



Wednesday, February 21, 2018
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 Schneider on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at 7:30 p.m., in the Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., Council Chamber, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

City Staff

Present: Stephanie DeWolfe, City Manager; Teresa L. Highsmith, City Attorney; and Desiree Jimenez, Acting Chief City Clerk were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Cacciotti gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Cacciotti led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Closed Session Announcements

The Regular Closed Session of the City Council of February 21, 2018, was called to order by Mayor Schneider at 6:30 p.m.

The following individuals commented on the hiring of an attorney in regards to the SR-710.

William Sherman, South Pasadena resident

Steven Lawrence, South Pasadena resident

Mark Gallatin, South Pasadena resident

Odom Stamps, South Pasadena resident

Joanne Nuckols, South Pasadena resident

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

A. Initiation of Litigation

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

Number of Cases: 1

B. Existing Litigation

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1):

Name of Case: Timothy Patrick Green v. City of South Pasadena et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC572438

C. Initiation of Litigation

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1):

Title: City Manager

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 by the Pasadena Humane Society on Available Animal Adoptions

Jamie Holeman, Pasadena Humane Society (PHS) Director of Public Relations and Marketing, encouraged residents to visit the adoption center; noted that low cost vaccinations and spay and neuter services are available at the Shelter.

3. Merchant Minute

Mayor Schneider invited South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Laurie Wheeler to introduce Alejandro Chavez, of Aro Latin and Radhika Modern Indian, who encouraged residents to visit the restaurants, noting that there will be new food offerings featuring fresh ingredients from the Farmers' Market.

COMMUNICATIONS

4. Councilmembers Communications

Councilmember Joe displayed photos depicting Los Angeles County Supervisor Barger issuing a Proclamation to the City of South Pasadena in celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year, the South Pasadena Middle School performance celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year, and the Stop Senior Scams Performance and luncheon sponsored by State Senator Portantino.

Mayor Pro Tem Khubesrian provided an update on the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District, noting that a District representative will provide a presentation to the City Council in July 2018.

Councilmember Mahmud urged residents to avoid landscape runoff, noting that it may puddle and provide for mosquito breeding areas; urged residents to conserve water, noting that the state's snow caps are only 20% of normal and it can be anticipated that water conservation regulations may become mandatory and permanent; noted that the California Public Utilities Commission has authorized the Clean Power Alliance to proceed with implementation of a community choice energy program.

Councilmember Cacciotti displayed photos and reported on recent community events and construction projects; noted that Police Captain Neff, Fire Chief Riddle, and himself test drove a Ford hybrid police pursuit-rated vehicle, pointing out that the vehicle will reduce fuel consumption and result in reduced maintenance.

Mayor Schneider noted that the City will celebrate its 130th Anniversary in March 2018 and summarized the City's history and character.

5. City Manager Communications

In response to previous Public Comment, City Manager DeWolfe advised that staff is developing an ordinance to prohibit smoking on corridors to schools; stated that staff has inventoried its flags, removed or replaced flags as appropriate, and will review the Flag Policy.

6. Reordering of and Additions to the Agenda

Mayor Schneider announced that Item No. 16 "Approval of Lease Agreement with San Pascual Stables, LLC, for the Operation of the San Pascual Stables" will be removed from the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Christopher Sutton, Pasadena resident, Attorney representing several Caltrans tenant associations, asserted that Caltrans has inappropriately calculated the sell price of the Caltrans homes rendering them unaffordable for the tenants; urged the City Council to issue a letter to Caltrans calling for it to reconsider its calculations and to call for an investigation.

Timothy Okitsu, South Pasadena resident, advised that his Eagle Scout project installing a trail informational sign has been completed and displayed a photo; advised that the project cost was approximately \$1,100 and there is an \$800 shortfall.

Councilmember Mahmud requested that the City Council agenda consideration of allocating \$300 from her discretionary funds towards the project, seconded by Councilmember Cacciotti. The City Council encouraged Mr. Okitsu to move forward with fundraising efforts and to return to City Council if supplemental funding is needed.

