



Wednesday, May 17, 2017
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council

CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the South Pasadena City Council was called to order by Mayor Cacciotti on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at 7:43 p.m., in the Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., Council Chamber, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Joe, Khubesrian, and Mahmud; Mayor Pro Tem Schneider; and Mayor Cacciotti.

Absent: None.

City Staff

Present: Elaine Aguilar, Interim City Manager; Teresa L. Highsmith, City Attorney; Evelyn G. Zneimer, City Clerk; and Anthony J. Mejia, Chief City Clerk were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

INVOCATION

Mayor Cacciotti gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Cacciotti led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Closed Session Announcements

The Regular Closed Session of the City Council of May 17, 2017, was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Schneider at 6:30 p.m.

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

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – LABOR NEGOTIATIONS, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6:

City Negotiators: City Manager Sergio Gonzalez, Human Resources Manager Mariam Lee Ko, City Attorney Teresa L. Highsmith; and Attorney Steve Berliner

Represented Employee

Organizations: Firefighters' Association (FFA)
Police Officers' Association (POA)
Public Service Employees' Association (PSEA) Full Time Unit
PSEA– Part Time Unit

Unrepresented Employees: Management Employees

B. 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 received briefings and provided direction to staff regarding the agendaized Closed Session Items, but did not take any reportable action.

PRESENTATIONS

2. **Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to the following Outgoing Commissioners:**

Mayor Cacciotti announced Certificates of Appreciation to the following outgoing City of South Pasadena Commissioners:

- Eileen Cheng, Youth Commission
- Katherine Conte, Youth Commission
- Harry Lieberman, Public Safety Commission
- H. Alex Wing, Public Safety Commission

3. **Presentation of a Proclamation Declaring May 21-27, 2017 as "Public Works Week" in the City of South Pasadena**

Mayor Cacciotti presented a Proclamation to Kristine Courdy, Felipe Morales, and Richard Arriola, representing the South Pasadena Public Works Department, declaring May 21-27, 2017, as "Public Works Week" in the City of South Pasadena.

4. Presentation of a Proclamation Commemorating 75th Anniversary of South Pasadena Police Reserves Program

Mayor Cacciotti presented a Proclamation to Police Chief Arthur Miller, commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the South Pasadena Police Reserves Program.

The following individuals presented Certificates of Recognition to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the South Pasadena Police Reserves Program:

Becky Cheng, on behalf of U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu

Yvette Kim, on behalf of State Senator Anthony Portantino

Hector Rodriguez, on behalf of State Assemblymember Chris Holden

CITY COUNCIL COMMISSION LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

5. City Council Liaison Appointments to the Library Board of Trustees and Public Safety Commission

Following discussion, the City Council agreed to appoint: 1) Councilmember Mahmud, Councilmember Khubesrian, and Councilmember Joe to serve as the City Council Liaison to the Library Board of Trustees, Animal Commission, and Public Safety Commission, respectively, for a term ending December 31, 2017.

COMMUNICATIONS

6. Councilmembers Communications

Councilmember Joe displayed photos and reported on the Senior Center Mother's Day Luncheon.

Mayor Pro Tem Schneider reported that the Natural Resources and Energy Commission (NREC) recently discussed the proposed Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program for Los Angeles County; suggested that the General Plan evaluate whether a Commission should be responsible for addressing parking issues; encouraged City staff and the Transportation Commissions to evaluate the possibility of implementing safe pedestrian principles such as the Vision Zero Program to help eliminate pedestrian fatalities.

Councilmember Mahmud commended the volunteers and organizers on the success of the Eclectic Music Festival; expressed gratitude to the Youth Commission for conducting the Senior Center Tech Day once a month; encouraged residents to attend the Teen Concert at Garfield Park on May 19, 2017; stated that the City Council will likely receive recommendations from various City Commissions regarding the CCA at an upcoming City Council meeting.

Councilmember Khubesrian reported on her attendance at the Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action (WISPPA) and National Women's Political Caucus meetings; requested that the City Council issue a Certificate of Appreciation to Brad Colerick for his efforts to coordinate the Eclectic Music Festival; spoke on the importance of the General Plan and the need for City Council to prioritize their use of the interim City Manager's time to allow her to focus on the General Plan update; suggested that the City Council agendize replacing membership with the Independent Cities Association with the Contract Cities Association.

