



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

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

September 13, 2018
8:00 am

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: September 13, 2018 / 8:00 am

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CIVILITY STATEMENT

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Alpert, Greer, Wolfe, Vice Chair Aronberg, Chair Felsenthal

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Gil Borboa, Vince Damasse, Josette Descalzo, Shana Epstein, Debby Figoni, Melissa Gomez, Daren Grilley, Michael Hensley, Ilene Knebel, Jeff Muir, Tatiana Szerwinski.

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: David Gingold

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By Order of the Chair, the agenda was approved as amended, hearing TAB 12 between TAB 2 and TAB 3.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of August 8, 2018, Public Works Commission special meeting minutes.

Motion: MOVED by Vice Chair Aronberg, SECONDED by Chair Felsenthal to adopt the minutes as amended (5-0).

AYES: Commissioners Alpert, Greer, Wolfe, Vice Chair Aronberg, Chair Felsenthal

NOES: None

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Dr. Pressman was not present. Assistant Director Gil Borboa gave a brief MWD Report.

2. Public Feedback Process for La Cienega Park & Recreation Complex

Director of Community Services Nancy Hunt-Coffey, reported on the process for gathering feedback related to the possible work to be done at the location. She stressed the importance of completing the online survey. Regular reports are going to City Council on the progress of the outreach. The Commission briefly discussed the role of Public Works in this potential project.

12. Chair's Report – Taken out of Order

- Chair Felsenthal made suggestions to improve efficiency in the Public Works Commissions procedures with regard to Liaison Meetings.
- Chair Felsenthal spoke about the importance of apprising community groups about issues being discussed within the Public Works Commission.
- Chair Felsenthal commented about the percentage of Will Serve Letters being evaluated from West Hollywood and requested information from staff on the impacts of their usage.
- Updates on Fiber Optics installation and Emergency Preparedness were requested.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

3. Capital Projects Update

City Engineer Daren Grilley updated the Commission on the Capital Improvement & Major Project items.

Commissioner comments:

- The Commissioners inquired further about the oil well plugging project.
- The Commission requested a schedule for the progression of the Water Treatment Plant. Staff will provide a monthly schedule starting at the October 2018 Meeting. The Commission also asked about using water from the plant for drinking and possible locations for additional wells.
- The Commission inquired about the remaining impacts after the K-rail is removed from Wilshire Blvd. It was reported until the decking is removed traffic should be as normal.
- The Commission asked about the timing/specifics for the installation of the mid-block crosswalk near the Post Office.

4. Water Reliability Charges

Public Works Director Shana Epstein, explained the Water Reliability item was not discussed at the recent Liaison Meeting due to a misconception of what the Water Reliability Charge was going to be and how it was calculated. HF&H will be presenting four different options to consider. Two options require loans from the General Fund to allow for smaller payments; the other two options are without the loan.

HF&H Consultant and Vice President Rick Simonson, reported on this aspect of the Water Rate Study. This is only one component of the Water Rates; it is how we can fund that plan and have insurance that we will not be completely reliable on MWD for our water. He is seeking direction on decision making policies and how the scenarios can be ranked when presented to the Liaison Committee, in order to get a full understanding of the Water Reliability Charge. This information will be presented to the City Council as part of the Cost of Service Study Report.

The objective of the Water Enterprise Plan is to create a long term local water supply. With the increase of drought conditions, it is prudent to look for insurance for the water supply from local sources.

The recommendation is to add the charge to all customers; the charge is derived as a flat amount based on the life cycle cost.

General Fund subsidies were discussed. Significant investment is necessary to get up and running by 2025. The cash flow is necessary to fund the capital expenditures. Scenarios were developed to meet the cash flow requirements and the four alternatives presented, show the average bill impacts.

Speaker: Lauren Meister, City of West Hollywood Councilmember

Commissioner comments:

- The Commission asked for an explanation of the differences between the scenarios and requested additional feedback from the Ad Hoc Committee about subsidies.
- Commissioners were not in favor of an additional loan. A version of scenario 2 (a variation of 2A/2B) should be focused on.
- The consensus among the Commission was that scenarios 1 and 3 are not in the best interest of the community or rate payer at this time and the question of how long we keep the rates lower and use the subsidy is a final decision by the City Council.
- The Commission favored spreading out the costs although specific numbers were not agreed upon.

