

DATE: 2/13/24

TO: COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

SUBJECT: COUNCIL Q&A FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2024 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Study Session

- What role does City staff have in the oversight and management of the Historic Resources Inventory, and the reporting and published updates? What role does the Historic Commission and the City have in the ongoing required record-keeping at City, County and State level for Historic Resources on the HRI list?

Answer: City staff processes all applications in accordance with the Historic Preservation Ordinance as well as the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Preservation and Rehabilitation of Historic Properties.

The Powers and Duties of the Historical Commission (Municipal Code Section 2.12.030) with regards to the HRI include the submission of an annual report to the City Council providing an update on the additions and deletions from the Historic Resources Inventory.

- On CITY-OWNED PUBLIC lands or properties, including Historic Resources like the landmark Heritage Civic Center Orchard or Halsey House or Redwood Grove, does the Historic Commission take part in updating individual records, surveys, or documentation? Who does this?

Answer: The involvement of the Historic Commission depends on the application request and the level of review as outlined in the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

- Does the Historic Commission have provisions in their work plan for functions to LIST and designate Historic Trees? Is there any effort to study and solve what happened to this Historic Tree List, and how it will be provisioned and maintained?

Answer: Any Historic Designation is followed in adherence to the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Historic Resources Inventory can be found here:

<https://www.losaltosca.gov/historicalcommission/page/historic-preservation-regulations>

Heritage Trees can be found here:

https://www.losaltosca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/historical_commission/page/36161/hri_sec_v_heritage_trees.pdf

The Heritage Tree List has not been amended since November 2013, Staff has verified internally and is not aware of any Heritage tree List that predates 2013.

Agenda Item 1 (Minutes from previous meetings):

- Please see the accompanying pdfs.

Answer: Resolved.

Agenda Item 3 (MBI Contract):

- Please provide links to other safety elements prepared by MBI for other jurisdictions.

Answer:

City of San Juan Capistrano

<https://sanjuancapistrano.org/DocumentCenter/View/1081/General-Plan---Safety-Element-PDF>

City of Rolling Hills

<https://www.rollinghillsestates.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/21029/638157826670800000>

City of Rancho Santa Margarita

<https://www.cityofrsm.org/DocumentCenter/View/9625/Safety-Element-Adopted-2022>

Additionally, Michael Baker is currently working on Safety Element Updates for Chula Vista, Seal Beach, Yorba Linda, Pinole, and Los Altos Hills. The jurisdictions are currently under development for the Safety Element.

Agenda Item 4 (Tree Protection):

- Regarding 11.08.090 under notifications the discretion needs to be changed to “must”.
Answer: The draft ordinance reflects the term “shall” throughout the notification section.
- If someone does not follow the procedures outlined in the notification section, what are the consequences or penalties?
Answer: Penalties shall be processed in accordance with Chapter 1.20 of the Los Altos Municipal Code, which would result in a maximum fine of \$1,000 per tree removed.

Agenda Item 5 (Tree Removal Permit Fee Schedule):

- The third “WHEREAS” should be bold-faced on the resolution.
Answer: Noted, this will be corrected prior to final signature.

Agenda Item 6 (Development Impact Fees):

- Please provide a list of projects in the parking lot in-lieu fees that we have committed to, which amounts to \$4,558,000.
Answer: This information can be found at FY24-28 adopted budget online from page 121-122. (Previous project rollover \$475k + FY24 new project \$4,083,000=\$4,558,000)
fy2023-24_final_budget3.pdf ([losaltosca.gov](https://www.losaltosca.gov))

Agenda Item 7 (Parking Regulations):

- Should we be setting requirements before we know the parking demand and deficit from the parking study that is supposed to happen?
Answer: The proposed amendments are largely consistent with existing regulations; however, the ordinance reorganizes the parking code section contained within zoning. Modifications being made as a part of this ordinance will not fundamentally alter the parking ratio requirements as codified today.
- Under program 3.A in the staff report, the 4th bullet ensures that overflow parking does not spill over into adjacent residential only districts.
Answer: The language contained within bullet point #4 of Program 3.A is intended for the Downtown Parking Plan and subsequent modifications to parking in the Downtown Triangle. Amendments proposed within the Draft Ordinance do not modify parking ratios or fundamental requirements within the regulations at this time.
- As the city continues to approve high density to other areas of Los Altos, to be fair to all residential neighborhoods throughout the city, how will we provide the same assurance that overflow parking does not spill over to adjacent residential only districts as well?
Answer: The City cannot modify on-street parking until we understand what impact if any are present, however, preliminary data from the Downtown Parking Study already shows that parking of new developments within the Downtown Triangle provide ample parking which results in a surplus of parking, older developments or existing buildings show to have the greatest reliance of public parking plazas and on-street parking stalls.
- Can we make all our parking spaces to be wider than 9 feet? This is based on previous community input.
Answer: 9'x18' is an industry standard and the most commonly accepted and adopted stall dimensions. Modification of the adopted stall dimensions by an increase in the width of stalls would render nearly all parking facilities throughout the City of Los Altos as legal non-conforming. Staff has received multiple requests from property owners and developers for a mixture of stall dimensions which would allow for standard, compact and motorcycle parking.
- What is the appeal mechanism for this ordinance?
Answer: Staff does not understand the question regarding appeals of this ordinance. The draft ordinance creates the new regulatory framework to be applied equally to all proposed developments.