Mayor Cacciotti displayed photos depicting the Eclectic Music Festival, recent Commission Meetings, and the street conditions on Lyndon Street.

7. City Manager Communications

City Manager Aguilar invited the community to the Sidewalk CPR event on June 1, 2017, and the Budget Hearing on June 7, 2017; introduced Sonia Cruz as the recently hired Assistant Finance Director.

8. Merchant Minute

Mayor Cacciotti introduced Barbara Goldeen and John Selmer, of Santa Fe Crafts Native American Gallery, who invited the community to visit their business, located on Mission Street; advised that they offer diverse collections of high quality handmade authentic Native American jewelry and art.

9. Reordering of and Additions to the Agenda

Councilmember Mahmud announced that La Cañada Flintridge Councilmember David Spence recently passed away and requested that the City Council adjourn tonight's meeting in his memory, second by Councilmember Joe.

City Manager Aguilar announced that Consent Calendar Item No. 14 will be deleted from the agenda at the request of City staff.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Andy Au, South Pasadena resident, urged the City Council to prioritize street improvements on Lyndon Street; spoke on the poor pavement conditions on Lyndon Street, pointing out that the water and sewer system has leaked in the past.

Shlomo Nitzani, South Pasadena resident, spoke in support of Mr. Au comments and the need for street improvements on Lyndon and Pine Streets; spoke on the need for left turn pockets to be installed at various intersections; questioned whether the City has required Southern California Edison to conduct Electromagnetic Field (EMF) studies for the vault upgrades near his house; suggested that the City may benefit from district-based elections.

Katie Longoria, South Pasadena resident, announced that the Woman's Club will be conducting Operation Cookie to support veterans that are hospitalized, homeless, or wounded and requested that residents drop off cookies at the Clubhouse on May 24, 2017.

Carmella Jones, South Pasadena resident, requested that the City Council amend the Municipal Code to prohibit the burning of incense in multi-family housing units; voiced concerns that her neighbor is constantly burning incense which aggravates her asthma and allergy symptoms.

Mayor Cacciotti requested that consideration of amending the City's smoking ordinance to include incense be agendaized for a future City Council meeting, seconded by Councilmember Khubesrian.

Jonathan Eisenberg, South Pasadena resident, stated that a group of local residents are interested in establishing a "Sister City" -like program between South Pasadena and another city which reflects more conservative political views; requested that the City Council provide resources to help establish such a relationship.

Councilmember Mahmud suggested that Mr. Eisenberg reach out to community organizations which may have an interest in launching such a program and to return to City Council if there is a need for formal City Council action.

Richard Petty, South Pasadena resident, stated that Lyndon Street has water, sewer, and street infrastructure from the original 1890s construction; urged the City Council to prioritize Lyndon Street for system upgrades and replacements.

Mayor Cacciotti recommended that the residents of Lyndon Street attend the meetings of the Public Works Commission so that it may recommend Lyndon Street for capital improvements in the future fiscal years.

Janet Ferguson, South Pasadena resident, voiced concern that her neighbor is purposely causing trees to die at 1746 Hanscom Drive; asserted that City staff is not taking the necessary steps to protect the trees; asserted that the City's permitting process has been manipulated to bypass the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission in relation to issuing tree removal permits.

Public Works Director Toor explained that the City arborist was present during the permitted removal of certain dead trees; advised that City staff has made over 10 trips to the subject property in response to complaints from Ms. Ferguson; stated that the City staff has not discovered any unusual or unpermitted activity.

Alan Ehrlich, South Pasadena resident, expressed gratitude to the City Council, Public Safety Commission, and Fire Department for their commitment to the Community Emergency Response Team.

Elisabeth Emirhanian, South Pasadena resident, stated that she lives near 1746 Hanscom Drive and opined that she has never witnessed pine trees die as quickly as the trees on the subject property.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Consent Calendar Item Nos. 10-13 and 15-17; with Item No. 18 pulled for separate discussion. Consent Calendar Item No. 14 was deleted from the agenda at the request of City staff.

