



**CITY OF PACIFICA
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**Council Chambers
2212 Beach Blvd
Pacifica, CA 94044**

Mayor Mike O'Neill
Mayor Pro Tem John Keener
Councilmember Sue Digre
Councilmember Mary Ann Nihart
Councilmember Karen Ervin

**December 14, 2016 (WEDNESDAY)
www.cityofpacifica.org**

Councilmember Sue Digre called the meeting to order on December 14, 2016 at 7:08 PM

7:00 PM OPEN SESSION

Call to Order

Mayor Digre called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mike O'Neill	Mayor	Present	
John Keener	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Sue Digre	Councilmember	Present	
Mary Ann Nihart	Councilmember	Present	
Karen Ervin	Councilmember	Present	
Sue Vaterlaus	Councilmember	Present	
Deirdre Martin	Councilmember	Present	

Staff Present: Lorie Tinfow, City Manager; Michelle Kenyon, City Attorney; Lorenzo Hines, Asst. City Manager; Van Ocampo, Dir. Public Works; Tina Wehrmeister, Planning Dir.; Dan Steidle, Police Capt.; Mike Perez, PB&R Director; Kathy O'Connell, City Clerk

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Welcoming Remarks - Mayor Digre**

Mayor Digre stated she was grateful to see so many people in the room from so many areas in the city. She was delighted to protect the voice of all Pacificans and provide opportunities for everyone to speak up.

- 2. Outgoing Mayor's Remarks**

She stated that she told her family to stay home since she had two more years of service. She mentioned moving every two years as a Navy brat and for that reason beginnings and endings

are sobering and being stoic was ingrained in her. She mentioned that running for office and being on the Council, as many know, has not been easy. She stated that it has seemed like a long and complicated year because it has not been easy to serve. She stated that, for those leaving, she commended them for being on Council and working so hard on behalf of the community. She felt it was sometimes gut-wrenching work and she was proud that they hang in and do their jobs well. She stated that she thinks she speaks for all Councilmembers in saying that they are grateful and privileged that Pacificans are a caring and alert community. She stated that enables her to continue. She stated that we have so much that makes us Pacifica. She has felt that she hasn't quite "gotten there" yet, but with their help she was sure they will do it. She states that the environment was all of us, and she stated that we have awesome natural resources and she felt we were unique. She stated that Pacifica's history was super and deep, and she felt we needed to appreciate it more and give thanks to the Pacifica Historical Society, our culture, our arts, our musicians, our theater, our poets, all of them doing their thing all the time with great joy and hard work. She stated that we are a destination in the definition of who we are as a community, and she felt we need to work on that more. She stated that Council represents all of our community whether present or not. She stated that there are Pacificans whose family members are in harm's way, who have lost a loved one, or one in respite, or those with chronic illnesses or developmental disabilities, and she felt they want to be cognizant of all Pacificans. She thanked Council who don't always agree but are civil and get along. She stated that they owe a lot to their community. She thanked the Councilmembers who are staying and who are leaving, and the community that will always be there.

3. Presentation to Outgoing Mayor

Mayor pro Tem O'Neill presented the traditional gavel and outgoing plaque to the outgoing mayor. He stated that he chuckles remembering when he was in the parking lot with her and someone from the radio station and she mentioned that every time there was rain in Pacifica and she was mayor a bluff goes down. He stated that they were not any disasters of her making. He congratulated her for her final term as mayor.

4. Presentations to Outgoing Councilmembers

Mayor Digre added that, unfortunately, during the three times she has been mayor, some bluff has gone down. She then read a proclamation honoring Councilmember Nihart for eight years of service as a member of City Council. She then read a proclamation honoring Councilmember Ervin for her services as a member of City Council. Mayor Digre welcomed Katrina Rill from Jackie Speier's office and Mark Herschman from Senator Hill's office.

