



## ALBANY CITY COUNCIL – MINUTES

1000 San Pablo Avenue

Albany, CA 94706

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

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### **REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 PM**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Council Member Jordan read the Albany Land Acknowledgement Statement as adopted by the City Council per City of Albany Minute Action, November 15, 2021.

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Council Members Hansen-Romero, Jordan and Miki (joined by teleconference), Vice Mayor McQuaid, Mayor López

Absent: None

#### **3. REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY**

#### **4. CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

#### **5. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Assistant City Manager Isabelle Leduc reported Sanctuary City banners are displayed at City Hall and the Community Center to reaffirm the City's commitment to the rights of all community members. Red cards providing resources about individuals' rights are available at City facilities and City website ([albanyca.org](http://albanyca.org)). A survey of residents' satisfaction with City services and the quality of life in Albany is open and available on the City's homepage. The Friends of Albany Seniors held their Annual Pancake Breakfast on February 8, 2025. On February 14, 2025, the Recreation and Community Services Department hosted a paratransit workshop about transportation services. The Senior Center is collaborating with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to offer free tax preparation services until April 10, 2025, and appointments are required.

#### **6. GOOD OF THE CITY/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor López opened the Good of the City.

A summary of public comment is as follows: requests to expand the notification area for large development projects; Council are encouraged to sign the National Wildlife Federation Mayors' Monarch Pledge; clarification on "No Parking" signs; encouragement for the participation of sustainability staff and the Climate Action Committee in studies about electric vehicle charging stations.

#### **7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

##### **7-1. Minutes – February 3, 2025**

Staff Recommendation: Approve

##### **7-2. Ratification of Payroll – Date Paid 2/7/2025: Net Amount \$460,304.11, Taxes/Benefits/Deductions \$503,350.75, Total Payroll \$963,654.86**



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Staff Recommendation: Ratify

- 7-3.** Ratification of Bills, Claims and Demands - Ratification of bills, claims and demands against the City of Albany in the amount of \$388,584.81 (1/31/2025), \$191,275.81 (2/7/2025)

Staff Recommendation: Ratify

- 7-4.** Advisory Body Appointment:

- Katharine Bierce appointed by Council Member Miki to the climate Action Committee

- 7-5.** Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/24

Staff Recommendation: That the City Council review and accept the FY2023/24 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Mayor López asked if anyone wished to remove items from the consent calendar. Vice Mayor McQuaid removed Item 7-5.

Item 7-5: Vice Mayor McQuaid congratulated staff on achieving a financial audit with no reported findings.

**MOTION:**

Moved by Council Member Jordan, seconded by Vice Mayor McQuaid, to approve the consent calendar.

AYES: Council Members Hansen-Romero, Jordan and Miki, Vice Mayor McQuaid, Mayor López

NOES: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

## **8. PRESENTATION**

### **8-1. Fiscal Year 2024/25 Midyear Budget Review**

Staff Recommendation: That the City Council receive a presentation on the FY2024/25 Midyear Budget Review. No action is required.

Finance Director Reina Schwartz presented the staff report. At midyear, expenses total approximately 57% of budgeted amounts. This is not unusual given the annual expenditures that occur in the first quarter of the fiscal year. Revenues total approximately 51% of budgeted amounts. Based on actual revenues and expenses, projections indicate the anticipated budget deficit of \$2.2 million may decrease to \$1.2 million. Staff will continue to monitor expenses, but revenues will likely determine the final deficit amount.



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Revenues are trending higher than budgeted because revenues continue to increase, even though the rate of increase is not as high as in past years. As usual, the City's receipt of sales tax revenues is slightly delayed. As consumer spending slows, sales tax revenues may fall below projected amounts.

Annual expenditures during the first quarter were \$3.2 million for the City's unfunded pension liability, \$1.55 million for insurance premiums, and \$1.53 million for the Lions Club settlement. The Council previously set aside \$500,000 for the settlement; therefore, \$1.03 million affected the first quarter expenses. Absent the annual expenditures, expenses are slightly less than 50% of budgeted amounts.

A summary of public comment is as follows: questions regarding settlement funds and tax revenues from Golden Gate Fields.

