

Another city considering wage increase

BY JEN NOWELL
Daily Post Staff Writer

Los Altos City Council will vote Tuesday on whether to increase the city's minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2019 — three years ahead of when the state will reach that level.

If approved, the city's minimum wage would increase to \$12 an hour on Jan. 1, 2017; to \$13.50 on Jan. 1, 2018; and to \$15 an hour on [See WAGE, page 46]

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Mayer may get hefty buyout

Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer stands to collect a \$44 million severance package if she leaves after Verizon completes its purchase of the once-mighty internet company.



MAYER

Mayer hasn't announced plans to leave, but industry observers say she's unlikely to stay after the \$4.8 billion sale closes early next year.

She stands to pocket \$44 million if she leaves following sale of Yahoo

The 41-year-old Palo Alto resident stands to collect \$3 million in cash and almost \$41 million worth of stock options and awards under a "golden parachute" agreement described in a regulatory filing yesterday. In a filing last spring, Yahoo said Mayer could walk

away with \$55 million in compensation, but the estimates can vary with the value of Yahoo's stock and the date she leaves.

Mayer has been CEO for four years but failed to reverse a long-standing slide in Yahoo's advertising business.

After an unsuccessful effort to spin off its investment in the Chinese internet giant Alibaba, Yahoo Inc. began entertaining offers for its core business earlier this year.

Yahoo weighed a variety of offers, according to the proxy statement filed yesterday. One was a merger proposal from Yahoo Japan, a separate company that Sunnyvale-based Yahoo co-owns [See MAYER, page 46]

THE UPDATE		
Dow -394.46 18,085.45	Nasdaq -133.57 5,125.91	Oil -1.74 45.88
Gold 1,330.10 -6.70 NY COMEX close courtesy of Mish Int'l (650) 324-9110		

A BOMB threat was called into a high school in Redwood City yesterday morning, a school official said. Students, faculty and staff were temporarily evacuated while the San Mateo County sheriff's bomb squad searched the school, according to police. No bomb was found and classes resumed at noon.

SIDEWALK HOURS: Joe Simitian, Santa Clara County supervisor, will hold sidewalk office hours today from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Palo Alto Farmers Market, 555 Bryant St., in the parking lot behind the Hamilton Avenue Post Office.

PROTEST FALLOUT: Broncos linebacker Brandon Marshall, who kneeled during the national anthem before Denver's season opener, has lost an endorsement deal. The Air Academy Federal Credit Union yesterday terminated its five-month-old relationship with Marshall, CEO Glenn Strebe said in a Facebook post.

SYRIA DEAL: The United States and Russia early today announced a breakthrough agreement on Syria that [See UPDATE, page 4]



Developers offer city \$2.1 million, dog park

BY EMILY MIBACH
Daily Post Staff Writer

Greenheart Land Co. has proposed to give Menlo Park \$2.1 million if City Council OKs its 420,000-square-foot project of homes, offices and retail space at 1300 El Camino Real.

Under the agreement before

council on Tuesday, Greenheart would also include in the project 14 low-income homes and a public dog park.

Greenheart would furthermore not have to get a new building permit for each new building or phase of construction [See \$2 MILLION, page 46]

Official says she has no legal conflict

Won't recuse self from meeting

BY EMILY MIBACH
Daily Post Staff Writer

Commissioner Sabrina Brennan of the San Mateo County Harbor District refused to recuse herself from a closed-door meeting involving a former general manager's claim even though the district's lawyers and other commissioners urged her to do so.

The district has been hit with a claim from former interim general manager Scott Grindy, who says that Brennan constantly harassed him and "engaged in a relentless campaign of undermining, vilifying and threatening Grindy and district employees," according to his claim against the district.



BRENNAN

While his claim was supposed to be discussed in the closed session, General Manager Steve McGrath said the matter could not be fully discussed while Brennan remained in the room since she is the person accused of harassing Grindy. McGrath said the four other members of the board asked Brennan to leave the closed meeting, but she refused.

However, during a report following the closed session, Brennan stated that she was assured by counsel that there was no conflict. Brennan also said that she [See CONFLICT, page 46]

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WAGE

Jan. 1, 2019, according to a report from City Clerk Jon Maginot.

Los Altos' current minimum wage is \$10 an hour.

After 2019, the city's minimum wage would increase each year based on increases to the Bay Area's cost of living, but it would be capped at 5%, Maginot said.

The plan is in line with a recommendation from the Cities Association of Santa Clara County, which is encouraging all cities in the county to consider a regional effort to increase the minimum wage to \$15 by 2019.

Gov. Jerry Brown in April signed a law that raises California's minimum wage in steps to \$15 by 2022.

