

# OLD MEETING TC 25-02-12

Thu, Feb 19, 2026 9:22AM 3:13:31

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Town Council, meeting agenda, public communication, consent calendar, pavement projects, sidewalk rehabilitation, mission statement, semi rural character, open spaces, public safety, evacuation study, recreation plan, environmental sustainability, community engagement, budget preparation., Land use goals, environmental sustainability, housing options, business environment, neighborhood character, financial sustainability, infrastructure projects, public safety, evacuation study, community engagement, legislative platform, employee development, town hall expansion, virtual engagement, public infrastructure., council chambers, feasibility study, expansion, housing cycle, safety and security, multi-use facilities, public engagement, town staff, planning commission vacancies, legislative platform, budget review, council issues meeting, farmers market booth, agenda items, community engagement

## SPEAKERS

Planning Dir, Hillis, Maglio, Thiel, Speaker 4, woe, Speaker 1, Dolan, Knapp, Speaker 7, Woe, Speaker 3, Speaker 5, Speaker 2, Attorney, Town Manager, Speaker 6

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00:22

We Are not



Speaker 1 00:52

we Still got three minutes.



Woe 03:57

Good evening. This calls to order the town of Moraga, Town Council regular meeting of Wednesday, February 12, 2025, it is 5:30pm



Woe 04:11

roll call that the record show that all members of the council are present. Thank you. Pledge of Allegiance. Nate, could you lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance? Please,



Speaker 2 04:34

pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all. Nate.



Woe 04:50

Thank you very much. Okay. Item number three, are presentations. We have none. Item number four. Is public communication. This is time reserved for those in the audience who wish to address the town council on items that are not on the agenda. The council cannot discuss details or vote on items not on the agenda. Your concerns may be referred to the town manager for a brief comment or for further review. Just know any public comments on specific items will be addressed during those items when they're handled by the town council. Are there any public communications? I don't see any. So let's move on to item number five, which is adoption of the meeting



Woe 05:42

agenda. Motion to adopt the agenda.



Speaker 3 05:45

Second all



woe 05:47

those in favor,



Dolan 05:48

aye passed

W Woe 05:50

or abstentions or nays, no passes with unanimous vote. That moves us on to item number six, which is the consent agenda or calendar? Excuse me, does the member of the Council wish to pull an item from the consent calendar?

H Hillis 06:12

I have a request. Sorry, I didn't mention this earlier.

W woe 06:16

Okay. Which one do you want to pull?

H Hillis 06:19

Wanted to pull 6.4 um. Just because I think it's a town wide project. Be good to hear any updates.

W woe 06:29

Okay, and I need to pull 6.3 anything else may I have a motion to accept 6.1 6.2 and

W woe 06:45

that's it. That's it.

W woe 06:49

Is there a motion move to adopt 6.1 and 6.2

**W** Woe 06:53  
as as proposed or as presented. Second, second, we have a public comment. Thank you very much. Is there any public comment on the consent items? Okay? All those in favor of approving 6.1 and 6.2 as presented,

**D** Dolan 07:15  
I would

**W** woe 07:18  
you like to handle 6.4 first?

**D** Dolan 07:21  
Yeah, is staff available to provide a an update on primarily item one, but also I think that item two is related

**T** Town Manager 07:42  
Sean. Or Nate. Can you Here comes your public works director, Sean Knapp, good luck.

**H** Hillis 07:57  
Can't hear it. The question, just generally, I'm assuming both of these are related to town wide, pavement and sidewalk rehabilitation, please give provide an update on the town, on the project. Before the meeting started, I heard a little bit about some work going on in the camp a lindo neighborhood, and just be good to hear what the status of the project is, sure. So project was awarded

K

Knapp 08:30

some time ago, as part of the process during the construction, we identified some additional needs at the project came back to the council, we added to council, your mics on, isn't on. There you go. That's what I was asking. So that sounds much better. So appreciate that. So Sean Knapp, your proper works director, town engineer. We're talking about the our annual pavement projects. This was part of the second and third year of our worst first residential program. We've completed the original scope of that project. We did approach the council previously to add additional work to it, which included work around the camp Leland, do high school Moraga Road. We did that through a study that we talked to the council about possible improvements, and we were approved to do some initial improvements. We've completed all that striping and signage work around the camp of lindo and the Moraga Road successfully. The last part was a change order to add additional sidewalk crosswalk signage around around the Las parados elementary school. We're in the process of finishing that we're on punch list items, which mean any defects or deficiencies that haven't been taken care of. We're working with the contractor come back to take care of those. The sidewalks has been installed. There's some minor issues to address, but they will be done, you know, shortly, of course.

H

Hillis 10:00

So to that point, does the change order on six, point 4.2, does that final? Will that provide the final, the ability to finalize the sidewalk striping project at Los Perales school, the last council had discussed

K

Knapp 10:21

this work will finalize the addition of four sidewalk along four homes. As part of the discussion many meetings ago, we talked about doing some other intermediate steps to finalize a potential sidewalk going around the curb. We've completed at this point a shoulder striping on each side of the road to provide an area that parked cars can park or people can walk in. It's not designated as a walkway or sidewalk, but it provides an area for people to walk. We intend to sign it that during the day no parking is allowed, so it makes that area more clear. We're working towards finishing up the designs of a sidewalk that would go around the curve. We're going to come back to the council as we as that gets more fully developed, and as we go through the budget process, we need to check in with you, of course, so that part has not been done, but the sidewalk, the four additional sidewalks directly from four different homes that have sidewalk in an area for people to safely drop off has been completed, but there is some final touches that we need to do to complete the construction with that part. Great. Thank you for that update. Sure, of course.

W

Woe 11:33

Sean, thank you and Carrie, thank you for raising that on item 6.3 this is adopting a resolution designating alternates to serve as standby officers in case town council members or the town council needs to reconstitute itself in the event of an emergency. And in particular, what what is in the staff report are my alternates from last year I did submit updated alternates, and unfortunately, they did not make it. So I am just going to read it into the record that my alternates are in the order of precedence, Chris Saunders of camp a lingo neighborhood, and he's on a couple of our committees as a lay person. And then secondly, Alexis maple, who is on our planning commission. And third, Carl Davis, who is a former member of the Planning Commission and also a

W

Woe 12:39

retired colonel from the US Army, with several tours of duty in Afghanistan. So I figure that he's, he's would be good in that really bad situation

W

woe 12:52

with that, I would like to move approval as modified, Mr.

T

Town Manager 12:58

Meyers, since you're pointing out an oversight, did everybody else look at the list? Did we get it correct for each of you? Okay, on behalf of staff, I apologize.

W

woe 13:11

Steve, no worries. Thank you. Yeah, I'm familiar with mine.

W

woe 13:16

Okay, so I've made a motion. Is there a second?

A

Attorney 13:20

Second, Mayor, we need to take public comment.

W woe 13:24

I will catch on to that. I see one shaking head. I see no public comment. Call the motion or call the question. All those in favor, aye. Motion passes unanimously. Okay.

D Dolan 13:45

Moving right along here, Mayor, we didn't act on 6.3 or whichever one

A Attorney 13:52

yes that was the I the motion was for both 6.3 and 6.4 correct to the maker of the motion? Yes.

W woe 14:05

Okay, yes. So you're saying we didn't make a separate motion for 6.4 I guess

A Attorney 14:16

it didn't. I understood the motion to include item 6.3 and 6.4 if the maker of the motion agrees and the second maker I agree agrees, then we don't need to do anything. If there was some confusion, we should do it again.

W woe 14:30

Thank you and Brent, thank you for raising that that takes us on to item number seven, which is announcements and reports on activities, and we start off with council member reports.

W woe 14:52

Now is the time for the reports and activities. Would Brent, would you start us off? I.

**D** Dolan 15:03

Really the only activity was attending the new council members conference down in Garden Grove with Steve and Scott. Lot of good information about Council roles versus staff roles. Couple of got some training required. Trainings out of the way, harassment and what was the other one?

**W** woe 15:32

I've got the whole list.

**D** Dolan 15:33

Yeah, so you guys still have to do that. I don't. But also, you know, just great to compare notes with our fellow council members throughout the state. There actually were some northern California people down there in the same situation that we were with Sacramento filling up. That's it.

**S** Speaker 3 15:56

Graham, none to report.

**S** Speaker 1 16:02

Carrie, okay, Lisa,

**M** Maglio 16:06

I have a shorter one. I attended the January 30 special meeting of Recycle Smart and Brian in absentia was welcomed, and so was I. It was a great meeting to attend as a first meeting, because there there was a board retreat during that meeting. And during that retreat, and I suppose, in a timely way, with this one, they discussed a mission statement and visions looking forward to 2025, 2026 that's all. I

**S** Speaker 1 16:42

thank you, Carrie, sure.

H

Hillis 16:46

So first I want to thank staff for returning my coffee mug that I left at the last Council meeting. I didn't make the special meeting as I was in Sacramento, participating in the League of Cities Transportation Committee, and I wanted to provide a quick update on that, assuming that I remembered to bring those notes. Here we are. So in Sacramento on January 24 I was participating in the transportation, communications and public works policy committee. The committee operates as a recommending body for the board for the League of Cities. It helps to provide policy recommendations in the general area that this covers some key points that I raise were really timely, raised by both news articles and a lot of the feedback we received from the community in that implored the league to consider supporting communities in projects seeking roadway redundancy for emergency evacuation also that they support communications resiliency and hardening. I've seen a lot of efforts in autonomous vehicle technologies. We currently are not eligible for that in Moraga given the unreliability of our telecommunication system. So one of the items that I raised, because this is similar to many other communities like ours, where we face arena, compacted, road impacted road systems, an alternative to getting around could be autonomous vehicle technology. In addition to those, we received a general briefing on some of the issues that the league had pursued previously. We, as part of those issues that I raise, those were part of our discussion about developing a work plan, we went a little bit beyond that, but I have a lot of other updates to provide as well. We'll be meeting again at the in Burbank on March 28 as we'll have some more fleshed out bills that we can discuss. We also discussed Scott Weiner's bill SB 63 which is currently spot language that means it's an intent bill that says I want to do something about in this case, it would be for BART funding more to come on that MTC is currently polling on some of the of what that could end up being. In addition to that, I attended the southwest area transportation committee on February 3. I also brought up at that committee the issues relating to emergency evacuation and our impacted road systems. We also elected as. As the chair of SWAT San Ramon, Mayor Mark Armstrong, and as vice chair County Supervisor Candace Anderson. Nate may have other things that he wants to add, but those are the highlights. On that same day, I attended the county connection, marketing, planning and legislative committee, we discussed many of the same topics that I brought up. All of these are different collections of people, but shared similar concerns and received similar legislative updates. In addition to that, on February 3, I attended the law Miranda fee and Financing Authority. This committee discusses how the utilization of certain funding streams, for for utilization, for for transportation programs. In addition to that, on February 3, I attended the law Miranda program management committee and also discuss discuss similar topics. Thank you.

W

woe 21:15

Thank you, Carrie. I get the impression there's passion related to transportation in your background.

W

woe 21:21

Programs. So I'll report a little bit more on the Meyers and council members Academy, of which I issued the link to the resource materials out to all the town council members who did not attend, and encourage you to try to take a look at the resource materials. There's a lot of good information there. The sessions included a range of topics, including social media and the role of that in councils and the municipalities, legal powers and obligations,

W

woe 22:02

land use planning advocacy. And let me just touch base here a little bit on advocacy. This, this whole workshop or Academy was put on by Cal cities. And under the area of advocacy, they have committees that address certain areas of in which the cow cities lobbies are and gets involved in, and transportation is one of them. And and Carrie here is on that committee for cow cities, which is a is great that he's representing Moraga in that regard or in that capacity, there was a session on team building, as Brian related, on getting together or getting along a good relationship with staff and town councils and financial responsibilities. There is some really good material here. And as Brent noted great networking, it was somber to have the Vice Mayor from Malibu there speak about both thanking everyone for the mutual aid and some of the

W

woe 23:19

challenges and results of that, that fire and Malibu, and there's, there's, we're going to go into a phase, I think, where there will be efforts made to gather lessons learned and progressively correctly apply those lessons and and I hope We capture some of those lessons from from Malibu. The only other thing I'll report, excuse me, is I've had some involvement on the periphery in preparing for tomorrow night.

W

woe 23:52

The Contra Costa County mayor's conference will be held in Moraga tomorrow night at the

W

woe 23:59

at the Moraga Country Club, and hopefully all town council members will be able to attend, especially new members. Since I wasn't able to introduce you at the January conference, we'd love to do that tomorrow night, if we can. Scott, would you like to do anything on announcements at this point, Mr.

T

Town Manager 24:20

Mayor, Members of Council, yes, on the mayor's conference for tomorrow night. Just a reminder, there is a program, and then there's the dinner piece. And the program is open to the public. They can attend for free to observe that it is a public meeting. The dinner portion, though, after that, and you do have to pay for it. So okay, our fire chief with the Moraga Orinda Fire District, Jeff Isaacs, he wanted to be here. He was going to be here to talk about the maps. He can't be here. So he sent me a note, and I'm going to make some comments for him. So council members, you are aware, as mentioned earlier, there is the new. Fire, fire hazard, severity, zone rollout maps that are, that are coming out there. They're being released in phases for the regions are, our region is phase two, and that'll be officially rolled out on February 24 so our fire chief has asked me to point out that this executive order, wait, there's two things. So that'll be on the 24th Okay, those maps will make sure we get it to the council, get it out to the public. The fire chief is, is his gut reaction initially, is, while there'll be impacts on the outlying areas, as far as the infill development should not be impacted by this. But we'll wait and see. The other thing is, the Governor did issue an executive order directing the California Board of forestry, I'm reading this to advance the zone zero regulations, and the initial draft of these requirements is expected to be released later in the month. That's not this, is it? No, oh, it is. I'm sorry. So we'll wait till the 24th and we'll get that. I'm sorry for being confused. I thought they were separate items. Okay, so that takes care of that. In addition to the conference that the mayor and council member Dolan mentioned that we went to a couple weeks ago, weird timing of these things, I did go to the city manager's department conference last week, and I'll forward to council the the agenda, so you can look at what was attended. Was a very good turnout. I did go with the Lafayette and Orinda city managers, so we were together. We we spent some time together, some good topics. And I did want to point out one session I went to on the first day, and the title of that was hate speech in council chambers, the First Amendment versus the freedom of civility. And your assistant town attorney, Denise bazano, was on that panel, along with the Walnut Creek Mayor Pro Tem, Kevin Wilk, and they talked about the experience in a number of places, but in particular Walnut Creek, as well as Pacifica, another one of your cities, and lessons learned from that experience. So I wanted to make a plug that you were there. You did a great job. It was very informative. There were some other really good sessions, and I thought what was interesting they they will typically have a guy from Beacon Economics, and they'll talk about what's going on in the state economy. And I've been going to these for years, the last several years, this firm will get up and they'll put the data in front of us and say, Okay, here's what's really happening in the economy, and here's what you're hearing in the media, the California economy, while the state government has some challenges, the economy is in pretty, pretty good shape, and the issues we wrestle with here in the Bay Area in general, and here in LA Miranda, it's due largely to having a super strong economy with all these good paying jobs, but we can't house people. And he didn't talk about that phenomenon in California and what it means, but the economy is doing really well in California, despite the rhetoric in which you hear in the media. So I thought that was interesting. And then I wanted to point out another one, and then I'll be done with this. Oh, there was a town gown round table. So Kelly McAdoo, who is the incoming president of the city manager's group. She's used to be in Hayward. She's now the city administrator in Santa Barbara. She put this together, so I had a deference to her. I figured I'd go and show support. And so there's a group of us now, about eight of us, who have universities town gown, and we're going to stay in touch with each other and kind of compare notes and talk about issues and lesson or issues we have in common, see if we can help each other. So I thought that was pretty interesting. Okay, so those are those, those comments, and that's really it. At the end of the meeting, I'll do the follow up.

