



Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, April 23, 7:30 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

TBA
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, April 23, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, April 18, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, April 18, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

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City council to serve as planning commission during new commissioner search

By Pippa Fisher

While Lafayette prepares to get new planning commissioners in place as soon as possible, the council has adopted an urgency ordinance to allow the city council to serve as the city's planning commission until a quorum of the PC is appointed. The ordinance also reduces the number of planning commissioners from seven to five, at least in the short term.

Following the adoption March 26 of Council Member Ivor Samson's and Vice Mayor Cam Burks' suggested new tougher conflict of interest policies designed to rebuild integrity

and trust in government, five planning commissioners resigned, leaving the city effectively without a PC.

As a result of the vote, the council called a special meeting April 2 to decide how to proceed.

The evening got off to an unexpected start with vehement comments made by former mayor Brandt Andersson as he challenged Samson to confirm his promise that he would not run again for office when his term was up. He made his remarks during time allocated for public comments unrelated to agenda items and to which the council does not have to respond.

Andersson called into question Samson's integrity, accusing him of hypocrisy. He reminded the council that Samson had given his word at his appointment to the council that he would not seek re-election at the end of his term. Now, claimed Andersson, far from being "the self-appointed protector of integrity in government" he had heard that the council member had been "quietly sounding out city leaders to see how they would react if he went back on his word and ran for the council seat."

Andersson then asked Samson to prove that he was a man of his word and confirm that he will not

run for another term with a yes or no answer.

Samson responded that such a personal attack was beneath Andersson. "I was appointed to a two-year term. I intend to act as a council member in all respects for that two-year term and do what I think is right. Beyond that I will not debase myself by responding to your questions."

"So I had my answer," Andersson said later.

The former mayor declined to name his sources.

Mayor Don Tatzin commented later, "While what the council does is a result of who runs and who gets elected, I prefer that the election process not be part of a council meeting."

A testament to strong feelings around the subject of integrity in the commissions, four former mayors were present at the special meeting, which Burks noted was powerful to see.

And Andersson spoke again, this time addressing the issue at hand of the new policy. He questioned how forcing commissioners with whom no one had a problem to resign would improve the integrity of government.

Public sentiment about the

more restrictive rules that now force a commissioner with a conflict of interest to resign continued to run high a week later, with several speakers during the regular April 9 city council meeting still voicing concerns over the new policy.

The city council however is moving forward.

Subcommittee members Tatzin and Council Member Mike Anderson met before the city council meeting April 9 to come up with questions for the interview process, that applicants would have about a week to prepare.

Tatzin hopes to be able to start interviewing soon. He said they currently have about 10 interested applicants.

Applications are due by April 30 but interviews are likely to begin sooner due to the number of vacancies. However all applicants who get their applications in by the end of the month will be interviewed before all the positions are filled. Initial appointments might be made as soon as April 23, said Tatzin.

Those interested in applying should go to www.lovelafayette.org/pc to obtain an application and to view the current commission work plan.

Jenkins honored as Citizen of the Year



Don Jenkins and Don Tatzin Photo Andy Scheck

Lafayette's Citizen of the Year Don Jenkins was honored April 13 at a sold-out dinner attended by local dignitaries, friends and family all of whom agreed that Lafayette is a better place for all the time he has volunteered in so many capacities.

Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin pointed out that Jenkins has been making Lafayette better since the '70s when he moved here; in other words, "For 40 of Lafayette's

50 years."

And Tatzin, with the beleaguered state of the city's planning commission still very much on his mind, could not help but wonder, "Since you volunteer for everything, do you have any interest in joining the planning commission?"

"I'm color-blind," replied Jenkins.

"Doesn't matter," retorted Tatzin.

- P. Fisher

Lafayette's native son among those honored in new memorial

By Pippa Fisher

Twenty-two fallen service men and women from Contra Costa County who lost their lives in the line of duty since 9/11 will be honored and permanently remembered on a new memorial to be installed at the front of the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center. It will be the only monument in California to recognize the entire group.

The dedication is set for April 29, the 10th anniversary of Lafayette born and raised Senior Airman Jonathan Vega Yelner's death in action in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Constructed of three large slabs of granite weighing 7 tons and standing 6 and a half feet tall, the monument has been designed to fit the space in the circle at the entrance. It will have space for additional names as needed.

Lafayette resident Michael Gilson, himself a fifth-generation

veteran who served in the U.S. Air Force overseas between 1966-70, hopes it will be a reminder of those being honored to the thousands of people who drive by or visit the building each year.

Gilson says it will be a perpetual memorial - a continuing acknowledgement of the sacrifices of the volunteer troops from this country.

"Today's generation of service men and women, unlike mine who were drafted, all volunteer," says Gilson. "They chose to go and it's important to recognize them."

Gilson also points out the importance of recognizing the sacrifice of Gold Star families - those mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, husbands and wives who have lost loved ones.

Yolander (Jolie) Vega says she would love it if Lafayette residents would fly an American flag on April



Senior Airman Jonathan Vega Yelner who was killed in action in Afghanistan 10 years ago. Photo provided 29 on their front yards to honor and recognize their city's fallen hero on the anniversary of her son's death.

The young man went to school at St. Perpetua's and De La Salle High School, belonged to Boy Scout Troop 243 and worked at Safeway and the Hungry Hunter in his hometown. ... continued on page A9



The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill several volunteer positions.


Planning Commission. This five-member body is responsible for matters relating to land use and development in the city. The commission serves as an advisory agency to the City Council for administering the laws and ordinances governing the approval of general and specific plans, zoning text amendments and rezonings. The commission also hears and decides on applications for subdivisions, land use permits, variances, and ridgeline development.

Members of the Planning Commission are required to be qualified electors of the City of Lafayette, and are selected on the basis of training, education, occupation and expertise. The commission reviews design drawings, construction plans and technical reports.



The following are planning documents that commissioners must be familiar with to execute their duties. 1) Lafayette General Plan; 2) Lafayette Municipal Code, Title 6 -Planning & Land Use; 3) Downtown Specific Plan; 4) Downtown Design Guidelines; 5) Residential Design Review Guidelines.

Link to the application and additional information www.lovelafayette.org/pc

Individuals with questions may call Assistant Planning & Building Director Greg Wolff (925) 299-3204. Completed applications must be received by 5:00pm April 30, 2018.




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*per Public Records