In a letter to council from the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce, President Julie Rose wrote that if council decides to accept the plan to reach \$15 by 2019, then the chamber's board of directors encourages council to offer some exemptions.

Exception

This could include an exception for "learners," who may be paid no less than 85% of the minimum wage during their first 160 hours of employment in jobs in which they have no prior experience, Rose said.

"Several of our local small businesses who hire students for after-school and summer jobs have expressed serious concern about being required to pay these entry-level students the same wage as regular hourly employees," Rose said.

Los Altos isn't the first city along the mid-Peninsula to look at increasing its minimum wage.

The cities of San Mateo and Mountain View will reach \$15 an hour by 2018, but San Mateo has given some breaks. Nonprofits in the city will have until 2020 to pay \$15.

In Palo Alto, the City Council's Policy and Services Committee voted last month to recommend to the full council that the city's minimum wage reach \$15 an hour by 2019.

Palo Alto's minimum wage is currently \$11 an hour, which is scheduled to increase to \$12 an hour by Jan. 1, 2017, \$13.50 an hour by Jan. 1, 2018, and to \$15 an hour in 2019.

MAYER

with Japanese tech giant SoftBank. Another bid came from an unnamed group that asked Yahoo co-founder David Filo to consider financing its bid.

Filo, who sits on Yahoo's board of directors, agreed

to talk with the group and recused himself from participating in further board discussions about a possible sale, according to the statement. The filing doesn't say if Filo ultimately decided to join the group. But in the end, the unnamed group submitted a \$4.35 billion bid that was lower than Verizon's.

Verizon hasn't spelled out its plans but it's expected to continue operating at least some of Yahoo's popular internet sites under the familiar brand, while combining some of its ad business with the AOL operation it acquired earlier. A separate holding company, under a new name, will keep Yahoo's stake in Alibaba and some other investments.

CONFLICT

was worried that Commissioner Virginia Chang Kiraly would be attempting to escalate the cost of the potential settlement with Grindy, which Brennan said is a "meritless claim." Kiraly denied the allegation.

Grindy, who worked for the harbor district from April 23, 2012, until Nov. 6, 2015, filed the claim shortly after leaving the district.

Brennan's alleged animosity toward Grindy was so extreme that during an Oct. 15, 2014, meeting in which the board of directors was to interview him for a promotion to general manager, she "turned her chair so that she had her back to him and refused to ask questions or otherwise participate in the interview."

Resignations

Grindy claims a number of people have resigned from the district because of Brennan, including former general manager Peter Grennell, accounting technician Abigail Dometita and human resources director Marietta Harris. Grindy pointed out that interim general manager Glenn Lazof had run-ins with Brennan, and that she vowed to make his "life a living hell," according to a May 7, 2015, memo Grindy wrote.

And Grindy stated that Nicole David resigned from the district's board in October 2015 following repeated threats by Brennan and her colleagues. David said at the time she was resigning for health reasons, but Grindy said she had received threats from Brennan "at home via telephone calls, email and other media."

This is not the first instance of Brennan's alleged harassment and intimidation of district employees. Former finance chief Debra Galarza last year won a \$295,000 settlement plus two years of health costs after she filed a claim. Galarza argued that Brennan and the district had discriminated against her.

Due to the fact that Brennan did not recuse herself from the closed session, the board voted 3-2, with president Tom Mattusch and Brennan dissenting, to

discuss the claim in full at a later time. The district collects about \$6 million in tax revenue and its board members are elected countywide. The district oversees two marinas, Pillar Point in Half Moon Bay and Oyster Point in South San Francisco.

\$2 MILLION

as long as "substantial time hasn't passed between the permits," according to a report prepared by Principal Planner Thomas Rogers.

The \$2.1 million will go to a fund for the city's downtown/El Camino Real Plan. The money will be able to support transportation projects or create public space, according to Rogers' report.

Meanwhile, 14 homes would be for low-income housing. An additional six homes would be for "workforce" housing, in which the rents will be moderate-income based, Rogers' report said, indicating public employees or teachers would be among those who would qualify for this housing.

Altogether, 183 homes were proposed under the project.

Open space

Originally, Greenheart suggested that the open space along Garwood Way would be used for a bocce court. However, the developers later agreed to use the space for a dog park instead.

The development would reach from the site of the former General Motors car dealership at 1300 El Camino to the Derry Property at 550-580 Oak Grove Ave.

The proposal by Greenheart Land Co. combines mixed uses on 6.4 acres. An environmental impact report found the project would cause traffic to increase by as much as 25% at nearby intersections.

The development will include 1,000 parking spaces for the three 30-foot, three-story buildings.

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