H

Hillis 28:53

Would you mind also giving an update on the new

T

Town Manager 28:59

staff at St Mary's? Oh, there is a new chief financial officer, and I don't know if he started yet. Yes, from San Jose State. Yeah, yeah, I sent you guys the article. Yeah, if I'll try to get some stuff from the college and I'll forward it to you some more background, but we're excited. In fact, the college president sent me a note, and the three of us are going to get together and talk about some of the projects they have going on in campus, and how we can help move those along. Maybe we'll get them to come in here and say hello, if that's agreeable to the college president, great. Okay, just a couple follow up things to Scott

W

woe 29:39

communicated with regard to fire safety. I Brent, the requirements from

W

woe 29:49

the Department of Forestry for the areas just a couple follow on items from Scott's communication on fire safety. I've read that. Um, the Department of Forestry requirements, which will apply to the zone zero or the very high fire hazard areas, are not due until the end of the year at the latest, so maybe they'll be ready prior to then, but they have until the end of the year to get them distributed. And secondly, it's it's we should keep in mind that, in fact, the local jurisdictions can impose those restrictions on other areas where they can go beyond what's required by the Department of Forestry. They can't go less than

W

woe 30:43

and so and and Scott confirmed for me the other town council members there, were we responsible for pain payment for tomorrow night for dinner? That was confusing. What you're sorry about that?

T

Town Manager 30:58

I apologize my bad sense of humor. No, the town covers that. Thank you. Sorry.

W

woe 31:07

Okay, public hearings. There are none this item this evening, and that moves us on to item number nine, which is the study session,

W

woe 31:19

and it's entitled review of town mission statement and proposed fiscal year 2025 2026 and fiscal year 2026 2027 town wide goals and priorities. This will be structured as follows, staff will provide a brief summary of the item, and then council members will engage in a discussion of the item. After discussion, I will open the up the item to public comment. At the close of public comment, I will bring back the item to the Council for future further comments. Council will provide direction to staff at the conclusion of the item. Scott, would you like to take it from here?

T

Town Manager 32:03

Yes, sir, Mr. Mayor members of the council, I promise to be more focused here. Okay, thank you, Mr. Mayor. So this is the time where we really kick off the budget preparation process. As reminder, we shifted from an annual budget to biennial budget last time around. So now we're in we're in the middle of wrapping up the second year of the two year cycle. Here we are in February, so we're getting ready to prepare the proposed budget for the next two fiscal years, and that will start on July one. As part of that process, we begin by doing three things. First, we're going to ask that you take a look at the town's mission statement to see if it needs to be revised. Second, we'll we'll talk about now. Right now, there are goals and priorities labeled as such together, and there are 11 of them. So we will start that discussion by giving an update on all 11. Brief update. How are we doing, as explained in the staff report, and as I've talked to each of you individually, staff is recommending that we separate out the broad goals and the specific priorities, and we're recommending that you have five broad goals and 10 priorities. Why those numbers? If they're just man, it's more manageable. It helps the council become more focused. And then we will take those goals and priorities and help guide us as we do the budget. Now, by the way, you'll you will see more than five and 10 proposed possibilities. And if items don't make it, doesn't mean they won't get done. But this is just you're saving what? What's the most important? So we'll do the five broad goals, then the top 10 priorities. So three things, mission statement, goals, priorities. Alright, let's talk about the the town's mission statement. It's very common in both the public and private sectors, for organizations that have some sort of mission statement. There's no universal, specific purpose as to what it does or what it should say. Every place is different, but in local government, it's generally a statement about what the town council or the town organization stands for, okay? And you have hard copies of all this as well, so if you want to make notes, alright, this is your current mission statement. It's been on the books for a while, and it reads, our mission is to preserve and enhance the unique quality of life in our town by five bullets, creating a sense a greater sense of community, honoring our tradition of minimal service, government, preserving our natural landscape, supporting quality education, traffic congestion relief and leisure opportunities within law. Marinda. Are providing a safe environment. So that's a mouthful. I'm not trying to lead the witness, but you several these bullets are really like more broad statements and so on. That's your current mission statement. Council, some of you did provide suggestions as to what

a revised statement may be or and there's, there are some four possibilities that have come in, and at this point, and I'll read them Council, you can deliberate, discuss, if you want to make any changes, and, oh, by the way, whatever you agree to tonight on these three components, we'll come back at the next meeting for you to adopt them. So if, upon reflection over the next couple of weeks, you want to make changes, you can do that. Okay, so that the revisions, the suggested revisions, and by the way, each of you have provided input, as well as the department heads and where there was duplication, not so much on the mission statement, but with the goals and priorities, we did our best to kind of merge them together, alright? So some possible revisions is just simply to have a mission statement that says, One, our mission is to preserve and enhance the unique quality of life in our town. Oh, wait, yeah, that's right. It should be a period there. The second is, the town of Moraga is dedicated to enhancing community well being by providing exceptional services and fostering a safe, sustainable and vibrant environment for all residents, while drawing on its rich heritage, embracing innovation for the future. The next bullet is very similar, but it removes out a component of that. And then the last one is provide a welcoming community to live, work, recreate and raise a family. So those are some possibility council members. So at this time, I'll stop talking. You can talk among yourself. See what you want to do. Now, if you want to keep the mission statement as is, you can do

W

woe 36:59

that too, before we get into any discussion on this or input, I'd like to get clarification, especially from the town council members, as to whether the mission statement should be from A context of the town or the town government and and in looking through examples of these kinds of things, various towns, I see both, and I think it's an important distinction to and I want to Make sure that we have appropriate alignment. So we

W

woe 37:45

any any feel for that. A

T

Thiel 37:50

lot of what I've seen is from the standpoint of the town, sorry, a lot of what I've seen is from the standpoint of the town government, like, I was in Dublin today, and they have theirs, like, right in their council chambers, and it's specifically about the city of Dublin, and what the city as in the city government will do.

D

Dolan 38:10

Any thoughts Brent, I'm not sure that I really see the distinction. I mean, we're we as the government are acting on behalf of the townspeople, and so I think it can blend the two, and hopefully they're consistent others.

M

Maglio 38:34

In reviewing other towns mission statements, I too, found that some of them were worded at least more specifically about what the government will do, or should do, or plans to do. Some were more generous the town shall the town is dedicated to. So I think there, there can be a mix, as Brent said, on the one hand. And I think the question is, really, how do you want to frame it. Do you? Do you want it to be more service oriented, from the government, from the town, from the staff, or do you want it to become more general? I think that is the question. My thought on that is it really should be more directed from the town government. Okay, thank you, Graham.

T

Thiel 39:29

I was curious if, Scott, you've got any history on how we got to the current mission statement, and if it was consensus based with community input over a series of meetings with a certain level of participation, or if it was more staff combined with Town Council, and that's what we're looking at, to consider revising mr.

T

Town Manager 39:51

Mayor members of council. I don't know the answer to that. We had a hunt for it. We found it. Yeah, maybe, I don't know, Carrie or Steve, Were you here when? This person was agreed I was probably here.

W

woe 40:02

I don't recall as us spending a lot of time on it, to be honest with you.

W

woe 40:10

So can I add no help in that regard?

H

Hillis 40:13

Can I add Mr. Mayor, yeah. So I do know, I don't know about the one that we have now, but I do know that there was an aborted effort. I think it may have been three years ago to actually do a community I was on one of the meetings for this former mayor. Sauce was also on it, and involved students from camp a lindo and other parts of the community to develop a new mission statement. It went pretty far along, but I don't know what happened to it. Scott, were you able to figure out what happened to that project?

T

Town Manager 40:48

No, Amy, do you remember at all being able to find anything? No, we don't have it. We don't know. The answer is, no.

W

woe 40:56

Is that part of the DI efforts? So, yeah, it was something was developed, okay, but it was really focused on Dei, okay, so, and to some degree, that's what I'm used to from a mission statement. It's, you know, something from an organization active, you know, looking, looking forward, which is sort of more aligned with your perspective on its framing.

T

Thiel 41:25

Gotcha, okay, sort of helpful. Only bringing that up as I'd be hesitant to change something from a representative standpoint that was developed at the community level with community buy in. So right?

T

Town Manager 41:39

I Mr. Mayor, Members of Council, I've learned over the years, the different places I've been, that it's really healthy to take a look at your mission statement as part of the budget process, because it's your it's the statement. What does the organization stand for? And it's good to and you got three new members here. So we, I think the organization needs your buy in that the mission statement is in line with the views of the current Council. You don't have to change it. We're not advocating. We just put it out there in front of you and we'll do as as you direct.

W

woe 42:12

Does anyone have a strong position on this they want to lobby for?

D

Dolan 42:18

I do think it could use a refresh. I think the one we have is a little bit awkward. I think it should be shorter, similar to the proposed revisions. You know, I'm not in love with any of those, but I think that the last one comes closest to what I'm a co I'm accustomed to seeing. It's it's brief. It doesn't say anything about the physical nature of the town. Is the only reason why I can't get behind that completely.

T

Thiel 42:55

Others. Is it possible to flip back to the current on the slide presentation

D

Dolan 43:02

on that, on that, this whole thing about we're dedicated to having the smallest government possible. I mean, I think everyone would like to have more recreation opportunities and more policemen and I mean, we can only provide what we can afford, so we're going to be small, but being small just for the sense of being small, I don't really understand that.

T

Thiel 43:32

And I guess is it a tradition, or is it a practice, just based upon the restrictions of the budget associated as Scott You said, if we have a budget that stipulates certain aspects of the government, then perhaps we look at this line specifically and revise it so it aligns with the services and the budget that we're looking to deliver. And it might not be minimal. It'll just be representative of what our next two years should look like, Mr.

T

Town Manager 43:59

Mayor, Members of Council, my understanding, of that statement, it's, it's historical. Goes back to incorporation, when the decision was made by the voters to incorporate, and then the initial council said, Hey, we are going to be a lean, mean machine. We're going to rely on volunteers. And there, therefore, is the phrase or reference to minimal government. 50 years later, we're still a minimal government. It's up to you. If that's of important value statement to say, doesn't matter what how you label us, we're going to be very minimal and lean. So it's your decision.

M

Maglio 44:42

Go for it, Mr. Mayor, if I could discuss sure briefly too, as we have talked, it is historical. Goes back to the 1970s it goes back to the 1970s and. When our town was formed. I think that by our very nature and our very budgets, as we've said, we are minimal. However, I don't think it's a value that we hold we and I think it was a value in 1974 so I feel fairly strongly that we should. I don't know if we'll work from this statement or not, but I think that this should be removed, and we'll still be minimal no matter what. Mr.

H

Hillis 45:33

Mayor, for me. Carrie, go ahead. Thank you. I agree with the sense of my colleagues. I think that the mission statement, while some of the points are still some that we strive for, I think it's it is clunky, it's long, and it deserves an updating. And if I would also say on the ones on the next slide, if I were to endorse one, I like the second from the bottom.

W

woe 46:04

Thank you, Carrie, my sort of input goes as follows. I looked at a number of mission statements. Didn't like any of them, and they go from long, wordy paragraphs to

W

woe 46:19

just one sentence that says to me very little. So sort of my first go at this was to simply say, well, our mission statement should be something to the effect we, the government of Moraga, will pursue

W

woe 46:37

achieving the guiding principles as included in the general plan, and they're about a page of guiding principles, because I view that as being pretty appropriately meaty and descriptive of really what we're supposed to be pursuing. However, I'm also practical and and don't think that that's really a way we're going to move forward. And you know of these, I agree with Carrie that probably the third one down is what I would most lean towards. I think that I would suggest, and we can talk at the end how we do this, that it might be good to review it, wordsmith it, take it apart and

**T** Town Manager 47:29  
put it back together. We could do that. Katie's able to type it.

**W** woe 47:33  
So, mean, right here, right now, live, yeah. Do we want to do it here, now, tonight, or do we, I think

**M** Maglio 47:39  
that's what we're supposed to work on. We have the ability. And I would also like to state my preference for number three.

**W** woe 47:48  
Okay, Graham, are you okay with sort of using that as a starting point?

**T** Thiel 47:54  
Yeah, I think we could look at shaping the third item down with some slight modifications to tune it up a bit.

**S** Speaker 3 48:04  
Brent, okay, think enhancing should be lowercase.

**T** Town Manager 48:18  
There was a test. Glad what like, glad somebody found it. So maybe if you can blow it up. I don't know, there you go. I

**W** woe 48:53  
do we need to say anything about honoring our agricultural heritage?

H Hillis 49:01

I don't know about that one, but I'm wondering, What if there's a way that we can add in open spaces, one that I've heard consistently from the public, when they come to talk to us about what they value, it's what we worked into the mural

S Speaker 4 49:17

after. I'm

T Town Manager 49:19

not sure where to fit it in there. It's pretty

D Dolan 49:23

word we need to

H Hillis 49:27

work in. Do we need to I do we? I think we may open to ideas on this need to add in open spaces. It's a community value that I've heard consistently, and

T Town Manager 49:45

community values, if they make it in the mission statement or not, can be part of your five broad goals.

W woe 49:53

Community values are something we chose not to include in the general plan.

W woe 50:08

I can, I can add in, you know, environment sustainability Well, sustainable is there?  
Environment is not.

M Maglio 50:22

Mr. Meyers, Mr. Mayor, yeah,

W woe 50:24

just speak up. Just you don't have if

M Maglio 50:27

I could just address Kerry if you want to put an open space, perhaps we could say town rock is dedicated to enhancing community well being by protecting or protecting open space and providing and exceptional services, and then on from there. I like that, if we want

H Hillis 50:45

to add on, if we if we want to add it there, I like that.

T Thiel 50:47

Okay, yeah. So something like the town of Moraga is dedicated to preserving, as opposed to protecting our open spaces. That's good, enhancing community well being, probably comma after well being, instead of by providing. So we're just stating the things that we're doing, enhancing community well being. And someone, feel free to jump in. I wordsmith reports for people did this all day today, community well being comma instead of the word by comma, providing exceptional services and in services is this where we want to elaborate exceptional governmental services, as opposed to minimal governmental services. They can be exceptional and still be minimal and volunteer based and representative. So what services are we talking about? Do we want to define that even further, or maybe the word municipal services, exceptional municipal services,

T Thiel 52:01

that's all encompassing. It can be a long run on sentence. Instead of the and comma after services, we could probably strike that and and just keep with the run on sentence. It is a mission statement, so providing exceptional municipal services. Comma, fostering a safe, sustainable and vibrant environment for all residents. I'd love it if we end it on for all residents, and if we could fit the embracing innovation somewhere else. If that needs to stay,

D Dolan 52:39

I'm wondering whether it does. I mean, I don't want to be against innovation, but

T Thiel 52:47

no, there is innovation and sustainability, right? I

M Maglio 52:57

like the idea of at least having a future look. We're at 50 years, and I think it's important that we mention the future, whether it's mentioned in the term innovation or however, but I think looking to the future, embracing the future and moving forward to the future is important for this mission statement at this time,

T Thiel 53:23

in some fashion, sure, yeah, words like future focused might be a little too catchy.

W woe 53:30

So I'm gonna, I'm gonna introduce a overused term, perhaps, and wonder whether we should start this off by saying the town of Moraga is dedicated to continue to continuing our semi rural and semi rural character, including preserving, including open space, enhancing community, and they're move on from there, because, you know, really, the town is more than just open space, and so I have a little bit of a challenge with focusing just on open space.

