

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
12TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE
AMEDEE O. "DICK" RICHARDS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1414 MISSION STREET**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Chair Glauz. Present were Commissioner Abelson, Commissioner Fisher, Commissioner Hughes and Commissioner Granath. Council Liaison Cacciotti was absent. Staff present: Deputy Public Works Director (DPWD) Rafael Casillas and Public Works Assistant (PWA) Leonna DeWitt.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Abelson led the pledge of allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Meeting on July 11, 2018.

Minutes approved as amended. (Hughes, Abelson; 5-0)

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jane Schirmeister, who resides at 816 Orange Grove Place, requested restricting parking to one side of Orange Grove Avenue to reduce traffic congestion and more safely allow two-way traffic.

Kimberley Hughes, who resides at 1956 Huntington Drive, distributed information to the Commission regarding the Utility Users Tax (UUT). The information identified City budget cuts should the UUT be repealed. Ms. Hughes stated the cuts would be implemented the day after the election, affecting the Library, Children Services and the Senior Center, which would be reduced to only operating the Meals on Wheels and Dial a Ride program. Ms. Hughes stated other impacts of UUT repeal would include reduction of street tree and street repair programs. Ms. Hughes encouraged the Commission to vote no on N. Ms. Hughes suggested more information is available at the website No on N or Save Our City Services. Ms. Hughes informed the Commission of an informational event on September 23 at 3:00pm, at Eddie Park supporting No on N. Commissioner Abelson advised that additional information can be found at website www.southpasvoteno.com.

5. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

No Comments.

6. STAFF COMMENTS

No Comments.

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hughes informed the Commission that the City of LA completed and approved a traffic study of the Road Diet on Rowena Road. The study shows an increase in neighborhood traffic resulting from the Road Diet. Commissioner Hughes commented on the lack of communication from Southern California Edison (SCE) contractors working in South Pasadena to residents of neighborhoods affected by the work about street closures and power interruptions. Commissioner Hughes observed that the situation is creating a lot of negativity towards SCE in our City and suggested agendizing a Public Works Commission discussion regarding SCE work and the impacts on the City. Commissioner Hughes stated that SCE is upgrading their equipment based on concerns of wild fires, high winds and technical upgrades, but that SCE is not doing a good job of notifying residents regarding the construction work and

its impacts. Commissioner Hughes suggested staff prepare a report on the SCE work for the next agenda or invite an SCE representative to the meeting to give a presentation providing the information.

DPWD Casillas provided a brief explanation of the SCE system upgrade work. DPWD Casillas stated that SCE has completed underground work on Warwick Avenue and along Via Del Rey that upgrades the 4000 volt distribution system

Commissioner Hughes stated there should be better communication from SCE to the community and suggested adding information about the upgrade work to the City website and providing information in the Review, to help better inform the community.

Chair Glauz requested agendaizing for the next Public Works Commission Agenda a status update on the SCE upgrade work.

Chair Glauz acknowledged a resident in the audience who wanted to share his experience with SCE.

Michael Tsai, who resides at 1205 Huntington Drive, expressed his concern regarding the installation of a power pole in front of his property. Mr. Tsai described his experience with SCE and explained his opposition to installation of the new power pole. Mr. Tsai stated that the location of the middle pole has still not been resolved and he is still waiting for a response from SCE.

Commissioner Fisher questioned the extent of the Public Works Department jurisdiction over the activities of SCE.

DPWD answered that if SCE is conducting work (pole replacements, underground work) in the City, PW reviews and approves the SCE traffic control plan to ensure public safety.

Commissioner Fisher observed that it didn't appear that the City has jurisdiction over SCE's selection of the pole type or pole placement.

DPWD agreed and stated the public right of way has been dedicated for utility purposes.

Commissioner Abelson requested DPWD update the Commission on SR710, Measure R-Early Action Projects, and Measure M. Commissioner Abelson mentioned that Margaret Lin initially stated there would be a joint meeting with the PWC, but instead there will be a public meeting to discuss Measure M (Arroyo Verdugo Joint Powers Authority) and the Measure R list of projects the Commission recommended. Commissioner Abelson requested the update because use of these funds for high-value projects is vital to the City. Commissioner Abelson suggested adding the location of the PWC meetings to the City website. Commissioner Abelson thanked his fellow Commissioners for attending City Council meeting on August 15 and providing feedback on the issue of dissolving both the PWC and the Freeway and Transportation Commission and forming one replacement Commission. Commissioner Abelson commented on the process to remove a dead tree in the City and is concerned about the associated cost.

