



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

Room 280A
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2017
8:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: May 11, 2017 / 8:02 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Aronberg, Shalowitz, Pressman, Vice Chair Felsenthal, Chair Wolfe

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: James Burnley, Mark Cuneo, Vince Damasse, Debby Figoni, Michael Hensley, Ilene Knebel, Erick Lee, Chad Lynn, Shana Epstein

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items not on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. By State law, the Commission may not discuss or vote on items not on the Agenda.

Speakers: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By Order of the Chair, the agenda was approved as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the special meeting of April 17, 2017.

Motion: MOVED by Chair Wolf, SECONDED by Commissioner Pressman to approve the minutes as amended (5-0).

AYES: Commissioners Aronberg, Shalowitz, Pressman, Vice Chair Felsenthal, Chair Wolfe

NOES: None

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Operations Reports from City Departments, Consultants and Outside Agencies

Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Director Report

Dr. Wunderlich provided an update about Metropolitan having a record year putting water into storage. The level of water concern has been lowered as a result of this. We still need to adopt water conservation as a way of life. Even with increased water storage, we will still not be at pre-drought levels and still need to pay attention.

Commissioner comments:

- Perhaps there should be consideration to change what "normal is."
- There was a question about MWD's reaction to the tunnel project and its perceived ramifications. Dr. Wunderlich expressed his personal opinions on the project.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Renewal (Taken out of Order)

Integrated Solutions Consultant John Rogan presented the item. The primary part of the plan is mitigation strategies. It is updated every five years. The summary of the plan is to look at ways to reduce the loss of life and property in hazardous events such as earthquakes, floods, landslides and windstorms.

After presentation to the Commissions, the plan will be presented to the California Emergency Management Agency and then to FEMA for final approval. The final process will be the City Council adopting the resolution.

Commissioner comments:

- Bollards could be placed in specific area of the City for additional opportunities to decrease problems.
- The online document has interesting statistics and figures that might be helpful when discussing a water rate increase.
- The Commission asked for the process for providing feedback.

3. Capital Improvement & Major

City Engineer Mark Cuneo presented an update on Capital Improvement Projects. He reviewed the projects outlined on the packet including the Maple Wells, Cabrillo Reservoir Projects, La Brea Basin Development, Pump Station No. 8 Rehabilitation, Purple Line Extension and Olympic/Beverwil/Beverly Drive Traffic Signal Modification and Curb Ramp Replacement.

He further informed the Commission about the Santa Monica Blvd. Project. The project will be done in three phases. We are currently in the first phase. A time line and construction updates were provided. He discussed traffic detours/diversions that will take place in the near future as well as planned traffic mitigation and media alerts to be disseminated.

Commissioner comments:

- Perhaps the timeline will be lessened because of the seven day a week construction schedule.

4. Memorandum of Understanding for Formation of Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Water Resources Manager Vince Damasse presented the item. The MOU has been reviewed by the legal teams of the stakeholders. No cost has been committed by the City of Beverly Hills. To meet the legislative deadline of June 30th, we are required to hold a public hearing and submit the document to the City of Santa Monica, who will in turn, present it to the State Water Board.

Commissioner comment:

- Commissioners have previously been presented this information and have recommended the City move forward with adoption of the MOU. At this time everyone has an equal share in the agreement.

5. Water Enterprise Plan Subcommittee Report on Water Quality Issues

Commissioners Pressman and Felsenthal met last month to discuss issues with water quality at the plant.

Commissioner comment:

- Little new information was made available at the meeting.
- The Hollywood basin wells were discussed at length. Reconditioning or re-drilling are two possible alternatives for the wells. The wells (with the exception of Well 5 which is currently offline) will continue to be pumped to see if there is any appreciable lessening of the sand, manganese or iron sulfide water quality issues. The problems are not insurmountable.
- Staff cautioned against any short term fixes and suggested hiring a consultant to outline the options for restarting the wells.
- Costs were not identified or presented at this meeting.
- Request for staff to advise what the cost is for the pre-treatment analysis and blending before moving forward with the testing.

