



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
JOINT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR AGENCY/
PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA CONVENED
THIS 4TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2015, AT 7:30 P.M.
AMEDEE O. "DICK" RICHARDS, JR., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET**

ROLL CALL

Mayor Joe convened the Regular Meeting of the South Pasadena Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency (Agency)/Public Financing Authority (Authority) at 7:40 p.m.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Hall called the roll. Present were City Councilmembers/Agency/Authority Members Cacciotti, Khubesrian, and Schneider; Mayor Pro Tem/Agency/Authority Vice Chair Mahmud; and Mayor/Agency/Authority Chair Joe.

Absent: None.

Other Officials and Staff present: City Clerk/Agency/Authority Secretary Zneimer; City Treasurer Pia; City Manager/Agency/Authority Executive Director Gonzalez; Assistant City Manager Straus; City Attorney/Agency/Authority Counsel Highsmith; Chief Deputy City Clerk/Chief Deputy Agency/Chief Deputy Authority Secretary Hall; Police Chief Miller; Deputy Fire Chief Riddle; Finance Director Batt; Planning and Building Director Watkins; Public Works Director Toor; Director of Library, Arts, and Culture Fjeldsted; and Community Services Director Pautsch.

INVOCATION

Mayor Joe presented the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Paul Hennessee and Andrew Shults, Boy Scout Troop 342, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Attorney Highsmith reported that Mayor Joe called to order at 6:31 p.m., the Closed Session Regular Meeting of the City Council of February 4, 2015, and that all Councilmembers were present, with Councilmember Cacciotti arriving at 6:41 p.m. She indicated the meeting convened into Closed Session to discuss the following item as listed on the Closed Session Regular Meeting Agenda:

3. Conference with Legal Counsel – Initiation of Litigation
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(4)
Number of Cases: 2

City Attorney Highsmith announced that direction was provided to the City Attorney regarding Closed Session Item No. 3.

2. PROCLAMATION DECLARING FEBRUARY 9, 2015, AS "NELBERT CHOUINARD DAY" IN THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA

Mayor Joe presented a Proclamation declaring February 9, 2015, as “Nelbert Chouinard Day” in the City of South Pasadena (City) to Doris Olga Gotsinas Kouyias, MFA, Advisory Board Member, Chouinard Foundation.

3. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS (3 MINUTES EACH)

Councilmember Schneider announced that the South Pasadena Tournament of Roses (SPTOR) Committee would be hosting its annual Spring Fling fundraising event on March 28, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., at the War Memorial Building.

Councilmember Khubesrian reported that she attended the Finance Committee as the new Council Liaison and the topics discussed were: 1) Four year terms; and 2) Increasing membership to six members, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud. Councilmember Khubesrian presented information and displayed slides on the following topics: 1) Electronic cigarettes; 2) Oak Meadow Street condition due to utility work; and 3) Grand Avenue Sewer Rehabilitation Project.

Councilmember Cacciotti requested the following items: 1) Send a letter to various agencies recommending that meetings be held near mass transit locations, seconded by Councilmember Khubesrian; and 2) Send a letter to South Pasadena Unified School District with comments regarding the proposed development project (Project). City Attorney Highsmith advised that the Project may be presented to the City Council at a future City Council Meeting. City Attorney Highsmith advised the City Council that comments should be made at the time the Environmental Impact Report is released. Councilmember Cacciotti requested that an update on the Project be provided at a future City Council Meeting. Councilmember Cacciotti reported that he participated in a teleconference call regarding the SGV Golden Streets (SGVGS) Project and provided an update.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud requested an update on the Mission Street Specific Plan at the next City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilmember Cacciotti. Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud attended the following meetings: 1) San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments' (SGVCOG) Special Meeting – The appointment of an Interim Executive Director was discussed; 2) Youth Commission (YC) – Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud attended her first YC meeting as Council Liaison; and 3) Host Town South Pasadena Kick-Off Party in honor of Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles - The event was held at the home of Bill and Mary Urquhart. Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud noted that in July 2015 the City would be hosting the youth participants from the Countries of Morocco and Paraguay.