H

Hillis 54:15

Also, I think that what we're trying to capture here too is preserving our protected open spaces. I think we've we've protected through the the ridge line effort, through the acquisitions by John Muir Land Trust, through our parks, a lot of the open spaces that we're looking to preserve. So I'm just wondering if there's a way to, I don't know how you can add another term in there to say that, to keep it specific, to preserving our protected open spaces,

T

Thiel 54:59

we could. Say something like preserving our semi rural character, protecting our open spaces, right? Because we want to preserve the character. But the action that we're taking for our open spaces is we are truly, as you stated, our council member Harris, protecting right? That that's that's our action for our open spaces,

H

Hillis 55:21

the key I think I'm getting, and I'm because we also have, I want to be sure that this might not be interpreted by housing, by the State Housing agency, as trying to say a shift. So what I'm the key I'm getting at is preserving our semi rural character by preserving our protected open spaces. I know it adds more words. I'm just wondering if there's a way to do it, to show that we're not trying to block development.

T

Thiel 56:00

Sure we could foster, we could foster responsible development somewhere in there, if that's part of our mission statement, that could be a little further down the line.

H

Hillis 56:12

What does enhancing community well being mean?

H

Hillis 56:20

Because I think a lot of those, the other things that we have here contribute to and I'm trying to save words, and I'm wondering whether or not we can cut enhancing community well being as the other things speak to it more directly, which then also adds space to add the verbiage that Graham just mentioned about fostering. Can you say

**T** Thiel 56:48

we have fostering, right, right? So we have fostering, safe, sustainable environment. I said responsible development.

**H** Hillis 57:02

I like that. Can we just try it so the town of Moraga is dedicated preserving our semi rural character by protecting open spaces, facilitating responsible development. Provide, yeah, then you're adding an action word in front of each one of those, so it's protecting, facilitating, providing, fostering, yep.

**W** woe 57:30

So are we going to ignore? You know, we're heading down a bad road here, guys, because education isn't, isn't education. I'll be honest with you, I haven't had anyone tell me, Hey, I'm worried about open space for a long, long time. And in fact, when I walked the town in 2018 I had about 10 people who spoke about open space. I had lots of people talking about services and traffic education.

**S** Speaker 1 58:06

Okay? So I think I

**W** woe 58:09

have her in the audience and shaking her head. So I, I, I want to keep things in balance. If we're going to, you know, go down this road to and we're starting to go down the road of, you know, diving in. I think we're out of balance.

**M** Maglio 58:30

If I could just throw a real wrench into the works here, I know there have been previous discussions. I think there was a study session with this council and the planning committee, and there was a discussion of the third rail, meaning the semi rural character. And I don't know what the upshot of that is, and I can't speak to the discussion, but I think that some feel that the semi rural character is not actually what Moraga is or not forward thinking or speaks to developers in a negative way. So I'm just asking the question, I'm I'm not. I don't have a position on that, but I'd like to hear what you all think about that term.

D

Dolan 59:25

I think it's a fair question. I mean, what makes us semi rural? We've got street standards that are Suburban. If you build anything new. We generally have sidewalks. I think the streets are wide. There's curb and gutter that. I mean, we've got the old buildings by, you know, the ranch ranch house. Those things look semi rural, and we've got some undeveloped property. And I think some people think that those trees up. Behind the commons are going to be there forever, but that's all zoned residential. That's not the open space we're protecting. You know, we're surrounded by protected open space, and some that's not as well protected. I'm referring to the project down on the end of Camino Pablo, where there's cows and there will be that semi rural you build development there, it's no longer semi rural. So I think it's a fair point, but I don't want to start a, you know, an upheaval over that traditional language and people identifying with that term.

W

woe 1:00:41

I would, I would, however, offer add that you go bollingers Out Bollinger Canyon, there's more cow grazing, cattle grazing. Yes, painted rock, there's cattle grazing. And Mulholland. Mulholland, there's cattle grazing.

D

Dolan 1:00:56

How far does the city limits go out on Bollinger? I'm sorry, how far out does the city limits go on

W

woe 1:01:03

Happy Valley Road?

H

Hillis 1:01:05

So if you drive past

D

Dolan 1:01:07

the how far past the bluffs? Like,

**T** Thiel 1:01:11  
not much further past my house.

**H** Hillis 1:01:13  
He lives at the right

**W** woe 1:01:16  
there's, there's, there are horses out there and and what else was I going to say? Oh, 70. About 70% of our border is on open space. I just estimated that the other day, and the rest of it is an Orinda, and obviously Lafayette.

**H** Hillis 1:01:35  
And I'll just share a story like so I was walking around some some here may be familiar with where I was walking around. Was walking around in my backyard, which is right next to Moraga Road. Definitely, if you're on Moraga Road suburban, you get into my my backyard, and Laguna creeks running through it, and there were like six foot long trout jumping out of the water going down to look at the trout. I saw animal trails that included Bobcat footprints and a deer trail leading up to the Mulholland Ridge, which was covered by cows, to me that all says rural. So it that that character of you know, being in a suburban community, but not I think, is the reason why, in addition to the schools, many of us moved here, given that we're not a school district, it's hard for us to really do much to foster the schools. We can add more safe places and like do add help to pay for Safe Routes to School, those types of things. But how do we how do you not lose the soul of a town? And I think the semi rural piece, while it is nebulous, I think it speaks to the soul of what we are, and given that we've defined it now, in the past, it may have been something that was established almost as a NIMBY, like, keep us the way we are, kind of thing, I think now it really just describes, you know, the things that we're trying to protect while we still try to modernize. And we, I think we have that in the general plan. So I think that, given that that is in the general plan, I think it's my view, is I would have it in there, and it also then starts to operate, you know, the the open spaces are largely protected. I don't know when the next time is the this mission statement is going to be changed. It hasn't been changed in 50 years, apparently.

**S** Speaker 5 1:03:52  
Okay, five created. You know, a lot of these things,

H Hillis 1:03:56  
the essence was created 50

T Town Manager 1:03:58  
years ago. Why we pass around and principles from the general plan is the very first one. Yeah, sorry, makes reference to semi rural character.

W woe 1:04:09  
Can I, can I say just a couple things real quick? Are you going to talk about this, Scott

W woe 1:04:18  
or right? You know, something that, something that Scott and I talked about, was that we ought to move those guiding principles to be more visible. And you know, as we we add more and more details to this mission statement, it almost again to me, says, Okay, have a high level mission statement, but have nearby, at least on the web page, these guiding principles, so that then, like you can, you can get into the to the nitty gritty, because otherwise, you know, we're going to be right.

H Hillis 1:04:53  
If somebody's going to read it and say, Well, why did they say that? And why it's like all of those things are here, we just need to. A sentence that kind of just drove our mission.

M Maglio 1:05:02  
And Steve, in reviewing other towns, mission statements, guiding principles, etc, etc, I did see those on the website, and I found that the best ones were the ones that you could read right through and see what the principles, the values were together, instead of fishing around for them.

W woe 1:05:19  
And I think you'll find all these subjects we're talking about tonight covered by these

**W** woe 1:05:27  
Okay, so does that bring us back to a higher level mission statement?

**H** Hillis 1:05:32  
Then I think so. One thing I'll just say in defense of going back to the language that's on the screen without the last I'm not sure that I so transportation technology is shifting rapidly. We've embraced this in a lot of of our prior documents. I think you had a discussion prior, Mr. Mayor, about ride hailing versus ride showed up sharing, and we're going even beyond that. Now, like any one of us can go to San Francisco and take a way mo to get to and from, and it's expanding in ROSS more, they already have an autonomous shuttle. We are slated by the Contra Costa Transportation Agency to get an autonomous shuttle at some point, which our residents have asked for, embracing those kinds of changes, bringing in it even goes with our with our town goal prior our project of resiliency for the town's energy uses. I like talking about the old, but also I we, I think we really lose something by taking that out.

**T** Thiel 1:06:46  
Yeah, and if we've got the semi rural open spaces, we've got the old at the top, we've got the middle with municipal services, responsible development, and then we can have the future and happy to work back through it.

**W** woe 1:07:04  
When Denise Did you, we talked something is that

**W** woe 1:07:10  
I saw you and Scott collaborating there? No, I didn't.

**A** Attorney 1:07:15  
I didn't draft anything I found in the general plan a discussion about that statement, semi rural character, and explaining what that means. And so I pointed that out to Scott,

**S** Speaker 4 1:07:29  
could you? Could you read that? If it's right there, it's big.

**A** Attorney 1:07:33  
It says it, since it's I'll start and just read the bullet points underneath it, since second Corporation preserving Moraga, semi rural character has been a town priority. The following attributes contribute to this character, open space, single family, residential neighborhoods, village centers, scenic views, agricultural heritage, sense of community. And for each attribute, it discusses what that means.

**H** Hillis 1:08:02  
So looking back at this language again, I would say that enhancing community well being is the same as vibrant environment for all residents, and I would lobby for removing one of those to make space for embracing innovation for the future.

**S** Speaker 4 1:08:21  
I would remove the vibrant environment.

**M** Maglio 1:08:27  
I think that vibrant environment could also, though I'm not saying don't remove it, but it could also mean a nod to economic vitality.

**H** Hillis 1:08:39  
I did like the phraseology too. Of for all residents, I think that that is key language. I

**H** Hillis 1:08:54  
just don't know what community well being means beyond what we're already speaking about.

W woe 1:08:59  
Well, if I want to, if you like, I'll address that. That's, that's really a to me, that's the more basic, broader,

W woe 1:09:16  
broader condition for the populace, beyond just vibrant.

W woe 1:09:21  
Because, you know, it's, it's, you've got a

W woe 1:09:26  
large spectrum of what well being can be, from health to mental to

H Hillis 1:09:36  
do you think that it covers key points that we're not already addressing with other parts of it. I think we're covering most of the things that foster enhancing well being.

W woe 1:09:51  
Enhancing well being, to me is it's very basic. Okay. Well, but I'll defer to the majority.

T Thiel 1:10:07  
Can I take a first pass at shaping some of this all together with a word game we're playing? Who's typing? Oh, okay. Okay, so we've got the town of Moraga is dedicated to preserving our semi rural character, protecting our open spaces, providing exceptional municipal services. Yep,

T Thiel 1:10:45  
I'll get there. Okay. You got providing exceptional municipal services,

T Thiel 1:10:56  
fostering a a safe fostering safety and resiliency. Safety and resiliency, facilitating responsible development, and we'll

T Thiel 1:11:20  
do facilitating responsible development and a vibrant, innovative and sustainable community, sustainable community. So bringing the community back,

H Hillis 1:11:38  
and I strongly believe in Oxford commerce, it's for

T Thiel 1:11:44  
for all residents.

T Thiel 1:11:51  
I like it community for all residents. I would say just it would be community for all residents, not community well being. So I'll read it through the town of Moraga is dedicated to preserving our semi rural character, but is dedicated to preserving our semi rural character. And instead of Buy, buy can be removed. Okay, that way. So town of Moraga is dedicated to preserving our semi rural character, protecting open spaces, providing exceptional municipal services, fostering safety and resiliency, facilitating responsible development and a vibrant, innovative and sustainable community for all residents. It doesn't have future, but I'd like to think there's future in innovation.

H Hillis 1:12:53  
Does it right? Should there be a comma after development,

T Thiel 1:13:00

and if we need an action word, I was thinking that facilitating responsible development, and we're also facilitating a vibrant and innovative community. So if we need another action word, we have facilitating responsible development, and if we are we providing a vibrant Foster, right? We have Foster, we have facilitate, we have providing. So I thought, if we're facilitating responsible development, we're also

H Hillis 1:13:36

facilitating would be doing the work for all.

T Thiel 1:13:38

That was my thought. That way the sentence kind of runs its way through with that action.

W woe 1:13:43

So again, I say, Where's education and also, where is fiscal responsibility?

M Maglio 1:13:50

Maybe providing exceptional municipal services implies fiscal responsibility. I don't know. That's a thought. And with regard to education, think Carrie mentioned earlier, we are not really, we're not responsible for education. That is the school district, a separate body. I know it is a value that we hold dearly, and it is very important to this community, but I'm not certain that we it should go into

W woe 1:14:23

this we support exceptional education, right? How about conserving open spaces instead of protecting that

T Town Manager 1:14:40

might be a little less onerous for

W woe 1:14:45  
and it's consistent with the guiding

H Hillis 1:14:50  
principles. Yeah,

H Hillis 1:14:53  
we're being asked to turn on our mics. I think this is since this is free. Form we should all probably sleep on for now. I agree,

T Town Manager 1:15:13  
while there's a pause as a reminder, you will have some guiding broad goals here that can cover things, the less is more.

D Dolan 1:15:23  
I'm in the camp of that it's okay to leave out education in the mission statement. I think it's covered in the guiding principles. We can do it in the broad goals. I mean, it is one of the primary reasons why people move here. I think everybody understands that, but I'm it isn't our responsibility as a council. I think that's pretty close, and I think that we should move forward and let staff Tinker for the last 10% instead

W woe 1:16:02  
of All in favor, we thumbs up. Public comment, yeah. Public comment,

T Thiel 1:16:19  
yeah, if there's something that

**W** woe 1:16:20  
we does the public have any comment on this at present? There was a question about

**K** Knapp 1:16:24  
another verb at one point, and I thought of creating good one or not, so I just thought I'd put out creating

**K** Knapp 1:16:32  
a vibrant, innovative and sustainable community. Thank you. That's good comment. Was as much as I like for all residents.

**W** woe 1:16:41  
Yeah, state your name, please.

**S** Speaker 6 1:16:45  
Casey rain. For the record, I live in the camp Melinda neighborhood. There was a comment by the council about looking for a verb. The verb that came to mind for me was and creating a vibrant, innovative and sustainable community.

**T** Thiel 1:17:01  
I would appreciate seeing that there. Thank you for that suggestion. That's an alignment.

**S** Speaker 6 1:17:06  
And the only other thing I wanted to comment on, and this is a bigger conversation, which I don't expect you to answer right now, is when we talk about creating this for residents and for all residents, I do want to remind you that there are many wonderful community members who are daily guest workers, employees and business owners here, and I really want to celebrate those, especially those business owners who who create that vibrant, innovative, exciting community.

H Hillis 1:17:41  
That's a really great point. I think that point came up when we were doing that mission statement project that we were talking about earlier. I'm wondering if we can just remove residents. It could be for all, or it could be forever. Comes here should be able to enjoy. We're not trying to be an exclusive or excluding community, eliminate residents, and I think you got

D Dolan 1:18:07  
it. Or for all stakeholders,

T Thiel 1:18:11  
yeah, and for all who live, work and play, is a little too playful. So if it landed on for all,

H Hillis 1:18:19  
because then you have the professors at St Mary's. You have,

T Town Manager 1:18:23  
yeah, all the people that come into town.

W woe 1:18:25  
That's fine. I agree, yep, well,

D Dolan 1:18:28  
uh, for all includes Orinda. Hey, hopefully they feel the same about us. Okay,

W woe 1:18:40  
okay, so are we ready for that to move on? Thumbs up, yes.

S

Speaker 1 1:18:47

Okay, move on, Mr.

