and Comanche is the other reservoir that we control in that area, which is largely used to support the fishery management that we have to help restore the salmon population from Sierra snow melt. And I was, I was, I don't know how many of you have been up since the most recent storm, but man, oh, man, many, many feet of snow are up there now. We're actually over 100% of our average now, and looking at a, I hope, a good year, we still have a few months and a few storms to fill our reservoir, but we're we're looking good, and we been delivering that water for over a century. How many of you were around for 100 year? I know Steve was for 100 year anniversary in 1923 is when East Bay Mud, sort of officially entered, entered the scene after cobbling together many smaller water agencies around the Bay Area or around the East Bay that water from the mcollumy is treated locally in treatment plants in Walnut Creek Orinda, our which is our biggest plant, and then we deliver it through 4200 miles of pipeline. And if you think about that, it's enough to go to Chicago and back four times. Just to give you a clue as to as how many, how many miles of pipe there are in the in the ground? As I mentioned, we also manage water wastewater for much of the East Bay, and treat up to 320 million gallons a day during storms. It's that big plant that you pass as you're going over the Bay Bridge that you might smell before you see it, although you smell it less than than used to. I alluded to this previously, our reservoirs are running, you know, at or above 100% of average for this time of year. We have East Bay res. Boards at Brent, which many of you may have hiked around or enjoyed, or Chabot Lafayette, which probably everybody has has been around, San Pablo and upper San Leandro. That's our, that's our, our local watershed. We store around six and a quarter 100,000 acre feet of water, and we're like, like I said, 107% of average after this last storm. Now, if I'd been here two weeks ago, I would have been saying something different, because those big storms are becoming what we have to, you know, have to count on. We're not getting, we don't get the drip, drip, drip anymore. It's the big storms that come. Like I said, if I come two weeks ago, we wouldn't have been here. But now we're, we're looking we're looking good, but we have to plan for the future, because the future is variable and

unpredictable. We are with climate change, expecting more frequent and more severe droughts, but also, you know, bigger storm events like we've had, so watching and managing how we store and release water from our reservoirs to maximize storage but prevent flooding or overspilling is important. So we're looking at how to manage different parts. We have a very diverse water portfolio, is what I call it. So it's to diversify through conservation, which the district has done an amazing job of over the years since the drought that I remember as a kid the 1975 76 I wasn't such a kid then, but 1975 76 drought when all of us that were around then learned not to flush and to turn off the water, and when we brushed our teeth, and we still do it today. So conservation recycled water, which we do from our wastewater treatment plant at the foot of the bay. We also have another recycled water facility associated with the chevron plant, and that we co run with the West County Wastewater District and El Sobrante and out out this way the Dublin San Ramon service district and East Bay MUD collaborate on a recycled water facility that serves lots of San Ramon and Dublin. So what did I leave out? Ah, we have, during drought years, the ability to call upon our free port facility to tap into water from the Sacramento and which also allows us to participate in water transfers, where we very specifically work to identify opportunities that can provide environmental benefit in addition to water supply. So we're not going to take water out of the system unless it's already helped improve fish or habitat or some other environmental benefit. Transfers recycled water go back. Transfers recycled water conservation, central object ground water, which is still a small part of our overall portfolio, but something that we're actually really excited about is a project in the San Joaquin Valley that will help address the groundwater overdraft problem in part of the San Joaquin and allow us in wet years to store water in that groundwater basin that we can then tap into in dry years. And it's still, you know, we've wrapped up the pilot phase of the project, and we're hoping to expand it and turn it into a model for others. Okay? Infrastructure, like I said, 4200 miles of pipeline. That's a lot of pipeline. Most of them, those pipes, are 70 plus years old, many of them in remarkably good condition. Some of them more than 100 years old, actually and in remarkably good condition. Others, not so much. So we have a very sort of strategic infrastructure replacement program going on. We call rebuild for our pipelines. But we have, as you can see, lots. Lots of other this is just my ward, the current capital construction projects that are going on to rehabilitate or improve pumping plants to right size reservoirs so that they're providing excellent water quality, but that they're also standing at the ready to help in fires or other kinds of emergencies

E

EMBUD Young 15:25

and pumping plants because of the hills, right? We while 90% of the water that I think is 90% of the water that we deliver comes by gravity, or is delivered to the tap by gravity, those folks that live in the hills. We got up, darn it. Got to pump it up hill. And so we do have a number of of gravity zones for pumping. One of those pumping plants here in Moraga is the Fay Hill pumping plant just just down there. That's in the middle of, middle of construction. And we're hoping to wrap that up by the spring of 2027, I know y'all want us to get her done. And so we're, we're working on that you can go on to the so it's, you know, this is a really aging, aging plant that we're restoring here. It'll work together with nearby reservoirs and tanks to move water where it's needed, especially during peak demand and emergency situations. That reservoir includes, or that includes, also work that we're doing to upgrade the Carter and Arroyo reservoir projects we're doing Carter now so that it can return to service before we start Arroyo. So you're not we're not going to end up in a situation where we've got a critical reservoir offline. Los Angeles learned about that. The next phase of that project is starting next month. We will be demolishing the arroyo tank and constructing two new tanks to improve

flexibility and fire flow capacity. We had a meeting last month with the Sanders ranch Hoa, and that recording is available on our web page if folks are interested in seeing what what people had to say, we are very appreciative to mofd in the town of Moraga and the Sanders ranch residents for collaborating on safety, fire, flow and neighborhood considerations. Now I'm going to move on to the thing that everybody wants to know about. What are we doing about fires? We know it's, you know, it's a critical, a critical concern. It's only just over a year ago that the horrific Palisades and Eaton fires happened in Los Angeles. We had our own version of that in 1991 when 1000s of homes in the Oakland Hills were destroyed by a fast moving wildfire. I had just moved into the area. I grew up and grew up in the East Bay, but we just bought a house in lower Rock Ridge in Oakland, and we're out in Half Moon Bay, picking pumpkins and listening to the 40 Niner game, and saw this smoke coming over, and turned on the radio, and by the time we got back, it was, you know, things were just, you know, crazy East Bay Mud. Learned a lot in that fire that we have put into practice. We looked at what went wrong, what needed a change, and that event really still guides how we prepare for fire today, on red flag days, we pre fill our reservoirs, we standardize hydrants. We've installed emergency and permanent generators so water keeps flowing even if the power is out. And we had a real test of that during the PS the public safety power shut offs in was that 2018 the really like crazy lengthy ones, when the lights in the Caldecott tunnel, oops, they forgot about, you know that we didn't lose it. We didn't lose nobody lost a drop of water during the public safety power shut offs in these Bay mod surface area. But we still learn more, and we're studying the Palisades and Eaton fires to understand what else we can be doing. We've helped people think about what the right kind of landscaping is, and we know mofd And the fire safe councils in the area are really working hard to help people. Will understand what's going on. And it's not alone that we do this. We work closely with the local fire agencies around the area and partners from all of the cities. Meet regularly to talk about how we can coordinate and respond together. Clearly, East Bay MUD as the largest land, second largest landowner in this area. We have 57,000 acres of watershed lands, and we know that a lot of that surrounds Moraga. We use grazing to reduce grass fuels. We are we are strategically removing non native trees, but not mowing them down. We are regenerating the watershed. When we do the remove those trees with regenerating native oaks, which are, you know, less susceptible to fire. We do controlled burns and that all and our watershed manager, if you ever really want to get into the weeds on this literally, Scott Hill is your is your guy to go to. He has crafted an amazing fire strategy plan to create zones in our watershed and to work with others to create shaded fuel breaks and other things to really limit and mitigate the risk. The risk can't go away. We know that, if you live here, certainly the insurance companies tell us they won't go away. But you know, we are. The thing that we hear a lot in in Orinda. I haven't heard it as much here is about the pines on San Pablo reservoir, which, as you all know, a few years ago, coming out of our last drought, there was just a massive die off of the Monterey pines. And that was, it happened all over the state. Really, those pines were all planted around the same time. They're at the end of their lifespan. And the drought and bark beetles, you know, sort of a perfect storm to increase. We had been thinning out those trees, but it just, it just exploded. So we have increased the level of cutting that we're doing, but we're restricted from when we can cut because it's also nesting habitat for eagles. So there's a limited period of time every year when we can, when we can cut those trees. But we're, we're working at it. Yeah, here's a burn pile that we that we do when conditions are acceptable. We're spending more than two and a half million dollars a year on fuel reduction and emergency readiness, and as I mentioned, we coordinate actually daily with Cal and con fire, mosd and other agencies, and we want to ensure that there's always reliable water access for firefighting, not just from hydrants, which are primarily for battling house fires, maybe 1235, houses, not hundreds, but that we do have. And Moraga is fortunate to be in proximity to breones and San Pablo and upper San Leandro, where you know, you have ready access to fire, to water drops from from helicopters, which we would deploy,

E

EMBUD Young 23:52

I don't know. Okay, we're going on to part. So we're kind of switching, switching. Oh, do you want to do the being ready? Or is that after, yeah, so let's skip it. Let's, let's go to this being ready for emergencies. And that's not just, obviously, that's not just fires, it's earthquakes. Have at least one gallon of water per person per day, and this says three to seven days. I think realistically, you should have more, and if possible, you should have it in more than one place, because who knows where the heck you're going to be right? Keep bottled water in sealed containers or emergency water kits. Know where your water shut off valve is and how to use it, and sign up for the local alerts, which I'm sure all of you are doing, but it for the benefit of folks out there listening. Those alerts are increasingly helpful in letting people letting you know what to do and when when to do it. So. Uh, let's go back to slide 20. Yeah, that one. So we talked about emergency preparedness and fires. We are we collaborate with cities and and other special districts on a wide range of of issues. We're very engaged in working on the plans that I know. You guys are all figuring out how to implement your housing elements so helping to streamline the process of getting water to new housing. We're working with the large universities and colleges and other big businesses to help them both use water more wisely, but also to plan efficiently for their future growth. And we are, you know, really dedicated to doing regular communication and outreach. We have it's time, right? Water Wednesday. Okay. So we have lots going on from our public affairs department. We have our community water Academy, which is still open, applications have closed for the very popular community water Academy, over 200 people have applied for 30 spots. If you don't know about it, we're happy to give you more information for the next one. And I think the last thing I'm going to talk about is siesta Valley, which you might better know as Cal shakes, last fall, not last fall. Fall before last, we learned that Cal shakes was not going to be able to continue, and began the process of figuring out what the heck to do. And feel very fortunate to have awarded this past spring or no this past fall, an agreement with the siesta Valley foundation and siesta Valley bowl, which is a local partnership, a for profit and nonprofit foundation, to manage the site as a multi you the genre, venue, live music, Shakespeare, other performances, dance and community events. The foundation will be hosting and developing a wide array of things, in addition to a watershed education and native plants and bird garden. So there's, I'm very excited about it. I'm on the board, and we, I think our we hope to have our first show in May, by the end of May. So you'll all, we'll, we'll make sure that everybody knows about it. And with that,

H

Hillis 28:06

you saved the best for last. Give my colleagues an opportunity to ask some questions.