Laurie Wheeler, South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce President & CEO, invited the community to attend the Winter Arts Crawl on February 24, 2018; noted that there will be special events and exhibits in recognition of Women's History Month.

Gisella Benitez, South Pasadena resident, voiced support for a prohibition of smoking around schools, noting that the ordinance should address enforcement and penalties as well as vaping and cannabis.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Consent Calendar Item Nos. 7-9 and 11-13; with Item No. 10 pulled for separate discussion.

7. Prepaid Warrants, General City Warrants, and Payroll

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the City of South Pasadena Prepaid Warrants Nos. 201775 through 201826 in the amount of \$194,871.09; General City Warrants Nos. 201828 through 201917 in the amount of \$630,163.58; Payroll dated February 9, 2018, in the amount of \$612,294.18.

8. Monthly Investment Reports for December 2017

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

9. Discretionary Fund Request from Councilmember Cacciotti for the Purpose of Purchasing Bicycle Lights for the Metro Bicycle Friendly Business District Bike San Gabriel Valley Pilot Program

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Discretionary Fund request by Councilmember Cacciotti designating \$250 for the purpose of contributing to the purchase of bicycle lights for the Metro Bicycle Friendly Business District's Bike San Gabriel Valley Pilot Program.

10. Mid-Year Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2017-18

This item was excluded from the Consent Calendar. Please refer to Page 16 of these minutes for a summary of that action.

11. Award of Contract to American Asphalt South, Inc., for the Construction of the Mission Street Improvement Project

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

1. Accept a bid dated January 30, 2018, from American Asphalt South, Inc., for the construction of the Mission Street Improvement Project.
2. Reject all other bids received.
3. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract for an amount not-to-exceed \$231,075.

12. Accept a Grant from the County of Los Angeles and Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments to Hire a Regional Consultant for the Development of a Homeless Plan

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

1. Accept a \$30,000 grant from the County of Los Angeles for the creation of a homelessness plan.
2. Authorize a Memorandum of Understanding with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments to use grant in hiring a regional consultant to develop homeless plan.
3. Authorize the City Manager or her designee to execute related agreements.

13. Approval of a California Department of Transportation's Sustainable Communities Grant Application to Fund an Active Transportation Plan

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, CARRIED 5-0, to authorize the City Manager to apply for a California Department of Transportation Sustainable Communities Grant in the amount of \$250,000 to fund a City of South Pasadena Active Transportation Plan.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION

10. Mid-Year Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2017-18

In response to City Council inquiry, Finance Director Batt advised that staff will evaluate the news that CalPERS may require prospective pension liabilities to be amortized over 20 years instead of 30 years and will provide the City Council with an update.

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

1. Appropriate from General Fund Reserves \$5,000 to Account #101-1020-1022-8040 Elections Advertising, \$45,000 to Account #101-1020-1022-8170 Elections Professional Services, and \$50,000 to Account #101-2010-2013-8160 Personnel Legal Services.
2. Receive and File the Mid-Year Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2017-18.

PUBLIC HEARING

14. Public Hearing to Receive Objections or Protests to the Vegetation Management Program Regarding the Abatement of Weeds, Brush, Rubbish and Refuse Upon or in Front of Specified Property in the City and Authorizing by Minute Order the Abatement of Hazardous Vegetation

Fire Chief Riddle presented the staff report and responded to City Council inquiries.

Mayor Schneider opened the Public Hearing.

Beverly Biber, South Pasadena resident, voiced concern regarding the removal of live vegetation and habitat for migratory birds; urged that the Fire Department provide appropriate instructions and policies to the work crews to ensure that habitats are preserved.

There being no others desiring to speak on this item, Mayor Schneider closed the Public Hearing.

In response to City Council inquiries, Fire Chief Riddle advised that staff will follow-up with the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the work crews to address the preservation of live vegetation and habitat as well as slope stabilization; noted that there

is a need to balance the protection of property and the preservation of habitat in an urban interface.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER MAHMUD, CARRIED 5-0, to order the abatement of brush and native vegetation fire hazards identified in Resolution No. 7545.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

15. First Reading and Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 21A (Skateboards and Skateboard Parks) of the South Pasadena Municipal Code

Community Services Director Pautsch presented the staff report and responded to City Council inquiries.