Katrina Rill, from Congresswoman Speier's office, stated that it was her pleasure to be present on behalf of Congresswoman Speier to thank Councilmember Nihart for eight years of service on the Council and Councilmember Ervin for four years of service on the Council. She stated that they love this community which is evident in the work they have done, listing several areas, such as environment, etc. She stated that Congresswoman Speier read extended remarks into the Congressional Records about both of them, which means that they are now part of the official history of the U.S. Congress. She stated that she would not read both of them because they were long, but would read a couple of pertinent excerpts. First, she personally mentioned that Congresswoman Speier's staff gets city assignments and she feels fortunate to have Pacifica. She lives in Pacifica, but working with them over the years has been humbling,

educational, gratifying and fun and thanked them. She then read a portion from each remark pertaining to Councilwoman Nihart and Ervin.

They then took a photo with Ms. Rill.

Mark Herschman, from Senator Hill's office, stated that he was delighted to be present on behalf State Senator Hill and Assemblyman Mullin. He congratulated Mayor Digre on a successful and challenging term in office, and hoped the state was helpful. He then stated that he was present to honor the outgoing councilmembers. He agreed with Ms. Real that it was a delight to work with them, and referred to their accomplishments, including several mentioned by Ms. Real. He presented framed resolutions honoring each of them.

Mayor Digre invited Councilmembers from Half Moon Bay to come forward.

Marina Frazer, Councilmember of Half Moon Bay, stated that, with both being coastal towns, they have felt a kinship with Pacifica. Several of her councilmembers joined her in acknowledging the accomplishments of Councilmembers Nihart and Ervin and issuing their congratulations.

John Muller, Former Councilmember of Half Moon Bay, added his remarks in paying homage to them for all the work they did for the coastside and thanked them.

Naomi Patridge, Former Councilmember of Half Moon Bay, thanked both of them for their services, Councilmember Nihart for the city and county, as well as veterans, and Councilmember Ervin for the community, as well as kids.

Mayor Digre stated that Chris Hunter was a representative from Supervisor Don Horsely.

Chris Hunter, representative of Supervisor Horsley, stated that Supervisor Horsley has enjoyed working with them and he mentioned that they have been the heart and mind in Pacifica while serving on the Council. He mentioned that the supervisor will continue to work with Pacifica in various endeavors.

Mayor Digre stated that the Council would now present outgoing gifts to each Councilmember.

Councilmember Keener acknowledged that the job on Council was a tremendous amount of work, and he thanked Councilmember Nihart for that. He acknowledged Councilmember Ervin's efforts on various committees, and conducted her year as mayor with dignity and courage. He then referred to Mayor Digre being a voice for those without a voice in the political process, mentioning how full her calendar is with all her commitments. He was proud to serve on the Council with all three of them.

Mayor pro Tem O'Neill thanked them, stating that Councilmember Nihart was a very good teacher/mentor and she was well-known throughout the county. He knew Councilmember Ervin from the past when they were both in the PTO and then on the school board. He stated that she has also been an excellent Councilmember and she will be sorely missed.

Councilmember Nihart clarified Mayor pro Tem O'Neill's comments, stating that they lost their headquarters during Measure N, the school parcel tax, and there was no place to go and, as she lived alone, her house became headquarters.

Mayor Digre stated that both Councilmembers do their homework. She stated that it was not easy to serve and they have done well.

Mayor Digre opened public comments.

Ron Maykel, Pacifica, thanked everyone, stating that he knows what it was like to deal with sensitive issues, etc. He admired all Council for taking the time to serve. He thanked Councilmember Nihart, mentioning her concerns for Pacifica, and Councilmember Ervin, mentioning her efforts in improving Pacifica. He hopes they stay in contact with Pacifica and help in any way they can.

Chris Ranken, Pacifica, stated that he has lived in Pacifica for 27 years, and been on the Pacifica Planning Commission and the county, and he shared that, whenever Councilmember Nihart spoke at meetings, he tuned in to what she was saying. He added that her commitment applied to everything, with the city and professionally at work, etc.

