



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
City Hall Room 280-A
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

MINUTES

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING September 10, 2015 8:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Commissioner Felsenthal.

A. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Felsenthal, Wolfe, Aronberg, Shalowitz and Pressman.
Commissioners Absent: None.

B. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. AUDIENCE COMMENTS – None.

2. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Chair Shalowitz attended the meeting of August 25, 2015. The Beverly Hills Ambassador Hotline is (424) 302-1487; 22 hour coverage, 7 days per week (no coverage 3am to 5am).

Other Items of Interest None.

3. COMMISSIONER AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

4. REPORT FROM METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT (MWD) DIRECTOR – None.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR

Any item may be removed from the Consent Calendar by a member of the Commission or a person in attendance, with the concurrence of the Commission.

"I move the adoption of the Consent Agenda, as follows"

Minutes

1. CONSIDERATION BY THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION OF THE MINUTES of the Special Meeting of August 11, 2015. MOTION by Vice Chair Aronberg, SECONDED by Commissioner Felsenthal to approve as amended. Absent objection by the Commission, the Minutes are approved by order of the Chair. **CARRIED 5/0**

D. CONTINUED AND NEW BUSINESS

1. **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UNDER CAPITAL ASSETS**

Mr. Cuneo provided an update.

a. Water Treatment Plant Update

Physical construction will begin September 14, 2015, with 8.5 months for completion. The Plant is scheduled to be running within six months. The project should be complete in late February 2016.

b. Shallow Groundwater Well Update

The Project is to be awarded at the September 10, 2015, City Council Formal Meeting; the contract execution phase will follow with the contractor onboard in roughly 1.5 months. Staff will meet with the State Water Resources Control Board to work on permitting. There will be one year of data collecting and testing required. The contract award will be just over one million dollars to drill the two wells. If the test phase is positive, transmission lines will be designed and equipping the wells will be the second phase.

c. Greystone Reservoir Rehabilitation

Design is complete; bids were advertised and should be back by month's end. Cost is estimated at 1.5 million for both sides of the reservoir and is estimated to be one year of work. Changes to the project include cleaning, valve coating, concrete and maintenance work and valve rehabilitation. The award should occur early November with work beginning early 2016. Commissioner Pressman requested Staff ensure proper pump function.

2. TIERED WATER RATES STRUCTURE RECOMMENDATION

Caitlin Sims provided an update; Background and Accelerated Schedule was discussed. Rick Simonson (HF&H) provided an update and discussed the following: Guiding Principles; Cost of Service Approach; Revenue Requirement; Water Demand Assumptions; Potential Rate Structure Modifications; and Potential Rate Structure Modifications. An extended explanation was provided on 'Cost of Service' and the meaning of 'Max Day' versus 'Max Hour.' The Commission would like to see a 15% comparison. Mr. Lynn advised the Commission can make a recommendation to the Public Works Liaison Committee (PWLC) or wait until after the Liaison meeting and hold a special meeting to discuss; a Special Meeting should be held if the Commission is looking for answers to specific questions. Commissioner Pressman asked that Staff recommend to the PWLC that costs related to increased usage should be tiered as presented by HF&H and state that the Commission believes the issue is where costs are allocated. Commissioner Wolfe noted this process is analyzing the rate structure to ensure it conforms to the law in light of Proposition 218. Chair Shalowitz stated the Commission is not ready to make a recommendation.

3. PENALTY SURCHARGE APPEALS PROCESS

This Item to appear on October's Agenda.

