



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

In-Person / Telephonic / Video Conference Meeting

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

February 9, 2023
8:00 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: February 9, 2023 / 8:00 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Millan, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Nystrom

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Greer

Staff Present: Colonel Burnley, Vince Damasse, Josette Descalzo, Cole Duffy, Samer Elayyan, Shana Epstein, Ilene Knebel, Tristan Malabanan, Rob Welch

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items 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.

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from Jerry Felsenthal.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of Minutes

Consideration of Minutes of the Public Works Commission regular meeting of January 12, 2023.

2. A Resolution of the Public Works Commission of the City of Beverly Hills Continuing to Authorize Public Meetings to Be Held via Teleconferencing Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and Making Findings and Determinations Regarding the Same

Comment: Recent legislation was adopted allowing the Public Works Commission to continue virtual meetings during the COVID-19 declared emergency subject to certain conditions, and the proposed resolution implements the necessary requirements.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Millan, SECONDED by Vice Chair Alpert to approve the Consent Calendar items as presented (3/0).

AYES: Commissioner Millan, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Nystrom

NOES: None

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Operations Reports from City Departments, Consultants and Outside Agencies

Utilities General Manager Rob Welch provided an update on the Metropolitan Water District, reservoir levels from the last few months of rain, and proposals on water allocations for the Colorado River. The commission asked about the potential of reduced incoming water from the Colorado River.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

3. Introducing the Draft Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs Manager Josette Descalzo presented the latest draft of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), revised with comments received from various commissions and the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The commission asked if there were measures to reduce pollution from traffic traveling through the city and questioned the solutions and achievability of the plan, especially regarding reliance on other levels of government and outside organizations such as Southern California Edison.

4. Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting the Use, Sale, and Distribution of Polystyrene (Styrofoam) Foodware and Coolers

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs Manager Josette Descalzo presented the latest draft of the proposed ordinance to ban Styrofoam goods. The commission asked about incentives for early adopters, ways to communicate this ordinance to the public, and potential exceptions to the ordinance.

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from Todd Johnson.

The commission took a break at 9:12 AM.

The commission returned from break at 9:22 AM.

5. Performance Measures Update

Deputy Director of Public Works/Operations Michael Hensley provided a summary of the Public Works Department's FY 2022/2023 mid-year results in performance measures to keep track of department services, objectives, and goals across all divisions. He also reviewed vacant positions that need to be filled. The commission asked about repeated trends in automobile and vehicle incidents and how they could be addressed.

6. Quarterly Water Treatment Plant Report

Water Resources/Operations Manager Vince Damasse provided an update on water quality in Beverly Hills wells since the water treatment plant opened in April 2022. He also reviewed testing and pending permits on the new Hollywood Well No. 6 and the new La Cienega Well No. 1 (LCW-1). The commission asked about testing for PFAS chemicals in the water supply.

7. Organics Collection Program Report Update

Solid Waste Manager Colonel Burnley provided an update on the roll-out of the organic waste collection program in accordance with Senate Bill 1383. He also provided an update on the Food Recovery Program to increase the amount of edible food from supermarkets and hotels being recovered for food banks. The commission asked about outreach efforts and how best to explain the different bins in the new collection system to the public.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Monthly Educational Speaker Series – ENSO

Utilities Director Robert Welch introduced Gunnlaugur Erlendsson, Founder and CEO of ENSO, a British company that produces more environmentally friendly tires for electric vehicles. He reviewed the company's achievements in the United Kingdom and Los Angeles at reducing tire pollution and the benefits of their tires in comparison to their competitors. The commission asked about the lifetime/quality of the tires and how ENSO could expand further in the United States, including Beverly Hills.

PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS ITEMS

9. La Brea Subarea Update

Project Manager Tristan Malabanan and Water Resources/Operation Manager Vince Damasse answered questions from the commission regarding the equipping phase of the LCW-1 well. They also provided an update on a potential well site that is being re-evaluated by staff and the City's consultant hydrogeologist for well construction. The commission asked about the favorable aspects and the downsides of the location.

10. Water Efficiency Update

Utilities General Manager Robert Welch answered questions from the commission regarding the effects of the rainy season on reservoirs in California versus the Colorado River. The commission asked about the monthly water use report and the potential of water reclamation projects. Public Works Director Shana Epstein said that MWD is actively looking into such projects and stressed the importance of potable reuse.

11. Capital Projects Update

Engineering Services Manager Samer Elayyan provided an update on the Coldwater Canyon Water Main Replacement project, including upcoming construction dates and community outreach efforts. The commission asked about the impact of the project on the fire station on Coldwater. Elayyan said there would be minimal impact on their ability to enter and exit the station. The commission also asked if Public Works could improve communication with the public about the Robertson Boulevard sidewalk project concerning the replacement of trees and their roots that are actively harming the stormwater sewer lines underneath the sidewalk.

12. Specific Information and Department Updates

No comment.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

Vice Chair Alpert requested bringing the declaration of the land across from Public Works headquarters as surplus land to the next agenda meeting regarding the ramifications of the declaration.

13. Chair's Report

Chair Nystrom said she would present updates from the Mayor's Cabinet meetings from January and February, next month. She also discussed the ad hoc subcommittee meetings regarding water and wastewater rates. Water was discussed, and a meeting for wastewater will be scheduled at a later date.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

None.

14. Director's Report

Public Works Director Shana Epstein provided updates on upcoming events. The next "Live with Lili" will be held on February 13, and Team Beverly Hills at Public Works will be on February 15. The city will return to a full-sized celebration of Earth Day on Sunday, April 23.

ADJOURNMENT

Date/Time: February 9, 2023 / 11:00 AM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 3RD DAY of MARCH, 2023



Wendy Nystrom, Chair

Link to February Public Works Commission Video:

https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/player/clip/9014?view_id=58&redirect=true&h=afa027272109fe2ec07dea90b55718dc

Link to February Public Works Commission Meeting Transcript:

https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/TranscriptViewer.php?view_id=58&clip_id=9014