

City Council Special Called Meeting Transcript – 02/03/2022

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[5:32:25 PM]

... I am going to convene the special called meeting today here at 5:32 on February 3rd, 2022. We have one item on this agenda, which is a settlement. We have a quorum present. Let's pull up this last item. Is legal here to speak to this?

>> Yes, mayor. This is Deborah from the law department. I recommend that you approve a payment of \$150,000 to settle the Chavez versus city of Austin lawsuit. This lawsuit arises out of the may 2020 protests involving Chavez seeking payment for her injuries stemming from her attendance at the protest. In exchange for this payment, the plaintiff will release all claims against the city and any

[5:33:26 PM]

officers from any and all claims arising out of the incident. This will also dismiss the lawsuit against the city in the United States district court for the western district of Texas.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Is there a motion to approve the settlement as set forth by Ms. Thomas? Councilmember Casar makes a motion, councilmember harper-madison seconds. Any discussion? Councilmember Casar.

>> Casar: On behalf of my experience, and I know so many others at the city, I just want to extend continued apologies for what happened to people at the protests, people needlessly hurt, Ms. Chavez in this case. I know there's a lot of work left at the council to do to make right with everyone that was hurt there and appreciate that we are able to vote this one out today.

[5:34:30 PM]

>> Mayor Adler: Let's go ahead and take a vote. Those in favor of the motion, please raise your hand. Those opposed? I show it as being unanimous on the dais, the settlement as set out --

>> Mayor. I am a nay vote on the settlement.

>> Mayor Adler: Sorry about that. Councilmember Kelly votes no. So with a 10-1 vote, it passes. I think that's all we have on our agenda, so I am going to adjourn the special called meeting. I would urge everybody to -- I'll get to you in one second, councilmember alter, mayor pro tem. And soon I will actually incorporate that with what I say.

[Chuckling] In fact, I'll call you first and then I'll close. Mayor pro tem.

>> Alter: I just wanted to ask if we could get clarity on when the inauguration for -- ceremony for chito vela will be.

>> Mayor Adler: On Monday.

[5:35:30 PM]

Is the clerk here with a time on that? I think so. Let me look here, too.

>> Alter: I had been told 9:00, but I wanted to just make sure, because I don't know that we've received --

>> Mayor Adler: It's at 9:00 and a special called meeting has been posted for that time so that we can all be there and welcome our new colleague to the dais.

>> Alter: Great. Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. With that, I would urge everybody, it's going to be cold tonight. Please try to avoid being on the roads. It's going to stay cold pretty much all day tomorrow. Hopefully the precipitation has now stopped. Hopefully the roads will dry before it freezes, but it's still going to be slippery. I urge everybody to be cautious.

[5:36:33 PM]

Remember that you can go online and find warming stations and places for people to stay tonight if they are cold. I urge you to call 311 and you'll be told where to go. And if you have difficulty getting there, getting you picked up will be facilitated to make sure that everybody that wants a good place to be is able to be in one and find one. I appreciate the staff of the city, and of the county, and all the volunteers that are out in a dangerous time helping to make sure that everybody is safe and protected. And finally,

please check your neighbors, especially those that are vulnerable and might need a little assistance. With that, I'm going to adjourn the meeting here at 5:38. The meeting is adjourned.