

KENSINGTON POLICE PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Special and Regular Meeting (Hybrid)

Special Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order** [TS unavailable]

President David Spath called the special meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. **Roll Call** [TS unavailable]

Vice-President Alexandra Aquino-Fike, Director Cassandra Duggan, Director Sarah Gough, Director Sylvia Hacaj, and President David Spath were present at roll call.

Staff present included Interim General Manager David Aranda and Clerk of the Board Lynelle M. Lewis.

3. **Public Comment** [[TS unavailable]

None.

Adjourn to Closed Session [TS unavailable]

The Board adjourned to the closed session meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Reconvene to Open Session [TS 34:39]

President Spath reconvened the open session meeting.

Announcement from Closed Session [TS 34:44]

President Spath announced that the Board gave direction to the General Manager.

Adjourn Special Meeting [TS 34:49]

President Spath adjourned the Special Meeting.

Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order** [[TS 34:52](#)]

President David Spath called the regular meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

2. **Roll Call** [[TS 35:10](#)]

Vice-President Alexandra Aquino-Fike, Director Cassandra Duggan, Director Sarah Gough, Director Sylvia Hacaj, and President David Spath were present at roll call.

Staff present included Interim General Manager David Aranda and Clerk of the Board Lynelle M. Lewis.

3. **President's Comments** [[TS 43:09](#)]

None.

4. **Public Comment** [[TS 35:28](#)]

- Addressing the Board were the following persons: 1) Phil Zimmerman suggested investigating the East Bay Municipal Utility District land for a police building site; 2) Matt Brennan asked if additional concurrent geotechnical work analysis was being done for the proposed police site; 3) Catya deNeergaard commented that there is a widening gap in the relationship between the community and Police Department; 4) Beth Thomas asked to move up agenda Item 11 to the beginning; and 5) Pat Gillette commented that there is an exodus of police officers and that there is less visibility of police officers since moving to El Cerrito.

Consent Calendar [[TS 43:12](#)]

- Motion by Director Duggan, seconded by Vice-President Aquino-Fike, to accept the Consent Calendar with amendments to the meeting Minutes, carried (4-0-1) by roll call vote as follows: AYES (Aquino-Fike, Duggan, Hacaj, and Spath); NOES (None); ABSTAINED (Gough); and ABSENT (None).

5. **Meeting Minutes for the Special and Regular meetings of March 14, 2024.**

Director Duggan pulled the Minutes to request an amendment to the Announcement from Closed Session. The Board agreed to amend the last sentence to "He announced that the Board gave direction to Counsel."

Approved as amended.

6. Receive and file the March bills paid and the March 2024 financial statements.

Received and filed.

Discussion and Action

7. Discussion and approval for KPPCSD to enter into a contract with ERSIC, LLC for background work, public record requests and other non-sworn needs of the Police Department at an approximate cost of \$78,000 per year. [\[TS 45:31\]](#)

Interim General Manager Aranda introduced Jason Haynes and Police Chief Gancasz provided background on Officer Haynes' work done at the Kensington Police Department. There was Board discussion about the recommendation to change Mr. Haynes from an employee to a contractor.

- Addressing the Board were the following persons: 1) Pat Gillette raised concerns about converting an employee to a contractor; 2) Catya deNeergaard asked about a legal response regarding converting employees to a contractor, and encouraged the Board to get the police moved back in Kensington; and 3) David Fike commented on the need to prioritize the resources of Kensington.
- Motion by Director Hacaj, seconded by Director Duggan, that the KPPCSD Board enter into a contract with ERSIC, LLC for background work, public record requests and other non-sworn needs of the Police Department, carried (5-0) by roll call vote as follows: AYES (Aquino-Fike, Duggan, Gough, Hacaj, and Spath); NOES (None); ABSTAINED (None); and ABSENT (None).

8. Discussion and approval to enter into a five-year agreement for providing tasers to the KPPCSD police officers at a cost of \$51,500 over five years which includes training. [\[TS 1:27:19\]](#)

Police Chief Mike Gancasz presented background information on the recommended action. Steve Tuttle of Axon Company provided a presentation about the taser energy devices. There was Board discussion about the pros and cons of the taser devices, the need for a risk assessment, liability for the KPPCSD, costs, the need for a policy, the content of the training, and whether there is a penalty for early termination of the contract.

- Addressing the Board were the following persons: 1) Khushali Narechania questioned whether there was training on implicit bias and the de-escalation process; and 2) Catya deNeergaard suggested getting more information on tasers, establishing a policy, getting multiple bids and urged the Board not to pass the item; 3) David Fike commented that more comprehensive data is needed on tasers, the use of force

history, and legal exposure; and 4) Linda Lipscomb supported giving the police equipment to do their job in order to keep the community safe.