T

Town Manager 1:18:58

Mayor, Members of the Council. Now we're going to move on to move on to goals and priorities. Before you start looking at the ones coming up, let's take a look. How have we done so far? There are 11 goals and priorities combined together. The first one is to work with local property owners, the chamber and the community, to create a mix of housing, revitalize the town's commercial areas, implement the housing element and continue the general plan. 2040 update effort. Well, we're proud to share we've completed this. We held over 30 meetings to move forward on the general plan. The housing element was done and it was certified by the state of California in September of 2023 and this Council adopted the general plan in November after 30 public meetings, so you can check that box next one, maintain a balanced biannual budget, 50% general fund reserve, triple A credit rating, and develop a 10 year financial strategic plan to provide long term fiscal stability and continue core municipal services. Is. So this is a combined in progress, ongoing. So the budget remains balanced. We're adhering to the reserve requirement, and we are retaining our triple A credit rating the 10 year financial strategic plan. We've started it, but it will truly be developed as part of the upcoming biannual budget process. And part of that slight delay there was the onboarding of Katie as our new CFO. The third one, complete construction of the 2023, Dash 2025, town wide. Worst streets, First Street reconstruction projects implement revised street rehab sharing. I'm sorry the street rehabilitation, sharing policy, and improve the town's overall pavement condition index. So tremendous progress here you heard a little bit earlier in the evening. So we've mister Knapp and his team have completed the majority of the second and third year of that cycle. So the 2022 dash, 2024 that's the cycle. A lot of work, several million dollars, with the projects that have been done. There's some cleanup work you heard about earlier, and some enhancements to some of the driveways and sidewalks for four or so residents on Corlys Drive. So good progress there. The pavement condition index is getting better all the time, but that's an area where this town is excelling. I did call out the public works director. He's doing a phenomenal job with his team. But again, if the voters of this town did not approve measure K a decade ago, it wouldn't be this way. Item four complete construction, very similar to the streets. This was with the storm drain, so the original projects were completed. There's some additional ARPA funding that we still had, and we're finishing those projects. I thought we had to spend it all we have. It's committed and spent, and we're just finishing up. Okay, the fifth one. Maintain high quality public safety services by providing responsive law enforcement. Continue to coordinate with Mo, F, D and completing the LA Miranda evacuation study. So a number of these are done and in progress. So the town and the fire department staff, I should say, that's not quite right. It should say the police department, the fire department, along with the general town staff, we've been working very closely to provide responsive and cooperative public safety services. We don't need to put this in writing, because the men and women of these departments do this. 20, 477, days a week, while we're here, there could be an accident out there. They're dealing with it, so we're doing a great job. In partnership, we had a community public safety meeting back in May at the middle school. Really successful event. Some of you were there, well over 100 residents, and the police chief and fire chief did an outstanding job. We had a tri agency meeting back in October. So we we had the city council from Orinda, this town council, and the board of directors from the fire district over in Orinda, we had a really productive meeting. We have a and what we've kicked off the evacuation study. So the

evacuation study, I know that's been an interesting subject of late, but what started out is Moraga trying to figure out how to do our evacuation study, which is required state law, as we update the safety element to the general plan. It evolved from there to maybe we should do it as a sub region with Orinda, Lafayette, Moraga, and from there, it escalated up to maybe we should do this as a county, since we're all in it together, and that's what we're doing. And it all started from a little more Moraga just trying to figure it out. And the CTC did get a \$1.5 million Caltrans grant to pay for this. So our transportation commission is they have the RFP on the street, or it's just about to be out, released, so slightly delayed because it's now part of a broader effort.

**H** Hillis 1:24:05

Do we have a, I'm sorry to interrupt again. Do we have an update on when it's going to be released?

**T** Town Manager 1:24:09

Probably the next two to three weeks, right? Sean, very, very, very shortly, there were some delays in securing the money from Caltrans. So before we put a proposal out there, we got to make an RFP. We got to make sure we have the money. So that's been secured. We're going to have a public safety community meeting Town Hall at St Mary's College, coming up on April 21 with the police chief and fire chief. We anticipate that that'll be well attended. So everybody who's spoken in this chamber or sent an email or a letter to us or called us, and we have their information, we will make sure they know about this meeting. We can accommodate upwards of several 100 people, if we had to more on that. So can

**T** Thiel 1:24:49

I ask two quick questions interrupt, do we know the overall timeline of the county wide evacuation study? I know we're at the beginning with the RFP defined within the RFP. Is there a greater time? Timeline for the I

**T** Town Manager 1:25:01

would, I would imagine, a year or so, but we can have Sean. Do you happen to know, or does Brian know what the timeframe would be?

K

Knapp 1:25:11

This is on. We don't have a timeframe yet. We haven't seen the final version of it that, as Scott was mentioning, they just signed the agreements with Caltrans to secure the money, and they said about three weeks before they put out the RFP, but we will inquire and get that information and report back to you as far as the time, because it's a larger project, of course, with the county, it's going to take a little longer than if it was just being run for it through us three agencies to as a project,

T

Thiel 1:25:39

sure, well understood. Would just love if we could do just that. Just report on the timeline. Yes, it's wonderful to state that we've started it. There's hopes and expectations. We just report back on when we could respect it. Thanks, Mr.

T

Town Manager 1:25:51

Mayor. Members of Council on this point, though, because there's confusion in the community. And just to clarify here, the town of Moraga has an evacuation plan. We've had one for a number of years. It's on our website. The police department maintains that, and it constantly being fine tuned and so on. So we have that plan in place. It needs to be stressed. It's not as if the town of Moraga or Orenda or Lafayette don't have plans. No, we have that the study, the evacuation study, different word, one's a plan, one's a study. There was a lot of confusion when we had a development project and that was being discussed in this room. The study is a new thing that's required by the state of California for all municipalities to update their safety element to the general plan. We are doing that. Okay? So I just don't want anybody to think we're not prepared or because we don't have this study, we don't know how to guide the community if there's an incident. Alright? So very important, we understand that. Alright. Now we move on to item number six. Excuse me. Commence preparation of a recreation and open space master plan. We have done that. We had the RFP seven proposals came in. We anticipate selecting a consultant next month, so staff is going through reviewing those. Work would commence on June 1. That's the estimated time frame that will come to council, because we have to award the contract, and then it's projected to be completed by next November, 2026

H

Hillis 1:27:26

interrupt again, and what are the scoring criteria? Criteria we're using. You have seven respondents. It's pretty great. But how are you grading? Who's going to be one that we're voting for?

T Town Manager 1:27:38

Can you would throw a curve ball at me? I don't know Mackenzie Brady is here. We will use the appropriate criteria to do that. So I don't know, off the top of my head,

T Town Manager 1:27:49

if I may, the Katie Brent Administrative Services Director, the scoring criteria was outlined in the RFP that was released, and that should still be available on the website. But if not, it would be included that way the respondents know what they are being okay, graded against. Thank you.

T

Town Manager 1:28:08

Okay, so we have made progress. We will not con Well, we were directed to commence that. So we achieved that. We've commenced Okay, item seven, implement measures to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety along streets and roads, especially near schools, and address congestion. So a number of things have been completed. They're listed up here, and the Moraga Road and camp Leno area traffic safety plan and the construction improvements out there. Those are some of the improvements that are envisioned. There's more to come, but we're making very good progress on that, as well as the bottom three items there, the Corliss drive sidewalk improvements that we just talked about and the design for the Camino Pablo safety improvements near the middle school. And we staff has submitted six grant applications for \$4.2 million for specific projects. So we're we're moving along here. The eighth item lessen the town's impact on the environment by implementing environmental sustainability and resiliency initiatives, including those contained in the town's Climate Action Plan and facility energy generation study. So in progress, we have implemented water efficient landscaping, installed recycled Park equipment, and followed the vegetation best management practices. So your staff is always trying to figure out we're motivated by it's good for the environment. It's the green thing, right thing to do, but also the cost savings, as the cost of water is is rising, we're also taking measures to harden our facilities, to reduce the threat of fire, and we've received authorization now on the the energy generation topic, to prepare the RFP from the various providers. So we're going through that process, we're going to have an update. Coming up in March, march 12. Alright, so we're running into challenges. I'll just tell you, give you advance heads up. Running into challenges with the library property, if we are to have energy generation there, because of the right away, in front and on the side, with the utilities, it's becoming very, very challenging for us to have solar panels and with all the big trees in the back. So we may be scaling the project back. We'll come we'll come in here with it, with an update. It may just be this facility in town hall, but we will see. So I apologize for the delay there, but we have to do it right. All right. So we have that one, and then we have, we're going to have an update, as I mentioned on March 12. Okay, let's move on. Number nine is to review the town's fee schedule, development fees and other potential fees that would benefit the community, such as a fee for the arts, landscaping, storm water, drainage, transient occupancy, tax, etc. You had a fairly robust discussion about this topic. It'll be part of the upcoming budget, and we know as your staff there are, there's still deficiencies in town in terms of how we maintain our medians or parkways or landscape area. We do have landscape lighting district for street lights for some neighborhoods. This could be expanded to include the landscape areas, which would significantly beautify the town, but that would be a decision for the voters, so we are taking a look at that. Another issue is the transient occupancy tax, a bed tax. We don't have any hotels, but we have Airbnb, and there's not a whole lot of money, but 10 to 20 to 30,000 a year, if not more, that could easily be received if we if we had a t o t, and if there is a hotel that ends up in town at some point. So we're going to take a look at that. I think the mayor wants, wants to say something, yeah, I just want to say that your church

W

woe 1:32:07

and rentals, I don't know if you notice that,

T

Town Manager 1:32:13

but also the food trucks, yeah, that's coming up, so stay tuned. Alright, that topic, okay, fees, we cover that. Alright, the 10th item on the the list of 11 continue to improve, the town gown relationship with St Mary's College. So a lot of exciting things have happened over the last year. Really proud this is ongoing and completed, but it's actually it'll go on forever. There's a new college president, and he was welcomed to the community. And we, as your as your staff, and as the council, have participated in a number of meetings with the Board of Trustees, the college president, administrators, professors, support staff, students, lots of, lots of really good stuff going on there. And the town, we did use, and we have used and will continue to use facilities out there for community meetings. And I wanted to put on here that the college president and town manager are totally committed to working closely together to implement the vision from the Board of Trustees as well as the town council. And as fact, is just a few hours ago, I did get a communication from Dr Thompson, the college president, following up on an item, and we're constantly in communication

H

Hillis 1:33:30

vice mayor, just as a follow up on that, is there any possibility to for us to have a joint meeting with the College Board of Trustees and the council, I think we don't know them, and they're one of the other more important bodies here in town, and I just think it would be helpful for us, for us to get updates on what their priorities are, and for them to hear what ours are.

T

Town Manager 1:33:56

It's a good, good, good question, and timely, because two of you are now on the committee to deal with the college, and I've already started a discussion. I believe Lisa and Brent, you're on there, right? So in response to feedback I received from the two of you, already reached out to Dr Thompson and broach the subject, can we have our two folks interact with representatives from the board, and then the doctor Thompson did facilitate a meeting. Steve, you were there, right? And Theresa, the former mayor, so the mayor, Vice Mayor, I don't know if other council members went and myself. We went to an event over there. We went to a basketball game, and then we had an event, a little get together, like hors d'oeuvres, with members of the Board of Trustees. So it was a really special night. Here we were, and we got to meet some of them, and they got to see some of us, and there was some Mystique on both sides about the perception of who's who. So yes, we're starting that we can certainly do more. Thank you. And in fact, also with the new. CFO. Roger and I were talking about possibly, and I want to make sure he's 100% on board and having the CFO come in and say hello to the five view. So we'll follow up on that. Okay, right. So from that, I take it,

W

woe 1:35:18

Lisa and Brian, you guys will look at whether it makes sense to have a confab

T Town Manager 1:35:26

organization, and there will always be opportunities for all five of you to do stuff with the college always. So okay, 11, update the town wide noise ordinance, so this this has been put on hold. The goal is to have it revive revisited next year. We have not forgot about it.

H Hillis 1:35:47

But if I, if I may, is there a reason that's been put on hold? Is it staffing, or are there other reasons that I'm not supposed to know about? There's reason, reasons that I may be recused?

T Town Manager 1:35:58

Well, I'm going to be totally transparent. Okay, there's been some challenges with the Hacienda and neighborhood, so we do not want to complicate matters or irritate the neighborhood or anything. So we're we're going to wait till that issue is resolved, and then we'll revisit the noise ordinance, understood. All right, okay, that's a report card on that. Now let's talk about going forward. So we're suggesting to separate goals and priorities, and we're suggesting you down to five broad goals. Please, please work with us, five broad goals and 10 specific top 10 priorities. They're 100% yours.

T

Town Manager 1:36:46

Okay? Now what I'm doing here, don't get overwhelmed by this, alright, so all five of you have submitted your suggested goals and priorities, and I got some I'll also receive feedback from the department heads. So what I've, I've done here is I've there are like 50 of them or so. So I'm putting them into categories because they fall into different categories. And coincidentally, there's five categories, and the first one's land use. So bear with me. You have the hard copies of this in front of you. I'm going to go with my my notes here, just because I want to make sure I can read it. So there are six land use type of goals that you've articulated. You, you may I would suggest you come up with one that would cover this. Don't, don't feel like make a decision right now. Let's run through these. We'll go through all of them, and then we'll come back so you can digest it. So these goals now remember, these are not supposed to be targeted things to do just sort of broad statements. And one is facilitate high quality infill and mixed use development within the Moraga Town Center and ream Valley shopping center area, so your two commercial areas which have been rezoned to accommodate mixed use and housing. That's one possible component dealing with land use. Another is to lessen the town's impact on the environment by implementing environmental sustainability and resiliency initiatives. These sort of go together, because if you facilitate good infield development in the shopping centers, they should be environmentally sustainable and resilient. The third one is produce quality and diverse housing options. Again, see how they it goes together. Four is achieve a positive business environment. Five, protect and enhance the character and quality of existing neighborhoods and ensure new development positively contributes to the community. So I believe that one is sending a message that the traditional single family neighborhoods are going to remain intact, that I know that's a value of all of you, but in order to do that, you have the infill development.

H

Hillis 1:39:02

Can we promise that though? I mean, with with state law, with what is SB nine, SB 10,

T

Town Manager 1:39:07

yeah, it's a goal. Okay, so, yeah,

A

Attorney 1:39:11

these aren't legally binding statements. These are aspirational. They're aspirational that the council as a body decides to to adopt collectively.

**T** Town Manager 1:39:26

And so we're being very transparent and very direct as your staff, because we we have a pretty good sense of the sentiment of the community, and you saw it in here the other night, back in January 15. And really what's at play here is residents who live in single family neighborhoods want to see the character of those neighborhoods stay intact, and by the policies that you've adopted, that is the goal of the council. However, SB 910 say, if you own a house, you could put upwards of four housing units on that on that price. Property. We can't control that, but by having this value statement, we're doing our best to protect the integrity of those neighborhoods.

**W** woe 1:40:11

Scott, just a quick note. I think number four, achieve a positive business environment really belongs in your under your fifth category, not land use.