Robin Runneals, Pacifica, stated that she knew Councilmember Nihart well, mentioning some of the areas where she worked with endless energy. She was happy that she will have a vacation, but she concluded she will just put more effort into other areas. She congratulated both Councilmembers on getting their lives back.

Kalimah Saluhudden, Daly City, stated she was a member with the Jefferson Union High School District and was a huge fan of both Councilmembers. She was attending with Andy Lee, and stated that they have a good working relationship with the Council and District.. She commented that, while the nation cannot get it right, she was happy to live in a community where they elect strong women leaders, and was grateful for the outgoing and incoming Councilmembers. She mentioned working on their campaigns with her daughters and now has a daughter who wants to be president.

Scott Hart, San Mateo County, stated that it has been an honor to have both Councilmembers as his PG&E customers. He stated that he was their liaison with the company. He stated that it has been an honor and pleasure to work with them, and wished them well. He shared some of his thoughts on how they were respected by everyone.

Bridget Duffy, Pacifica, thanked them for their service. She also thanked Pacifica for all the support during the election. She was excited because she sees a sense of community. She commented that we are living in a precarious moment in American history and she felt we have to take our civic duty seriously to maintain our constitutional rights. She hoped the incoming councilmembers will honor the pledge to uphold the Constitution and defend American citizens from all threats and make progress in Pacifica.

Tom Clifford, Pacifica, thanked both Councilmembers for their hard work. He acknowledged that they don't always agree but he knew they wanted the best for Pacifica. He then stated that the incoming Councilmembers have big shoes to fill and he will expect a lot from them.

Lynn Adams, Pacifica, thanked the Councilmembers for surviving their terms. She acknowledged that it was a challenging job, and she knew there were a lot of financial challenges and they have helped the city get through it. She thanked them for their service and she welcomed the new Councilmembers. She agreed that it was wonderful to have good women leaders, but also to have people who are willing to work for everyone. She stated that we have a lot of various opinions but she didn't think there was anything they can't do if they talk

and come to a consensus. She pointed out that Pacifica was made up of environmental people who care about the earth, ocean and humanity. She stated that we have to stay focused.

Sue Vaterlaus, Pacifica, thanked the Councilmembers for their service, passion, leadership and she agreed with Tom Clifford that she has huge shoes to fill and will be calling them.

Mayor Digre closed public comments.

Councilmember Nihart stated that it has been an honor to serve and representing the city. She stated that this was not a choice, but she thought it was sort of meant to be. She felt that there may be good things that need to happen that this change will bring about. She stated that she spent a lot of time recently assuring that relationships were secured with county resource funding and she felt very good about ABAG and the work that will happen around housing, mentioning that what we have now was not sustainable. She commented that making decisions was always a challenge, but especially with some unintended fallouts from a decision. She mentioned that she spent time with Don Horsley, sharing things with him. She thought it was nice that the work with the Pedro Point Headlands was in the Congressional record, that Jackie Speier was a huge supporter of our community, and was glad that Pacifica will stay connected with the Headlands. She was touched with Half Moon Bay representatives, stating that she appreciated all they have done and would like to be connected by a trail that doesn't fall or close. She mentioned the Manor overcrossing, and wanted to be sure we move forward on fixing the overcrossing, etc. She was confident that all our elected officials will work together with Beach Blvd. Citizens to preserve it so people can enjoy the ocean. She mentioned that Don Horsley was supportive of a plan for sea level rise and coastal erosion for Pacifica. She commented that we work better together, adding that we don't do so well when we make suppositions about people and post them blindly, then mentioned her rationale for dropping out of the election. She then stated that she would like to see better access for mental health services, mentioning some of her thoughts on the subject. She stated that she will continue to help in several areas of needs in Pacifica, and she reiterated that we are best when we work together. She congratulated the incoming Councilmembers, adding that she was available to help in whatever they need.