W

Woehleke 28:12

Yeah. Councilmember Woehleke, sure it's more of a comment. Marguerite and Joe, how fortunate we are to be part of the East Bay MUD system, high quality water. And I know you invest a lot, and the very good example of that is the modernization, expansion and of the water treating facility in Oakland or in a room, excuse me. Anyone who you know drives by there you see the crane. I don't know if the crane is still there or not.

E

EMBUD Young 28:48

I was going to say it's almost very,

W

Woehleke 28:51

very tight spot. They are executing very well, a major project and really impressive. Thank you so much. Thank you.

H

Hillis 29:01

Any other questions? Looks like council member? Till then, we'll go

T

Thiel 29:04

to the Vice Mayor. Hi Margaret. I really appreciate the broad presentation you have this evening, especially on fire and life safety. I know council member Woehleke just mentioned briefly on water quality. I know it wasn't necessarily in the information you have tonight, but just offhand, could you speak to say the quality

E

EMBUD Young 29:23

or exceed all safe drinking water standards? Our goal is, I came to my time on East Bay MUD from the water quality end of things, as an environmental activist with Clean Water Action, these degrade East Bay muds reporting on their drinking water, and they actually always came out at or near the top in terms of their communication about water quality. So, yeah, we're high quality. Water meets all the safety standards we're always on the lookout for if there's you know, something coming, one of the main reasons drivers. For the Orinda Treatment Plant upgrade is to be able to treat what we unfortunately suspect may be variable quality of water coming into our system in order to meet the needs of our customers. So we're it's all we have ultraviolet and a whole array of treatment going in with the goal of further reducing what are called trihalomethanes or disinfection byproducts, which are, you know, you have to disinfect the water because you got to kill the bugs that can make you sick, right? The unfortunate part of that is that there can be byproducts that have their own potential health effects. We manage those to well below the the standard, and we will continue to do so, but that's one of the reasons why we're doing Orinda,

T

Thiel 30:51

thank you. Really appreciate the depth of that answer is that something you could include in future presentations? Sure, yeah, wonderful. And then in what you've covered, anything that you'd want to speak directly to community members while you have the opportunity here,

E

EMBUD Young 31:06

the thing that I would thank you for the opportunity to do that, I think, the again, the reason that I ran for this seat initially, was making sure that East Bay MUD was doing everything that it could to be out in front on climate change and to be a driver nationally on on that issue. And the thing that I think each and every one of us can do is really look to use water efficiently. We're very fortunate to have really high quality water. And so, you know, sort of every time you take that really high quality water to flush your toilet, you're, you know, sending, even though it's not a very much water, you know, you're, you're sending that water to the wastewater treatment plant. And, yeah, so I would just encourage everyone to use your water. Use water wisely. Thank you. I

M

Maglio 32:12

don't have any questions, but I want to thank you for a very excellent presentation. I every time I drink a glass or one of these of water. I feel very lucky that another reason to be lucky to live in Moraga and in this area where East Bay MUD serves so thank you for that. I have been watching and reading about with great interest about the state of the art plant in Orinda, and maybe you said a little about it. Maybe if you could say a few more things about that plant that distinguishes it from other other facilities, that would be great.

E

EMBUD Young 32:53

Well, I would say it's not using any new technology. What it is is figuring out what we what our engineers have done is figure out how to put that ultraviolet technology into, as Steve said, a very constrained site, in such a way that we don't lose any head from our gravity feed. So it's sort of, it's, it's really, kind of, it's a marvel of engineering. UV is not new. It's been around for, you know, a long, long time. It's just, you know, a huge, a huge endeavor and and something where we haven't, it's the largest project we've taken on, I think, including including Freeport. No, it's not as expensive as Freeport, but, you know, it's a very, very, very big endeavor. And we have our water Wednesday webinar. We have links we can send you if you want to learn more about the project. And we're also, we just had a tour not too long ago, and I'm sure we'll do, you know, we'll do another one, and we're happy to set that up for folks too.

M

Maglio 34:16

Thanks to both of you for coming. Thank

E

EMBUD Young 34:19

you. Thank you for having us.

H

Hillis 34:20

And I'll just round this out. And for those in the audience, I'll be brief. I can talk long sometimes, I believe I'll just check with the town manager. This is part of my request, actually, to have all of these special districts that touch Moraga to come and give presentations. I think that there's a lot of folks that thinks that we do everything and we don't. And as we go through the year, I'm hoping we'll be able to have more of these, just to help educate the public on all of the wonderful work being done by our partners working here also, I believe, and just correct me if I'm wrong, upper San Lorenzo reservoir was supposed to have a partner. Which was a lower San Lorenzo reservoir, but it became Chabot.

E

EMBUD Young 35:07

It's upper San Leandro, but Lorenzo, Lorenzo, yeah, there was a plan many years ago, before my time, to build a another local reservoir which was abandoned, got it? I'm glad it was abandoned, but I wasn't on the board. Then I

H

Hillis 35:25

wanted to make too though, is if you all get a chance to walk around upper San Lorenzo reservoir, which thank you for, to my colleague for correcting. No, I got the other way around San Leandro. It starts with an L, upper San Lorenz. I walk there all the time, very nice. One thing I would say, though, as you're walking along there, I believe that that is where the Moraga community of VISTA used to be. And as you go through and especially go along the backside, you can see a lot of stairs, foundations from homes that used to be there. And I don't think I had to figure that out for myself. Huh? Be wonderful if an interpretive signage. Sure we're doing this on the Lafayette Moraga trail for the same thing. I just think that it's an it's an opportunity.

E

EMBUD Young 36:16

That's a wonderful idea. Our General Manager is a his historian, and his dad was taught history at at UC Berkeley, and so he he, if he doesn't know about that, I think we could stump him. That would be kind of exciting, but, yeah, that would be definitely it's not a it's not compared to Lafayette. Say it is not a well traveled part of our of our watershed, but I think some interpretive signage, and at least, you know, sort of on our website and and we were doing signage, new signage, all over the watershed. So for our residents, put this added to the list.

H

Hillis 36:57

As you go out the backside of Rancho Laguna Park. It there's trailers that while you get to hike along cows, which is kind of cool, you can go straight down there to the reservoir. It is our jewel that, I think everyone says they want to go to the reservoir. They mean Lafayette. Yep, we need to check out our own. It's better. There's no it's bigger by a lot, and it's not very many people, actually, right?

E

EMBUD Young 37:23

There aren't, there aren't 750 people an hour walking around.

H

Hillis 37:27

Don't have to pay for parking. I don't believe you do have to get

E

EMBUD Young 37:32

a watershed hiking permit, which is very, very modestly priced.

H

Hillis 37:36

There you go. Well, I thank you so much for your presentation. We really appreciate the information. One thing I'm sure the town manager can tell us about is what the gusher was over on

E

EMBUD Young 37:45

Oh, we were dewater. We had to de water for the pumping plant to flush out, you know, the bad water. Well, glad we or the old water. Thank you so much. We really appreciate it. Thank you so much. Thank you all. It's a pleasure serving the town.

H

Hillis 38:02

Do we have any public comments on this item? Seeing none we can move on in our agenda. Okay to public communication before we get started on that. I just want to say something really quick, because my colleagues and I have been getting a lot of emails, and I just want to comment for the record that we've received a groundswell for my opinion of community support for the town's Economic Development Initiative. In my personal opinion, I haven't seen anything like this to support something not on the agenda. In the whole time I've been involved in town government, and I just wanted to count through and see where it was. I got 30, so that's a lot, and 11 of them were from Moraga residents. Five of them were from Oakland, four of them were from Berkeley, three of them were for Lafayette, two from Fairfield, one from San Francisco, one from Dublin, and another person didn't say where they were from. The reason I highlight this is the point of the Economic Development Initiative, is to develop Moraga to build affordable housing. And I got corrected on this by somebody, I won't say on which social platform that part of what you want for economic development is to actually be attractive to those on the outside. You know, most of the employees that work in Moraga for in our town, government, in businesses and schools, can't afford to live here. So I'm asking that the town, please, town manager, I'm asking that the town please add this to the record. I also encourage you. I know that some of the local developers, including the owner of Moraga center, may actually be watching the meeting tonight, and I would encourage you to share this positive message with them of all of the community interest, both to move to Moraga, desire from our adjacent communities to have better things for their kids to do here, and the groundswell of support for. Moraga residents for the same I just think we need that to be stated in the record. And with that, I now open for public comment at this time, public comment is reserved for those in the audience who wish to address the town council on items which are not on the agenda. The council cannot discuss details or vote on items not on the agenda. Your concerns may be referred to the town manager for a brief comment or further review. Public comment pertaining to a specific, specific item on the agenda may be made during consideration of that item. All commenters tonight will have three minutes. If you haven't already done so, please fill out a comment card. And I have a stack right here, and I believe the first I have is Rob Schumacher from Moraga motors.

S

Schumaker 40:46

Hello. I'm Ron Schumacher. I own Moraga motors. You guys have seen me many times. We had a comment last meeting, and I don't mind it being specifically addressed to me, because that's who it's addressed to. Let's be real about it. It sounded like I was not going to the planning department to ask about our business. Well, I have on October 22 I did meet with your planning department, and I was basically told, Don't bother. It's not going to happen. You're not a priority. That is exactly what was said. I do want to resolve this. I spent a lot of time coming here. Missed Bible study tonight with my family. This town's important to me. The people in this town love us. I want to keep doing business here. I don't plan on going away. I need your guys' help. I want to be respectful to you guys, because you guys got a very important job. Guys got a lot to do. There's a lot of responsibilities that you have, from the state to you guys, but I also just need to be able to run my business. That's it. Thank you. Thank you.

H

Hillis 42:02

Next up we have Mark Orcutt from Walnut Creek and the East Bay Leadership Council.

S

Speaker 2 42:07

Thank you, Mayor, council members. My name is Mark Orcutt. I'm the president and CEO of the East Bay Leadership Council. We're a nonprofit organization on a mission to strengthen the economy and improve quality of life in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. We've been we've been at it for a long time, so for up to nearly 90 year history, we've seen a lot of the challenges that businesses face to start, stay and grow, and that's really why I wanted to commend you all on your leadership in investing time resources into meaningful economic development Planning. It matters. It matters here. It matters regionally. And we notice and we want to be a resource however, we can building successful business districts is complex work. Y'all all know that well, but when businesses succeed, we help create communities we can be proud of. And that's that's as simple as I can put it. So all that said, I just wanted to share my appreciation for your leadership and stand ready to support all of you as council members and the staff at the city of Moraga, if we can be helpful in advocacy or partnerships along the way. So thank you so much.