**T** Town Manager 1:40:19

Council can move anywhere you want. We did our best to put it together, yeah. And then the last one here is protect and maintain moragas existing single family neighborhood, so that flows with number five. So Council one possibility, and you maybe we should go through all the other ones and we'll come back. But under land use, if you put it all together, really falling underneath item one there and then wordsmith it. I think you can achieve

**H** Hillis 1:40:45

I think, like smthing is needed for five, for five and six. I don't think I think five captures six, but I would just be concerned for have our town attorney and our planning director review that one to ensure that there wouldn't be any potential blowback from Yeah,

**T** Town Manager 1:41:04

housing agent. Well, let's cut. We can come back. But the goal, the goal of this goal, is you have one i one land use goal statement, so we'll come back. Let's go to the next grouping. Okay, this falls under the category of financial I special. So, three, three, there were some repeats and so on. So we did our best to consolidate them. So the first one is to maintain a balanced budget. This is what you have already in place. Maintain a balanced budget, 50% reserve, triple A credit rating. Develop 10 year financial strategic plan to provide long term fiscal sustainability and core municipal services. So that's in place now. It's a good goal. That's an option for you. The next one is ensure that the organization remains financially viable and sustainable. That's sort of particle one. And then the third one, attract and retain town employees who are committed to excellence and quality services to the community. We put that there. We weren't sure where to put that, but there's a financial component to that. So

let's come back to financial. Let's go on to the next session or section infrastructure. We consolidate down to five potential items continue, or the first one continue to implement street rehab projects, street rehab cost sharing policy, and improve the town's overall pavement condition index. By the way, for the new council members, let me, let me clarify in the middle that the street rehabilitation cost sharing policy, the previous council did take a bold step, after a lot of study and deliberation, that when the town goes into a neighborhood and reconstructs a street or does street payment work using measure K money and the curb cutter, sidewalk or apron needs to be worked on, instead of requiring the homeowner to pay for that work. Because the in Moraga, the homeowner is responsible for the sidewalk, curb, gutter, apron, etc. But when we have measure K money that's working on the street, if the sidewalks and all that need to be done, it's the policy now of the city council to use measure K money for that, and we have retroactively reimburse people who did pay for that. So that's what that's all about. The second one is continue to construct the storm drain capital improvement projects and maintenance projects. The third is improve traffic levels of service within the town, including bicycle and pedestrian circulation, for upgrade, improve and maintain a viable town wide public infrastructure network, including parks and recreation facilities. And five, implement measures to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety along streets and roads, especially near schools, and address congestion. So there's overlap here, and you could pretty much say all this by condensing it and consolidating it into one item, we can come back to that. I'm sorry I went too fast. All right, after infrastructure is public safety, there's four items here maintain high quality public safety services by providing responsive law enforcement and fire prevention and suppression services through Mo, F, D, to ensure that Moraga is safe and prepared to respond to emergencies. The next one, somewhat similar, maintain and improve public safety for all residents and visitors through the provision of of quality law enforcement and emergency response services, including continued cooperation with mlfd on fire safety and emergency preparedness, ensuring a sense of well being throughout the community. The third one protect public health and safety, taking into consideration both natural and human caused. Hazards and the fourth continue the town's priority efforts in enhanced la Miranda disaster preparedness and evacuation work with funded studies, implementation measures, public awareness, outreach and partnering with disaster response groups and agencies. Staff believes you can consolidate these into one statement that does it all, police, fire, evacuation, preparedness, the last category is quality of life. Wasn't sure quite how to label this, but these all appear in a deal with quality of life. Four items protect and enhance the community's open space, hillsides, ridge lines, parks, recreation areas and natural beauty. In other words, all the really cool things about Moraga, right, all the quality of life, items, Second, ensure citizen participation in towns and the town's decision making process or processes. Sorry, and work closely with adjacent jurisdictions and other agencies on issues of mutual concern. Third, foster partnerships to expand opportunities across sectors. Fourth, maintain educational quality and Moraga through working closely with local school districts and St Mary's College. There you have it, taking all the goals that came in and putting them in five categories. Now it's back to the council.

H

Hillis 1:46:26

Think I have some because I didn't get a chance to submit them that aren't covered in this. How do you want to start

W Woe 1:46:37  
this? You want to read them? Yeah.

H Hillis 1:46:41  
Ultimately, we want to categorize them

W woe 1:46:43  
and wordsmith, yes. Is it possible that we start with these and then, unless you have one that is,

H Hillis 1:46:51  
I have some that are pretty I'll just go over some of the ones that I have as and if people don't like them at all. One that I have is develop and implement a plan to encourage property and business owners to develop their properties within the parameters of current zoning and show notable progress to eradicating existing blight and under you, from underutilized properties within the town's two large shopping centers, that's I think that we have done a lot to add substantial 10s of millions of dollars worth of value with our zoning efforts. I think that we also need to explore other options.

W woe 1:47:36  
Might bring that back also as a priority. No

H Hillis 1:47:40  
see another I think I don't remember seeing the same goal that we had last year regarding at the town, exploring other funding opportunities, but develop a plan to secure reoccurring funding to improve the town's public infrastructure, in which so it would be in the infrastructure, but it's including streets, sidewalks, meetings, parkways, landscape areas, parks, recreational facilities. But I wondering if that would be where our previous discussions from the prior Council of expanding the lighting district to a lighting and landscaping district. Currently, our lighting district only encompasses, I believe all buildings that were here when we were incorporated, and not the ones that have been built since. Oh, and then, in addition, we don't have a landscaping district as many communities do, which allow for beautification efforts on our main roadways.

**T** Town Manager 1:48:36

Anything else, yep, I need to interject. I apologize. So there's the broad goals, and then there's the specific priorities. So those appear under the priorities. We're not are we doing goals now? Yeah, we're doing broad Okay, never mind. Yeah, sorry. Then I'll go back to my priorities later. Okay, very good. My, my

**W** woe 1:48:56

so should we go back to the first one and and work our way through it?

**W** woe 1:49:00

I see Graham is shaking his head. Brent,

**D** Dolan 1:49:04

I think this is going to be really difficult to do as five people, almost every category. Scott said, you can see that these can be squished. I say, have staff squish them into one thing, and we can decide whether we like it if we try and sit here and wordsmith every single one of these, I mean,

**W** woe 1:49:28

because we maybe, maybe we should look at it each once more.

**D** Dolan 1:49:33

And I think everybody should throw out their comments on like, what, what they want in it, and then let staff do the word smithing.

**W** woe 1:49:43

That's what I was sort of gonna communicate. Okay, is that? Is that a workable thing?

H Hillis 1:49:49

Support that? Yeah, so, like the, just to be sure, I'm understanding how we're doing because it's different than way we did it in prior years. So the first one that I mentioned, which would be the. Helping to encourage the reduction of blight,

T Town Manager 1:50:02

that would be a priority.

H Hillis 1:50:05

Got it? Okay, cool, yeah, understood.

W woe 1:50:11

This is land use comments by folks.

D Dolan 1:50:15

I think everything of substance in there is I'm I some supportive. But I do think it can be squished into one statement that pretty much covers it all. Can I? Can I? And I also agree that the positive business, well, never mind,

T Town Manager 1:50:34

we could take out the reference to the single family neighborhoods, if that's because that that's kind of a given.

H Hillis 1:50:41

I don't know I I would appreciate so, because there's a six here, right? Six, I think is, is too strongly worded and would get us in trouble with the state five. I would just appreciate a review by our town attorney and acting planning director to see whether or not there's anything that's radioactive.

W

woe 1:51:01

Do we need to revisit as to what goals should be and what they should not be? Because, you know, as we've discussed, goals are not down into the specifics, right? That's correct. So goals, broad, broad, they're like, they could go from budget cycle to budget cycle. They could be there for years, right? But no specific metrics, that's right, that would be in the priorities. So let's keep that in mind. And you know, like facilitate high quality infill mix within Moraga Town Center. I wonder whether Moraga Town Center, you know, referencing those two particular areas is maybe too specific, as opposed to, if you have a goal, you can say in the commercial corridors, or, yeah, you know, if we have something that references commercial health,

T

Town Manager 1:51:52

that's good, yeah, the vast majority of the in film mixed use will be in those properties. So you could say commercial corridors, that that's more generic. That's actually a good, good point, great point.

W

woe 1:52:03

So it's to pull out the meat without getting specific, an oxymoron.

T

Town Manager 1:52:15

I think we get the land use.

T

Thiel 1:52:19

And are we striking number six in part for some potential, yep, state related. And arguably, there are other neighborhoods than single family, but that's probably the predominant housing type in the community.

T

Town Manager 1:52:34

I think also, I try to be sensitive as your town manager, the single family neighborhoods are the heart and soul of Moraga, and we just need to be sensitive to that at the same time provide opportunities for people who can't afford to be here. All right,

W woe 1:52:54

I think you can consolidate some of the first four into five, yeah, and that's sort of where I'm we get it since I proposed it anyway, yeah, and

A Attorney 1:53:05

I just wanted to add that, of course, we would look at as we revise. We want to make sure we're consistent with the housing element and the general plan. All of these must be consistent with those documents.

W woe 1:53:21

Thank you. Any other comments on this? This one guys,

S Speaker 4 1:53:27

so, okay,

T Town Manager 1:53:31

no, that's fine, okay. For the financial piece, we could put this into one the first one there pretty much covers it as item two is implied in one, and the attracting, retaining town employees, that's absolutely driving force for us. It doesn't necessarily need to be in the goal, but it's up to council.

W woe 1:53:55

That's almost more a priority. I think I gotta profess I don't like any three, any of the three, the first one is, is, forgive me, if I'm too direct in that first one is too specific.

W woe 1:54:11

You know, it's, it's now we're, we're getting a goal that's into the almost priorities, okay? But I think that

W woe 1:54:21  
we certainly have always communicated the requirement that we be fiscally responsible, balanced budget, able to cover our our debts. How

T Town Manager 1:54:36  
about maintain a balanced budget

T Thiel 1:54:39  
and then skip

H Hillis 1:54:39  
to provide long term. Does the number two cover it in a more succinct way? It does actually.

T Thiel 1:54:47  
And do we want to include exploring funding that would be a priority? That's a priority. Okay, thank you.

T Town Manager 1:54:53  
Sure that we remain financially viable and sustainable. I mean, that's that's the crux of it. I agree. In other words, we have to live. Than our means.

W woe 1:55:01  
If you have to expand a little bit to say including balanced

- W** woe 1:55:04  
budgets, or you can make an argument that number three might also be captured in number two, because cost of employee turnover is more than double the cost of somebody's annual salary.
- T** Town Manager 1:55:18  
It's yeah, something to consider, so we can wordsmith that, but focus on remaining financially viable and sustainable.
- S** Speaker 3 1:55:27  
Okay, good. Thumbs up, everybody.
- D** Dolan 1:55:31  
Yes, okay,
- T** Town Manager 1:55:35  
so infrastructure.
- T** Town Manager 1:55:44  
Right? Number four sort of encompasses much of it, right? I agree.
- W** woe 1:55:49  
Yes, it needs to be expanded
- T** Town Manager 1:55:50  
a bit. Yeah, so public infrastructure, or the streets and the roads and the storm drains, but it's also the parks, recreation facilities and general infrastructure buildings

**H** Hillis 1:56:02  
might need to if there's a way to pull out some of the slightly more specifics from five into four,

**T** Town Manager 1:56:10  
yeah, yeah, I agree. Okay, we'll focus on that again, as with the financial one, we want to make sure our facilities are properly maintained and they're sustainable, and we don't go back into neglect. This town suffered severe neglect, right? So we need to come up with, how can we be sustainable?

**W** woe 1:56:33  
Okay? The thing is, three addresses, traffic, levels of service,

**T** Town Manager 1:56:42  
yeah, that that would be we, I would say, just strike that we know that that's a given. Okay, okay, and then the storm range and street you rehab that falls under four, right? Okay, great.

**T** Town Manager 1:57:02  
How public safety, there's some duplication in some of these. So again, we could wordsmith that or consolidate so we make sure we cover law enforcement, fire, evacuation, preparedness.

**W** woe 1:57:15  
Do we have to say much more than number three?

**T** Town Manager 1:57:19  
That's a good one. Yeah.

**T** Thiel 1:57:23  
Let's make sure we have public awareness and outreach. Yeah, I think that's a critical item,

**T** Town Manager 1:57:28  
yeah, that's maintained to get it out there public awareness and what was other part public awareness and engagement?

**T** Thiel 1:57:34  
Yeah, I think in the next slide, there's a similar statement that we could probably borrow from.

**T** Town Manager 1:57:41  
Okay, okay, so let me go the next one, quality Oh, back Yes, yes, quality of life.

**T** Town Manager 1:57:59  
See, this is where we get to the open space and all the other stuff you were talking about under the mission statement.

**H** Hillis 1:58:15  
Three and two are sort of the same thing, except for the citizens participation is more, yeah,

**T** Town Manager 1:58:22  
I think one encompasses it.

**W** woe 1:58:28  
Love to have, you know, citizen participation included in quality of life.

**T** Town Manager 1:58:35

I agree. Let us try to figure out how to get that in there. Yeah, one and two are not very well aligned. We'll figure out where it can flow in here. Okay, okay, so I'm hearing one and the first part at two and three and four, not necessarily as a goal.

**H** Hillis 1:58:56

Okay? Is four is for a goal or a priority.

**T** Town Manager 1:58:59

It's more of a priority, I would say,

**W** woe 1:59:03

thumbs up, everybody, yep. Now, Kate out there, Casey, Casey, excuse me. Casey, forgive me. I we rushed through this without getting your input.

**T** Thiel 1:59:19

Yes, please, do we need to open it to public comments and

**W** woe 1:59:24

state your name once again? Please? Is a microphone on Yes,

**H** Hillis 1:59:32

sounds like it is

P

Planning Dir 1:59:37

Casey rain Campbell neighborhood. I'm very impressed by the quality of the discussion here. I really love where this is going. The only thing I wanted to add, with respect to what town manager Mitnick was saying about the predominant single family character of our community, was just a recognition of the. In terms of quality life and in terms of recognition, the need to be very deliberate to thinking not just about families, and not just about families with young children, but also around youth, our teenagers, those who are college age, and most importantly, our seniors and the growing number of seniors in our community, particularly those who are living alone and isolated and maybe at risk of becoming disconnected from their community. And I really hope that as you explore ways to strengthen not just recreation opportunities, but quality of life in terms of Citizen community wellness in like the health and behavioral health terms of wellness that you especially think about our seniors and older Americans living in Morocco. Thank you.

S

Speaker 4 2:00:49

Thank you.

H

Hillis 2:00:52

I think that's a fair comment. Of course,

W

woe 2:00:57

any any feedback from you guys?

T

Town Manager 2:01:01

Thank you. Now we're now we're going to go to part three Priorities, priorities for next two years. So these are the more definitive things you want to see us get done in this two year cycle to achieve your mission statement and your five broad goals. Okay, again, we put them into categories, roughly 10 categories. You did do my stuff, which we tried to make the print as small as possible. What happened here? Oh, okay, land use. So there were a lot of them that came at us, so we tried our best to combine them and be true to the specific ones that you submitted. So Carrie, you'll see what you were trying to get at earlier. Thank you. Okay, and thank you for being patient with us. We're trying to, I know we're shifting a little bit and how we do things, but I believe you're going to really like the end product when we're done. All right, first, under land use, develop and implement a plan to encourage property and business owners to develop their properties within the parameters of the general plan and show notable progress to eradicate existing blight and underutilized properties within the town's two large shopping centers, we can change that to commercial areas. So and I know I've talked to a couple you talked to me about this concept, I'm willing, as your town manager, to kind of put our staff's neck on the line a little bit here, because it's really important this this town has spent two decades, decades, over 100 meetings, struggling with how to turn around these underdeveloped properties, and you've made very difficult decisions and updating specific plans, getting a housing element approved, redoing the general plan, and lots of battles, right? So here you are. There's incredible opportunity for these property owners. You've given them 10s of millions of dollars in added value by allowing housing and infill and beautiful development should take place in Moraga. There's no reason why it doesn't, but property owners have rights. You don't have to develop your property, you don't have to make money, you don't have to make improvements, you have to adhere to codes and all that. Right. Can't have dangerous situations. So this is pushing your staff to go out and make something happen and come up with a game plan. At the city manager's conference I went to, I forgot to mention, I went to a session on this very topic. You've heard me say, I'm going to say it here again, the state of California has given communities like Moraga incredible tools to facilitate good infield development. There's a lot of money, even with what's going on in Washington, there's still a lot of money out there for projects like the Moraga Town Center resiliency funds that can help protect the stream and in the environmental components of that part of town. I'm sorry if I'm going off on this, but I sat in that session, and I was like, that's us. They're talking about us. So this, this is a way to sort of force the issue, to have more attention.

