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## GRASS VALLEY

### City Council Regular Meeting, Capital Improvements Authority and Redevelopment "Successor Agency"

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Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Council Chambers, Grass Valley City Hall | 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, California

Telephone: (530) 274-4310 - Fax: (530) 274-4399

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## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Aguilar called meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of allegiance led by Mayor Aguilar.

### ROLL CALL

#### PRESENT

Council Member Bob Branstrom

Council Member Hilary Hodge

Council Member Tom Ivy

Vice Mayor Jan Arbuckle

Mayor Ben Aguilar

### AGENDA APPROVAL -

Motion made to approve the agenda as submitted by Vice Mayor Arbuckle, Seconded by Council Member Branstrom.

Voting Yea: Council Member Branstrom, Council Member Hodge, Council Member Ivy, Vice Mayor Arbuckle, Mayor Aguilar

### REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Nothing to report.

### INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### PUBLIC COMMENT -

Attached.

### CONSENT ITEMS -

Councilmember Branstrom would like to pull item #8 for discussion.

Motion made to approve consent items as submitted by Vice Mayor Arbuckle, Seconded by Council Member Branstrom.

Voting Yea: Council Member Branstrom, Council Member Hodge, Council Member Ivy, Vice Mayor Arbuckle, Mayor Aguilar

1. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 8th, 2022.

**Recommendation:** Council approve minutes as submitted.

2. Approval of the Special Closed Door City Council Meeting Minutes of February 15th, 2022.

**Recommendation:** Council approve minutes as submitted.

3. Assembly Bill 361 Resolution

**Recommendation:** Adopt resolution R2022-07 authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the City Council and other legislative bodies of the City pursuant to government code section 54953(e)

4. Local Emergency Proclamation (Winter Storm of December 27th, 2021)

**Recommendation:** Winter Storm of December 27th, 2021 proclamation declaring a Local State of Emergency

5. Local Emergency Proclamation (COVID-19)

**Recommendation:** Continuance of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) proclamation declaring a Local State of Emergency

6. Local Emergency Proclamation (Drought Conditions)

**Recommendation:** Drought Conditions proclamation declaring a Local State of Emergency

7. Fiber Broadband Internet Services

**Recommendation:** That Council 1) authorize the City Manager or designee to enter into a 5 year contract with VAST networks for internet and site to site connections for \$3,635/month and a one-time payment of \$50,000 for development costs.

8. Letter of Support for California Cultural District program

**Recommendation:** That Council 1) Review and approve the attached letter of support for the State of California to fund the California Cultural District program; and 2) authorize the Mayor to sign the letter.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION OR SEPARATE ACTION AND / OR ANY ADDED AGENDA ITEMS**

9. Letter of Support of Hospitality House Application for California Department of Health and Human Services Community Care Expansion Program

**Recommendation:** That Council 1) Review and approve the attached letter of support for the Hospitality House Expansion Project for the Sierra Guest Home for California Department of Health and Human Services Community Care Expansion Program; and 2) authorize the Mayor to sign the letter.

Tim Kiser, City Manager, gave presentation to the council.

Councilmember Branstrom had questions about the increase of amount of residency and how it will effect the neighborhood.



Public comment attached.

Voting Yea: Council Member Branstrom, Council Member Hodge, Council Member Ivy, Vice Mayor Arbuckle, Mayor Aguilar

## **REORGANIZATION RELATED ITEMS**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

#### 10. Condon and Scotten Sports Fields Improvement Project - Authorization to Bid

**Recommendation:** That Council 1) approve the findings that the project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and 2) authorize the advertisement for bids

Bjorn Jones, City Engineer, gave presentation to the council.

