

Folsom City Council Meeting – October 24, 2023

Folsom Athletic Association Executive Board  
October 25, 2023



Many thanks to those of you who attended last night's City Council Meeting to communicate the funding needs for parks, trails, recreation facilities and other City services, including public safety and critical infrastructure. The Council spent nearly two hours hearing from the public and discussing the issue of a potential sales tax measure to respond to these needs. Following an informative presentation from the City Manager, the public comment was mostly in favor of a proposed sales tax measure with more than a dozen speakers highlighting the existing needs with many of the presenters encouraging the Council's support of a citizens' initiative to provide the necessary resources to invest in the City's future.

While there was a large number of FAA supporters present at the meeting, a special shout-out to representatives of Friends of the Folsom Parkways, Cycle Folsom, Friends of the Folsom Zoo Sanctuary, the Folsom Sea Otters (Christine Braid), Folsom Lake Surf Soccer Club (Iain Fraser), Vista Talons AAU Basketball (Ryan Kahn), American Little League (Jason Anderson), Folsom High School Athletic Boosters (Eli Smith), the Folsom Athletic Association (Dean Williams), and Folsom Fire/522 for their willingness to address the Council on this important issue. The presentation was spearheaded by Robert Goss and Bruce Cline and each speaker was able to focus the Council's attention on our slide program which highlighted the needs for park, trails and facility repairs and upgrades. Other speakers also supported a sales tax measure, and the testimony was very compelling.

Following public comments, the Council engaged in a discussion regarding how to proceed on this issue. There was considerable back and forth on the question of a general versus a special tax, and members appeared to support the latter as the solution preferred by a majority of the Council. If the Council decides to support a special tax, it will likely be a Citizen's initiative in order to lower the voter threshold. Using a series of questions prepared by the Manager to formulate guidance to staff, the Council ultimately agreed to the following course of action: Request staff to bring back a proposed general tax measure and a special tax ballot proposal for consideration by the Council prior to the end of January.

Council Member Kozlowski's motion to this effect, seconded by Council Member Aquino, passed on a three to two vote. This outcome allows the citizens group, now being called "Folsom Residents for Public Safety and Quality of Life," to continue efforts to develop a proposed ballot measure that directs the proceeds of a new special sales tax increment to specific purposes.

Stay tuned. More to come!

Michael Raffetto, President  
Richard D. Francis, Vice President  
Dean Williams, Secretary  
Folsom Athletic Association