The Commission took a break at 10:31 am
The Commission returned at 10:45 am

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Alpert, SECONDED by Commissioner Greer that the Public Works Commission recommend to City Council that the Water Reliability Charge not be funded with a direct loan from the General Fund for the purposes of cash flow management, rather the Commission directs the staff to prepare and present to City Council a range of amortized subsidy options for the Water Reliability Charge that represents consideration of consumer impacts (5-0).

AYES: Commissioners Alpert, Greer, Wolfe, Vice Chair Aronberg, Chair Felsenthal

NOES: None

CARRIED

5. Update – Submeters and Residential Irrigation Meters
Assistant Director of Public Works Gil Borboa and Water Conservation Administrator Debby Figoni reported on the development of the two program initiatives and their progress.

For the submetering of new 6 units or less multi-family residential units, staff is proposing individual meters for each unit, master meter and submeters for buildings 7 units or more, and separate meters for outdoor and/or common area water use.

The considerations for the residential irrigation meters are an interruptible supply for drought management, water pricing structure, backflow prevention and customer cost. Staff recommends compliance with all new developments and for excessive water users. The Ad Hoc will be meeting to discuss further.

Commissioner comments:

- The Commission does not see many people installing dual meters without a substantial subsidy due to the cost.
- The Commission expressed concern that the cost savings was overstated and misleading.
- The Commission asked if there were other options for more efficient alternative solutions.

6. Water Will Serve Letters/Application Request Form Update

Assistant Director of Public Works Gil Borboa and Water Resources Manager Vince Damasse reviewed the changes that have been made to the documents contained in the packet for the Will Serve process. Staff agreed to update the Will Serve document and report back quarterly on the development activity.

Commissioner comments:

- The Commission commented that the cost of water connection and ultimate usage, should not be tied to our zoning laws. The size of the developments outside of the City of Beverly Hills (and not subject to our zoning requirements) are substantially larger and the demands will be great.
- The Will Serve letters could have conditions on implementation of certain specified conservation controls, creating an opportunity to maximize conservation at new facilities.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Clean Power Alliance – Selecting a Default Renewable Energy for Beverly Hills (Taken out of Order)

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Manager Josette Descalzo briefed the Commission on a minor change from the previous report on this topic. The projections for Edison's rates are lower and the cost for renewable energy is higher so the CPA is taking a conservative estimate making the discounted rate less in this year's projections.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Greer, SECONDED by Vice Chair Aronberg to affirm remaining with the selection of the 50% Renewable Energy tier product for Beverly Hills (5-0).

AYES: Commissioners Alpert, Greer, Wolfe, Vice Chair Aronberg, Chair Felsenthal

NOES: None

CARRIED

8. Single-Use Plastic Straw Restriction – Legislative Update
Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Manager Josette Descalzo gave an informational update on the current legislative action banning plastic straws in some eating establishments and updated the Commission on the showing of a documentary on the topic on September 27, 2018. If the Commission suggested a change in the ordinance to include restaurants that are excluded from the ban, then this recommendation may be made by the Public Works Commission at a later date once agendized.

9. Performance Measures

This item was tabled until the October 11, 2018, Public Works Commission Meeting.

PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS REPORTS

10. Water Efficiency Update
Information only.

11. Specific Information and Department Updates
Information only.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

12. Chair's Report (Continued)

- Commissioner comments:
 - Commissioner Wolfe shared concerns about Chair Felsenthal's earlier comments during his Chair's Report.
 - The Commission requested a future discussion on the role of staff and commissioners and the use and efficiency of consultants.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

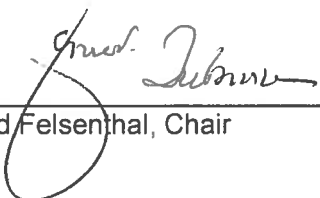
13. Director's report

- An update was given on the Arkell Drive water main break as well as other water main projects and concerns.
- The upcoming MWD Inspection Trip was reviewed.
- The focus group for La Cienega Park will be taking place soon and it has been requested we send two representatives to participate.
- The Hazardous Waste Roundup will be taking place this coming Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: September 13, 2018 / 11:46 am

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11^H DAY of OCTOBER, 2018



Jerrold Felsenthal, Chair