- Motion by Director Hacaj, seconded by Director Duggan, that the Board approve moving into a five-year agreement with Axon to provide tasers for the KPPCSD officers at a cost of \$51,500 over five years which includes training, carried (4-1-0) by roll call vote as follows: AYES (Duggan, Gough, Hacaj, and Spath); NOES (Aquino-Fike); ABSTAINED (None); and ABSENT (None).

9. **Approve Resolution 2024-01, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Acknowledging the Scouts BSA Troop 100, For Their Volunteer Services Toward the Community of Kensington and the Kensington Park Facilities.** [[TS 1:15:29](#)]

Interim General Manager Aranda acknowledged the volunteer work performed by the Scouts in the park. President Spath read the resolution.

- Motion by Director Hacaj, seconded by Director Duggan, that the Board approve the resolution read by President Spath, carried (5-0) by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution No. 2024-01, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Acknowledging The Scouts BSA Troop 100, For Their Volunteer Services Toward the Community of Kensington and the Kensington Park Facilities.

10. **Approve a mailer to Kensington residents that provides information on evacuation during a wildfire and urges citizens to understand their responsibilities and develop a personal evacuation plan.** [[TS 2:53:06](#)]

President Spath introduced the recommendation to send a mailer to all Kensington residents to make them aware of their responsibilities during a wildfire. Board members asked questions about cost sharing and the zone numbers. President Spath pointed out the costs would be borne by the Fire District.

- Addressing the Board were the following persons: 1) John Gaccione asked about how evacuation plans for other natural disasters would be communicated; and 2) [*name not provided*] asked if we were splitting the cost for this mailer with the Fire District.
- Motion by Director Hacaj, seconded by Director Gough, to approve the mailer to Kensington residents that provides information on evacuation during a wildfire and urges citizens to understand their responsibilities and develop a personal evacuation plan, carried (5-0) by

roll call vote as follows: AYES (Aquino-Fike, Duggan, Gough, Hacaj, and Spath); NOES (None); ABSTAINED (None); and ABSENT (None).

11. Discussion and approval of expending up to \$60,300 for preliminary work on possible police building site with DLR Group and up to \$70,000 with Kropp & Associates to perform Geo Technical work on the possible building site. [\[TS 2:48:31\]](#)

Interim General Manager David Aranda provided background information regarding the recommended action. The next step is to have the property surveyed and the topography properly noted so that professionals could determine the best spot for a building and what the costs would be to build such a building. He noted that this agenda item focuses on the next steps.

- Motion by Director Duggan, seconded by Vice-President Aquino-Fike, that we move forward with the DLR Group performing tasks 1-3 at a cost of \$60,300 and using Kropp & Associates to perform phase 2 of the geotechnical survey at a cost not to exceed \$70,000, carried (5-0) by roll call vote as follows: AYES (Aquino-Fike, Duggan, Gough, Hacaj, and Spath); NOES (None); ABSTAINED (None); and ABSENT (None).

12. Discussion and approval to hold a special meeting workshop on May 9th from 1-5 p.m. and paying Dmitry Semenov, Principal for Ridgeline, to facilitate the meeting at a cost of \$2,500. [\[TS 3.03.21\]](#)

Interim General Manager David Aranda provided a brief summary on the purpose of the special meeting workshop. President Spath pointed out that information would be placed in the Outlook newspaper and the information would be placed on the KPPCSD website.

- Motion by Director Gough, seconded by Director Duggan, to approve holding a special meeting workshop on May 9th from 1:00-5:00 p.m. and paying Dmitry Semenov, Principal for Ridgeline, to facilitate the meeting at a cost of \$2,500, carried (5-0) by roll call vote as follows: AYES (Aquino-Fike, Duggan, Gough, Hacaj, and Spath); NOES (None); ABSTAINED (None); and ABSENT (None).

Comments & Reports

13. Police Chief Report. [\[TS 3:06:11\]](#)

Police Chief Gancasz briefly highlighted two areas of his monthly report: 1) a letter of employment had been offered to an eighth officer; and 2) Kensington is scheduled for its FLOCK safety camera installation in the coming months. Board members asked Chief Gancasz about the crime trend mapping, the number of officers in the community, requested a comparison of response time before moving to El Cerrito, the gender diversity during the recruitment process, and about officers who have recently left the police force.

14. **General Manager's Report.** [\[TS 3:14:31\]](#)

Interim General Manager Aranda announced his Monthly Report had been submitted. No questions were raised.

15. **Director Comments.** [\[TS 3:14:51\]](#)

Director Duggan announced that the high school senior photos for the June Outlook will be taken at the KCC building on Sunday, May 5th at 3:30 p.m.

President Spath announced that he sent in the ballot for LAFCO nominations.

Adjournment [\[TS 3:14:45\]](#)

President Spath announced that the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m. The next special and regular meetings are scheduled for May 9, 2024.

SUBMITTED BY:

Lynelle M. Lewis, District Clerk of the Board

APPROVED: May 9, 2024

David Aranda, Interim General Manager

David Spath, President of the Board