H

Hillis 43:15

Thank you for your comment. Now we have I'm avoiding wearing my reading glasses. Michael Gaffney,

S

Speaker 3 43:28

I'm back, as I told council member teal, I'm like a bad rash. I'm very irritating, and I always seem to come back, but I'm not going to be here in March. I'm going out of town to do a gig. So I just wanted one last plea to stand in front of you and just briefly share a few things. The first pride flag flew on June 25 1978 at the San Francisco gay Freedom Day Parade created by artist Gilbert Baker at the request of activist Harvey Milk as a symbol of visibility hope and liberation for the gay community. On that same day, Harvey Milk stood on the steps of City Hall and said, somewhere in Des Moines or San Antonio, there's a young gay person who all of a sudden realizes that she or he is gay, knows that that parent finds out that they'll toss them out of the house. The classmates will taunt that child, and the Anita Bryants and the John Briggs are doing their bit on TV, and that child has several options, staying in the closet or suicide. And then one day, that child might open a paper and it says, homosexual elected in San Francisco. And there are two new options, an option to go to California or stay in. San Antonio and fight. Two days after I was elected, I got a phone call, and that voice was quite young. It was from Altoona, Pennsylvania, and that person said, Thanks, and you gotta elect gay people so that that young child in 1000s upon 1000s of child just like them, know that there's hope for a better world. There's hope for a better tomorrow without hope, not only gays, but though the blacks and the Asians and the disabled and the seniors, the USS, the USS without hope, the USS give up. I know that you cannot live on hope alone, but without it, life is not worth living and you and you and you, you got to give them hope. And just one last thing, I'll say, because of Harvey, Harvey Milk and his efforts to have gay people come out of the closet, everybody in this room knows a gay person, a brother, a sister, a parent, a council member, somebody so raise that flag for those people here in Moraga. Thank you so much.

H

Hillis 46:09

Thank you for your comment, and now we have Ellen beans for

S

Speaker 4 46:27

Good evening, council members, I was happy to be back here again. Watched you online a number of times. I just want to add my support from what you said some 30 people from Moraga about the economic development. So I will just say start at the beginning of my little spiel here that my name is Ellen beans, and I've been a resident of Moraga for 45 years. I have been quite attentive to town council deliberations and actions for at least 20 of those years. But I'm here tonight to say that I have watched and listened to many, many discussions in the past three years when the town of Moraga was addressing the state mandated challenge of increasing our housing allotment, particularly by providing for affordable housing. The community outreach was extensive and varied, development requiring rezoning, focused mainly in the spaces available in our two commercial centers, a good call when all Moroccans want to preserve our open space. The work of this Council and the planning commission was rewarded by having this housing element certified within a state's timeline as a senior resident. I am glad that the parcel next to the rheim Theater has a developer ready to build 49 affordable senior units there, with more housing opportunities laid out in these commercial centers, the retail business opportunities will grow significantly. The Grocery Outlet under construction is one good step in this direction. I can't tell you how many times over the years I have heard and read about our wanting a second grocery store. And as Dave brezoning has said, so often over the years, if you have more housing our business community will grow. I also commend this council for its improvement in making clearly defined bike lanes and soon to bring back the livable Moraga Road recommendations to enhance safety as we drive and walk and ride our bikes around town. As for the condition of both shopping centers, I am hopeful that with more housing becoming available for a wider variety of potential homeowners and renters, that the shopping center owners will pay attention and will update and repair these centers which have been neglected for a long time.

H

Hillis 49:32

Thank you. Thank you for your comment. We now have Renee zweimer. I

S

Speaker 5 49:47

Is this on? Yeah, well, good evening, Mayor Hillis and members of the town council. It's good to see many familiar faces and meet some new I can. Council members. My name is Renee zeimer. I've lived in this community for 42 years. Ellen beans has me beat, but we've been through a lot of efforts to to see this town grow in very thoughtful and managed ways. It seems psycho cyclic, in a way, doesn't it? Ellen, but, but there seems to be an energy and a buzz. People are taking a notice, and I'm here to tell you that it's pretty exciting. People are noticing that there was a menorah lighting in the Moraga Commons people are still talking about it, just the thoughtful way of recognizing the Lunar New Year, but doing just a little more than we've done in the past. The buzz about the potential of flying a pride flag. I mean, that's huge for our community. And of course, this economic development. I mean, let me think it was like I believe 2010 or 2011 I was part of a group that also was working and looking at the ream shopping center and talking about ways in which we can bring in new businesses and just change the feel to it draw more people into the town, both to live, To visit and to work. So just keep going where we're excited. People are noticing they're talking about in a good way and and we we need good news now. We're in a pretty dark place nationally, and Morocco's going in the in another direction, and in a bright and wonderful and exciting direction, and I so appreciate it. So I got off my sofa and came down here to just, just tell you how, how excited we are. And please keep, keep up the good work. We really do appreciate it. Thank you.

H

Hillis 52:22

Thank you for your comment. We now have I apologize if I pronounce this incorrectly. Erica, Gately. Applause.

S

Speaker 6 52:43

A Erica, Erica with an a no no worries. It happens all the time. Good evening mayor. Good evening council members. Thank you so much for your time. My family and I moved here fairly recently, especially in context of the previous speakers, but one of the first things that we noticed was the pride people take in this community. It's really clear, and I think it's really great that residents care so deeply about protecting what makes this town really special. Along that same lines, since moving here, I've also watched many discussions take place in this building about maintaining really high standards for Moraga, when we look at the conversations and decisions surrounding residential development, protecting our hillsides and natural beauty and making sure that our public institutions, like our schools and our libraries and our parks are world class. And I think that's great, and I think it's also clear that decisions made in this room are guided by a desire to protect Moraga's character and the things that people value most about living here. And because of that. It's always seemed a little and sometimes a lot in Congress to me that those same high standards don't consistently apply to our commercial centers. So as a resident, I'd like to go on record in strong support in maintaining and reinvesting in our commercial centers. I think just candidly, if we work this hard to protect Moraga's character elsewhere, it makes sense that the place where people gather, shop, eat, spend money, and I think, also, importantly, as well, people from out of town make impressions about our wonderful town of Moraga. Those things should reflect the same level of care. I know this has become a topic of strong opinions. I love to see how many strong, supportive opinions that there are today and elsewhere. But to me, this isn't about opinions, and this isn't about taking sides. It's about consistency, the pride that I think that we show in our neighborhoods and elsewhere in Moraga and our natural spaces should be visible in every part of this town, and especially in the places that represent us most publicly. Thank you.

H

Hillis 54:36

Thank you for your comment. We now have Rob Pearson.

S

Speaker 7 54:46

Thank you, Mayor Hillis and council members, I'd like to share a story of my first time visiting Moraga. I was house hunting with my wife, and we were something of a cliché, another couple with young kids looking to buy a house in a town with nice schools. We'd heard good things about Moraga and La Miranda in general, and I remember driving our first time down Moraga way. I remember passing the broken down grain elevator, then the RV park, and seeing the empty store fronts by Safeway with a fence behind the supermarket barely held up with a bunch of two by fours. We asked ourselves, should we live here or in Orinda or Lafayette? We nearly rode off the town then and there, but our realtor told us about the amazing community, the fantastic schools, playgrounds and outdoor trails, and we gave the town a chance. We ended up buying a house a few blocks away from our kids school at Los Perales, and I'm very glad we did, but conversations with other parents often wind up in a familiar direction. What is going on with the Rheem and Safeway shopping centers? Why in such an affluent area are we lacking in nice stores and restaurants? My friends share similar stories to mine about their first time in Moraga. They talk about why they need to go to Lafayette Orinda or Oakland for date nights? They ask these questions, but they also share their gratitude and good fortune that this is where we ended up. Our town's Great. Our kids are thriving. We've made great friends, and I walk my dog at Mulholland Ridge nearly every day. Moraga is a great town. I'm cautiously hopeful that the Cosmonaut company will help to bring new stores and restaurants to the Rheem and Safeway shopping centers. I'm appreciative of the council support for building affordable, higher density housing around those two commercial areas, so hopefully my kids can sometimes buy their own home here as well. My hope is that the next generation of people looking for houses in Moraga have a different experience than mine, instead of their real estate agent needing to explain why Moraga is such a great place to live. I hope their visit shows by itself a more accurate portrayal of what a fantastic place our town is and can be. Thank you. Thank you for your comment,

H

Hillis 56:53

and now I have Andrew Michaud,

S

Speaker 8 57:02

good evening. My name is Andrew Michaud. I am a Moraga resident, and I was actually born here 41 years ago, so you got me beat. But my two older brothers had the privilege of growing up in this town in the 70s and 80s, my family eventually moved me to the Chicago suburbs, and while I love my family, growing up in the cold, flat Midwest gave me a very clear sense that I was missing something. And I heard my mom and brothers talk about Moraga with a kind of warmth that you don't often hear people use when they always talk about where they grew up. So after college, I did what many Midwesterners do. I left, I went to Boston, started my life as a young person, transferred for a job to San Francisco, met my wife, who's a Bay Area native, and we joined the same crew that was just spoken about the question of, where should we start our family? Where should we put down roots? So the stories I heard my whole life kept pulling me back here. We found our way to Moraga, and we fell in love with it. Now my mom is back. She's also a resident after being gone for 30 plus years. When I brought her back, she laughed, and from a development standpoint, said, nothing's changed. I know she meant that as a compliment, and I understand that, but I don't want that to be the story that my own children will have to tell. So I'm standing here tonight as a son and a father at the same time. My parents want to be near their grandchildren. My kids are finding their footing in the school system, and I'm in the middle hoping that this town can hold all of us, affordable housing, walkable retail, places where grandparents can leave nearby, not forced out to the exurbs that put miles between them and the families that they love. Now I want to say something directly to the council. I think we can cool our rhetoric, and we can understand that development is very emotional for this town. People love this town. They are so protective of it, and that comes from a really good place. But when the conversation turns divisive, neighbors start seeing each other as obstacles, instead of partners. We lose something important. And I don't think any of us came here tonight because we want to lose something. We came here because we love this place. So here's what Moraga is. At its best, we're extraordinary when we're together, and the general plan brought us together. So I want to honor the patrons that had the vision to generously launch the Moraga Commons. That Park is a great example of when things don't happen by accident. It happened when people invested in their town into a shared space. Our commercial districts are a shared space. So I'm in full support of the general plan and not tearing anything down, but building on those general spaces. So thank you to you all for the work that you're doing and what you continue to do for our spaces.

H

Hillis 1:00:14

Thank you for your comment. Any other people in the audience like to leave a comment looking at none. Let me open back up and get to my agenda. We're now at adoption of the meeting agenda. Do I have a motion to adopt the agenda? So moved?

M

Maglio 1:00:36

Do I have a second? Second?

H

Hillis 1:00:40

All in favor, aye. Okay, and now we are on to the consent account calendar. Do any of my colleagues have a request to remove an item from the agenda?

W

Woehleke 1:00:53

I move for approval of the consent of the consent calendar? Excuse me, as proposed.