10. Minutes of the City Council Meeting of May 3, 2017

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2017 City Council Meeting.

11. Prepaid Warrants, General City Warrants, and Payroll

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the City of South Pasadena Prepaid Warrants Nos. 198223 through 198274 in the amount of \$188,757.57; General City Warrants Nos. 198275 through 198400 in the amount of \$677,017.57; Payroll dated May 5, 2017, in the amount of \$494,212.60; Seated as the Successor Agency to the Community Redevelopment Agency, approve the Redevelopment Successor Agency Prepaid Warrants in the amount of \$86.50 (included in the above totals).

12. Monthly Investment Reports for March 2017

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to receive and file the Monthly Investment Reports for March 2017.

13. Award of Contract With Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the Purchase of TASERS, Body Worn Cameras, and Digital Evidence Management Software System Utilizing State Grant Funds

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a five-year contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the purchase of Body Worn Cameras, Digital Evidence Management Software System, and TASERS in the amount of \$122,523.69.
2. Waive bidding requirements and authorize a single source purchase pursuant to South Pasadena Municipal Code Section 2.99-29 (11)(j) from Axon Enterprise, Inc.

14. Contract with Envicom Corporation to Cover Costs for Environmental Consultant Work Associated with a 15-Unit Condominium Project at 181-187 Monterey Road

This item was deleted from the agenda at the request of City staff.

15. Acceptance of Project Completion and Authorization to File a Notice of Completion for Traffic Signal Improvement Project at Monterey Road and Via Del Rey

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Accept the project improvements as complete and authorize the issuance of a Notice of Completion for the Traffic Signal Improvement Project.
2. Authorize release of retention payment to L.A. Traffic Signal Transportation, Inc., in the amount of \$3,364.55.

16. Award of Contract to Studio Spectrum, Inc., for the Library Community Room Audio Video System Upgrades

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Accept a bid dated May 2, 2017, from Studio Spectrum, Inc., for the Library Community Room Audio Video System Upgrades.
2. Reject all other bids received.
3. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Studio Spectrum, Inc., for a not-to-exceed amount of \$43,771.46 for the Project.

17. Authorize Letters of Support for Senate Bills 541, 589, 633, and Assembly Bill 1180 Regarding Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Authorize a letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 541(Allen) Stormwater Guidelines for Schools.
2. Authorize a letter of support for SB 589 (Hernandez) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems: Financial Capability Analysis, as amended April 26, 2017.
3. Authorize a letter of support for SB 633 (Portantino) Use of Existing Infrastructure to Convey Stormwater.
4. Authorize a letter of support for Assembly Bill 1180 (Holden) Stormwater Permit Compliance Fund.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION**18. Authorize a Letter of Support for Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10 Which Lowers the Voting Age**

Chief City Clerk Mejia presented the staff report.

Councilmember Mahmud voiced opposition to Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10 (ACA 10) opining that 17-year-olds may not understand the significance of their votes, noting that students do not typically take a civics course until senior year of high school; pointed out that other states which has lowered the voting age included specific limitations; suggested that there are alternative methods to promote voting to young adults.

Councilmember Khubesrian opined that 17-year-olds are sophisticated and have a greater understanding of digital journalism and social media to assist in making informed decisions.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, CARRIED 4-1 (COUNCILMEMBER MAHMUD VOTING NO), to authorize a Letter of Support for Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10 (ACA 10) which lowers the voting age from 18-years-old to 17-years-old.

ACTION/DISCUSSION**19. First Reading and Introduction of an Ordinance Prohibiting the Retail Sale of Commercially Bred Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits From Retail Pet Stores, Retail Businesses or Other Commercial Establishments within the City of South Pasadena**

Police Captain Neff and Julie Bank, Pasadena Humane Society (PHS) President/CEO, presented the staff report and responded to City Council inquiries.

Mayor Cacciotti opened the Public Comment period.