Staff reported a memo would be disseminated with what the cost of water has been since operating the plant and comparing our investments to the projected rehabilitation cost. Additionally, the Water Planet Report will be reviewed by Director Epstein and then shared with the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Introduction to the Customer Service Bureau

Senior Management Analyst Michael Hensley reported on this item. He reviewed the mission of the Public Works Customer Service Bureau as well as types of calls received and services they provide. A new email address was suggested for an additional way to communicate with the bureau.

He reported on a new call center software that will be implemented in June 2017.

Commissioner comments:

- Brief discussion about valet parking in residential areas.
- Important to assess if we are providing the services we are saying we provide.
 - New software will be helpful for tracking/gathering this data.
- Suggestion of a "one number for Customer Service" similar to LA's 311 system.
- Commissioners would prefer a shorter email address than the one presented.

PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS ITEMS

7. Water Conservation Update

Water Conservation Administrator Debby Figoni provided a brief update on water conservation. There was a 12% water reduction in April. This lower percentage, compared to previous months, is a result of sprinklers being turned back onto more than two days per week. There has been interest in the large landscape evaluations and outreach will continue with irrigation education. Staff is working on partnering with our neighboring cities and offering classes to gardeners educating them on efficient irrigation, setting sprinkler controllers, drip irrigation, etc. Social Media will also be increased to make sure the message is maintained that Water Conservation is a Beverly Hills way of life.

Commissioner comments:

- Comment about 20% reduction by year 2020.
- Municipal Code updates needs to be further discussed.

We want customers to use water efficiently, not excessively. Demand side management will mean your unit price of water will go up; it will not go up as much as building new water.

Update was given on recent liaison meeting with regard to water rates and revenue requirements and update to cost of service analysis recommendation. Also want to see our fixed cost move from 15% to more of an industry standard of 30 - 35%. Direction from City Council was come back with rates broken out and have a scenario which deals with the top level revenue requirement. It may potentially result in a phased revenue approach.

8. Solid Waste Franchise Agreement Update

Solid Waste Manager James Burnley presented an update on the process. The RFP process was recently completed. There was one respondent, Athens. Additionally, Athens recently acquired Recology, the City's current vendor. As a result of this acquisition, Recology has formally submitted a request for the assignment of the franchise agreement to Athens. Staff is currently evaluating this request. There is a benefit of accepting the assignment.

Commissioner comments:

- Possibility to see advertising space on the side of the trucks. Staff will bring back idea for further discussion at a future meeting.

Mr. Burnley explained the benefit of having a franchise contract agreement because we can secure our rates.

Staff is evaluating documentation before final determination. City Council will be updated at the May 16, 2017 Meeting.

9. Specific Information and Department Updates

The report provided transmitted responses to questions posed at prior Commission meetings, a synopsis of the Department's items for the most recently completed and upcoming City Council meetings and an update on the status of the Department's master plans.

No comments.

No comments.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

10. Chair's Report/Mayor's Cabinet Meeting

- The Mayor's Cabinet Meetings are now being televised and written highlights are not being provided. This item will no longer be noted on the Agenda.
- Comments from Commissioners
 - Concern about will serve letters.
 - Would like an auditor for the City to review Public Works contracts.
 - Request to agendaize the topic "Leak Detection System."
 - Anticipating City Council's approval for the watering of the Burton Way and Sunset Medians.
 - Concern with Edison outages and the process of trimming the trees. Staff will follow up.
 - Update on the LADWP presentation. Staff will follow up.
- Ad Hoc Subcommittee Updates
None.
- Meeting Dates

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

11. Report from Director, Assistant Directors and Deputy Director

- Director of Public Works, Shana Epstein introduced herself and reviewed upcoming events.
- Upcoming Events

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: May 11, 2017 / 10:37 a.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8TH DAY of JUNE, 2017



Jeff Wolfe, Chair