W

woe 2:04:12

Scott, if I can ask in that session, I'm aware of previous efforts by some cities, I think, San Francisco being one of them to actually tax owners who have vacant properties over a certain period of time. And was that a was that surface discussed?

T

Town Manager 2:04:33

And I'm aware that top council member, David Shapiro, when he was on the council, he floated that idea. And I believe in San Francisco, Palo Alto, maybe somewhere in Lake Tahoe area, it's been used now, I would say this transparent. It's premature to even think about that here. It's certainly a tool in your toolbox, but it is a really negative, heavy handed tool that. Would take years to realize the desired outcome, and it would involve a lot of litigation, and it sends the wrong message. Now that's the ultimate tool, but they're, they're they're okay. People have property rights. We have to be very careful. But when people think about Moraga, I hear it all the time from the residents. You hear it all the time, way more than we do. But why aren't? Why are these centers so run down and so on, and I don't know, but property owners have property rights, but there are some tools, and I as your stuff, I'd like to go out there and

W

woe 2:05:33

try to make it so I didn't want to send us down

D

Dolan 2:05:36

a rapid trail. But this is something I've been wanting to actually talk about, maybe a half measure instead of Max taxing vacancies is just a property maintenance ordinance. I mean, I've dealt with them before, and you know, if, if the thing just needs paint, you know, and it's demons, you can demonstrate that it does. They're obligated to do something about it, and we've got lots of that stuff. Yeah. I mean, that's sort of a simplistic thing. Well, I mean, it would include that too, and yes, there is a negative connotation to it, and we have to think seriously about how much of that we want to do, but I think it is a tool that we should start looking at

H

Hillis 2:06:23

also ask a question on this. So I'm wondering whether or not inclusive within this would be the town exploring potential public private partnerships, where, if there are opportunities for the town, say, to become an investor in one of these to help encourage development. I just want to be sure that we're thinking creatively. I think we have a very narrow window of opportunity

W

woe 2:06:52

at this point.

T

Town Manager 2:06:54

Should we move forward? Yeah, if I can just clarify the key in this is the first four five words, develop and implement a plan. So we're hearing some samples of what could be in that plan. So if you like the general wording of the first one, we can, we can tackle this. And by the way, this would involve a meeting two or three with the council as we go through this. But if we have willing property owners, and you certainly have a willing local government, and there's all these other willing third parties. If we can all get together and align, great things can happen in Moraga. So that's the first one, the second one, and these are all related. The second one is accelerate efforts to collaborate with local and non local property owners as well as local and non local developers and the community to achieve a balanced and high quality housing mix. That's part of this, by the way housing and commercial land use go together. Now that's that's California. Three, take proactive steps toward producing Moraga share of affordable housing and demonstrate compliance with the town's arena numbers and state requirements. So that's an example of a priority, right? And the fourth obtain project approvals of pending development proposals for properties within the Moraga center specific plan. We list some the Green Valley shopping center, properties, Park Street, affordable housing site, 380 Moraga Road. This is showing you these are things that need to get done, and you're going to hold us accountable to get it done. Now that doesn't necessarily have to be in here. Be in here, but that's an example.

H

Hillis 2:08:24

What category does the food truck idea fit under the quality? We're not there yet. Okay, cool. Be patient. Want to be sure we get it covered.

T

Town Manager 2:08:32

Yeah, so we'll come back to this. Okay, we'll come back. Let's move on from land use financial. We were on land use? Yeah, we're moving on to financial. Food Truck will come up. Just be patient. Okay, complete the long term financial strategic plan to ensure that the town remains financially sustainable. So that's a good example of a priority. Get this thing done next is review the town's fee schedule, development fees and other potential fees that would benefit the community. So we talked about this earlier. So this is getting more in the details. Three, develop a spending plan for the Paulos, Colorado developer fund. So one of you expressed concern about this. We we had before, as we were directed, talked about with council, we don't do anything with this fund until we get a recreation or park and open space planned, blah, blah, blah, get that sucker done. Then talk about how you might spend this money. I can ask a follow up.

H

Hillis 2:09:29

So we had to, I think almost verbatim is one of our goals for last year. I think what we're trying to get at is the town crafting a ballot measure that can establish some of these things, the landscaping and lighting district, the the to T other code cleanup that we that we may need. And I'm just wondering, is there a way that we can better action orient that item so that. It's actually on staff's scope for accomplishing potentially this year on the ballot.

T

Town Manager 2:10:07

So that would be under item one. All this falls under long term financial strategic plan, okay? And that would be a component of that. Okay, so recall I when I was hired, we talked about some of these things, and I said to the Council at the time as your new town manager, I don't want to pursue any of this stuff until I see the big picture. Sure, right? So we have to see how all this stuff is connected. And that's the beauty of a long term finance and strategic plan.

H

Hillis 2:10:32

So in terms of prioritizing it, though, so that we can ensure that it gets done in the nearer term. That's right, I don't know

T

Town Manager 2:10:42

that would be part of the plan, and it would be in front of you within a few months, so

H

Hillis 2:10:46

you'll bring it back to us, and then we would also find out, like, who would craft this? I assume the town attorney would play a role. That's right, we would know process,

T

Town Manager 2:10:53

yeah, okay. And I will tell you, if you do a revenue measure, some of your staff have been through revenue measures and learn lots of lessons from it. You have to do extensive community outreach. Now, I know in this town, one of the source subjects is storm I won't even look at Sean storm drain funding. Okay, prior to Sean's coming here, there was a measure I'm not here to debate the pros and cons. But what I heard from the residents is, we didn't know we were really voting for is a big number. So if you're going to go to the voters in a conservative place like Moraga, you have to be clear, articulate what you're doing. Measure K did that told them, and we've demonstrated 10 years of success. So that's how any other revenue sources would have to be pursued. So those beat up meetings and parkways that you see throughout Moraga, there's a way to deal with that for a very relatively small amount of money, but it would involve a vote of the residents, right?

W

woe 2:11:47

So I take it and this 123, and four will greatly get incorporated into number one, into one. Yeah. Okay, okay, everybody. Okay, yep.

S

Speaker 1 2:11:58

Infrastructure on that one, okay,

T

Town Manager 2:12:02

infrastructure, develop a plan to secure recurring funding to improve the town's public infrastructure, including some of the things we just we talked about, complete the town facilities, energy generation study. When does measure K sunset, 10 years? That'd be part of long term financial Strategic Plan, Do we go to the voters to extend that for indefinitely, or 10 or 20 years? Number three, complete construction of the the street reconstruction projects. The next one is complete construction of the next cycle of storm drain. Five is develop an approach to secure funding to improve the town's public infrastructure and relieve the current burden placed on homeowners. So some of these, such as one in five, that would be part of the long term financial strategic plan. I'm seeing that now. I didn't see that earlier. So under infrastructure, if there's something that's really important to you, like the town facilities, energy generation study, or specific infrastructure project. This would be a good spot to tell us.

H

Hillis 2:13:03

Can you just share because some of the folks weren't on the council at the time, the concern that was raised by the resident and who had over \$100,000 bill to fix a storm drain and like, what the like how that works in Moraga, which is different than other places,

T

Town Manager 2:13:21

yeah, I'll do my best to Sean will keep me honest if I stray so in in Morocco, and I believe over a dozen, maybe as many, 16 of the 19 cities in Contra Costa County have a variation of this. So it's more of a tradition in this part of the state, where it's part of what we incorporate as a minimal government and all that to keep costs low to the taxpayer. So in terms of infrastructure, so you buy a house in Moraga, if there's a storm drain under your property, or a sidewalk in front of your house, or without a curb, a gutter, an apron, even a street tree, the responsibility to maintain and replace that type of infrastructure is on you, so we'll pick on Kerry. You mentioned earlier, you have a creek in your backyard. There is a culvert back there, right with concrete that may be your responsibility, because on private property, there's an example not too far for Mr. Hillis lives, where a gentleman has a family has a storm drain that goes through their side yard from the front street back to a creek. They're responsible for that, even though they don't immediately benefit from from that. I guess they do, because the conveyance of water. But it's 10s of 1000s of dollars to their is it

D

Dolan 2:14:41

in a public easement?

T

Town Manager 2:14:43

No, many, oh, Sean John can explain that, boy,

W

woe 2:14:48

we're diving data. No, it's okay. That's fine.

T

Town Manager 2:14:51

It illustrates the point, though, the question,

K

Knapp 2:14:57

make sure this is on, okay, shap, your public works. Director, and I try not to go too far into the into the the deep creeks here, but you know, the county had set up before we're incorporated, the responsibility, as Scott was pointing out, that all the storm drain systems, all the public infrastructure that's in the public right of way, but in fronting a house is the responsibility of the private property owners. We just, we just accepted that when we incorporated and we made some changes over time, and we have a new policy to help our population pay for some of these things with measure K. But we do. We do not have a policy for taking over storm drain systems. So we did go through a ballot measure to look at ways to fund that, and that did not pass. And so the town has stepped back purposely and to concentrate on only public repair of public systems under public properties, public right away. So it still remains that the private property owner that does not have an easement that is in the name of the town to maintain it, they may have a reserve, they may have an easement, but if it's not in the name of the town, the town doesn't have responsibility. There is limited locations that the town has taken over for various reasons, agreements that have occurred for various reasons. The Town Council has accepted those and recorded those legally with the county. They the example that was mentioned earlier, the property owner did fix that system at, you know, and they hire, you know, private contractors, not having to do prevailing wages. It's typically less expensive than what will we do it? And they find the most economic way that they can find and maintain their system, and we give them notice. If there's an issue, it's

W

woe 2:16:49

something we're going to need to look at, yeah, because there, there are various categories of storm drains, and, you know, we may want to look at Yeah.

T

Town Manager 2:16:59

And so, having received direction from Council, we're trying to do long and short of it, we're trying to come up with the safest, best, least costly approach for the individual homeowner. So we're trying to share when there's a community benefit, the community is taking care of us,

H

Hillis 2:17:17

and follow up. Another example of where this has gone arise was at Star gas, right where they had there was the sinkhole, because the storm drain collapsed. But we had to wait for them and their process to get it fixed, because it was, there was no secured public easement. Is that correct?

K

Knapp 2:17:37

Yeah, that's they it's under a private properties. It spans two private properties. The sinkhole was crossing the town actually went in and did abatement issue against the property because it was a public nuisance, a public health issue with a large hole in the middle roadway on a private Street. And we basically back charged the property owners for that work, but it did take quite an effort to go through that process, and we try to execute, you know, the property owners of their responsibilities.

H

Hillis 2:18:10

Thank you. Sorry to belabor this. It was just, it's, I think there's more there than most of the public knows.

W

woe 2:18:15

I absolutely agree with you, but it's, it's too detailed to address. Sean. Thank you so much. And also for you know the working as much as you can with the public to mitigate the nuances or the the perceived inequalities, or true inequalities that we're operating under.

H

Hillis 2:18:38

Mr. Mayor, when we finish this page, would you mind if we took a five minute break?

W

woe 2:18:41

Sure that's, I think that's good idea. We've been at it

T

Town Manager 2:18:44

for so do ours. Yeah? So for this one, was the main thrust of this item number one, yes, was that right? Okay, and then we'll award Smith that accordingly. Okay? And now public safety. So we're doing a recess. You want to do a recess now?

W

woe 2:19:02

Sounds like we're going to do a recess now,

**W** woe 2:19:07  
I've been Yes, let's come back at 10 of is that going to give you enough time? Good? Are

**D** Dolan 2:19:22  
we still on? Lisa, did you get the email that invited us to that chamber? Did you get it before the meeting happened? Nope, not before the meeting happened. Did you no meeting, but the way you responded to her, sure I don't

**M** Maglio 2:19:53  
think we got an email. I just figured you brought me one. And. About me, and then key and then, you know, I never received a response with regards to coffee sure by the at the end of the week. So I want to be sure that we're getting I'll look back through the emails to be sure, but I think I would have put

**S** Speaker 1 2:23:50  
again. I me, should we wait for you?

**S** Speaker 1 2:24:12  
Okay? On, on to public safety.

**T** Town Manager 2:24:21  
I think he did that deliberately. Okay, I think we're back on right. Yes, all right. Nobody's saying no, okay, Mr. Mayor, Members of the Council. Next category for priorities, category one, public safety, based on what you received, complete the county wide evacuation study and ensure that the police department and fire district work with the community to promote public safety awareness, including fire prevention measures. So you can wordsmith this, but this pretty much sums it up in terms of the key things and public safety.

H

Hillis 2:24:58

I have a piece here that's not quite. Site captured by this and it's what I've been pursuing both with League of Cities on SWAT and on the other entities, and it's exploring additional roadway redundancy. I've talked to some members of the community about it as well, specifically, because I decided to go drive through the San Ramon stretch of Bollinger canyon road and drive up as far as my Tesla could make it on the Moraga side of it mapped it literally. There's only one mile that's not paved that separates Bollinger Canyon Road on our side from theirs. Some of the folks in the bluffs were very much opposed to the concept of making it a through street. But I'm wondering whether or not there might be some benefit in making it a either a paved bicycle hiking path and emergency evacuation route, so that in the event of an emergency can be considered in addition Wilder, I just would like roadway redundancy added in this you're giving an example, examples of what roadway redundancy means.

T

Town Manager 2:26:16

Okay, is that? But we're a public safety or infrastructure or,

H

Hillis 2:26:23

well, he's it's for evacuation, yeah, similar in concept to what's going on with oh, so

T

Town Manager 2:26:28

that that could be part of the evacuation study. That concept,

H

Hillis 2:26:32

I think the town needs to specifically work with other jurisdictions, the parks district, because you have the the wilderness area, San Ramon and CCTA and the other entities that would be responsible and private parties, yep.

W

woe 2:26:49

So Scott,

W woe 2:26:51

the this here that the challenge, the challenge I have with this is we don't have control, really, of the study, at least at this point, right?

T Town Manager 2:27:01

But we, we need to make sure it gets done. But who's in control of getting that done? Is it? Well, we're one of the member agencies, so we're one of the member agencies. Yeah, do we have the ability to control that? Well, I would suggest this. It's your way to show the residents that that you're you're holding the staff accountable to get this thing done. Okay, so you're comfortable. I'm comfortable. What's important, just read what's going on as a priority.

H Hillis 2:27:26

And mine was an item too on this, yeah, not part of the evacuation study, and it is something that I suggested get added to the county's new transportation plan.

W woe 2:27:37

Yeah, right. So you're only asking, you know, Are there alternative evacuation routes that we need to look at in current environment,

H Hillis 2:27:46

harden our homes, plan for evacuation and then look for additional redundancies,

T Town Manager 2:27:52

fair enough. For councilor Thiel, this speaks to your observation about community engagement and all that. So that would be part of this, for the home hardening, the safety measures and all that sort of thing. But this thing with the roadway, though, roadway redundancy does this trying to get my I know what it is, but

D Dolan 2:28:17

just additional evacuation routes. It's

H Hillis 2:28:19

okay, okay, additional could end up being permanent streets, like the one to Wilder. Some could just be evacuation routes, like

T Thiel 2:28:27

the one, yeah, I was gonna say chief King spoke to some extreme safety concerns

T Thiel 2:28:35

when he was last up here. Yeah, there is currently a way to get through to Wilder near the nursery off of Moraga way. So that could be an alternate the Bollinger Canyon route is going to be really difficult because there's major geo tech issues in between the Moraga and San Ramon side. That's why it was abandoned years ago, and it's now all owned by the park district. So there's a park residence on Valley Hill, and that property literally from there to the end of the paved portion of Bollinger Canyon is now Parkland that you can't put a you can't put a road through.