D

Dolan 1:01:01

Is there a second? Second, Mr.

A

Attorney 1:01:04

Mayor, we now that we have a motion and a second, we should take public comment, and the vote will need to be by roll call, because there's an ordinance on it, and I can take the roll call.

H

Hillis 1:01:13

Thank you. Do we have any public comment on the consent calendar? Seeing none call the roll

A

Attorney 1:01:23

Thank you. A vote on the consent calendar. The motion was made by council member Woehleke. It was seconded by council member teal, correct, no. Vice Mayor Dolan, okay. Vice Mayor Dolan and I will take the roll call. Council Member Woehleke, aye. Council member teal, aye, Council Member mallio aye, vice mayor Dolan I, Mayor Hillis aye, that's a unanimous vote, all right,

H

Hillis 1:01:51

and now we go to announcements and reports on activities. Council member report on AB, 1234, activities, or make announcements. We'll start with council member teal, sure.

T

Thiel 1:02:04

Thank you. I will try to go quickly through these. So router clean energy attended the monthly meeting on February 19. Primary agenda item was to approve a utility rate payer reduction might sound small, 2.05 cents per kilowatt hour. Goal for that is to align with the downward trending reduction in PG and E rates. This was more specifically titled option two, and was developed through MCE Technical Committee, and just generally, if there's any questions regarding MCE that I can assist either town council members or the greater community on, please get in touch. And if there's any concerns that you would like me to take to the next month's meeting, please let me know. And happy to meet with you and make sure your concerns and questions are answered. Art and public spaces. Two brief items. February 17, was able to attend a portion of a special committee meeting at St Mary's College Art Museum, which is one really nice to be inside that space for art and public spaces. Committee meeting, we discussed potential funding and commissioning of a new sculpture that celebrates town of moragas agricultural history. More to come on this item, as I expect it to be, a future agenda item. And then on Friday, February 20, worked with art and public spaces and parks and rec department to transport and install the town's newest sculpture in Moraga by artist Doug Heinz. It is located along Moraga Commons trail, opposite the library Doug. It's his second piece in Moraga, and the second one, or his initial work, is over in West Commons Art Park. Last item is on Friday, February 13, my number one Marilyn turpins men's lacrosse team lost in an early season game to our town managers. Number two, Syracuse Orangeman lacrosse team, 11 to nine. And as a result of our friendly wager, I look forward to taking him out to lunch at one of our towns businesses, and I'm sure he's looking forward to getting his shirt and hat back and before I say go orange, just like to remind our town manager that there will be a day soon where his Syracuse Orangeman may one day fear the Turtle again.

H

Hillis 1:04:42

Go orange. That's all I have. Thank you for your comment. I think you actually went a little light on the whole help move the statue. You actually physically helped move the statue, is my understanding.

T

Thiel 1:04:56

It's light when you have lots of hands. So I appreciate the. Uh, Parks and Rec for assistance as well, too.

H

Hillis 1:05:03

And I'll say I was also momentary, momentarily, an orange MAN for Syracuse University study abroad program. So there you go. All right, now on to council member Molly.

M

Maglio 1:05:11

Oh, Mr. Mayor. I don't have a report, per se, but I'd like to make some comments based on the comments here and based on the many emails we received over the week, during the week, as we receive, we were receiving emails with regard to the economic status of the town, I wanted to, I thought about and wanted to put together a list of some of the things that the council has done in order to push the ball forward on this, and I don't think that we say it enough. And if it's all right, I'd like to read the list into the record please. We, the comments, really have validated the following things Moraga has adopt. We has received. We've adopted specific plans allowing for high density infill housing units. We've rezoned both shopping centers and other retail commercial properties to allow for high density infill housing units. In September of 2023 we the state of California approved maragas housing element, and it was one of the first municipalities in Contra Costa County to do so. In December of 23 we received a triple A credit rating by S p5 100, in which s p5 100 rating analyst stated that one of the key reasons for maragas triple A rating was the town Council's commitment to achieving its arena housing targets. In November of 24 adopted the 2040 General Plan update, which contains a 15 year commitment to supporting infill and high density housing. The state of California approved Moraga housing opportunity sites, designating Moraga proudly, I should say, as a pro housing community. We received the American Planning Association Award for the town's 2040 General Plan update. 2024 council approved a 66 unit infill, four story apartment building with affordable units at 1600 School Street. And in 2025 town council approved 49 unit multi story senior apartment building, 100% affordable at Park Street, right across the street from this chamber. The Town Council approved the Grocery Outlet, infill grocery store that is now under construction across at the ream center. The Council also approved several exciting developments that are currently underway at the campus of St Mary's College, such as the exterior lights at the baseball stadium, and there are several other infill housing developments and commercial developments that are going through the review process that both the Planning Commission and town council are excited to review in the near future. So thank you to all of you who came here to provide your comments and also who provided them through email and other sources. We really appreciate your support, and we hope everyone keeps an eye out for all the continuing, new, exciting things Moraga is bringing to to the community.

H

Hillis 1:08:28

Thank you for your update. Council Member Woehleke,

W

Woehleke 1:08:33

thank you, Mayor. I'll make notes on on three items. On February 13, I attended Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer ka Hans press conference to introduce the E bike Accountability Act, which is legislation requiring class two and class three electric bicycles to be registered with the state and display license plates. Why e bike injuries in California have increased 18 fold from 2018 to 2023 according to statewide Integrated Traffic record system. This legislation addresses growing safety concerns by requiring registration and identification of class two and class 3e bikes, enabling law enforcement to better enforce our traffic laws and increase accountability for dangerous riding behavior. So not only safety of the riders, but also ability of the police to, in fact, trace or enforce the laws without having to chase down bicycles without a

license plate. Who were at this event? Well, we had law enforcement. We had representatives, a fair number of representatives from the John Meyers Hospital. People, and they were particularly impassioned about this, because a lot of these injuries are head injuries, brain injuries, which are especially bad and also elected. We came along for the ride. One of the things that was discussed that night was, or that afternoon were bicycle helmets. And the importance of bicycle helmets. And so I note for anyone who is listening, that Virginia Tech University has a Institute, or they really focus on helmet safety. And anyone can go to that website, just put in Virginia Tech helmets, and it will take you to an ability to get evaluations on helmets. It's a star system. The helmets are expensive, the better helmets, but because a helmet is expensive does not mean it's necessarily safe. And you need to keep in mind that really this is an energy absorption issue. And for example, in the European Union, bicycles can go up to 15 miles an hour before they are licensed as motorcycles in California, beats the heck out of me. They can go up to 28 miles per hour. The energy increase between 15 miles an hour and 28 miles an hour is 3.5 so a lot more energy needs to be absorbed to protect that head, and it's just not a hard shell. It's really pretty high tech necessity. Okay, so that's that. And the other thing I wanted to or another thing I wanted to talk about, is, this is Black History Month, and we had a proclamation two weeks ago, and pretty quickly I was challenged, well, so you did a proclamation, you know what? How are you walking the talk? And I don't have a lot to go on that. However, I would like to talk for a minute about the Port Chicago disaster, which was the most devastating Home Front tragedy of World War Two in America. And on July 17, 1944 an enormous explosion tore through the Port Chicago Naval Magazine, which is less than 20 miles from here, and it killed 320 sailors and injured another well and civilians and injured another 380 and nearly all of the sailors. Sailors who died were African American servicemen assigned to load ammunition under unsafe, segregated and poorly supervised conditions. So the aftermath, hundreds of these survivors refused to return to the same dangerous work without proper training and safety measures, and they shifted the operation over to the leho. And ultimately, some arrangements were made, but 50 of the sailors refused to go along with it, and they became the Port Chicago. 50 were tried from mutiny, convicted and sentenced to 15 year hard labor sentences. Now they were released after a couple of years, and they were finally exonerated in 2024 that resulted that provided the push for the Navy to begin integrating that service, and the Navy was the first Service to integrate so that was a very significant push towards integration of the armed services, and I think that's a success. You can visit the site. Need to recognize that the memorial itself is a national park, but it's on a active base. It's still a arms storage, and loading arm storage at least, so you need to go to the website for the National Park, make reservations within two weeks in advance. You'll be checked they'll actually check you out, do background check on you. You'll show up and they'll take you in the bus through the the storage area, out to the location. And I think it's free. I had the pleasure, or not the pleasure, but I attended the 75/75 anniversary of the explosion out there. It's a very poignant visit. I recommend it. And finally, I also recognize that we've received a fair number of emails this week and recently on a number of subjects, but especially on development. And I think that these, these these emails mainly affirm what we've been doing. And you know, this is not something that just started recently. Town council members from a fair number of years ago were part of the effort to bring bring this along. First. Detailed zoning of the Moraga center area in the late well 19 or 2020 1920 20 timeframe, ultimately leading to the housing element update to the general plan. And I also think we need to commend those town council members. Thank you.

H

Hillis 1:16:04

Thank you. Now vice mayor,

D

Dolan 1:16:07

just a couple of things. I was able, had the pleasure of speaking to a troop of fourth grade Cub Scouts and describe for them as a part of one of their government sections, what town council members do and what you have to do to get elected. So that was fun. It wasn't it wasn't long. The boys were very well behaved, and I talked to him for about 15 minutes. I think I would have lost him on the 16th minute. But the other the other thing is, I filled in for the mayor running the liaison meeting last Friday. There. If you don't know what that is, it's all the service groups and nonprofits in town get together at the library and give updates as to what they're up to, and the town participates as well. If you there's way too much information provided for me to to share with you now. But one notable thing that was new to me is that the chamber, in addition to the Citizen of the Year, which is sponsored by the Moraga citizens network, the Chamber has a non profit and Business of the Year award that they give out. And if you go to their website, they're accepting the nominations right now. So that's it for me.

