



Tuesday, March 21, 2017
Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the South Pasadena Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency was called to order by Mayor Cacciotti on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., in the Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., Council Chamber, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers/Redevelopment Successor Agency Joe, Khubesrian, and Mahmud; Mayor Pro Tem/Agency Vice Chair Schneider; and Mayor/Agency Chair Cacciotti.

Absent: None.

City Staff

Present: Sergio Gonzalez, City Manager/Agency Executive Director; Teresa L. Highsmith, City Attorney/Agency Counsel; and Anthony J. Mejia, Chief City Clerk/Chief Agency Secretary were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Cacciotti led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Closed Session Announcements

The Special Closed Session of the City Council of March 21, 2017, was called to order by Mayor Cacciotti at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting convened into Closed Session to discuss the following item as listed on the Closed Session Regular Meeting Agenda:

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – INITIATION OF LITIGATION, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(4):

Number of Cases: 1

City Attorney Highsmith reported that the City Council provided direction to staff regarding the agendaized Closed Session Item, but did not take any reportable action.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

17. Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget and Priorities

City Manager Gonzalez narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Budget Study Session”; summarized the City’s financial position and proposed work plan for Fiscal Year 2017-18; reviewed the City’s cash flow projections, noting a potential deficit in later years; provided an update regarding the General Fund designated and undesignated reserves; reviewed the supplemental requests and capital improvement projects; noted that the City Council will be requested to consider reducing the undersigned reserve level from 26.1% to 25%.

During the course of discussion, Councilmembers Khubesrian and Mahmud voiced concern regarding the sidewalks on Mission Avenue, noting that City staff should evaluate them for repairs; suggested that City staff prioritize sidewalk repairs in areas of high pedestrian traffic. Councilmember Mahmud noted that sidewalk repairs may be needed near or around the YMCA on Garfield Avenue; suggested that selection of streets for street improvements projects be evaluated based on pavement condition index and traffic flow, noting the condition of Fair Oaks Avenue. City Manager Gonzalez advised that City staff has discussed recommending that City Council fund design of street improvements for Fair Oaks Avenue in Fiscal Year 2018-19.

Councilmember Joe voiced concern regarding the recent roof leakage at the Senior Center, noting that the computer room is now closed. City Manager Gonzalez advised that City staff is bringing a recommendation forward to award a contract for roof repairs at City-owned facilities at the City Council Meeting of April 19, 2017; noted that City staff will also be recommend the award of a contract to perform a facilities assessment at the same meeting.

The following City staff provided updates regarding their corresponding Departments, including services provided, accomplishments, challenges, staffing levels, notable expenditure and revenue changes, supplemental requests, and areas of focus:

- Sheila Pautsch, representing the Community Services Department
- David Batt, representing the Finance Department
- Mario Rueda, representing the Fire Department
- Steve Fjeldsted, representing the Library Department

- Lucy Demirjian, representing the Management Services Department
- David Watkins, representing the Planning and Building Department
- Arthur Miller, representing the Police Department
- Paul Toor, representing the Public Works Department

In response to City Council inquiry, Community Services Director Pautsch explained that a band shell at Garfield Park would be a permanent fixture and design would be reviewed by appropriate commissions; advised that City staff will take over responsibility of the Teen Center, noting that Natasha Prime and Nick Taylor will continue to lead specific programs as their schedules permit. Councilmember Khubesrian stressed the importance of continuing the senior meal programs, noting that there is a possibility that federal funding may be eliminated.

During the course of discussion, the City Council: 1) expressed concern that a Management Assistant continues to be needed to address Global Water billing issues; 2) suggested that City staff monitor the number of customers served over the counter related to utility billing issues; 3) suggested that the City consider exiting the contract with Global Water if an opportunity arises.

In response to City Council inquiry, City Manager Gonzalez explained that the City's filming permit fees are competitive, noting that an increase may cause a decline in permits.

Mayor Cacciotti opened the Public Comment period.

Larry Rosen, South Pasadena resident, noted that Bushnell Avenue is frequently used as a filming location due to the character of the neighborhood; voiced concern regarding the condition of the street pavement, pointing out that it has been over 50 years since the last street improvements; commended the Public Works Commission for their diligence in inspecting each street in which it is providing a recommendation for street improvements.

Natasha Prime and Nick Taylor, South Pasadena residents, spoke on the history of the Teen Center; stated that they need to refocus their attention from the Teen Center to their personal lives; expressed a desire for the City to continue the Teen Center, noting that they will continue to assist with programming.

Bianca Richards, South Pasadena resident, inquired and received clarification that the City is responsible for issuing all filming permits within the City; expressed concern that filming disrupts parking when conducted near the South Pasadena Farmers' Market on Thursdays.

Barbara Kolkebeck, South Pasadena resident, urged the City Council to repair potholes Citywide, noting that they pose a potential liability to the City; questioned whether the Arroyo Seco Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail should be eliminated if the City needs to find savings; spoke on the importance of maintaining a strong reserve; suggested that the City Council consider employee benefit reductions.

Tucker Brugh, Administrator of the South Pasadena Convalescent Hospital, stressed the importance of undergoing a complete facilities assessment; recommended that the City seek additional opportunities for corporate sponsorships.

There being no others desiring to speak on this item, Mayor Cacciotti closed the Public Comment period.

Councilmember Mahmud spoke on the need for implementing a building permitting system that allows residents to check active permits online.

Police Chief Miller explained that a new Emergency Operations Center could be largely funded utilizing asset forfeiture funds and could be constructed in the City Hall courtyard area; explained that an additional police motorcycle is needed because an additional officer will be assigned to the unit; advised that automated license plate readers can now be launched as the necessary information technology infrastructure is now in place.

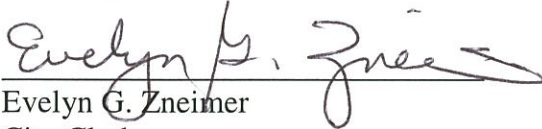
Mayor Cacciotti emphasized the need to transition the City's fleet and administrative vehicles to be all-electric vehicles.

In response to City Council inquiry, Public Works Director Toor explained that signal synchronization on Fair Oaks Avenue cannot occur until Interstate 110/Fair Oaks Avenue Ramp Project is resolved by Caltrans. Councilmember Mahmud opined that attention needs to be focused on improving street medians, pointing out the poor condition of the Huntington Drive median.

Mayor Pro Tem Schneider spoke on the need to maintain the urban forest and to continue to fund the program at sufficient levels.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Cacciotti adjourned the Special Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency Meeting at 10:25 p.m.


Evelyn G. Zneimer
City Clerk


Michael A. Cacciotti
Mayor

Minutes approved by the South Pasadena City Council on May 3, 2017.