



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

December 14, 2023
8:00 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: December 14, 2023 / 8:00 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Kimura, Nehoray, Millan, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Nystrom.

Commissioners Absent: None.

Staff Present: Vince Damasse, Josette Descalzo, Samer Elayyan, Shana Epstein, Michael Hensley, Ilene Knebel, Tristan Malabanan, Rob Welch

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Public Speaker: None.

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 November 9, 2023.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Millan, SECONDED by Commissioner Nehoray to approve the Consent Calendar item as presented (5/0).

AYES: Commissioners Kimura, Nehoray, Millan, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Nystrom.

NOES: None.

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Operations Reports from City Departments, Consultants and Outside Agencies

MWD Director Barry Pressman gave an update on the State Water Project, including a review of the last 12 months with the reversal of drought conditions, near-record breaking snowpack, and 100% allocation as reservoirs improve. The commission asked about water allocation, lawsuits concerning the "big gulp tunnel," and limiting high water level crops.

Environmental Compliance Manager Josette Descalzo introduced the guest speakers from Humpback Hydro. CEO Colonel Brian Green, CTO Mark Legacy, and John Kelly (Stakeholder Relations) gave a presentation on the company and its abilities in hydro energy creation and storage. They reviewed the company's unique advantages amongst its competitors in terms of delivering low cost, high volume hydro energy that also provides food security, energy security, and water security. The Commission asked about water treatment, the cost of the operation, how much liquid flow is needed, and applications in Beverly Hills.

Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton gave a presentation on the city's ISO rating regarding the city's water supply and flow. The Commission asked about testing fire hydrants, how city limits are applied in the review, how insurance companies determine eligibility, and the use of swimming pool water.

The commission took a break at 9:23 AM

The commission returned from break at 9:33 AM

NEW BUSINESS

2. Proposed Agenda Items for January through June 2024 Meetings

Public Works Deputy Director Michael Hensley presented the proposed agenda items for January through June of 2024. The Commission asked if the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation item could be moved up to an earlier date than April. The Commission also suggested thinking in advance about using reusable items at City Events.

3. Climate Action and Adaptation Plan – Adaptation Measures

Environmental Compliance Manager Josette Descalzo presented the adaptation measures from the city's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP). The adaptation measures include community awareness, emergency response and mitigation strategies. Fifteen adaptation measures have been assigned to Public Works, the majority of which focus on resilient infrastructure. The Commission asked about drought measures and water storage, tree removals and the necessity for permits, and the limitations, priorities, focus and proposed timelines for the plan. There was also a suggestion to form an Ad Hoc Committee to plan mitigation projects.

Public Comment: Written public comment was read into the record from Peter Ostroff.

4. Water Treatment Plant Update (July – November 2023)

Water Operations Manager Vince Damasse gave an update on the last five months of operations at the city's water treatment plant in terms of finished water production and quality, which remains high and consistent. The Commission asked about the state of the wells, what happens to filtered out materials from the treated water, well rehabilitation, and how much of the city's daily water usage comes from the water treatment plant.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

5. La Brea Subarea Update

Water Operations Manager Vince Damasse and Project Manager Tristan Malabanan gave an update on the La Brea Subarea and the Le Doux/Gregory wells. The Commission asked about the advertised cost estimate for well drilling/operation and the viability of the sandpit site per guidelines from a federal letter.

6. Water Efficiency Update

The Commission asked General Utilities Manager Rob Welch about hiring for the Water Conservation Administrator position, water waste notices, and the conservation efforts during the MWD shutdown in November.

7. Capital Projects Update

Engineering Services Manager Samer Elayyan and Project Manager Tristan Malabanan gave an update on the Coldwater Canyon Water Main replacement project and the reservoir management system project. They also gave a presentation updating on the Burton Way median project. Landscaping has been completed and is established as part of the city's ecosystem. There are delays on the controller assemblies due to supply chain issues; the subcontractor hopes to have all parts delivered by mid-January 2024. The Commission asked about testing the tanks with the upcoming storms and delays with supply orders.

8. Specific Information and Department Updates

Public Works Director Shana Epstein gave an update from a recent City Council Meeting where a large vehicle purchase and permanent parklets were approved. The Burton Way Median will be maintained by our contractor moving forward. The public hearing for modification of water rates will be held on February 20, 2024. Meeting notices will be sent well in advance. If you have a community group that wants to meet, please advise and a meeting will be scheduled.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

The Commission thanked Vice Chair Alpert for his 6 years of service on the Commission and presented with him an honorary plaque.

9. Chair's Report

Chair Nystrom gave an update on the Mayor's Cabinet Meeting including a mention of "Just in Case Beverly Hills," as a resource to get a fire extinguisher.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

10. Director's Report

Public Works Director Shana Epstein gave updates to the calendar. The next City Council Study Session will be held on January 11, 2024. The last menorah lighting will be held on December 14, 2023. Street closures will be in effect for the Golden Globe Awards on January 7, 2024. A new Public Works Commissioner will be installed during the January 11, 2024, meeting. Director Epstein thanked the Commission for participating in the city's holiday events and Chair Nystrom for her service as chair this year. Staff also thanked Vice Chair Alpert for his six years of service on the Public Works Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Date/Time: December 14, 2023 / 11:28 AM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11TH DAY of JANUARY 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Milan", written over a horizontal line.

John Milan, Chair