



Wednesday, April 27, 2016
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the South Pasadena Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency was called to order by Mayor Mahmud on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, at 7:35 p.m., in the Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., Council Chamber, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers/Redevelopment Successor Agency Members Joe, Khubesrian, and Schneider; Mayor Pro Tem/Agency Vice Chair Cacciotti; and Mayor/Agency Chair Mahmud.

Absent: None.

City Staff

Present: Sergio Gonzalez, City Manager/Agency Executive Director; Teresa L. Highsmith, City Attorney/Agency Counsel; Anthony J. Mejia, Chief Deputy City Clerk/Chief Deputy Agency Secretary were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mahmud led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Closed Session Announcements

The Special Closed Session of the City Council of April 27, 2016, was called to order by Mayor Mahmud at 6:30 p.m., with all Councilmembers present.

The meeting convened into Closed Session to discuss the following items as listed on the Closed Session Special Meeting Agenda:

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – INITIATION OF LITIGATION,
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(4):

Number of Cases: 1

City Attorney Highsmith reported that City Council provided direction to staff regarding the agendaized Closed Session Item A, but did not take any reportable action.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kim Hughes, Public Works Commissioner, thanked the City Council for allowing the community to participate in the budgetary process; noted that the Public Works Commission worked diligently to develop its recommendations for the Street Improvement Program; spoke on the importance of the Utility Users Tax to the overall stability of the City Budget; suggested that the City may need to explore alternative funding options such as a parcel tax; suggested that it may be appropriate to incorporate an Emergency Operations Center into the rehabilitation of City Hall.

Michelle Goldman, South Pasadena resident, stated that it is her desire to establish an educational facility and medical marijuana dispensary within South Pasadena; explained that the educational facility would instruct medical marijuana patients with skills to cultivate marijuana; expressed a desire to work collaboratively with the City to develop regulations to permit such facilities.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

2. Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget and Priorities

City Manager Gonzalez and Finance Director Batt narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled “FY 2016-17 Budget and Priorities” and responded to City Council inquiries.

Councilmember Schneider requested that future budget presentations include a comparison of the accuracy of adopted budgets to end-of-year actual budgets.

City Manager Gonzalez explained that the City will be evaluating its general liability and workers’ compensation insurance provider options over the next year; advised that the Finance Commission would be engaged in determining whether to switch insurance providers.

In response to City Council inquiries, Police Chief Miller and Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa explained that speed feedback signs are effective at reducing speeding; noted that a traffic calming study was conducted for Arroyo Drive and the residents reached a consensus to move forward with the proposed speed feedback sign.

Mayor Mahmud opened the Public Comment period.

Larry Abelson, Public Works Commissioner, noted that the Commission reviewed the Street Improvement Program and unanimously agreed that the traffic signal at Orange Grove Avenue and Monterey Road is a safety concern and should be prioritized over the street improvements on El Centro Street; pointed out that the Commission supports prioritizing the Monterey Road Median Improvements, citing that vehicles often stack into the through-traffic lane and causes drivers to make dangerous maneuvers.

Linda Krausen, South Pasadena resident, opined that the street repair for Grevelia Street should be extended through Orange Grove Avenue; questioned and received clarification that the pocket park for Grevelia Street was previously prioritized as Item No. 6 during the Park Needs Assessment Meeting which differed from the Community Priority Setting Meeting.

Ellen Wood, South Pasadena resident, encouraged the City Council to include funding to retrofit the City Council Chamber to serve as a secondary Emergency Operations Center.

There being no others desiring to speak on this item, Mayor Mahmud closed the Public Comment period.

In response to City Council inquiries, Public Works Director Toor advised that staff will work with Caltrans to explore the possibility of making street improvements on Grevelia Street to the east side of Fremont Avenue as part of the SR-110 Project; explained that the traffic engineer recommended consideration of installing a traffic signal at Orange Grove Avenue and Monterey Road, noting that the study also offered interim solutions such as additional signage and creating a vehicular safe refuge to allow for easier merging; explained that the Monterey Road street improvements are needed due to an increase in general liability claims as a result of uneven pavement and poor road conditions; advised that sidewalk and curb ramp improvements will be made along Monterey Road, to the extent practicable.

Councilmember Schneider expressed concerns that the street improvements for Monterey Road are piecemeal and does not address the need for median improvements, Americans with Disability Act (ADA) access improvements, and bicycle lanes.

During the course of discussion, the City Council reviewed the General Fund Designated Reserves and agreed to the following modifications:

- Establish a new Storm Water Fund with \$300,000;
- Increase the Library Expansion Fund by \$50,000;
- Increase the Renewable Energy Sources Fund by \$100,000;
- Increase the Tree Replacement/Management Fund by \$50,000;
- Increase the Caltrans Vacant Lot Purchases Fund by \$50,000; and
- Increase the Maintenance Yard/Community Center Fund by \$100,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti spoke on the importance of transitioning to alternative fuel vehicles, including vehicles for public safety management; pointed out that public safety vehicles are often transitioned into general fleet vehicles rather than purchasing alternative fuel or electric vehicles.

By consensus, the City Council agreed to:

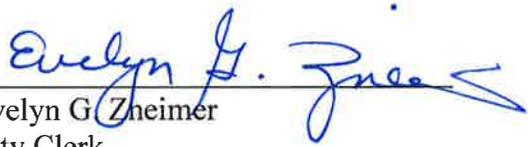
1. Move forward with the drawdown of the Undesignated General Fund Reserves from 36% to 30%, in the amount of \$1,536,061, for the purpose of funding the proposed Supplemental requests and funding the Facilities and Equipment Replacement Fund.
2. Establish a General Fund Designated Reserve for the Library Park Drainage Project in the amount of \$500,000 from the General Fund Undesignated Reserve.
3. Move forward with the purchase of a new Fire Engine in the amount of \$700,000 to be funded through the Facilities and Equipment Replacement Fund.
4. Defer consideration of the Supplemental request for the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone system.
5. Move forward with issuing the Request for Proposals for the Council Chamber Interior Renovation Project.

The City Council discussed the Street Improvement Program and whether to prioritize the new traffic signal at Monterey Road and Orange Grove Avenue or street improvements on El Centro Street. City Manager Gonzalez advised that Transportation Enhancement Funds may be available for the traffic signal or another project thereby providing funding for both projects to proceed.

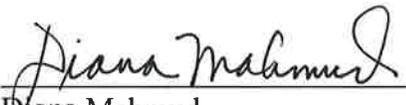
Mayor Mahmud, Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti, and Councilmember Schneider expressed a preference for a new portable speed feedback sign rather than a permanent speed feedback sign for Arroyo Drive. City Manager Gonzalez advised that staff will report back to the City Council with a cost estimate and whether a portable device is capable of recording data.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mahmud adjourned the Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency meeting at 11:17 p.m.



Evelyn G. Zneimer
City Clerk



Diana Mahmud
Mayor

Minutes approved by the South Pasadena City Council on May 18, 2016.