H Hillis 2:29:09

I've also talked to folks about getting CEQA exemptions added for Northern California, similar to what has gone on in Southern California, something like, if we can just start to think about these and then highlight the things that we need to work on as we talk

T Thiel 2:29:23

to others. Yeah, my only concern is, is that we're looking at a priority to be completed in 365, days, and I don't know that we'll be. I think you're asking. I don't think you're I think it's a it's a good idea and something to look towards as part of our overall evacuation planning process. But I don't think it's something that that realistically we can get in the middle of an in a in a budget year, even two budget years.

W woe 2:29:47

So I think that's a great segue into the question under public safety, do we need more than just to have as a priority, more than just countywide? The evacuation study with regard to, you know, fire protection, perhaps fire hardening and and I

T Thiel 2:30:08

apologize I didn't get chance to talk to my boss about this, but perhaps we could split that into two pieces. One would be to support the completion of the county wide evacuation study, and then the second would be to work in coordination with the fire district to to increase public awareness and increase fire and support vegetation management efforts and in increased fire hardening, yeah, fire prevention efforts within the community, or public safety efforts would also add to work

H Hillis 2:30:41

with other adjoining jurisdictions on additional fire safety planning initiatives, because I think that incorporates some of I'm not expecting a road get done. I just think that if the others are working on it, I want us to work with them.

T Thiel 2:30:55

Yeah, it's, it's a constant process.

D Dolan 2:30:59

Just, I'd like to add just a little piece, also in the in the public awareness arena, it's not just to me about safety, but as was demonstrated the other night at the public hearing, I mean, people are afraid, and I don't think they necessarily understand factually what the risks are, and they all assume that we're all going to be running between cars with a wall of fire behind them, when the reality is most people in Pacific Palisades had 48 hours or more to get out of their home, and I think we need to document for them more basic information scientifically based on how you know what the what the danger is. And you know, I know that there's modeling that's been done that's never seen the light of day. I don't know if it can. We've got a guy who's done a lot of it, who's now a consultant, but I think that there needs to be more education, because everybody looks to the, you know, Pulitzer Prize winning photo, or Emmy, or whatever you get for A photo on the news coverage, and it's, of course, by definition, it looks horrific, and the end result was horrific. But I think maybe people are exaggerating the urgency to get out in two hours, and they need more about, you know, all the information that we've had sort of touched on in these conversations about which way our Diablo winds come from, and what the fuel is on that side, and how fast would it go, and that kind of stuff.

T Thiel 2:32:54

I think that's a one of the reasons that the town manager has really pushed and supported the Community Public Safety Forum that we're planning, and I and as he and I have discussed, that's the first of many, because I think we all share a concern that there are a lot of Miss there's a lot of misinformation out in our community.

D Dolan 2:33:14

And Councilman, that's what I want to fight, is the misinformation so that we don't have that every time we get a housing project.

W Woe 2:33:23

So that's a perfect priority. I agree.

T Town Manager 2:33:28

Okay, and when will that meeting be chief for those who are still watching April 21 That's right. And where will that

T Thiel 2:33:36

be at, at St Mary's College, in the soda center?

T Thiel 2:33:38

That's That's one part of it, exactly. That's the first of

T Town Manager 2:33:41

many, while we still have the around 6pm and just, just go to the town's website,



Hillis 2:33:46

and the soda Center has an enormous capacity, so anyone that wants to come can, yeah, I



Thiel 2:33:50

think there's a 500 I can't remember what I'm getting meetings mixed up, but there's, there's a large capacity, and we're making arrangements to record it, and we'll place it up on our website. So if people won't be are not able to attend, they'll be able to go on and and look at it at their leisure.



Thiel 2:34:09

Chief small question so Vice Mayor hills, you brought up adding additional means of egress, which might not be feasible, but chief King, remind me, when you were last before us, you spoke about exploring the potential to widen works.



Thiel 2:34:26

Our public works director had an incredibly wonderful idea, and that is to explore the possibility of expanding raga way. And he is, he has been working towards that Gotcha. And one of the one of the best things that we have going currently, that is already in play is our smart signals project, which will be able to court, and, again, credit to our public works director, will be able to coordinate all the traffic signals in all three cities. So the idea of we're trying to evacuate. Eight we have to stop at red lights on the way, we'll be able to control the signals and push everybody out. And then another long term issue would be the idea of Contra flow on, especially Moraga way, so we could get all lane, you know, two lanes outbound, gotcha all those things and and again. Credit to to our public works director for a lot of really good ideas and work on that.



Thiel 2:35:23

Got it so is it possible to include a priority of exploring the possibilities of enhancing and expanding



woe 2:35:29

we already are, yeah, yeah, that's already in there.

**T** Town Manager 2:35:33  
Yeah, and yeah, that'd be part of the analysis. Great. Okay, great. Okay, we'll move to the next

**W** woe 2:35:41  
I think we've given you a new scope of work on safety. Well, Sean, I think they're good.

**T** Town Manager 2:35:47  
He's dying to say something. So you're the mayor. It's up to you,

**W** woe 2:35:50  
Sean, we'd be happy to have you speak.

**W** woe 2:35:54  
I would appreciate

**K** Knapp 2:35:55  
Mayor Thank you. I The the town council has a number of good ideals that we could explore. Currently, the CCTA evacuation route has a certain parameters for what they're studying, and they're studying it on, you know, on a county wide basis, and there'll be specific things that they look at in Moraga. But I don't hesitate to be standing here today guaranteeing the things that you're talking about is going to be included in that study and delivered in that study. And I think we we need to engage the council and find out if there's additional things that staff should be looking at and going after, so we make sure we have those as goals moving forward. So anytime you can articulate those things, and we can set priorities to go after those. But I don't want to over promise for the current evacuation study of some of the things that have been mentioned tonight.

**S** Speaker 1 2:36:51  
Thank you. Ready. Yes. Next up, everybody. Good.

**T** Town Manager 2:36:58

Okay, parks, recreation, open space. Essentially the first one here covers it, but I'm going to read the three that came in complete the recreation and open space master plan. A lot of youth said to do this, or variations of it, develop a plan to provide a community center. Was one, introduce technology driven solutions for program registration, service delivery and community engagement. So the second item would probably be part of the first item. I would

**H** Hillis 2:37:25

think it's a question that the second item, I think there was a plan at some point to do either Community Center, community gym, over off School Street. Is that, I think there's already been some level of planning on that, isn't there?

**T** Town Manager 2:37:41

Mackenzie's not here. I have to phone a friend, if Sean maybe can answer that.

**K** Knapp 2:37:51

Years ago, the town council had a number of carryover suggested projects that were shown on the CIP unfunded, and the council made a conscious effort to remove those because they weren't near term. And the desire was, when the you know, we get the results, and we go through the process with the open space and parks analysis and needs of the community, to redevelop that lesson and determine, you know, what kind of facilities the community and the council want. So you're currently going through that. We just opened all the proposals. They're reviewing the proposals for the for that, and they're online if you want to see what the RFP was looks like. And so we'll, we'll come back to the council with, you know, proposals to review and Ward and develop those lists. But we currently don't have sites set for community things, because we're looking to our council in the community to tell us what's what is today's date, what is the properties?

**H** Hillis 2:38:49

Well, for we're putting some on a screen. I'd add to the community center, a a sports agnostic ball field, but just throwing that out there, sure. I

**T** Town Manager 2:39:04  
so there will always be really nice to have items.

**W** woe 2:39:08  
Yeah, I personally lobby for focusing on the master plan and not getting more detailed.

**T** Town Manager 2:39:15  
Yeah, and we'll go from there. Okay, so I think we got direction on that. I the quality of life items. This is the noise ordinance falls here. Revise the town wide noise ordinance to ensure it meets current community needs and standards. Next one establish regulations for food trucks. We finally got to it food truck locations to ensure they operate in designated areas and comply with local guidelines. Three, assess all aspects of the Hacienda and explore alternative options for long term ownership by the town. So those are three, I would say. The third one, we council may want to wait until some of the issues out there are resolved, but there they are. So what's your pleasure? Go ahead

**M** Maglio 2:40:12  
to say I think you also mentioned on the first one, because they're both related to the hacienda, we might want to wait on the north noise ordinance as well until those issues are resolved.

**T** Town Manager 2:40:24  
That's true, but it's for a two year cycle, and so it's very likely that there will be some sort of resolution in the next six months or so, and then you can have that noise ordinances out there, and you could clarify that that will be after that issue is resolved. So does that help? That way?

**T** Thiel 2:40:46  
Go ahead, just a

H

Hillis 2:40:47

quick for two, just wondering if there can be a clarification on that the regulations before public and private property, because I think we've seen some uses on private property that could be considered blight, right?

T

Town Manager 2:41:07

So the issue is food trucks. People see them out there in the community, and here in Moraga, we have some, there's at least one on private property, so that we did look into that, and the private property owner is allowing it, and Brian, it complies with the zoning. So we make sure does the zoning and does it allow it? Are the parking requirements being adhered to? And if so does, is the property owner, owner allowing it? If that suggests they could be there not

H

Hillis 2:41:35

to get too far. So the the canvas, or not canvas, plastic tent they have out there. I remember when I was on the Planning Commission, we had a whole thing about Star gas updating their their building, expanding it to add food amenities, and now they have a wooden picnic table and a plastic

T

Town Manager 2:41:54

probably can't get the specifics, but yeah, specifics about that particular

A

Attorney 2:42:00

property, because that's not on the agenda Yeah. Okay, so there's different ways to regulate. I think manager Mitnick was mentioning there's the zoning regulations, and then there's more administrative regulatory, regulations that the town can adopt relating how they operate. Got it, and that could be dependent upon where they are located.

W

woe 2:42:24

Scott, I might suggest that we remove the reference to operate in designated areas. I don't think it necessarily adds anything. And you know, when we look at it, it's a logical thing to consider. Of you know, some towns, they they designate areas where they go right and and we need that benefit of of learning from other other towns

H Hillis 2:42:53

shamelessly Go ahead. I mean to interrupt you, I think there may have been some state laws that passed that explicitly require us to not bar them. So I would just want to be sure that it you, I think they've heard our intent, but we just want to be sure that whatever the guidance is that we finally agree on doesn't conform to state law.

T Town Manager 2:43:13

So are we? That's the public piece. So the new, new state law says there's, there's a couple of them in town. They're on the public and the public right of way. So a tool in the toolbox is a municipality can say, Okay, we'll allow them on in the public right away. We'll designate where they can go. So perhaps we would change this a little bit in something like along the lines of research, research options for regulation of food trucks on private and public property, and come back with a recommendation, something like that. So we can look at what's out there and what can be done.

W woe 2:43:48

So basically, do we need to choose one of these three? Because we've got three, you know, fairly different priorities here, and this is one of 10 that you've you've constrained us into

T Town Manager 2:44:01

helping to focus. I'm not constraining. You've

W woe 2:44:04

put us into a box.

T Town Manager 2:44:07

Well, that's Welcome to local government.

D

Dolan 2:44:10

I think all three of these are valid and they're different. I'm sorry. I think all three of these are different and they're valid. I mean, maybe you don't want to jump into number three until that issue is resolved.

T

Town Manager 2:44:24

So we can come up with we can link one and two, have them as like something on two quality life issues, and there's an A and a B, that way we stay with the top 10. How about that?

W

woe 2:44:37

You're in charge.

T

Town Manager 2:44:39

Okay, so we'll bring those together. We'll come back at the next meeting, and you can vote on then, and then we go to the last category. And it doesn't have to be you could take the noise ordinance as one and the food truck as another, and then not have this one. Don't know, but one of you put in there, develop a legislative platform and work with Lafayette and Orinda to share a. A la Miranda regional lobbyist. We are working on this. I've talked to you individually, and I believe I'd mentioned it at a council meeting or two, and we're going to have a report on this topic coming up, and then the five of you are being asked to participate in the annual la Miranda meeting with your counterparts from marinden, Lafayette. This will be the topic. So I'd appreciate the direction that this is a top priority, and go do it. And part of this staff is going to come to you with a legislative platform for just Moraga, it'll be very simple to get started. Orinda lafaud had been doing this for years. We're just getting started. We have limited staff, right? Remember, minimal government. So we have limited staff, but we feel you do need to have some focus and and focus focus on the legislative issues, and the voice of Moraga needs to be heard, and there's power to do it together with the other two cities. Go ahead.

H

Hillis 2:45:53

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'm wondering whether or not we should retitle this legislative issues, rather than LA Miranda issues, and add a number two to this, which is including explore additional external facing ways that we can help our community, preserve and enhance Our funding from the from the state and federal government, including participation in things like National mayor's conference and National League of Cities.

W woe 2:46:29  
So, so I be part of the platform. Yeah, you got two or three things in there.

T Town Manager 2:46:34  
We'll do that to their platform. Well.

W woe 2:46:42  
So this, this presumes that we're going to develop this the way this is worded, it presumes we're going to develop a legislative platform and, and, you know, we haven't had the, you know, maybe just me, maybe the other four are experts in legislative platforms. But there's, there's, I'm pretty green in terms of what it means, what the cost is, and how it gets implemented, and how much staff time is required for it, which is something of of my

T Town Manager 2:47:15  
interest, mine too.

W woe 2:47:19  
So because I'm not. I would, I would lobby against, you know, simply saying we're going to do it. I think we have to, or we're

T Town Manager 2:47:27  
going to, we're going to, well, we can present a plan that you can decide on the plan. How about that?

D Dolan 2:47:33  
Yeah, there need to be some off ramps if we want. Yeah, yeah. And, but in my experience in tri Valley was, this was the only way you ever get heard, is you produce one of these and you do it with your neighbors. I'm not even sure that the three of us is a big enough powerful group to but we got we sat down with Weiner and we, you know, we didn't stop them, but they listened and they made changes, because they were talking to a group of five cities.

W woe 2:48:02

So I got to get smart on that before I'm willing to commit that what I'm doing. I wanted to address that as part of this.

T Town Manager 2:48:10

But there is a truism here, nothing ventured, nothing gained, if you don't ask or articulate the view on behalf of the taxpayers here, your voice is silent in

H Hillis 2:48:20

Sacramento God, if I can ask a follow up, just to help on this issue. So my understanding is that the town of Lafayette currently already employs a lobbyist. And so what this would explore is potentially us being able to, you know, have an economies of scale with our three communities so that we wouldn't because on our own, it may be too expensive for us to have a lobbyist, but all three of us together, it makes it a lot more of a fiscally palatable option.

T Town Manager 2:48:51

That's right. And by way of background, so we are remember the League of California Cities, and they have like, eight or nine lobbyists. You saw them at the training, and we do piggyback on the league, and we ride their coattails, but there are times when we will have a different perspective. Lafayette uses a firm to augment what the league does, and arena uses the same firm. It's a reputable firm. There's an opportunity for us to be part of that, where we would pay a pro rata share. So we all, all three benefit. And then when there's an issue that, say is unique to Moraga, say there's something with sink holes right just for us, then we would use that lobbyist to help us with just this issue. But more often than not, we'll have regional issues like evacuation studies. And if we're going after funding from Sacramento, we will have a greater chance being part of the LA Miranda sub region, safety in numbers. And not only that, we get we'll be made aware of more broader issues than being on our own right, because there'll be newsletter. And other sources of information and but I'm fully aware of impacts on staffing and budget. I'm not going to put something here.