H

Hillis 1:17:44

Thank you, sir. I thank you for filling in with for me. At that I was at a doctor's appointment with for one of my kids, and it was very much appreciated to the point of my family, I'm starting my updates, my wife, eldest child, and I began golf lessons at Sunday swing, which is in the Moraga center. It's awesome, located where the old CVS was. I know absolutely nothing about golf. I'm a lefty, which means that anytime I've ever tried all that was available was a nine iron. My wife was able to get me a full set, and now we're getting lessons, so we'll see how it goes. I encourage all Moroccans to support this local business. It is. It's truly amazing, especially for kids. It's basically like playing a video game. The vice mayor and I met last Tuesday with the leadership from St Mary's College, and we discussed many exciting items. I'll just leave that there, but they will certainly fit within our economic development initiative. We were also informed by the college of their concerns for signage on highway 24 that was more explicit about that. It was St Mary's College. I think it says St Mary's. I informed them that I shared a similar concern, because those same signs also direct folks to go to Reem, which was a census designated area 50, over 50 years ago, before the incorporation of Moraga. So immediately after that meeting with the request from our largest economic engine in town, I connected the college and the town to Senator Tim Grayson's office, and they're working on resolving this issue, which is, I presume, has been this way for 50 years, and I'm hopeful that with the that we'll have new and better signage in the future, as we again continue to help Saint Mary's increase their enrollment, which is down by about 1000 students, we were told from what it was pre covid, and they're going to be increasing their requirement on students. Living on campus, so hopefully we will have a lot of good news to come. The town manager and I met with the micro mobility program managers at the Metropolitan Transportation Committee. We did this as CCTA conducted surveys of all people in LA Mirinda statistically significant and found that 75% of La Merinda residents favor such improved types of transportation, such as micro mobility. One of the concepts that was discussed was the potential for E bikes, as was mentioned by council member Woehleke at St Mary's College. This has been discussed. We the

town manager, and I previously had a meeting with Roger Thompson at St Mary's, and also CCCA and the GM of county connection. There's an idea here. As I typically say, I don't prescribe solutions. I just try to highlight problems and see if we can find a solution to them, and I hope we will. I met with representatives from MEF Moraga Education Foundation to discuss the policy framework for their upcoming parcel tax for the Moraga School District, and have invited them, now that they, last night, passed the parcel tax on a unanimous vote to present to this on this measure at our next council meeting. I believe there is interest from both superintendent parks and representative from MEF, I was able to finally, to advance. Finally, my neighborhood's application for our fire wise neighborhood, because I handed it off to my wife, who is much more organized than me. I also attended the county connection board of directors meeting last Thursday where we received a presentation on Connect Bay Area, which, if you don't know, is the upcoming for November ballot measure, which is currently select collecting signatures for qualification to increase revenue for all Bay Area Transit agencies, including, and there was a special carve out for us, because we advocated for this very strongly additional revenue for county connection, tri delta and West cat. As was pointed out, there was reduction in services to county connection serve service here in Moraga about 25 years ago, and no one ever restored it. It's not that the service didn't go to worthy places and went to Concord, but it didn't come back to us. So I believe that so a resident raised a concern about the measure at one of our previous meetings. I think they would be very happy to see how faithfully I argument argued for that point to a BART Board member and also to other members that were responsible for resolving funding issues for our residents. So I would just encourage to watch the board meeting. It was very informative, and our questions were pointed to be sure that Contra Costa residents one don't get double taxed, and that they get the services that they are paying for. I also was able to connect with Albertsons and Safeway's government affairs representative, he's new, for those that don't know, Albertsons recently swallowed Safeway, and I can tell you from my own personal work experience, when you have another company swallow another, it takes a while before things get together, which I believe is one of The reasons why, for example, our chamber has had difficulty getting them as a member of our chamber. I am now the chamber liaison, and I will be attending my first Moraga Chamber of Commerce meeting next week, and I hope to be able to provide them good news, or at least let them know a direction that this can possibly take the town manager. And I, I'm sorry this is long. I do a lot of stuff. The town manager and I met with the consultant who manages the Moraga gad for those that don't know what that what that is, it's basically the town council. But we don't call ourselves a town council. We call ourselves the geologic hazard abatement district. Currently, there is only one neighborhood in Moraga that's actually in it. But when it was established, there were two other neighborhoods that could be in it. One is Paulos, Colorados, the already approved development that when somebody decides they want to build, they can build. There also is another one. Hetfield, thank you. Hatfield estates, which is currently under construction. There is another requirement on another one, which I think we'll just leave that there, but there is a potential, as we begin to do a lot of new developments, that more things will be added to the GAD we just basically discussed what we might come up with at our next meeting, which I believe will be for we have to establish the budget also. So today, I met with a community group called vibrant Moraga, who is starting a sister organization, vibrant or Moraga, I'm sorry, vibrant Lafayette, who's starting a sister group, vibrant Moraga. They're a group that's very focused on economic development, on providing walkable solutions in our communities, roadway safety programs, safe pedestrian and bicycle access, so that people don't have to get in a car. Excuse me, some of them may actually have been the ones that sent over some of the emails to us today. And I again, I would just encourage all council members to look at the comments they are, I believe all positive in the direction of what our community desires. I also did something a little bit political, and so I'm going to take it very generally. I attended at the invitation of our assembly member Rebecca Bauer Kahan, to attend

the Democratic Party convention as a proxy delegate, which means I actually get the ability to vote on whether or not the party will or will not endorse folks. I'm just not going to say what I did there, but I was able to form and strengthen a lot of relationships with our constitutional officers. If you don't know what that means, it's everyone that's a statewide elected up in Sacramento.

H

Hillis 1:26:19

I was able to make some endorsements, and I'll say these included for Governor Insurance Commissioner, which for Moraga residents is the most important, as we are all getting our insurance policies canceled. Mine, not yet, but people on my in my neighborhood have this is critical, and I let the person know before making the endorsement exactly what the concerns are, and there is there things that I'm going to hold accountable for, because I believe he can help us with the with this situation. And was the whole reason I wanted to be there in the first place. I also made an endorsement for state treasurer. Look for those on on other areas outside of here. Also importantly to the comment that was raised before about being able to help foster dialog that's positive as to move us forward, I also was able to open up a line of communication with the with the owners of Moraga Center, as well as local developers who are engaged actively in construction projects in town. I encouraged them to watch this meeting, because, given the emails that we have been getting in, I wanted them to see the positive comment and desire, not just from people in our town, the people in Lafayette and frankly, the people in Orino, where 1/3 of both of those communities, they're closer to our commercial centers, and they are to their own also folks who may be coming from farther afield, who always may have wanted to live here, but never had the opportunity. I think this is exactly the kind of message that those willing to invest money in Moraga need to see. And I think thanks thanks so much the community for joining. And I thank the owners for also being attentive to this meeting. I did a lot more than that, but I've gone on too long already. Those are generally the highlights. So now we can move on. We have a

W

Woehleke 1:28:16

one real quick thing. Thank you, Mayor. You know, as you talk about the positive aspects of moving forward, even though we're sort of taking baby steps, I just want to make sure that as we recognize town council members and other groups, we need to recognize the staff, and they're in especially the town manager, who is who's made this his mission to move some of these strategic opportunities forward, and so that's the the other leg.

H

Hillis 1:28:51

Thank you. Thank you for adding that. And I'll just say for all of those here and those watching, we have a dream team assembled here. I'm not saying that prior town staff weren't great, but for everything that the community you heard asking for tonight that we received in emails, we have the team assembled, we have the council assembled to get this done, and as we can move forward together, we take the path of least resistance to try to get things moving now that doesn't mean that we're also not going to focus on other things when they can become available. So start looking for some positive things and positive news. This year, with that, I go to look at public hearings. I'm seeing none now we move on to Department reports, which is a pound sorry, it's my reminder to give my daughter medicine now to Department reports, which is to appoint members of the following committee positions, art and public spaces committee, Park and Recreation Committee and Planning Commission. I believe we have a report out. I didn't take sufficient note. To be able to note that either town manager or someone else, can we go for it? Okay?

W

Woehleke 1:30:08

We interview candidates for each of these three committee and the two commissions. I got it. Thank you. We interviewed candidates for all three of these, one committee and two commissions, and have excellent candidates for all of the positions. And so I will name the selected candidates, and then I guess we'll make a motion. Okay, okay, I guess. I'll name the candidates, and we need to do public comment, I guess, and then we'll move it so the candidates nominated for the art in public places committee are Suzanne Darcy and Theresa anoda for the Parks and Recreation Committee. Three positions there. The nominees are Scott Parker, who's an incumbent, Rob Pearson, who's an incumbent, and then me, sure, Michelle bearer, who is a new candidate. And then on the Planning Commission, we have three positions, one recommended or selected candidate is an incumbent, Nick Polsky, then also Ben Elber, which is also an incumbent, and then a new member, Dustin Moore, who brings landscaping expertise, which is going to be great to have.

H

Hillis 1:31:47

Thank you. And now we'll take any public comment we may have on this item. Hearing none. Let's move to council member comments. Do any council members have a comment on this item? Seeing none. I call for a motion.

W

Woehleke 1:32:04

I move that we approve these candidates as proposed.

A

Attorney 1:32:11

So just to clarify, there are, there are more candidates than positions for the Parks and Recreation Commission. So can you please state which Parks and Rec commission applicants are being appointed? Oh, I thought you were just identifying the people that were no candidates.

W

Woehleke 1:32:32

Okay, the nominees, they were four for three

H

Hillis 1:32:36

motion, or we already made

A

Attorney 1:32:38

the vote and you didn't vote to a point before this is, this is the vote. Now. So, so, okay, I apologize. I misunderstood. So though that was the motion,

T

Thiel 1:32:51

do we have a second? Happy to second.

H

Hillis 1:32:54

All in favor? Aye, All opposed. No, the measure passes. Congratulations to our current and new commissioners. I really appreciate your service to our community. Now we are on item 9b which is to receive an update on the livable Moraga Road project. I will be recusing myself from voting on this item as I actually own part of one of the lanes of traffic on Moraga Road, and I'm going to ask the vice mayor to preside in my stead. Before I do that, though, I want to say that as this issue is pertinent to my primary residence, I am able to remain in the room and to make a public comment as a resident as it pertains to the areas of the project that impact my primary residence.

M

Maglio 1:33:41

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I too will be recusing myself as I have a conflict of interest due to the fact that my residence is 500 feet within the project site. I will be leaving the room. Shall I recuse myself? Too? Scare

S

Speaker 9 1:34:02

me. It's

D

Dolan 1:34:10

very lonely up here. Hi, Okay, item 9b receive an update on the revised livable Moraga Road project concept, and authorized staff to All right, not we don't need to do that yet, the livable Moraga Road project, do we have a staff report?