In response to Commissioner Abelson's concern, Commissioner Hughes provided a description of the tree removal process and observed that the process controls the removal of trees threatened by home remodels or new development.

Commissioner Fisher observed that the parkway camphor tree in front of his home has branches that are withering and the tree appears to be dying. The City was informed of the tree's condition. He was pleased that the City's Arborist came out quickly to inspect the tree and suggested additional watering of the tree. The Arborist indicated that the withered branches were dead and needed to be removed. Commissioner Fisher was pleased to see the new light-emitting diode (LED) street name signs on Mission Street at Fair Oaks and at Orange Grove Avenue. Commissioner Fisher stated, however, that the new street name signs appear somewhat dim, and inquired if the brightness can be adjusted. Commissioner

Fisher inquired about the planned traffic striping on Fair Oaks Avenue at Grevelia Street needed to mitigate the tight turning radius, including cat-track markings to delineate the double right turn lanes and installation of an edge line stripe.

DPWD Casillas responded that staff is having difficulties getting the contractor back on the job site to complete the work. The contractor has been non-responsive and no payments will be made until the project is complete.

Commissioner Fisher commented on traffic striping on El Centro Street at Meridian Avenue intended to advise northbound traffic to stay to the right of the island. Unfortunately, the striping was installed as a gore painted in white, indicating traffic can go on either side of the island. Commissioner Fisher suggested replacing the existing striping with double yellow lines and diagonals with no chevrons in the middle. Commissioner Fisher inquired about how the bike boxes on Fremont Avenue at Mission Street are intended to be used. Commissioner Fisher noted there is no bike lane leading to the boxes, and asked how the bicyclist is expected to get to the box. Commissioner Fisher observed that the lane line striping and cross walk markings on El Centro Street are done in thermo plastic, but the shared lane markings for bicyclists are done in traffic paint.

DPWD Casillas responded that he would look into this discrepancy and follow up with a report to the PWC.

Commissioner Granath distributed a notice regarding Measure M, which provides other venues to obtain information on Measure M, as well as a website to make comments. He commented on the unreliability of the train crossing controls at Monterey Avenue and Pasadena Avenue and noticed work crews doing maintenance on the system, hopefully making upgrades. Commission Granath commented on the expectation of increased traffic on Orange Grove Ave. north of Monterey Rd. once the new signal is installed at Orange Grove Ave. and Monterey Rd, and that parking and other factors affecting safe traffic flow will need to be looked at carefully. Commissioner Granath expressed concern about SCE's scheduling, traffic re-routing and communication processes associated with the installation of new poles. SCE has repeatedly missed their posted schedule for work, including street closures and power outages, and have not communicated traffic detours in advance.

8. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

A. Staff Report from City Council Meeting on August 15, 2018 - Informational

DPWD Casillas stated he has received no additional comments or information since the City Council meeting.

Chair Glauz requested staff to distribute the City Council Agenda to the Commission, prior to the next City Council meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed ordinance, Commission sunset, staff report, and moving forward.

DPWD Casillas responded that he would distribute the Agenda as soon as it becomes available.

B. Status of Public Works Commission Recommendations

Chair Glauz gave a brief background on this item. The PWC would like the items on the status list to be resolved prior to creation of the new Commission. Chair Glauz requested compilation of a complete list of the PWC recommendations, including status, for the PWC to review.

Discussion ensued regarding the recommendations on the list and appropriate resolution for each item.

Chair Glauz volunteered to work with PWA Leonna DeWitt to compile the list of recommendations and distribute them for input.

C. Capital Improvement Project Update

DPWD gave a brief update on this item.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn. (Hughes, Fisher 5-0)

Chair Glauz declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.

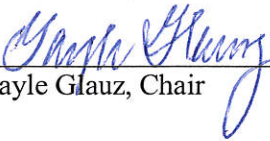
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Public Works Commission of the City of South Pasadena at a meeting held on October 10, 2018.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:



Gayle Glauz, Chair