Public comment attached

Motion made to approve the findings that the project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and authorize the advertisement for bids by Council Member Hodge, Seconded by Vice Mayor Arbuckle. Voting Yea: Council Member Branstrom, Council Member Hodge, Council Member Ivy, Vice Mayor Arbuckle, Mayor Aguilar

## **BRIEF REPORTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councilmember Ivy had nothing to report. Councilmember Hodge wanted to publicly thank Nate Lane who rescued her dog over the weekend. Councilmember Branstrom attended a Cal Cities Environmental Policy Committee, an online webinar about brownfields in our area, and last Friday went to the AME dedication on Church St. Vice Mayor Arbuckle attended a GVDA meeting, Law and Fire meeting, league transportation meeting, Armed Forces Day meeting, State of the State zoom meeting, and wants remind everyone that March 5 at 9 am is the pasty toss for Saint Piro's day. Mayor Aguilar attended the Mayors and Managers meeting and met the new City Manager for Nevada City and the new Mayor of Truckee, ate at the lobster truck, and attended a LAFCO meeting.

## **ADJOURN**

Mayor Aguilar adjourned meeting at 7:42 pm.

  
Ben Aguilar, Mayor  
Taylor Day, Deputy City Clerk

## Taylor Day

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**From:** WIRELESS CALLER [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022 7:20 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Voice Mail (2 minutes and 50 seconds)  
**Attachments:** audio.mp3

Matthew Coulter comment on item number 10 on the agenda. Then the amount of money being spent on plastic ballfields to cover up toxic mining land is outrageous. This land shouldn't be touched. It should be capped even deeper with proper soil and vegetation that can suck out the toxicity eventually and have a safe layer instead of putting toxic plastics that only last 10 years. That material has a 10 year lifespan. And if you go around any of the cell phone towers, you'll see it littered all over the ground from the trees, which only lasted about a year, falls on the ground, billions of pieces of plastic, same as the field, as those are all going to be small pieces of plastic washed into the Creek soon enough as they break off. This is ill advised use. The Memorial Park is a disaster, and now you're breaking into more stuff, more toxic land, putting more toxic air dust into the air. All kinds of toxic projects going around town grading. When I talked to the folks doing them, they say Tim Kaiser gave him permission to keep bringing up Tim's name as the authorizing body for having people do illegal soil removal and excavation in a mining legacy town. And it's criminal to tell you the truth. So when you're going to go over there to Condon Park and Rip that up, and the old mine over there and the old ball field and mine over there and Gilmore Airfield in the back of the field where all the toxins were dumped from all the frickin aircraft industry in pre aircraft industry and mining industry, I mean those are brownfield sites and you just want more people to be put on them with more added toxicity and then you're going to put plastic down on your new stuff you're buying out on old Auburn. It's all about the plastic, and if you read the studies, University of Seattle women's soccer team look at the breast cancer study on that there's warning labels on all this stuff for the athletes to wash everything thoroughly after use. And we know that the kids don't do that. Scott in school is in total disrepair, falling apart, and you're going to put in a million and a half dollar ballfield that's just messed up. That's just ignorant. Thank you.

You received a voice mail from [WIRELESS CALLER](#).

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[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

## Taylor Day

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**From:** WIRELESS CALLER [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022 7:15 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Voice Mail (1 minute and 3 seconds)  
**Attachments:** audio.mp3

Talk to tell. I don't know why they're not asking for public comment on things they're pushing through, but that's typical of what's going on in the city hospitality house. The amount of people sleeping on the street on both sides of the sidewalk leading up to it or disgusting amount of people overdosing in all the area business bathrooms is disgusting and the city doesn't even have a warming shelter in Grass Valley for these cold temperatures. Nevada City has one tonight, which closes at 7:00 AM. And the person was hit on the bicycles, probably a homeless person 'cause it happened neuromas camp in Grass Valley. So Hospitality House is great for soaking up money and hiring people, but it's not. The money is not getting as a homeless. It's obvious. Go up there and look at it yourself. I don't know any of you have ever been up there. Tell you the truth recently. I will call Matt Hospitality House.