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:34:34

We do. And good evening, vice mayor and council members. I'm your interim public works director challenge engineer, Nate Levine, and happy and honored to be able to provide this update as it's been in the works for quite some time, and I have the Yeah, kind of the unique opportunity to bring it to, hopefully, one step closer to the conclusion. So it's really is a lot of different folks who've worked on this over the years, and here we are. So. So there's plenty of history here, and we're spanning over a decade on the project. And you know, I will be very straightforward. We're not going to spend a lot of time going into that background, but happy to answer any questions that are pertinent or needed to help move things forward. My goal is to just kind of provide a an overview of kind of what we've done, where we're at, what the next steps are and what a request and recommendation are, and then answer any questions that any of you have. So with that, we're here to provide an update as mentioned, and really request authorization for staff to continue with public outreach, and once complete, bring that outreach result and recommendation back to council, and I will share a timeline, kind of with those specifics as we get into it. So Project Background, livable. Moraga Road is essentially broken up into four segments. It spans from camp on the drive in the north all the way down to St Mary's road in the South. It's approximately two 2.2 miles in total, duration with four segments. Each segment is distinct. They are usually broken up by an intersection, whether it's signalized or it's just kind of a unique geography, changing roadways, moving from Campbell under, drive down the rain Boulevard, Reem Boulevard down to Donald drive Donald drive down the Corliss and Corliss down the St Mary's road. The overall project objectives of the project, historically, have been to deliver a complete streets project, which means it's something that provides space for everybody, whether it's vehicles, bikes, pedestrians or active users, as well as provide future improvement options, knowing that we're not going to be constructing this anytime soon, but it's giving us the framework to do said construction and apply for grants and opportunities in the future, really focusing on safety, enhancing traffic operations and flow, as well as providing access to everybody. Initially, this was positioned as a way to provide an opportunity, kind of as an access point to the corridor in Moraga, as many

folks are passing through here, coming from Lafayette, and provide a multi use access path running continuously from Camp Linda drive all the way down to the commons Park. Kind of broken up in some different years here, 2014 and 2016 was the initial push. Lots of outreach, lots of opportunities to provide input on how to shape the corridor. This came, this item came to council multiple times, with multiple updates and multiple direction ultimately, what happened was survey option one, which you see down there, was what was recommended based on community outreach and surveys. And then modified option one was what was selected for segment three, segment one, segment two and segment four pretty much weren't controversial. The ideas were more or less adopted initially and they moved forward. But the segment three oscillating between option one and the modified option you see there was really the talking points in 2016 there was an endorsement, but the project was not finalized, and staff was requested to bring back final recommendations to council. In 2023 an update was provided with some additional information, requesting authorization to conduct the update, as well as a traffic analysis to provide some further justification. And in 2024 that traffic analysis proceeded, and we have the results, hence why we are now providing this update, just quickly, not going to spend too much time on this. These are what the segments look like from 2016 and just kind of spoilers, segment one, segment two and segment four really aren't changing. We talk a little bit about segment three as we get to it. The main goal here was to provide safe access for bikes, vehicles and pedestrians, and that multi use path that you see to the left of the page. And what you can see is it continues 10 feet wide in segment 110, feet wide on segment two. Segment three, it changes a little bit, but proposed was to still provide a 10 foot path. And then segment four, we run out of space, but we pick up the path that's along the Commons. So where are we now? As mentioned, we did a traffic analysis that provided more information specifically on segment three, mainly because we're trying to figure out how to repurpose the lanes out there and make space. It was not clear on what to move forward with, as there are different options. In 2016 there was a thought to reduce one of the lanes, or even two of the lanes in northbound southbound direction, essentially providing one lane for both directions as well as what's called a two way center turn line, and that concept was endorsed by the outreach but went a little bit back and forth with council. Now with traffic analysis, what we're looking at, we found that we have sufficient capacity to move forward with that lane reduction. So. 15 to 16,000 vehicles out there in 2024 data, so very current data, and that is well within the range for this type of reduction supported by the Federal Highway Administration. Operationally, we also modeled this section and corridor and found that in under current traffic conditions, there would be really no operational impact from this lane change currently, what's two lanes in each direction, down to one with the center turn lane. And even in 2024 or sorry, 2044 which is what we grew the traffic data out to, we would only see a few second delay overall in that quarter. And just for reference, a few seconds delays is pretty minimal. It means that maybe what was called unfettered flow, or just unimpeded flow. You just have a little bit of congestion at peak hours and be pretty minimal in passing. Intersections would still operate, and what's called an acceptable level of service. Current speeds out there are are high, simply put, they're above the 85th percentile. And our goal is to get folks to stay within the speed limit at 35 miles per hour. From a safety perspective, just between 2018 and 2023 we've had nine injury crashes that have been recorded in the area. Most of these are actually arising from folks rear ending each other, or rear ending a vehicle in front of them as they're trying to turn left in the area into the residents. That's a concern under the existing condition, and the only way you solve that is by providing dedicated turn pocket or a two way center turn lane. Corliss drive is recommended to be signalized as well. This is under current traffic conditions, regardless of any change to the segment. But just something that we want to note, it was right on the cusp in 2016 but it's now tripped into the supported warrant situation in 2024 something we also did look at was, would any repurposing of lanes be applicable to any other section on the corridor? And the answer is no. This segment three,

Corliss to Donald, is the only area where that has this opportunity for this change. All the other sections are either already a single lane in each direction, or segment two from ream to Donald, which is four lanes, has too much the volume is too high, where it won't be warranted to make this change. So that was a useful conclusion, just because it was a question that came up in the past. So these are the resulting cross sections based on the updated traffic analysis and our consultant looking at changes, there really isn't much of a change in these segments from what was supported back in 2016 mainly, what the consultant did was look at current standards and practices and make changes to lane widths as such. So segment one you see, this is effectively the near term. Typical is what's out there today, and then the preferred typical is what would be out there in the future with the multi use path. But that takes additional funding and construction to secure. It's pretty minimal difference, though, between 2620 26 and 2016 same thing with segment two, again, just kind of cleaning things up segment three. What you see here, though, is the proposed Lane reallocation to the one lane northbound, southbound, with the two center turn lane. And what that does is it provides sufficient space for that multi use path. So that way, you're continuously running segment one, segment two, segment three, multi use path all the way down to corliss, which would then be signalized, allowing you to cross over into segment four, which, again, stays about the same from 2016 so next steps,

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:43:41

we're recommending and proposing that we conduct some community outreach. Because, like probably many of the folks here, this has not been necessarily a hot topic in conversation in the public over almost the past 10 years, little bit in 2023 and 2024 but overall, I think most community members are not aware of what's happened and what's changed, and we recommend going out and providing an update on all the data, the analysts, the analytical research and the justification that we have that supports this traffic change and Lane repurposing, so that the real intent would be to provide a history to The public, provide information and the opportunity to look at the the analysis that was done, ask questions and understand any specific elements that come out of it, hear feedback, in case there's something we're missing, something's changed, and there's a revision that would make sense that we'd want to deliver to the public. And we propose doing this in two or three meetings with either, you know, in person, kind of town hall options, as well as online options, just because that promotes folks that are able to attend, as well as doing a truncated online survey. And they just kind of put everything together once that's complete, we would come back to council in late 2026 to deliver the update. That also works kind of with funding requirements we have with CCTA on a grant that we have for this project, so trying to put all the timing together, but would allow us to come back with a final recommendation and hopefully final adoption that would put this project, from a concept standpoint, to rest and allow us to move forward with securing grant funding for portions of the work in the future. I just want to note that funding for all this work has already been secured and allocated between now and the end of 2026 that's from local money, as well as that CCTA, what's called a tfca grant that we have secured. So just kind of restate our recommendation is to receive this update and direct and authorize staff to commence the community outreach and obtain additional public input. And with that, I'm happy to answer any questions you may all have.

D

Dolan 1:45:55

Okay, council members questions. Okay?

W

Woehleke 1:46:03

Thank you. I Yeah, I do have some questions. First question, and it's actually in segment one, the the crosswalk at Woodford drive. You know, it's often a pleasant drive along there accepting, you know, about half hour before school starts, and about 15 minutes there after school starts, and then it's absolutely a disaster. And that, that crosswalk there, that lake crosswalk, there is a certain a contributor to that problem is there, are there any specific plans associated with that at this point?

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:46:47

Yeah, so we actually did in the previous budget cycle, adopt a CIP project that would signalized with a pedestrian signal in that crossing, and then if the opportunity arose, work with the school to try to alter the driveway. So in 2014 with livable Moraga, there were conversations about modifying that intersection, potentially signalizing it, relocating the driveway. A lot of that hinged on the school and what I was able to see, I did reach out to the school Campbell window. Unfortunately, no one currently there had any memory of what was happening back then, but the record shows that there was some interest. But ultimately it came down to funding for the school, and it wasn't on their radar. However, the town does have a project, a CIP project, to deliver that pedestrian signal. We do have some grant funding. We're looking to secure another piece to finish it, but that's our solution to doing what the town can do to solve that congestion there, and that signal will integrate really nicely with the work we're doing for the smart signal project as well. So everything's coordinated through the corridor and allows us to have what's called like an adaptive timing plan, which should help smooth it's, I will be very clear. Will not be perfect, but it will smooth things out.

W

Woehleke 1:48:04

Thank you. If we move on to segment three, in the near term, typical, we've got a parking lane and the preferred, typical, there is no parking lane on either side. That is near term, that's also no parking light lane on either side. Help Me,

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:48:31

so under current conditions, we there is a section of parking so if you're traveling north, it would be to your your your west or your left. As you're going up, it runs from approximately, I forget, exactly, maybe, about 500 feet, 750 feet south of Donald, and then terminates about 1000 feet before Corliss. So you have parking for, you know, somewhere between 20 ish cars on street. There is no legal parking on the roadway on the other side of Corliss, right? So under the preferred typical, in the near term, that parking can be, I'm sorry, the near term typical that parking will be will remain, right. But then in the preferred typical in the future, that parking is removed to make way for space for the multi use pathway,

W

Woehleke 1:49:21

and we've got residents right there where they need, they need parking besides just their driveways. So what's your what's your solution there?

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:49:34

Well, I can say is that in the some of the the analysis that's been conducted, we did do a parking survey of the area and found that it was fairly low utilized and that it wasn't actually being used. Only a handful that parking was being utilized by the residents and the apartments there. Most of those apartments were parking on Donald or had some access to on site parking. I will be candid there. There are. Few folks that are using it, but most of that parking is used for people actually kind of dropping off a vehicle and coming back to it later.

W

Woehleke 1:50:07

So I maybe later, I we can, we can talk about that, because I actually have other data. Oh, okay, you know those homes that are right along the road, just closest to Corliss, at least the closest one to Corliss often rented by St Mary's students, and the owner of that corner lot who has an approved adu. And the only thing he's installed is the concrete pad for the driveway, and he lets the students Park on that pad, but that's on his private property, and otherwise, the students have to park across the street and across the street. So anyway, we're getting away from I'm getting away from questions.

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:50:53

I think I will say, as part of the outreach, what I plan to do is to confirm or understand if there is significant heartburn or issues with the removal of parking there, and if there really isn't, if there's a need, there may be unique opportunities for some parking. This is, again, a typical section, meaning that we get a little bit of variance. I will say this overall, based on trying to provide a corridor that is beneficial to all parties. My perspective is, if we need to remove parking to make this picture work, that's a trade off that we should be considering.

W

Woehleke 1:51:34

Okay, thank you. Appreciate that once the town is built out, you know, right now this is based upon the preferred turning the segment three, one way in each direction. And once the how the town is built out population wise, is it still going to be acceptable?

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:51:55

Yeah, great question. So we in our modeling, we built out the traffic data to 2044, which uses the same growth projections that the town's using for build out we actually the traffic consultant was recommending using a lower number, and I said, No, I want you to use the most conservative number that we have, so that way it's an accurate model. So it uses that growth now, that growth may not happen, we all hope it does, but if it happens, then what I presented the few seconds of delay under 2044 which would be essentially the majority build out, would be minimal. If we aren't hitting our growth projections, then that just kind of pushes into the future. And if, if there's ever a ramp up, then we would have the ability well, then it would basically fit. I will also say that we are intentionally not proposing physical construction measures. So concrete anything that would put us in a situation where, if we found 3040, 50 years down the road that this no longer works, we can then repurpose it. You still would be able to keep your multi use path, but you could repurpose your lanes back to traffic lanes if that was needed. But we have a good horizon here, and we're not seeing issue good.

