

04-12-21

RTZ# 21-602

To: City Manager Deanna Santana

Assistant City Clerk Nora Pimentel

Re: Special Meeting called by 4 City Councilmembers, April 12, 2021

Dear Deanna and Nora,

We have some questions and concerns about the convening of yet another "special" City Council meeting this afternoon, Monday, April 12th at 4 p.m.

There have been numerous special City Council meeting called since the seating of the current Council on December 8, 2020. This number of special meetings is highly unusual in four months and is probably unprecedented in recent Santa Clara history, particularly for topics that aren't related to emergencies.

While the City Charter allows for the calling of special meetings in accordance with Section 54956 of the California Government Code, we are concerned about the need to assure the public that we aren't abusing the intent and the specifics of the Charter and Government Code.

We ask for clarification of the following questions before our meeting begins:

1. Have four members of the council actually called for today's special meeting?
2. If so, what justifies the urgency rather than adding the item to the next possible council agenda?
3. Why is the City Attorney's performance review an item of urgency rather than being held at the end of our calendar year as has been done in the past?

In addition, we ask for the City Manager to provide information about the following:

1. How does the number of special council meetings called in the last four months compare to special meetings in total over the last five years?
2. How much staff time is involved with calling and managing these additional city council meetings?
3. Do we need to more clearly delineate in a council policy the process for calling special meetings so that expectations are appropriately set for council members, staff, and, especially, our public for when we will have special meetings that are being added to the council meeting calendar?

Thank you for providing this information to the entire city council as soon as is practicable.

Sincerely,



Lisa Gillmor, Mayor



Kathy Watanabe, Santa Clara Councilmember, District 1

POST MEETING MATERIAL