4. DISCUSSION ON CITY'S WILL SERVE POLICY

Caitlin Sims provided an update. The City's current policy states those requesting a Will Serve Letter (WSL) must provide information showing there will be no significant effect on the City's water supply system. Mr. Chavez stated previous granting of WSL's was based on infrastructure, not supply. No heavy analysis has taken place concerning WSL's. Commissioner Felsenthal raised the following: The City should adopt a water demand offset policy requiring new construction resulting in an increased water demand to offset 100% the additional use as a condition of granting WSL's; The City should require new projects to include a plumbing fixture fee to mitigate the additional water use; New developments should be required to install one meter for outdoor and one for indoor use; Granting WSL's

for projects outside the City should only occur if all City standards are met and additional fees relating to actual costs are paid; WSL's should have a termination date; With WSL's for Development Agreements, a "Bella Vista" statement should be included; WSL's requiring additional water should be specified as additional potable water; Future WSL's should come through the PWC to monitor supply and demand; WSL's should be connected to other fees the City deals with. Mr. Chavez stated the WSL discussion is on the next PWLC meeting agenda. Proposed areas of review must be vetted through the City Attorney's Office; some involve fees. If the Commission is to have discretion in these areas, the Commission's charge may need to be reviewed. Commissioner Pressman suggests taking Commissioner Felsenthal's ideas to the PWLC Meeting for discussion.

5. WATER TRACKER UPDATE

Mr. Schirmer provided an update. The following were discussed: Overview; Progress (Phase II Work); and Next Steps (User-facing Functionality). It is possible for the use of a phone number to access accounts if the user has enough information known only to the resident. Ms. Tse stated a conference call is scheduled with East Bay Municipal Utility District, an entity using Water Tracker (WT) to monitor continuous usage data. Commissioner Pressman would like enforcement staff to utilize WT to discover over-users to know which locations to visit for violations and that the City should either enforce or drop water penalty regulations. Mr. Chavez stated the Communications & Marketing Division can make WT a priority. The first prong of regulating was to inform and educate; there is now a Code Enforcement Officer onboard committed to this issue. The Commission requests the new Code Enforcement Officer attend October's meeting. Ms. Tse stated Staff is looking into lawn signage; promoting WT is a potential message.

6. CONSERVATION OUTREACH UPDATE

Ms. Tse provided an update. The Commission was given a copy of the City's letter to the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the City's not meeting the mandated 32% water use reduction. At the September 1, 2015, City Council meeting, the following was approved: Code Amendments related to Stage D water conservation requirements. Council is considering amending the Code to allow synthetic turf. PWS Building Code recommendations are on tonight's Council Agenda. Additional funding to supplement MWD rebates, G3 and turf rebate programs for projects through November was approved. As to public education and outreach, Staff has been invited to speak on conservation at various events and is working with Cook + Schmid on mailings. Staff is working on developing a microsite as it relates to water conservation. Penalty surcharge letters were mailed.

7. STATUS REPORT

The Beverly Hills Water Consumption Report (BHWCR) was discussed. Commissioner Wolfe noted the BHWCR is not complete in this month's packet. Ms. Tse stated Staff will update this Report. Regarding new accounts, the report was pulled from the City's utility billing system and is based on the number of active accounts. Staff will clarify numbers' meanings at the next meeting. The City has reduced its water use by 40%.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR & STAFF

Commissioner Felsenthal requests regular, up to date monthly reports covering projects and issues. He introduced points for future discussion (accountability, control of PWS projects, Coldwater Canyon Reservoir, a microprocessing plant, water rights, water capacity fees


update, the concept of reserve funds to install two meters for each water account with a cost chargeback). Commissioner Pressman stated prior to agendaizing these points, associated work and costs should be worked out. Ms. Sims reminded the Commission of the following: Mandatory Commissioner Training on December 5th from 8:00 a.m. until Noon; Household Hazardous Waste Event on September 19th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.; and a Team Beverly Hills Public Works Event will be October 21st.

F. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Shalowitz, with the consent of the Commission, adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Passed and approved

This 8th day of October, 2015


Chair Shalowitz

The next Public Works Commission Regular Meeting will be held on October 8, 2015.

Public Works Commission meetings are available via live webcast through the City's website at www.beverlyhills.org. Previous Public Works Commission meetings are also available on the City's website at www.beverlyhills.org.