W

Woehleke 1:53:14

Thank you. If we look at segment four for just a minute, okay, so, so now we've got a buffered bike lane. Okay, so near term, we've got a bike lane on one side. Is that going to be, is that going to be bikes in both directions, yeah.

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:53:43

So in the the near term, we have, we only have, we have the buffered bike lane, basically for southbound traffic and northbound traffic is using the trail through Commons. And then in the preferred typical those bike lanes go back onto the road with some build out. And then, as mentioned, there was a goal to try to find. So what isn't shown here is where it says vegetation. That's the Laguna Creek. We don't have the space to build out that trail, which was originally a request, hey, could you look into this? We determined, no, it's not feasible. So using the existing Moraga Road spur trail is kind of the way to solve this, right? So, yeah, we're, you get under that's the idea. Is, we're using the bike lane on the road and then the trail for that

W

Woehleke 1:54:36

was my other question for for this segment is, how are you going to widen it out for that preferred typical, because you're going to be out in the creek, or you're going to be digging into the hillside.

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:54:50

Yeah, so that that that's exactly the the thing we were looking at is we can only go so far, and what we're finding is we can scoot out a. About 12 feet or so before we start getting really into trouble. So that's part of the recommendation. We have our cost looked at that. There's a price tag for it. Thank you.

W

Woehleke 1:55:11

I see the floor. Cool,

T

Thiel 1:55:15

great. Thank you. Nate, could you pull up? I think it's attachment C, just the call it the map view, with the graphics of the various sections and intersections.

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:55:30

Don't know if this is maybe the best zoom. I have it.

T

Thiel 1:55:33

Okay, gotcha, yeah, just it comes through as a full page image as part of the graphic. Okay, so we're going to go through an exercise of educating the public. However, we need funds to come through, obviously, Once authorized to engage with the public, so we can tell them what is going to happen, but not necessarily. When is that correct?

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:55:55

That's correct. So just to clarify, we have funds to do the telling, the outreach and all that effort, right? What? Yes, what? What we can't say is when this construction would take place. The idea is literally no pun intended. This is the roadmap for how the corridor looks, right? So that way, when development happens, when CIP projects happen, when roadway improvements happen, we're able to implement that

T

Thiel 1:56:22

vision, gotcha. And although we're going to communicate to people what that is, and we don't have money yet to fund certain elements of it, is there an understanding of a prioritization of you know, if certain dollars came through, we would target a certain section or certain features that run in continuity with certain sections?

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:56:43

Yeah, great question. So realistically, segment two is likely going to be supported by development at the ream shopping center, because that's what it's adjacent to, and that's how there's a Nexus, kind of how that how that works, one, three and four less so. But there's different grant opportunities that are present. So for example, four, we can take advantage of grants that might be a little bit focused, kind of for parks and other types of operations like that. One actually lends well to school facilities, so there might be safe route to school opportunities. And three has the one of the biggest safety benefits, meaning that we score really well for safety focused grants. So it's not like you're competing all segments for one grant. There's different opportunities, because in some ways, each segment is fairly different,

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:57:32

awesome at some point as part of or in advance of that communication, to the extent that you can outlay or understand that prioritization and perhaps map out the potential grant and funding opportunities. I think that would probably aid in a more holistic understanding of what the prioritization is and what could potentially be funded, when and how, and that would just probably aid in the community outreach and education. Briefly, on community outreach and education. You mentioned Town Hall, surveys, other means and methods of communication. Has there been any thought to conduct something of say, a site visit or a meet at, you know, this weekend we're meeting at section one. Next weekend we're going to walk and talk section two, just so perhaps more for the the truly localized members of the community to step outside and meet with folks like yourself. Yeah.

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:58:27

So what, what I'm envisioning is actually a similar playbook to what we did for the safe the SS, for a safe streets for all section on Marauder Road, where we did what's called, like a pop up event, which is on site looking at things. I agree with the intent of being able to walk so that way you can physically, kind of vision what might be happening if there's more question the picture's worth, or not even a picture physically looking at something's worth a million words, right? Using kind of that so that site walk pop up event, and then doing, likely either a town hall is what we call it, maybe at Campos gym, if they're willing to loan that to us, sure, and then doing a follow up online is found to be successful, because then a virtual meeting, because then that lets more people who maybe weren't able to make those first meetings at least hear what was happening, participate just in the background, if they want To, or provide comment and feedback, and kind of that Trifecta approach is what I found effective, both while at the town and as well as a consultant, and is what I would recommend we would be moving forward with.

T

Thiel 1:59:32

Gotcha. One other question on people learn and understand information in different ways, especially when it's things like this, there's a lot of complexities and technical aspects to it, any ability to either generate videos, either as in driving and then annotate them as well too, is that an aspect that is common in the industry.

N

Nate PUBWORKS 1:59:55

So there is, what I would say is common is something called photosyn. Simulation where you take an existing picture and you superimpose and kind of now you can get fairly graphical on what the what it would look like with these changes. And again, that that's really helpful. I'm hoping to be able to work in some photo simulation. It does come down to to budget. We, we think we we have enough, but I have to work with the direct, you know, the proposals we get from the consultants and so forth. But yes, photo simulation is definitely something we'll be pursuing. We'll try to get as much as we can.

T

Thiel 2:00:31

Great. Yeah, I just come from a realm where architectural renderings and to some extent, animation can tend to go a long way to communicate and aid people understanding something in a different manner. So thank you for that. Briefly. Last question on the Corliss drive intersection, as you mentioned, 2019 under the approaching threshold, 2024 beyond the threshold. So we will see a replacement of or installation of a traffic light at that location at some point in time depending upon funding.

N

Nate PUBWORKS 2:01:02

Correct? Yeah, that's accurate. There are, at this point, there's multiple projects slash studies that are showing the need for the signal at Corless. So to be honest, it's going to be kind of the first project that comes around is it's going to have to start that process, whether it's development focused or whether it's safety focused, I can't tell you, but yeah, that's accurate.

T

Thiel 2:01:24

Okay, gotcha. And given Corless was, as you'd mentioned, approaching the threshold, and then quickly beyond the threshold, is there anything else along these corridors that are, say, approaching the threshold, that we should be concerned of at this point in time?

N

Nate PUBWORKS 2:01:40

Yeah, that's a great question. The analysis didn't pop anything out like that. You know, there could always be opportunities or needs in the future. If pedestrian volumes actually increase at some of the mid block crossings, then those might warrant enhanced signals. I'm kind of speculating, because that's the Simply put, the data isn't showing that.

T Thiel 2:02:02
Sure. Okay, thanks.

D Dolan 2:02:05
Okay, so I have a few but a lot of them were answered. I was going to ask about site visits. I believe that's very important, because people can't use the A lot of people can't visualize, so I'm glad to hear we're at least thinking about that. The other thing is, do we have any idea, like, let's say somebody dropped a huge pile of money on us tomorrow? What, as of today? What would this run?

N Nate PUBWORKS 2:02:39
Oh, from a cost standpoint, yeah, the numbers have really fluctuated. I'm going to be hard to pin down the specific number, just because things have changed so much with the cotton the various cross sections and cost estimates. But if we are proposing what we're proposing when we're talking double digit million dollars for all construction. That's about as specific as I can be, until we kind of shore this up, what I will be able to come back with is very clear concept numbers when we bring this back for our kind of final recommendation, because that will give our consultants enough specificity to finalize their number.

D Dolan 2:03:17
Yes, and I I understand that's an imaginary number, since it will be done in segments and over time,

N Nate PUBWORKS 2:03:23
what I can say is that the numbers historically have ranged from kind of on the low 10s to the kind of 20 ish, 30 million, depending on what was in or out of the project. But then there are also other considerations. It was going to repave a lot of roads that have been repaved, so it's a lot of wiggle in there, yeah, and I

D Dolan 2:03:44
get it, yeah. So you didn't mention any any other area triggering a required improvement. What about heading north on Moraga Road and the left on ream? I mean, when I come to a council meeting at five o'clock, you can't get through. It's sometimes two cycles.

N

Nate PUBWORKS 2:04:08

You're talking specifically at Morocco, the signal at Moroccan ring, correct? Yeah, yeah. So they're historically as part of this project they did, there was some analysis to try to clean things up there, it looks like it wasn't moved forward and there, what I saw, the recommendations were pretty minimal, I can say, two fold what we're doing to improve that intersection. This, our smart signals project, will definitely help with the cycle as you go through there. And future development specifically kind of at our this neighboring development right next to us would completely change how that intersection and Center Street even is done. The future condition with some development in this area would potentially eliminate Center Street and expand the Moraga and ream intersection to better serve the various. Lows, the signals, simply put, are too close to each other. It's not how you would design something in modern day, and that's causing a lot of the problems. The term pockets aren't long enough. We we need to look at how so I guess what I can say is we'll be able to optimize what we have with smart signals, and then with some improvements there, there'd be modifications that would better serve everybody. Livable Moraga Road only touched on this. It didn't really drive the recommendation or any analysis specific to it. Great.

D

Dolan 2:05:34

Thank you. Do we have anybody from the public that wants to speak on this matter?

S

Schumaker 2:05:45

Yes, just noticing a lot when they're taking and closing down some of the roads. Ron Schumacher, noticing on some of the roads that they've narrowed them from 11 feet wide down to 10 and a half feet wide. I'd definitely be a little concerned about that. Most your semi trucks that are going to be delivering to your stores are 102 inches wide. That does not include their Meyers as well. So definitely keep that in consideration on any type of delivery trucks, furniture trucks, any kind of box trucks, are all going to be legally up to 102 inches wide, so it's definitely something to consider. 10 and a half feet might be a little narrow. Thank you. Thank you.