W woe 2:50:08

Instead of going down this path tonight, can we simply say, start this off and say, evaluate and decide on developing a let's, let's, let's just do that.

T Town Manager 2:50:17

Okay, I'll do it. I get it. But, and I'm kind of this is a warm up to what's going to happen in March. But one last thing, when we put together the legislative platform for you to consider, it's going to be very simple and very short. It will not be 20 pages, very elaborate. You're going to start small. See if you like it, and we should test it for a year. Does it produce results? If not, then we will have an out. Try not doing it.

H Hillis 2:50:40

Great. Would this be an RFP?

T Town Manager 2:50:42

It was no, well, we well, it could be. But the recommendation would be, if you're asking my opinion, piggyback on the what the other two cities do, it's easy. We'll get a very low cost versus going out on our own. And I have to tell you, I could not justify Moraga having its own lobbyist. Now, we could go six months, eight months, never needing the service, and then we could have a two or three month period where we're in their face five days a week.

T Thiel 2:51:08

Everybody okay with this now? Yes, so are we looking this no longer as La Miranda issues?

T Town Manager 2:51:14

Yeah, legislative, legislative issues, yeah.

T Thiel 2:51:17

Okay with a local, regional, state, yeah.

T Town Manager 2:51:19

I'll wordsmith it. We'll come back. We'll come back.

H

Hillis 2:51:22

We'll come back to the next meeting. And are we adding that concept that I was talking about, about external, external facing projects for the council, such as,

T

Town Manager 2:51:30

yeah, we'll figure out a way to get it in there, okay, in some form, understand to detail. All right, moving along. And you can change the change the name I did. We just I came up with this and I call educational engagement. Wasn't sure that's good. So the three, three items, one involving the college right, enhance the collaboration, improve relations, and pursue projects, strengthen that's kind of a broad goal, isn't it? Next one, work with the college to facilitate campus wide improvement projects, including the updated college facilities master plan. This one's really important. They have a number of projects we need to get done. We could even delineate the projects, but somehow, if not here, it's going to be on my own work plan. Make sure the lighting on the sports fields, for example, the rugby clubhouse and the library project. They're even studying a hotel. There's a whole bunch of things that they need to do. We're going to work with them hand in hand to get it done.

W

woe 2:52:26

Is there a way to maybe incorporate one and two into three? You know, go broad and then, yeah, get some specific on St Mary's.

T

Town Manager 2:52:35

Yeah, yeah. But it's the college facilities master plan that's going to have to be retooled to accommodate all right? And then the last one, establish joint use agreements with the schools, colleges and community organizations. We're starting to make some inroads with the college on shared use. There's a big deal so we could run our park and rec programs in the summertime on campus, and if the college wanted to, they could come use some of our facilities. So the college president is very receptive. Mackenzie's not here. This is a big deal for her. So, um, good. We can wordsmith this and the last one, this is one that was floating out there develop volunteer and community engagement programs to support town initiative. Maybe that this is not a separate one, because this could fall into some of the other ones, like engagement for public safety and all that. But one of you submitted this. I wanted to make sure saw the light of day. This is

H

Hillis 2:53:29

the last one. Yes, sir. I had another one

W woe 2:53:32  
that I was talking about. We got employee development.

T Town Manager 2:53:35  
Oh, did I skip one? I'm sorry. One more. I was eager to get done. Sorry. Employee Development, one of you submitted support, recruitment, retention and development of town staff committed to excellence in public service, kind of a broad goal, but I like it.

D Dolan 2:53:53  
So what specifically do we hold you accountable for doing

T Town Manager 2:54:00  
getting stuff done.

S Speaker 7 2:54:03  
People don't quit. We know,

D Dolan 2:54:05  
right? We don't have any vacancies.

T Town Manager 2:54:08  
Oh, God, we'll get to what we will get to 10, with or without this. So, you

W woe 2:54:16  
know, I almost think we need a broader goal or broader priority for the town, and maybe it falls into one of the others that correlates to a functioning government. And under under that you're going to need employee development. I mean, employee development is really one piece of having a well functioning organization, right so that that may be under

W woe 2:54:50  
or or one of the other categories. It could,

H Hillis 2:54:55  
it could also be to explore the addition of of. Are necessary functions in town government that also provide a career ladder so that folks, rather than as has happened recently, where they elect to go to another place to move up there, there are more rungs on the ladder for them here in town

T Town Manager 2:55:19  
understood. Let us figure where those would go.

W woe 2:55:24  
Other ideas on this.

H Hillis 2:55:28  
I have another idea I didn't see covered in any of these. So that was to

H Hillis 2:55:38  
to remodel the town hall to add capacity to ensure community engagement on high priority issues,

**T** Town Manager 2:55:43  
although that's I apologize that was dropped off on not Not intentionally, and that

**H** Hillis 2:55:48  
is so if you, if you look at this room, or you look at what most of our meetings are,

**H** Hillis 2:55:55  
we're usually not full, But for security purposes, we've frosted out the windows, right? That's where our excess seating is. We had a recent council meeting where we had over 100 people in the cold because we couldn't provide them excess heat. And they rather, and even though they were, you know, less than 20 feet from us, they couldn't see us directly, so we had to put a TV out there. I think we have to be able to resolve the security transparency and also ensure that it's not this that we're saying. We're fostering community engagement, but we actually provide a place where the community can engage with us when they want to. And this space is too small.

**W** woe 2:56:40  
We really talk about you said town hall. You really mean the council

 2:56:43  
chambers, council chambers. Okay,

**M** Maglio 2:56:46  
I just have a question on that. And I think that is a terrific goal. The dollar signs seem to me, at first blush, to be insurmountable. What I'm wondering is if we do have that goal, but maybe think about the relationship with the college and other entities so that when we know we're having a meeting, it's going to be well attended, that we are able to use college facilities.

H

Hillis 2:57:15

The problem is, and I know that the town has explored other venues, and it's so if you look at the meeting that we had as your first meeting with us, the majority of the audience was online. At last check, it was like 550 I'm sure it's gone up from there. So as many people as we're waiting out on the cold, even more were watching this online. There is no other facility other than this one in town that has the ability to be able to foster that level of virtual interaction, we could spend more money to improve one of those other sites that we don't own. I've also, you know, I've raised this subject with with with town staff before. It doesn't sound like it's potentially insurmountable. So I'm not saying that this is what we do. I'm just saying that it would be great for us to have a further conversation to explore the feasibility of it, since there doesn't seem to be another place in town that can accommodate it for all the current uses. People look at the JM multipurpose facility where the council used to hold its meetings, and it doesn't have any of this that we have now for modern meetings.

T

Town Manager 2:58:28

And I can interject, because I sort I have to take ownership of that if push came to shove, like if this, if I could do it again, we I would have worked it out that we had gone either to the high school or to the soda center. They do have equipment we can rent and broadcast, or, if not live, broadcast certainly recorded. So I will share. We're happy to look at this. I think it would be great if you could expand. I'm the council member suggested. I'm very nervous about the cost, because you have all these other priorities. If we could build this, and it's reasonable we would do it, but for the price of Porsches, a sliver of the price of building it, we can rent other facilities when need be. So if we have a big land use hearing again, we will go to the appropriate place. We'll figure out a way to record it. So just know that, is

T

Thiel 2:59:17

there a way for us to explore virtual engagement as well too. Are there rules and restrictions around that there?

H

Hillis 2:59:25

It's if I may. I think the training that the that those two were at speaks to part of it. Most communities in the Bay Area have opted against or have discontinued Virtual Engagement because of a lot of hate bombing that occurred with people saying some of the most vile and detestable things you can imagine. It happens to some degree in person, but it mostly happened from folks commenting on Zoom, and there

W

woe 2:59:56

are also new regulations on using Zoom. Zoom, remote zoom for our public meetings that was communicated two weeks ago, and I don't remember all of them. The basic message was, it's a lot tougher to do it.

T

Town Manager 3:00:16

We're happy to take a look, whether or not it's on the work program here. We will take a look. We should take a look, but I'm 99.99% certain it'll be more cost effective for the two or three times every two years. We need to do it to go somewhere else.

W

woe 3:00:32

It sounds like you're working towards a solution. Do we want to make it a priority?

M

Maglio 3:00:42

I think that the council has, we has discussed making communication a priority, and we're starting to have, we will start to have more meetings with regard to public safety, and I do think there will be more public engagement as time goes on, so it should be a priority

W

woe 3:01:04

communication or expanding this building.

M

Maglio 3:01:08

I think this is one aspect I don't didn't mean to be dismissive of it, because I haven't explored it. It's just my thought at this moment, but I think it would be reasonable to explore it. There may be some way that, I don't know that a brilliant town manager can come up with,

**T** Town Manager 3:01:27

well, not on that one, he's not, he's not willing to commit to that at this moment. We'll take a look at it. But I mean, we already know from just it's so expensive to do things here in the Bay Area. But look, we agree now, it would be great if this were built correctly in the first place, we wouldn't have this issue. But let us, we understand the sentiment, let us like, take a look at it. We'll come

**W** woe 3:01:47

back but, but I want to make sure what the scope is on this particular issue, because is it really focused just on this building, or is it coming up with a good plan for handling situations where we have a lot of people,

**M** Maglio 3:02:04

I think we should maybe first focus on this building as an option, and if it is not feasible, then look to other ways. I think we would all agree it would be ideal if we could expand this building.

**W** woe 3:02:18

I agree. But if, you look at technology and how technology progresses, if we've got a solution now that allows us, for example, to broadcast from JM that they didn't have previously, because technology is greatly improved, Would that not possibly be a better solution to pursue.

**H** Hillis 3:02:43

I see your point, and I and you raised me, I raised it, and I would say that I'm open to options. I think that it's very possible that we may have, I mean, we have a number of different development applications that are currently being reviewed by the town. It's very possible that something like this could happen again before we have even a chance to hear back. I think that the that it's advisable that we, at minimum, explore an interim plan. I don't I my suggestion is, is this is the town's building the there's no really great gathering places that are owned by the town for for people to gather, gather, to talk to us. In a perfect world, this chamber should be expanded to woefully inadequate we're sitting at, you know, folding tables. You um, it should be something at minimum, we should explore. I know

W woe 3:03:46

what the I hear you and they, they spend a huge amount of money producing this thing, and it was originally designed for fire engines. Yep, so happens,

H Hillis 3:03:59

and we do have an approved because I was on the planning commission when this happened. When this happened. Yeah, Graham was also gazebo for out over that area that could potentially have heating. The problem is safety and security, given the frosted windows,

W woe 3:04:14

there are, there are challenges, sure. So is there we had it? I don't know.

T Thiel 3:04:19

Is there a request for a feasibility study to determine to the extent this could be expanded, you know,

A Attorney 3:04:28

so right now, as I understand it, the question is whether or not the council wants the exploration of expansion of this the council chambers to be prioritized. There could be a future agenda item to discuss some of these issues that are being raised. But the question before the council now is, is this something that you want to put on your priority list? Last thing

H Hillis 3:04:57

I'll say on this, but not own the conversation you. Years we are on what is this year one? One of an eight year housing cycle.

T Town Manager 3:05:09

Now beginning to if we are going

**H** Hillis 3:05:11  
to do this, we should explore doing this now, because this is when a lot of these big meetings are

**W** woe 3:05:16  
going to happen, we need a plan as to, how do we prevent another January 15 is really what we need. Gotcha, and that can be a short term and a longer term plan. Sure that's really what we want.

**T** Town Manager 3:05:30  
So it comes down to

**W** woe 3:05:32  
to say that it has to be this building. I have problems with that.

**T** Town Manager 3:05:36  
But is this something you want to direct us to put on the top 10 List?

**T** Thiel 3:05:39  
Yes, to explore an interim solution to accommodate a larger gathering than planned at our present venue. Short term and long term is why and and a long term feasibility study to explore the potential expansion of the existing

**W** woe 3:05:57  
or a long term solution to it, could be that we move away from this structure, if we, if we go to a multi use facilities point like Corinda, like Lafayette and others, maybe there's that opportunity. Got it.

**T** Town Manager 3:06:18  
But in the meantime, when a lot of people are going to come to an agenda item, we just agenda item, we need a spot to meet, right?

**T** Town Manager 3:06:28  
Okay, I think I got that is that that's, that's

**W** woe 3:06:32  
okay, Casey, do you have any other comments?

**T** Town Manager 3:06:37  
Well, it's lovely to have a

**W** woe 3:06:40  
member of the public, contributing

**S** Speaker 6 3:06:44  
Casey rain Campbell under neighborhood. I really applaud the conversation here. I agree with all the priorities you guys have a lot of work cut out for you. I just want to especially emphasize the very last one, which was staff and the development of the Moraga town. Staff. I was here at the January 15 meeting, town staff kept on coming out and checking on us. Town staff kept on making sure that we could hear everything. And more than that, I feel like I live in a community where it works like the city works, and that is a testament to the staff members here, the Public Works team, the planning team, certainly chief King and mofd. So this town works. We have lots of great volunteers. We have lots of civic, private community engagement, but we have a great team, and staff is worth investing in. Thank you.

**T** Town Manager 3:07:50  
Okay, okay, so I think we've got some direction to wordsmith and come back and I guarantee you won't have 50 items. It'll be commission statement, five broad goals, 10 priorities.

W woe 3:08:06

Okay, that moves us on to council member requests for future agenda items. Are there any requests for future agenda items?

W woe 3:08:26

Okay, then that informational items, may Scott, do you have any informational items or Tom manager follow up? Excuse me in announcements. I

T Town Manager 3:08:44

uh, Mr. Mayor, Members of Council, I don't think I have any additional follow up from the items we've already talked about. The next meeting will be on February 26 right? Yep, and we'll come back with the mission statement, goals and priorities that we talked about, and I'm hopeful we'll be ready, maybe not, though, with the holiday display policy, I might have to push that out, just from a workload standpoint, but we are committed to coming back with that. And then we have some other items, commission interviews too, correct Amy, that will go.

H Hillis 3:09:24

Have we put out? Sorry to interrupt. Have we put out a notice for planning commission vacancies?

P Planning Dir 3:09:33

Yes, so we have a notice for planning commission vacancies and Parks and Recreation Commission vacancies as well. And when is the closing date? There is not a closing date as of yet, but we need to get them in soon, because Planning Commission starts March 1. Thank you. Sorry about that. Okay.

T Town Manager 3:09:53

March 12, we will have the legislative platform report in mid year, budget review for the current fiscal year that we're in. We have a variety of other items. And topics that we're working on. And then we will have on March 19, the council will have a council issues meeting. Well, you'll talk about Council relations and really related topics.

W

woe 3:10:16

So if I can just add on to that very briefly, on that March 19 meeting, you all received an email calling it town council communications or relationship meeting, and I want to make sure and Scott and I had significant discussions on this. It's, it's really not focused on that. It's, it's organizational things, it's, you know, it's that title makes it sound like we've got a challenge. We don't have a challenge. I want to make sure we continue in a good stead on that side of it. But there are a number of other things that I have raised, including, just for example, do we want to take a booth at the weekly farmers market. That's a best practice from city Danville. And if we do that, would we do it on a monthly basis of every week, everybody?

T

Town Manager 3:11:12

So there's as long as the council members attend that and take care of it. On a Sunday, you don't ask me to pay overtime

W

woe 3:11:20

farmers market, so just just, I want to make sure there's no misunderstanding on your basis that that title that came, that came out, okay, thank you. Okay, so

W

woe 3:11:35

I think that brings us to the end of our agenda, unless there's objections otherwise, meeting is adjourned. Thank you.