Finance Director Schwartz explained that the impacts of Golden Gate Fields' closure can be found on the City website.

A summary of Council comment is as follows: encouragement for cautious financial planning.

### 9. PUBLIC HEARING

### 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 10-1. Active Transportation Plan Update and Direction on Solano Avenue

Staff Recommendation: That the Council receive a presentation on the draft goals and existing conditions analysis prepared for the Active Transportation Plan and provide direction to staff on analysis to prepare before presenting a Council discussion of the role of Solano Avenue in the future active transportation network.

#### CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

Review of compliance with the requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act will accompany the draft plan once it has been developed.

Transportation and Sustainability Manager Justin Fried presented the staff report outlining the engagement process to date for the development of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP). The project website and open house garnered more than 700 public comments regarding challenges in walking, biking, rolling, and school drop zones; improvements for intersections, pedestrian crossings and lighting; traffic calming and enforcement; and bike infrastructure.

Jen Shriber, Parametrix, reported the goals for the ATP focus on the development and maintenance of the active transportation network and its supporting policies. The four project goals focus on access and connectivity, safety and comfort, equitable outcomes, and implementation and funding.



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Pete Ruscitti, Parametrix, presented the existing conditions analysis. He advised that many sources of input informed the analysis of existing conditions. Many segments and intersections of the City's bike network have lower comfort levels and are more suitable for experienced, adult bicyclists. While the City has made many improvements in the pedestrian network, gaps and challenges remain. Key findings relate to collision hot-spot locations, north-south bike boulevards, east-west connections, school drop zones, commercial zones, major arterials and intersections, stop-controlled intersections, and micromobility.

Transportation & Sustainability Manager Justin Fried indicated the Council accepted the Solano Avenue Complete Streets and Corridor Revitalization Study in 2019 and directed staff to evaluate improvements for Solano Avenue as part of the ATP update. Currently, staff is working on a parking analysis and a rough order-of-magnitude cost estimate for the Complete Streets design concept and an alternative design. In 2019, the Council also discussed back-in angle parking and directed staff to consider a demonstration of it. A one-day demonstration and analysis would cost around \$20,000 and require about three months to complete. A 6-12-month demonstration and analysis would cost approximately \$80,000 and require up to a year to complete.

A summary of public comment is as follows: concerns about pedestrian safety along various streets in Albany and improvements negatively affecting Solano Avenue businesses; concern about recommending changes to Solano without further engagement with the business community; support for dedicated bicycle facilities on Solano; opposition to protected bikeways along Solano Avenue and back-in angle parking.

Transportation & Sustainability Manager Justin Fried clarified that staff seeks Council direction as soon as possible regarding Solano Avenue and is seeking direction tonight on what analysis to prepare for that discussion. If staff needs to explore additional alternatives, they will engage with the business community about the additional alternatives further through the ATP process.

A summary of Council comment is as follows: a preference for more parking analysis and prioritizing pedestrians, bicycle access, the transit corridor, and parking in that order; suggestions to consider the needs of all modes of transportation and improvements across the City; support for a parking analysis to determine the effects of alternative parking concepts; concern about the impacts of the alternative parking scenario on parklets; support for prioritizing pedestrian safety and having some form of dedicated bicycle facility; the alternative design would improve conditions for sidewalk users; the design analysis should include electric micromobility; a desire to re-engage Fire and Police regarding advantages and disadvantages of options and to re-examine signal timing and design options based on funding; the recommended alternative may end up being a long-term project with an interim project to upgrade accessibility; back-in angle parking did not have community support and does not need to be studied further at this time; interest in adding enforcement in the goal regarding safety, using the phrase



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bicycling comfort level, removing the separated facility highest comfort level category, and showing all local streets as medium comfort.

### **MOTION:**

Moved by Council Member Jordan, seconded by Mayor López, to direct staff to analyze parking and estimate costs for alternative 1 and analyze parking only for alternative 5.

AYES: Council Members Hansen-Romero, Jordan and Miki, Vice Mayor McQuaid, Mayor López

NOES: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

### **MOTION:**

Moved by Vice Mayor McQuaid, seconded by Council Member Jordan, to extend the meeting to 10:50 PM to complete the agenda.