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## Taylor Day

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**From:** WIRELESS CALLER [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022 7:00 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Voice Mail (2 minutes and 29 seconds)  
**Attachments:** audio.mp3

Public comment for City Council Matthew Coulter calling in you probably just heard the sirens go by. That was a bicyclist that was hit and most likely killed. And then another one. Another one was hit in front of Ribes a few days ago with a broken leg. Another one was hit in a crosswalk 2 days before that. My friend Billy was killed in a crosswalk a few weeks ago on Southchurch killed. This is becoming nearly daily occurrence and when I see zero traffic improvements and when I see the signs that are knocked down and never put back up at the roundabout on Idaho, Maryland on both sides of the streets at the crosswalk, it just shows utter disregard for pedestrians and for people that live in this town. Then don't drive a lifted large vehicle that can compete on the roadways. The bicycle lanes are all full of gravel, cannot be used. The sidewalks are covered in gravel and sand, broken glass for people to walk their dogs over, including the Mill Street mall with the broken glass in the streets. So back to the basics, kids. You want to keep spending money and enlarging and taking on more, but you can't even take care of what you have around City Hall. Literally several blocks around City Hall. You can't even unplug the gutter at the bus stop in front of the front door of City Hall. So it leaks and turns to ice for people to take the bus and have negotiate that ice slick that's out there, right currently. So you just keep going and going. And more fraud and more fraud and more theft and more theft. Where are the paramedics on the firefighting rigs from measure E&N? There are none. Where's the money from that? There's none. Pull your heads out of wherever you haven't stored and do the health and safety stuff for the city and not fancy projects for your friends Thank you.

You received a voice mail from [WIRELESS CALLER](#).

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[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

## Taylor Day

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022 5:37 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Pioneer Community Energy presentation

GRASS VALLEY City Council  
[public@cityofgrassvalley.com](mailto:public@cityofgrassvalley.com)

Re: Community Choice Aggregation for Grass Valley

My name is Don Rivenes. I live at 108 Bridger Ct Grass Valley. I represent Nevada County Climate Action Now (NCCAN) and am a member of the working group of the Grass Valley Energy Action Plan.

NCCAN was pleased that the City of Grass Valley is going ahead with a full presentation by Pioneer Community Energy about joining their Community Choice Aggregation (CCA).

We support CCAs in general for the following reasons:

- Operation decisions are made by local elected officials
- As non-profits, CCAs offer stable, cheaper electricity rates
- Revenues stay at home and support local economies
- It is a captive market where all customers in the area are automatically enrolled in the CCA
- Each community has representation on a Board of Directors that makes CCA decisions

We feel that choosing the right CCA to join requires answers to the following questions:

Questions for Pioneer Energy

- 1) What is the history of rate savings to individual customers?
- 2) What is the current reserve balance and how is it used?
- 3) Does it apply to all CCA member cities equally?
- 4) What are the sources of power for Pioneer Energy and is it on track to meet California Renewable Portfolio Standards.
- 5) What are the future plans to meet the increase in the California Renewable Portfolio Standards? Will Pioneer Energy use NID hydropower for future purchases?
- 6) Can the CCA model encompass other models, such as community solar? In other words, can there be grid "subsets" that modify power pricing while still remaining within the CCA?
- 7) Is there impact on pricing if a member agency contributes/sells power to the CCA? Or is it One Size Fits All for all member agencies?
- 8) Does Pioneer have any plans to acquire distribution/transmission assets within its network of generation facilities?
- 9) How large is the Pioneer Admin organization, and where/how does it interface with PG&E?
- 10) Is there any plan to move from PG&E to SMUD for administrative services? Why/why not?
- 11) What would be the PG&E Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) per customer, how does it affect the overall customer rate, and how it is to be financed?
- 12) Given the CPUC proposed solar+storage rates will there be subsidies available for purchasing storage for solar owners?

- 13) Given the solar requirement for new homes and the grid participation charge and reduced export rates, will Pioneer still offer a discount rate to solar owners ?

Questions specifically for City of Grass Valley

- 1) What is the upfront cost to Grass Valley for joining the CCA?
- 2) Will the upfront cost be recovered by Grass Valley once revenue is obtained?
- 3) What is the estimated organizational cost for Grass Valley?
- 4) How will Pioneer Energy obtain the extra power to service Grass Valley?
- 5) Grass Valley has adopted an Energy Action Plan to reduce electricity and gas use. Will Pioneer make funds available to assist with building retrofitting?

Questions Grass Valley citizens will want answers to:

- 1) Is there a guaranteed rate reduction for customers?
- 2) Will current solar customers be included, and will they participate in rate savings?
- 3) What is the present renewable energy premium rate?

Thank you for accepting these comments. NCCAN looks forward to your decision and will be glad to help as needed.