



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Telephonic/Video Conference

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

October 8, 2020
8:00 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: October 8, 2020 / 8:00 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CIVILITY STATEMENT

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Nystrom, Millan, Felsenthal, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Greer
Commissioners Absent: None.
Staff Present: Gil Borboa, James Burnley, Vince Damasse, Josette Descalzo, Samer Elayyan, Shana Epstein, Daren Grilley, Michael Hensley, Ilene Knebel, Tristan Malabanan, Michelle Tse

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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of September 10, 2020, Public Works Commission regular meeting minutes.

Motion: MOVED by Vice Chair Alpert, SECONDED by Commissioner Wendy Nystrom to approve as presented (5/0).

AYES: Commissioners Nystrom, Millan, Felsenthal, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Greer

ABSTAIN: None

NOES: None

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Operations Reports from City Departments, Consultants and Outside Agencies

- Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Director, Dr. Barry Pressman
No Report.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. Quarterly Legislative Update

Planning and Research Analyst Michelle Tse provided an update on relevant Public Works legislation at the State and Federal level. The Commission suggested looking into the Envision rating system to assess sustainability for infrastructure projects and commented on looking into legislation for funding to support the electric car infrastructure given the Governor's Executive Order about the transition to electric vehicles by Year 2035.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Commercial and Residential Solid Waste Rate Adjustments

Shana Epstein, Director of Public Works presented the three scenarios considered for the Proposed Solid Waste Rates. These have been previously presented at a town hall meeting and other outreach methods. Scenario 2 was presented to Council with modifications and is under consideration. The proposed date of rate change would be July 1, 2021. A city wide notice has been sent out with information regarding the Solid Waste Rates. Written protest submissions will be accepted until October 27, the date of the first Public Hearing.* There was a brief discussion about the protest letters submitted, the rationale of moving the rate increase from January 1 to July 1 and the ability of Athens to recycle due to COVID. Lastly, the Commission asked if the Covid-19 Pandemic were to extend, how this might affect the rates. Director Epstein reported that Public Works Staff reached out to customers early on and there have not been many service adjustments due to Covid-19.

Public comment: Dr. Sharona Nazarian's comment was read into the record.

Director Epstein reiterated that rates have not been increased in 10 years, commented about the use of reserves and that Public Works does not make a profit, just enough to meet the revenue requirements. Rates are set to pay for the costs.

Motion: MOVED by Vice Chair Alpert, SECONDED by Chair Greer that the commission recommends the City Council approve the five-year proposed rate increase for the solid waste program service fees (4/1/0).

AYES: Commissioners Nystrom, Millan, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Greer

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Felsenthal

NOES: None

CARRIED

4. Water Loss Audit

Assistant Director of Public Works Gil Borboa presented the annual water loss audit report. The audit is included as part of the Agency's Urban Water Management Plan every five years. The report shows how much water is going out of the system that revenue is not collected for. Using a specific model provided by the State Water Board, a reliable method of measuring and providing a metric can be used for data collection and recording of water usage. Better record keeping and meter testing capabilities has led to our improved results. Annual fire flow testing was briefly discussed as well as possible illegal removal of water from a hydrant. Senior Project Manager from Psomas, Mike Swan, explained the validity of the data on the water loss audit report.

The Commission took a break 9:16 AM.

The Commission reconvened at 9:25 AM.

*Solid Waste Rate discussion delayed to November 17, 2020.

PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS ITEMS

5. Public Works Department Response to COVID – 19
No report.

Director Epstein explained the role Public Works has in assisting the Police Department with monitoring residential areas during protests, answered a follow up question about testing for COVID in the sewers and commented about the parklets and their use in the restaurant business.

6. Foothill Water Treatment Plant Update/La Brea Subarea Update

Project Manager Samer Elayyan reported on the progress of the Water Treatment Plant. Project Manager Tristan Malabanan gave an update for the La Brea Sub Area project and reviewed the timeline. Staff commented on a quarterly meeting with the Department of Drinking Water.

7. Water Efficiency Update
No report. No comments.

8. Capital Projects Update

City Engineer Daren Grilley reviewed ongoing projects including the Water Main Replacement on Loma Vista and Burton Way Median. The Oil Well Plugging project was updated by Engineering Manager Rob Welch. Staff fielded questions about the school district's plans regarding the Oil Well Project once the City has concluded their part, plugging issues at the oil wells, and the close out of the overall project.

9. Specific Information and Department Updates
No report.

The Commission commented about a possible typo in the text of an Agenda item presented to City Council.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

9. Chair's Report

- Mayor's Cabinet Highlights are in Commission packet.
- Ad Hoc Subcommittee Updates
 - The Water Enterprise Ad Hoc met and reviewed pilot testing details, reported on an increase in the fabrication schedule, was updated staff obtaining geotechnical data for Cabrillo Reservoir and the IWRMP will not be presented to City Council until November/December.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

10. Director's Report

- Director Epstein updated the Commission on the Conflict of Interest Code, the successful recent Household Hazard Waste Collection, and introduced Lucy Quiralte, a recent addition to the Public Works Staff.
- Director Epstein encouraged participation in the Connect Beverly Hills charrettes, long term design project, the return of e-waste collection at the Sunday Beverly Hills Farmers' Market, and the next Town Hall for Solid Waste Rates on October 20 and the City Council Hearing for Solid Waste Rates on October 27.

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: October 8, 2020 / 10:24 AM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10TH DAY of NOVEMBER, 2020



Joshua L. Greer, Chair