Mayor Schneider opened and closed the Public Comment period, there being no one desiring to speak on this item.

In response to City Council inquiry, City Attorney Highsmith summarized the City's liability immunity provided by Assembly Bill 1146 provided that the City updates its signage related to proper safety gear.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, CARRIED 5-0, to introduce an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of South Pasadena, California, amending Chapter 21A (Skateboards and Skateboard Parks) of the South Pasadena Municipal Code" regarding procedures and requirements for proper usage of the Skateboard Park, in accordance with California State Assembly Bill 1146 (AB 1146) Skateboard Parks and CA Health and Safety Code Section 115800.

16. Approval of Lease Agreement with San Pascual Stables, LLC, for the Operation of the San Pascual Stables

This item was removed from the agenda.

17. Award of a Multi-Year Contract to West Coast Arborists Inc., for Urban Forestry Services in an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$375,000

Acting Deputy Public Works Director Courdy narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "West Coast Arborist Contract Award" and responded to City Council inquiries.

Mayor Schneider opened the Public Comment period.

Kim Hughes, South Pasadena resident, voiced concern that the tree database is owned by West Coast Arborist, urging the City to create its own database in the future; suggested that the City coordinate its tree grid pattern with Southern California Edison's electrical grid pattern; spoke on the importance of tree health and continuing to water trees even in drought.

Beverly Biber, South Pasadena resident, suggested that the City Council consider a rebate or incentive program to assist residents with the cost of watering trees.

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

In response to City Council inquiries, Acting Deputy Public Works Director Courdy advised that staff will evaluate the possibility of putting Mexican Fan Palms on a more frequent pruning schedule and will present the fiscal impacts to the City Council; noted that the Tree Planting List is under review for consideration of pest-resistant and climate-appropriate trees; advised that the new contract ensures that all tree data is owned by the City and must be exported to the City when the contract terminates.

Councilmember Mahmud requested that staff consider simplifying the process for property owners to elect to prune their parkway trees ahead of schedule, including eliminating the requirement that the City be named as an additional insured; suggested that staff provide tree watering bags at cost or free to residents using water conservation funds, seconded by Councilmember Joe.

Mayor Pro Tem Khubesrian requested that staff investigate best practices for establishing micro-climates to help protect against the impacts of climate change, seconded by Councilmember Joe.

Councilmember Joe requested that staff provide an update on the number of trees removed per year and the most common causes for removal.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER JOE, CARRIED 5-0, to award a multi-year contract to West Coast Arborists Inc. for Urban Forestry Services and authorize the City Manager to execute the attached Services Agreement in an amount not-to-exceed \$375,000.

18. Approve the City of South Pasadena's Default Energy Mix of Fifty Percent Renewable Energy Option for the Clean Power Alliance of Southern California

Acting Deputy Public Works Director Courdy narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Default Energy Mix for Clean Power Alliance" and responded to City Council inquiries.

Mayor Schneider opened the Public Comment period.

Kim Hughes, South Pasadena resident, City Alternate to the Clean Power Alliance, spoke on the City's vision and efforts to move towards sustainable energy generation; commended the City Council for setting a default energy mix of fifty percent renewable.

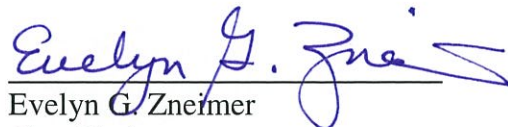
There being no others desiring to speak on this item, Mayor Schneider closed the Public Comment period.

Councilmember Joe requested that the City Council be provided with a listing of all member agencies.


MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER MAHMUD, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the City of South Pasadena's default energy mix of fifty percent option renewable energy for the Clean Power Alliance of Southern California, formerly known as Los Angeles Community Choice Energy.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Schneider adjourned the City Council Meeting at 9:16 p.m.



Evelyn G. Zneimer
City Clerk



Richard D. Schneider, M.D.
Mayor

Minutes approved by the South Pasadena City Council on March 7, 2018.