AYES: Council Members Hansen-Romero, Jordan and Miki, Vice Mayor McQuaid, Mayor López

NOES: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

### **10-2. Update on Gas Line Decommissioning Pilot Project and Appropriation of Climate Action and Adaptation Reserve Funds**

Staff Recommendation: That the Council:

1. Receive the Gas Line Decommissioning Project Outreach and Engagement Plan
2. Adopt Resolution No. 2025-07 authorizing the appropriation of \$125,000 in funds from available fund balance in the Climate Action and Adaptation Reserve Fund for the Gas Line Decommissioning Project

### **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

Review of compliance with the requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act will accompany the draft plan once it has been developed.

Transportation & Sustainability Manager Fried presented the staff report. The Outreach and Engagement Plan includes strategies for communications and events such as working with community anchor organizations, conducting before and after surveys, door-to-door engagement, and community workshops.

In September 2024, the City and the Department of Energy (DOE) completed negotiations and signed an award of grant funding in the amount of \$200,000. By Executive Order, the Department of Energy has paused funding of its grants. Staff has not received any direction from the DOE. Staff recommends the Council appropriate funds from the Climate Action and Adaptation Reserve Fund to continue work on the project.



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A summary of public comment is as follows: inquiries regarding other cities' reactions to the pause in funding, other funding sources, and the Reserve Fund balance.

Transportation and Sustainability Manager Fried reported that staff has been in communication with other grantees and they also report no access to the grant funds. The Council allocated funds to the Reserve Fund; other climate action funding attributed to Measure DD is allocated in the operating budget.

### **MOTION:**

Moved by Vice Mayor McQuaid, seconded by Council Member Hansen-Romero, to extend the meeting to 11:00 PM to complete Item 10-2.

AYES: Council Members Hansen-Romero, Jordan and Miki, Vice Mayor McQuaid, Mayor López

NOES: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

### **MOTION:**

Moved by Council Member Hansen-Romero, seconded by Council Member Jordan, to extend the meeting to 11:10 PM to complete Item 10-2.

AYES: Council Members Hansen-Romero, Jordan and Miki, Vice Mayor McQuaid, Mayor López

NOES: None

Motion carried and so ordered.

A summary of Council comment is as follows: support for appropriating funding for the project; a preference to continue the item given the uncertainty of grant funding and to obtain additional information about DOE requirements; concern that continuing the item could cause the City to miss deadlines and result in no reimbursement; a suggestion for Council Members to present the dilemma to California Energy Commissioner Skinner.

This item is continued to the next regular meeting.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

## **12. COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS, COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS ON APPOINTED REPRESENTATION OF ALBANY, AND OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

### **City Council Appointed Representation Bodies**

Alameda County Mayors' Conference

Alameda County Transportation Commission

Alameda County Waste Management Authority

Association of Bay Area Government

Ava Community Energy JPA Board

East Bay Sports Field Recreational Authority JPA

Housing Authority of Alameda County

### **Appointee**

López

Jordan

Hansen-Romero

López

López

Hansen-Romero

McQuaid

### **Alternate**

McQuaid

Miki

Jordan

Jordan

Jordan

Miki

N/A



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League of California Cities (East Bay)	Miki	López
Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District	Jordan	N/A
Alameda County Library Advisory Commission	McQuaid	López
UC Gill Tract Community Farm Advisory Committee	López	N/A
Police & Fire Pension Fund Board	López	McQuaid
Alameda County Paratransit Advisory & Planning Committee (PAPCO)	(vacant)	N/A

**12-1.** Report for Housing Authority of County of Alameda (HACA)

### **13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

#### Upcoming City Meetings

1. Climate Action Committee Meeting, Wednesday, February 19, 7:00 PM, City Hall Council Chambers
2. Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 PM, City Hall Council Chambers
3. Transportation Commission Meeting, Thursday, February 27, 7:00 PM, City Hall Council Chambers
4. City Council Meeting, Monday, March 3, 7:00 PM, City Hall Council Chambers

### **15. ADJOURNMENT**

11:07 PM There being no further business before the City Council, Mayor López adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Anne Hsu, City Clerk.

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Robin D. López  
Mayor

Attest:

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Anne Hsu, City Clerk