Agenda Item 8 (Muni Code Amendment re Days No Construction is Allowed):

- Resolution: The first "WHEREAS" does not make any sense. Perhaps this would make more sense: "WHEREAS, the Los Altos Municipal Code (LAMC) currently does not expressly list all of the days that Construction is not allowed; and the City Council desires to amend the LAMC to expressly list all such dates in accordance with the relevant provisions of the California Government Code and the policy of the City Council."
Answer: Staff accepts this modification to the proposed Whereas and requests this to be included in the motion of the City Council during consideration of the agenda item.

Agenda Item 9 (Mission Statement):

A Council member has provided another example of a Mission Statement from Mentor Tutor Connection for review during the meeting:

MTC’s inclusive culture empowers all of us—students, volunteers, staff, and board of directors—to connect in authentic ways to fight all forms of bias and racism, promote belonging, and build community. We advance diversity and equity in all aspects of our work in order to enrich and strengthen our programs and impact. Our commitment and actions will demonstrate to every young person that they are respected and valued.

Agenda Item 10 (Council Benefits):

- What benefits/premiums would \$1,800 per month cover for a council member? What benefits/premiums would \$2,761 per month cover?

Answer: The health benefit is the maximum amount the City pays towards a Council member’s health plan. Below is a chart that show 2024 health plans with their prices. Regardless of the plan selected by a Council member, the City currently contributes up to \$914.82 toward that plan. Whatever amount the Council selects to provide would be the maximum amount the City contributes towards a health plan.

CalPERS 2024 Regional Health Premiums (Actives and Annuitants)

Effective Date: January 1, 2024

Region 1*													
Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba													
Basic Monthly Premiums (B)													
Plan	Subscriber	Plan Code	Party Code	Party Rate	Subscriber & 1 Dependent	Plan Code	Party Code	Party Rate	Subscriber & 2+ Dependents	Plan Code	Party Code	Party Rate	
Anthem Blue Cross Del Norte EPO	\$1,314.27	504	1	1	\$2,628.54	504	2	2	\$3,417.10	504	3	3	
Anthem Blue Cross Select HMO	1,138.86	506	1	1	2,277.72	506	2	2	2,961.04	506	3	3	
Anthem Blue Cross Traditional HMO	1,339.70	509	1	1	2,679.40	509	2	2	3,483.22	509	3	3	
Blue Shield Access+ HMO	1,076.84	525	1	1	2,153.68	525	2	2	2,799.78	525	3	3	
Blue Shield Access+ EPO	1,076.84	524	1	1	2,153.68	524	2	2	2,799.78	524	3	3	
Blue Shield Trio HMO	946.84	451	1	1	1,893.68	451	2	2	2,461.78	451	3	3	
Kaiser Permanente	1,021.41	533	1	1	2,042.82	533	2	2	2,655.67	533	3	3	
Peace Officers Research Assoc of CA	931.00	592	1	1	2,117.00	592	2	2	2,651.00	592	3	3	
PERS Gold	914.82	613	1	1	1,829.64	613	2	2	2,378.53	613	3	3	
PERS Platinum	1,314.27	601	1	1	2,628.54	601	2	2	3,417.10	601	3	3	
UnitedHealthcare SignatureValue Alliance	1,091.13	576	1	1	2,182.26	576	2	2	2,836.94	576	3	3	
UnitedHealthcare SignatureValue Harmony	937.39	495	1	1	1,874.78	495	2	2	2,437.21	495	3	3	
Western Health Advantage HMO	807.23	591	1	1	1,614.46	591	2	2	2,098.80	591	3	3	

- The second to last paragraph of the staff report says that “[o]f the proposed adjustments, Council salary and participation in EAP and CalPERS could be effective immediately.” Don’t these benefits actually need to wait until at least December, 2024? See the last sentence of the first paragraph of the staff report on page 2 under the heading “Discussion/Analysis,” about half way down the page.

Answer: The changes to Council salary would need to wait until December 2024. Participation in EAP and CalPERS could happen whenever Council chooses.

- Currently are we allowed to add our spouse or dependents to the health insurance plan if a council member pays for it.

Answer: Yes, Council members may include dependents in a health plan, but the Council member is responsible for the additional costs.

- Are termed out councilmembers allowed to buy into the medical plan.
Answer: Council members who are termed out or no longer on the City Council are not allowed to participate in the health plans offered by the City.
- Were/are there any councilmembers that have bought into the medical plans for their spouse or children? If so, which Councilmembers.
Answer: There are Council members who have elected to have dependents as part of their health plan. State law prohibits the City from disclosing which plans Council members participate in and whether those plans include dependents.