Councilmember Ervin thought Councilmember Nihart's comments were beautifully said. She thanked the present Councilmembers who have been special to her. She stated that the mayor has a heart of gold and she cares about the community. She was proud to serve with her and will miss her. She stated that she has known Councilmember Nihart since she was on the school board and she was an advocate and mentor and willing to share her knowledge to ensure that they all become better. She knows she will be missed. She is grateful for everything Councilmember Nihart has done for the community and the things she has shared. She stated that the most rewarding thing about being on the Council is the people she has met and what they have done for the community. She was grateful for being allowed to serve the community and thanked everyone, including her fellow councilmembers who have been friends and were supportive. She agreed with Councilmember Keener that they don't always agree on various policies but she respects his opinions. She then thanked Mayor pro Tem O'Neill for encouraging her to enter public service as a school board member, and felt he has an incredible heart and cares about our community. She was grateful to have served with him. She commended staff and was grateful that, while she was on Council, they had the opportunity to hire a city manager who has done a phenomenal job. She was proud that one of the accomplishments was bringing our city forward and improving our financial situation with more transparency. She worked on the Financing City Services committee prior to joining the Council, and she was aware of the work required to move the city forward. She was confident

that the city will continue to improve our standing. She felt they had two amazing new candidates coming on board, adding that she has respect for them and was thrilled that they will be on Council moving the city forward. She was also willing to talk to them if they need anything from her. She thanked her family who have been supportive for the past four years. She agreed with Councilmember Nihart that they are much better together than apart, and will go further when working together. She admitted that she will miss being part of the Council, and felt that staff has become part of her family.

Councilmember Nihart stated that Councilmember Ervin does thank yous so well, but she wanted to tel Mayor Digre what a fantastic job she has done in multiple ways this year.

Mayor Digre thanked her, called a brief recess while they took pictures, then reconvened the meeting.

5. Oath of Office to newly Elected Councilmembers

City Clerk O'Connell asked that Sue Vaterlaus state her name individually, and repeat the oath of office. She then presented her with certificate of election for newly elected individuals.

Cynthia Kaufman asked that Deidre Martin state her name individually, and repeat the oath of office. She then presented her with certificate of election for newly elected individuals.

6. Selection of New Mayor

Councilmember Keener nominated Mike O'Neill as Mayor.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Keener, Digre, O'Neill, Vaterlaus and Martin.

Noes: Councilmembers: None.

Motion passed: 5-0.

7. Selection of New Mayor Pro Tem

Councilmember Digre nominated John Keener as Mayor pro Tem.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers: Keener, Digre, O'Neill, Vaterlaus and Martin.

Noes: Councilmembers: None.

Motion passed: 5-0.

8. Incoming Mayor's Remarks

Mayor O'Neill commented on the nation going through a traumatic election with what happened in Washington. He stated that they are not supportive of a lot of the values Pacifica holds close

to our hearts, mentioning that human services, parks, environment, climate change, being questioned by them and they will be challenged and tested. He then stated that, as they look around the room and see friends, family and others with whom we may disagree, but we must remember we are all Pacificans. He compared Pacifica to a quilt, made up of many different viewpoints, and he felt it was everyone's job to be the thread that makes the quilt of Pacifica stronger. He pointed out that many families are gathering together to celebrate the special bonds between them, including new residents to Pacifica. He hoped that, as they celebrate their families, we can welcome everyone into our family and celebrate the diversity and strength they bring to our town.

9. Mayor Invites Audience to Refreshments

Mayor O'Neill thanked his colleagues as mayor and invited everyone to "let them eat cake."

ADJOURN

Mayor O'Neill adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:43 p.m.

Transcribed by Barbara Medina, Public Meeting Stenographer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy O'Connell, City Clerk

Approved: 5-0; 1/09/17

Mike O'Neill, Mayor