The following speakers voiced support for the proposed ordinance:

Elizabeth Oreck, representing Best Friends Animal Society

Tracy Reiman, South Pasadena resident

Lisa Lange, South Pasadena resident

Veronica Ferrantelli, Pasadena resident

Ed Simpson, South Pasadena resident

Bianca Richards, South Pasadena resident

Erin Fleming, South Pasadena Animal Commissioner

Dale Bartlett, South Pasadena resident

Gretchen Robinette, South Pasadena resident

Elisabeth Emirhanian, South Pasadena resident

Monica Krieger, South Pasadena resident

Linnaea Scott, South Pasadena resident

Lela Bissner, South Pasadena resident

Jan Marshall, South Pasadena resident

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

Councilmember Khubesrian voiced support for the ordinance, noting that the Animal Commission should review the ordinance for future amendments to possibly include other animal species that are bred in inhumane conditions; recommended that the Animal Commission and PHS work with local pet stores to promote the animal shelter's activities.

In response to City Council inquiry, Police Captain Neff advised that enforcement of the ordinance would be complaint-based and investigated by the Police, Code Enforcement, or PHS.

Councilmember Mahmud suggested that the Animal Commission review the sanctions for violation of the ordinance to determine whether the associated fines should be increased.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER MAHMUD, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM SCHNEIDER, CARRIED 5-0, to:

1. Introduce an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of South Pasadena adding Section 5.22-2 to Article I of Chapter 5 (Animals and Fowl) and amending Section 5-22.1 (Mistreating Baby Fowl or Rabbits) of Chapter 5 (Animals and Fowl) of the South Pasadena Municipal Code to prohibit the sale of commercially bred dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet stores, retail businesses, or other commercial establishments in South Pasadena," and waive further reading.
2. Direct the Animal Commission to consider including other animals and increasing penalties for future City Council consideration.

20. Direction Regarding Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18

Finance Director Batt narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Fiscal Year 2017-18 Proposed Budget" and responded to City Council inquiries.

In response to City Council inquiry, Community Services Director Pautsch explained that the residents surrounding Garfield Park oppose the construction of a permanent band shell, citing concerns related to parking, noise, and loitering; stated that City staff will explore the possibility of purchasing a portable performance stage.

In response to City Council inquiry, Assistant to the City Manager Demirjian explained that Human Resources Division's Legal Services Account was increased due to ongoing labor negotiations, noting that unused funds can be reallocated during the Mid-Year Budget review.

In response to City Council inquiry, Public Works Director Toor advised that the Public Works Commission had considered Lyndon Street for improvements, but determined that other streets had a greater demand for repair. Mayor Cacciotti requested that Public Works staff attempt to patch Lyndon Street until resurfacing of the street can be funded.

Mayor Cacciotti opened the Public Comment period.

Kim Hughes, Public Works Commissioner, explained the evaluation process taken by the Public Works Commission in determining which streets to recommend for improvements; advised that Lyndon Street requires a complete reconstruction but does not have as high traffic volume as the streets recommended for repair.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Schneider spoke on the importance of funding the tree reserve. The City Council agreed that consideration of allocating funds towards the tree reserve could be considered at the Mid-Year Budget review.

The City Council discussed the impact to the City's cash flow forecast due to changes in the made by CalPERS related to pension costs; requested that the Finance Commission evaluate the City's cash flow forecast and potential sources of revenues.

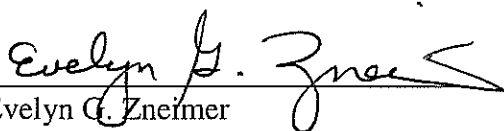
Councilmember Joe requested that City staff begin evaluating the impacts to City operations if the Utility Users Tax (UUT) is repealed at the next General Municipal Election in 2018.

Mayor Cacciotti requested that City staff provide the City Council with a fleet inventory list, noting that replacement fleet vehicles should be clean-fueled vehicles.

During the course of discussion, the City Council noted minor corrections to the proposed budget. MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to direct City staff to move forward with proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18 in regards to revenues, expenditures, supplemental and capital outlay requests, street improvement program, designated reserve funds, and undesignated reserve levels for Fiscal Year 2017-18, as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Cacciotti adjourned the City Council Meeting at 10:58 p.m., in memory of David Spence, La Cañada Flintridge City Councilmember.


Evelyn G. Zneimer
City Clerk


Michael A. Cacciotti
Mayor

Minutes approved by the South Pasadena City Council on June 21, 2017.