H

Hillis 2:06:36

Carrie Hillis Moraga, resident, let's see, I went to the wrong section of my notes here. Where is it? There it is. I've heard from several of my neighbors that they would like a safe crosswalk from Devon drive to the back gate of the hacienda. Multiple of their children use this actually as a safe route to school. They do a shortcut straight through once they cross the street that's right next to where I turn in for my house. They are dodging traffic because there's also no sidewalk to go up to the crosswalk several blocks away. Good to see that there's potential for a sidewalk there, but I still think that kids will probably do a shortcut, and it'd be useful to have a sidewalk in that location, and a protected one is primarily for children. In addition, I'd like to share my concern, and I'm glad to see the section that's proposed for Section three, which is where my residence is that keep losing my notes, basically when I turn into when I'm making a right. I've had people honk at me even though there's no real way to turn in. I've had people slam on their brakes and nearly hit me because they weren't paying attention, and seeing that I had a turn signal on coming from the other direction, I have experienced much of the same thing, where there's been multiple near misses just trying to turn on to my street, and I would appreciate it if The Council would consider the option that was presented here. In addition to that, my kids are always begging me, on a daily basis to ride their bicycles to go to the commons. I won't let them do it, because the bike lane isn't safe enough for children to use. It's also a pathway to get up to camp a lindo. And that was just something that I'd ask you to consider. We all moved here for our kids, and I'd love my kids, with my supervision, to be able to safely ride their bikes. I think the option that was presented here would allow them to do that. Finally, I would just encourage the town to work with the county connection bus agency to improve the bus stops along the route. The one immediately across the street from my house is in the middle of a bush. You can barely even see that it's there. There's no area for anyone to wait, and because of that, it's primarily useless. And I've never seen anyone actually waiting there. Other one that I've noticed is at the high school that my kids will soon go to. There is no place for anyone to wait, except for inside a drainage ditch. Literally, as part of this project, if you are moving forward with sidewalk improvements, just like happened on the other side of the street in front of my house, the sidewalk got added, and a safe and secure wide area for people to wait for the bus is now present, and would really make it a lot more useful for people. Thank you.

D

Dolan 2:09:49

Anything else from the council members?

D

Dolan 2:09:52

Comments? You've closed public comments, the public

D

Dolan 2:09:55

comment, the public hearing period is closed.

W

Woehleke 2:09:59

I. Brent, I do have comments. Go ahead. Thank you. Excellent presentation,

W

Woehleke 2:10:12

a subject that in the past, has had lots of passion associated with it. I did review the survey that was conducted in 2016 I think it was, I profess I found it to be of limited value, because the respondents were allowed to vote on multiple options, and so all the results exceeded 100% and you really couldn't tell which combination, or at least I couldn't tell which combination were people really voting for a Be it, the option that scored the highest was four lanes, but you got to, you got to combine them together, I think to really. So that's sort of my introduction to say, and I really do support going down to a single lane in that section three, I view it as really a fairly short segment, and I like a lot of the safety features associated with it. I also point out that there are a number of roads that are critical, that that critically need that type of reconfiguration and and those include Paseo Linares and Drager and Devon and Corliss. All of them would greatly benefit from that. I am very sympathetic to the homes that homeowners and the homes along Moraga Road there right now, these people are basically living at the front of a four lane highway at times, and there are the options to help them. I'm really concerned about taking away that parking along Moraga Road in front of those homes, because, you know, people are going to have visitors, and so that is, you know, historically, when we permit a new development, new home, they have to have allowance for, you know, some on site parking, but also depend upon street parking to handle that, that overflow, and I note that, You know, an analog, little little bit extreme. But tasahera in Danville, between Danville and out towards the Black Hawk area, where it connects in they actually, for the homes, they actually have a, basically a road with a divider, I mean, a permanent divider, so that those homes really have their own street in front of their homes, separate from Camino Tessa Hara, which is a busy road. We won't be able to achieve that. My comments, I support pursuing this alternative, and that's really, I think, what Ellen Clark was recommending back in 2016

D

Dolan 2:13:32

council member deal the

W

Woehleke 2:13:33

planning director at that point. Thank you.

T

Thiel 2:13:36

Yeah, I think my comments were in alignment with questions. Would love to see a future funding path prioritization or data driven prioritization, however, we'd want to go about that from an understanding of risk or level of severity or ease of execution. You'd mentioned vice mayor, an early cost estimate, either by section or by type of improvement or enhancement, and then just encouraging public works to explore applicable alternatives, in addition to conventional outreach to communicate what this might look like and when to our community so that they can understand its future implementation and their safe navigation.

D

Dolan 2:14:29

So I'll finish up. I really like the evolution of this project and where it is now. I think you really have sort of zeroed in on the best solutions that we can have with the space we have. I think the sooner we can address the correlation, the better. I mean, that's just it's very difficult at the moment, and. Um, you know, I look forward to fixing that and completing the rest of this vision, following input from the community, and I definitely support you starting that process. So you're asking for a vote, right?

A

Attorney 2:15:18

No, we don't need a vote this evening. It sounds, I mean, it was clear that there was a majority that supported proceeding forward and and I think that there has been some comments given. And is that sufficient direction for this evening? We know we

S

Speaker 10 2:15:33

need authorization to

A

Attorney 2:15:36

go forward. They've they've given their they've provided their support and direction. We don't need a formal vote. It's not thank you. I mean, so if you would like, if the town manager prefers a vote, we can certainly take a vote to just affirm what's in the staff report

T Town Manager 2:15:59
in terms of doing the community outreach. You're not voting yes

W Woehleke 2:16:02
or no, yes, I move that we pursue this Louisville, Moraga Road

W Woehleke 2:16:11
options as presented to address and develop and take on board public input that kind of address.

T Thiel 2:16:26
It happy to second

D Dolan 2:16:28
all those in favor. Aye, thank you. Nate.

T Town Manager 2:16:36
Very good. Nate so the other two council members can come back in.

H Hillis 2:17:03
Brent, we are now on to item 9c adopt a resolution authorizing a First Amendment to an agreement for Our Town attorney. Is there a staff presentation on this?

T

Town Manager 2:17:19

I could do it. So this report comes from the town attorney performance review ad hoc committee of Mayor Carrie Hillis and council member Lisa Maglio. The town attorney. The services come from Burke Sorensen, and they have been your well. Michelle Kenyon is senior partner with that firm, and she's been the town attorney since 2010 it was a different firm. At that time, firms merged, and so it's been the continuity service there. Denise is your assistant town attorney, and there are several other attorneys that we rely on depending on the subjects. So every year you do a performance review. Council has done that. You did ask your ad hoc committee to work with the town attorney in terms of potential adjustments to the contract. So I mentioned that this contracts been in place since 2010 the rate has not changed. Hourly rate for general legal services has remained constant. So what's before you based on the discussion that you had with the town attorney, and what's being recommended is a 10% adjustment. So I'm I'm a numbers guy, and I like to look at things and for council, if you consider, since 2010 inflation in San Francisco, with the Consumer Price Index, has been roughly 55% so if you made \$100 an hour with inflation, just keeping up, you should be out without compounding at least \$155 an hour. So the recommendation from your committee is to go up 10% and that's agreeable to the to the law firm. That would be our total budgets. But \$359,000 they come in well below that. So this cost increase, we think will be about \$30,000 a year. Probably worst case will still come within budget. So we we're not recommending you adjust the budget, so it's a 10% hourly rate adjustment, and I think from the spirit of state law and all that. So the hourly rate would go for the senior partner Michelle, an hourly rate would go from \$240 per hour to 265 per hour. And then for the other lawyers, it would go from roughly 225 an hour to 248 an hour, lower ones from 195 to \$215 dollars an hour. And just as a reminder for that staff in the finance department, as well as in my office myself, we do keep an eye on the monthly bills. And even with this adjustment, the total cost will be in the 300 \$1,000 range is still less expensive than if we had an in house city attorney. If we had an in house city attorney, we'd be paying that for the salary alone. So no adjustment to the budget, 10% adjustment to hourly rate. That's it, your decision.

H

Hillis 2:20:14

And council member Molly, I think I was supposed to ask you for the report out, was there anything that you wanted to add?

M

Maglio 2:20:21

I would add, first of all, my sentiment being an attorney myself, I've never heard of rates not raised in all of these years. But the firm itself is it includes both general municipal services as well as specialty services. And I think it's really important that sometimes we do need those specialty services. They have provided excellent representation through all of these years. And I would also add that their rates are comparable or lower to our neighboring jurisdictions, Orinda and Lafayette. So we, by far, actually, and that's it.

H

Hillis 2:21:07

Thank you. Then we'll open this for council member questions. Start on this end.

W

Woehleke 2:21:12

I have no questions. Thank you. No.

H

Hillis 2:21:15

All right. Open this for public comment. Seeing none, we'll go to council member comments. Does any council member have a comment they'd like to share? Sure vice mayor,

D

Dolan 2:21:27

so I'd like to piggyback on the comments made by the town manager. We really get a good deal here with this firm. We would literally have to pay the same amount for a salary, and that doesn't include the benefits, which would be 50% more or so. And we get a variety of expertise that you wouldn't find in an individual. And it's it's almost absurd that they haven't had a raise since they started. So I'm going to be supporting this?

T

Thiel 2:22:04

Yeah, I think the only thing I'd like to add is council member Maglio pointed out just the specialty services that this firm brings supporting more so planning commission, with Land Use and Planning expertise, Council Member Maglio, read off a list of extensive accomplishments in that the town has achieved through the support of the specialized services that this firm has brought. So I just wanted to thank the firm and the town for leveraging these assets to get there.

H

Hillis 2:22:41

Council member Wolf, thank you.

W

Woehleke 2:22:44

You know this is always, we go through this exercise periodically, and this is always a little bit of a challenge in that historically, on a commodity you want to rebid it every so often, at appropriate intervals. And, you know, we're faced with that, and sometimes we get input saying you should be bidding this, you know, rebidding this every, every so, so many years. But the dilemma is, we get a lot of value from that historic experience that they bring to the table, all the way back to 2010 even maybe before I started, no, it wasn't Before I started volunteering. But that that is, I have found that to be of great value. And so I think that's the the trade off you have to make, between risking that bidding and and having to evaluate how handling that and and the new negotiation that we've handled here, and I view it really as a partnership between Burke Williams and Sorenson and the town. My comments, thank you. I'll just

H

Hillis 2:24:14

add a little bit in that we were discussing this previously. My perspective on it is, I'm not a lawyer, and my billable rate when I consult is \$500 an hour. They're not even close to that. When I was a paralegal at a corporate law firm in 2000 they billed me out at almost the same as what the standard rate is when I was a paralegal, the service that we are getting is from one of the best municipal law firms in the state, and we use them regularly for a lot of the things that come up. This is more for the public than for us. We all know how good they are and they're worth every dollar, so I will be supporting this with that. I already asked for public comment, yeah. Does anyone have a motion? Council member molly,

M

Maglio 2:25:17

I'm pleased to move item 9c that we adopt a resolution authorizing and approving a First Amendment to agreement for town attorney services between the town of Moraga and Burke Williamson and Sorenson. Williams and Sorenson and authorizing the town mayor to execute the First Amendment.

H

Hillis 2:25:39

Second All in favor. Aye, opposed. Seeing none passes, and now we are on to council member requests for future agenda items. Are the requests for any items from a council Seeing none. We now go to informational items. I don't see any there. But we unless the town manager corrects me, and item 12 is where you're supposed to do your updates, the town attorney agreed. Okay. So with that, I see no informational items, and we move to town manager follow up and announcements.

T Town Manager 2:26:18

Given that it's four minutes to tip off. I'm going to be brief. Your next meeting is March 11. There'll be some interesting items. The one of note would be an update on the food truck regulations. That's it. Thank you.

H Hillis 2:26:31

Thank you. We are adjourned. You.