

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
27TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE
AMEDEE O. "DICK" RICHARDS, JR., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:01p.m. by Chair Granath. Present were Commissioner Abelson, Commissioner Fisher, Commissioner Glauz, and Commissioner Hughes. Council Liaison Michael A. Cacciotti arrived at 7:53pm. Staff present: Deputy Public Works Director Shin Furukawa, Chief Deputy City Clerk Anthony Mejia and Public Works Assistant Leonna DeWitt.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hughes led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED COMMISSIONER

Chief Deputy City Clerk, Anthony Mejia administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Commissioner Kim Hughes.

Brief introductions were made by all Commissioners.

4. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

Councilmember Cacciotti not present at appointed time. No comments.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa announced that the City of South Pasadena received the 2015 Engineering Achievement Award from the California Water Environment Association for the Sewer Rehabilitation and Replacement Project – Phase I.

Public Works Assistant DeWitt gave a brief follow up regarding meeting notification requirements of the Brown Act.

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Consideration to Impose Discretionary Offsite Improvements on Private Development Projects

Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa gave a brief introduction to this item which is a continuation from the previous meeting to consider development of an ordinance allowing the City Engineer to impose discretionary offsite improvements (curb and gutter, sidewalks, repaving, etc.) on private development projects.

Public Comment period opened.

Anthony George – 1000 Fremont Avenue. He is an architect, former member of the Planning Commission, and former Chair of the Design Review Board. He believes the ordinance should be fair and reasonable. He indicated opposition to the proposed ordinance, particularly passing to private property owners what he sees as the City's responsibility to maintain curbs and gutters, street pavement, street lighting, and the like. He suggested that the City focus on studying developmental impact as the standard for imposing offsite improvement requirements. He

provided the Commission with a detailed letter describing his concerns, which attached among other things a checklist currently used by the City Building Department.

Discussion ensued regarding the specifics of his concerns.

Gordon Suzuki – 1725 Virginia Place, South Pasadena. He has been a resident of South Pasadena since 1978. He taught at South Pasadena High School for 22 years and Marengo Elementary for four years and currently teaches at UCLA. He expressed concern regarding the unforeseen conditions placed on his project by Public Works, which included repair of the alley and pavement in front of his property. Public Works has been working with him to reduce the requirements, but he indicated opposition to the proposed ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding shared responsibility and deferred maintenance.

Virginia Paca – 545 E. Ladera Street, Pasadena. She is an architect and lives in Pasadena. She lived in South Pasadena and was a member of the Design Review Board and Planning Commission. She practices in South Pasadena, San Marino, Pasadena and other neighboring cities. She expressed concern regarding the process to receive Public Works approval and the lack of certainty as to what public improvement requirements would be imposed on a project. She indicated opposition to this proposed ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding the strengths and weaknesses of sample ordinances from other cities, potential assessment districts, incentives for use of environmentally friendly materials, the City's limited resources, issues associated with patchwork/inconsistent street improvements and the need for a more global approach, the need to provide clear information and notice to homeowners, shared responsibility, and a proposed ordinance.

A motion was made that City staff prepare and return to the Commission for review and comment a draft ordinance permitting the City Engineer to require offsite improvements on private development projects that do not go to the Planning Commission which incorporates the following concepts: 1) set forth clear requirements and criteria to provide certainty to applicants at the beginning of the permitting process; 2) percentage cap on the cost of offsite improvements that are required based on the valuation of the private project; 3) features required by the private developer to construct would include curb and gutter, sidewalk, street light and driveway and shall not include pavement unless the construction includes excavation or otherwise damages the pavement; and 4) a method of appealing the offsite improvements being required based on practical difficulties or unreasonable hardships or results. (Abelson, Fisher 5-0)

B. Modifications to No Right Turn on Red Restriction from Westbound Grevelia Street to Northbound Fair Oaks Avenue

Commissioner Abelson gave a brief presentation on this item.

Discussion ensued regarding the absence of sight-distance issues to the left for westbound Grevelia traffic turning right onto Fair Oaks, various traffic phases, patterns and movements, and related pedestrian crossing issues.

A motion was made to direct the traffic consultant to continue his study of this intersection and proposal and specifically to determine: (i) the feasibility of permitting right turns on red from westbound Grevelia onto northbound Fair Oaks during those phases of the signal cycle when the northbound movement on Fair Oaks at Grevelia is stopped and pedestrians are not permitted to cross the east leg of this intersection; and (ii) to examine the feasibility of using a changeable electronic no right turn sign to implement the restriction. (Fisher, Abelson 5-0)

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No comments.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Granath declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Public Works Commission of the City of South Pasadena at a meeting held on March 9, 2016.

AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:



John Fisher, Chair