Mayor Joe announced that he attended the Host Town South Pasadena Kick-Off Party, in honor of the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles, held at the home of Bill and Mary Urquhart on January 28, 2015, and displayed a photograph.

4. CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Gonzalez announced the City received a grant from the County of Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District in the amount of \$250,000 for the Arroyo Seco Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Project. City Manager Gonzalez announced and displayed flyers for the following events: 1) Strategic Planning Community Forum to be held on February 7, 2015, at 8:30 a.m., at the South Pasadena Public Library Community Room; 2) Operation Firefly event was held on February 3, 2015, with over 39 lights distributed to cyclists; and 3) Bike and Pedestrian Count volunteers needed for various dates sponsored by BikeSGV.

5. REORDERING OF AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud requested that Item Nos. 6 and 7 be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration.

Councilmember Cacciotti requested that Item Nos. 6, 7, and 11 be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration.

MOTION: M/S Khubesrian/Cacciotti to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 8, 9, and 10, and including Prepaid Warrants #186780 - 186830 in the amount of \$658,409.29, General City Warrants #186831 - 186977 in the amount of \$896,307.94, and Payroll 01-30-15 in the amount of \$412,259.73, totaling \$1,966,976.96; and seated as the Successor Agency to the Community Redevelopment Agency, approve Redevelopment Successor Agency warrants for \$9,135.04 (included in above total). By roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Absent: None.

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following items:

- 8. ACCEPTANCE OF PROJECT COMPLETION AND AUTHORIZATION TO FILE A NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR THE ORANGE GROVE AVENUE STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE RETENTION PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,174 TO TORO ENTERPRISES, INC.**
- 9. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 7389 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO SUBMIT BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WATERSMART WATER AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT FOR THE LANDSCAPE EFFICIENCY PROJECT**

CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY

- 10. APPROVAL OF PREPAID WARRANTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$658,409.29, GENERAL CITY WARRANTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$896,307.94, AND PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$412,259.73**

ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

- 6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2015**

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud requested a modification on page 16 (as listed on Agenda packet) of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2015, as follows: Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud indicated it was likely that residents would oppose increasing traffic on El Centro Street.

Councilmember Cacciotti requested that "Item 7)" on page 10 (as listed on the Agenda packet) of the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2015, be replaced with the following: 7) Prepare a letter of support to Metro and Hilda Solis, First District Supervisor, Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County, regarding the North Hollywood/Pasadena Bus Rapid Transit Extension Project, seconded by Councilmembers Khubesrian and Schneider.

MOTION: M/S Khubesrian/Cacciotti to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of January 21, 2015, with the aforementioned modifications. By roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Absent: None.

7. AWARD OF CONTRACT TO GREAT WESTERN PARK & PLAYGROUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$179,233.28 FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF SHELTER STRUCTURES FOR ARROYO PARK AND ORANGE GROVE PARK

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud recommended the City Council remove the purchase of the shelter structure at Orange Grove Park in the amount of \$62,419 due to the possibility of the construction of a community center at the location. Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud indicated the cost of the shelter structure was \$12,468 and the balance of \$49,951 was for the removal of existing concrete, re-grading, and the preparation of design plans.

Councilmember Cacciotti concurred with Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud's aforementioned comment.

In response to Councilmember Khubesrian's question, Community Services Director Pautsch explained the conditions of the current structure and indicated the wood is rotted. Community Services Director Pautsch stated the shelter structure would provide Club Med participants a shaded area and coverage for rainy days.

Councilmember Cacciotti recommended that staff bring back at a future City Council Meeting additional options, including a temporary option, for Orange Grove Park for City Council consideration.

MOTION: M/S Mahmud/Khubesrian to approve: 1) Price quote dated December 4, 2014, from Great Western Park & Playground for the removal and replacement of shelter structures at Arroyo Park; 2) Removal of the purchase of the Orange Grove Park shelter structure; 3) Provide additional options for Orange Grove Park for consideration by the City Council; and 4) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Great Western Park & Playground for a not-to-exceed amount of \$116,813.62. By roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Absent: None.

11. PRESENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

In response to Councilmember Cacciotti's question, Finance Director Batt presented the staff report.

In response to Councilmember Cacciotti's question, Finance Director Batt indicated that a comprehensive review of every warrant and financial transaction is conducted as part of the City's financial protocols.

MOTION: M/S Cacciotti/Khubesrian to receive and file the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. By roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Absent: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Joe opened the Public Comments section.

Brandy Guenveur, South Pasadena Resident, commented on the sewer construction work odor that Councilmember Khubesrian previously discussed. South Pasadena Resident Guenveur requested that residents be notified when this type of construction work is scheduled.

Linda Krausen, South Pasadena Resident, commented that tenants living in Caltrans' properties were receiving excessive rent increases.

Councilmember Cacciotti recommended that a letter on behalf of the Caltrans' tenants be sent to the appropriate State of California Assemblymember and Senator regarding rent increase concerns.

Ted Shaw, Member-at-large, SPTOR, thanked the City Council for supporting SPTOR Committee's Crunch Time Party and the South Pasadena Fire and Police Departments for their assistance at the event.

Odom Stamps, President, South Pasadena Preservation Foundation (SPPF), announced SPPF's Progressive Dinner Tour "Through the Gates of Oak Lawn" being held on April 25, 2015.

There being no additional speakers, Mayor Joe closed the Public Comments section.

PUBLIC HEARING

12. RESOLUTION ADOPTING WATER AND SEWER CAPACITY CHARGES

Public Works Director Toor presented the staff report as part of a PowerPoint Presentation.

Mayor Joe opened the Public Hearing. There being no speakers, Mayor Joe closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION: M/S Cacciotti/Schneider to adopt **Resolution No. 7390** setting water and sewer capacity charges. By roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Absent: None.

ACTION/DISCUSSION**13. RECEIVE AND FILE A FISCAL ANALYSIS REPORT RELATING TO THE UTILITY USERS TAX REPEAL INITIATIVE MEASURE, PURSUANT TO ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 9212, AND PROVIDE DIRECTION ON PLACING THE INITIATIVE ON AN UPCOMING BALLOT**

City Manager Gonzalez presented the staff report as part of a PowerPoint Presentation.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud's question, City Manager Gonzalez explained that the Library Special Tax (LST) has a minimum maintenance of effort that must be met or the revenue would be forfeited. City Manager Gonzalez indicated the LST revenue is approximately \$230,000 and the City's commitment is approximately \$1,000,000.

In response to Councilmember Khubesrian's question, City Manager Gonzalez discussed the various utilities that are charged a Utility Users' Tax (UUT).

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud's inquiry, City Manager Gonzalez stated the estimated average amount of UUT paid per household is \$250 to \$300 per year, or approximately \$25 per month. He noted that an exemption program was available through the Finance Department.

In response to Mayor Joe's question, City Manager Gonzalez explained that police officer positions were proposed to be removed due to the higher salaries that could be allocated to meet the deficit.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud's inquiry, City Manager Gonzalez indicated the City's top three revenue sources were property taxes, UUT, and sales tax.

In response to Councilmember Khubesrian's question, City Manager Gonzalez stated the City receives 24 cents for every property tax dollar collected, whereas 100 percent of UUT funds are received and managed by the City.

Mayor Joe opened the Public Comments section.

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the repeal of the UUT:

Phil Willems, South Pasadena Resident
Dr. Harry Lieberman, South Pasadena Resident
Gary Pia, South Pasadena Resident
Kim Hughes, South Pasadena Resident
Sally Kilby, South Pasadena Resident
Odom Stamps, Board Member and former Chair, Chamber of Commerce
Ted Shaw, South Pasadena Resident
Philip Putnam, South Pasadena Resident
Ellen Wood, South Pasadena Resident
Carrie Adrian, South Pasadena Resident

The following individuals spoke in support of placing the proposed UUT Repeal Initiative Measure on the November 3, 2015 General Municipal Election ballot:

Hugh Hemington, South Pasadena Resident
Edward Ristolo, South Pasadena Resident
Amie Weber, South Pasadena Resident
Kathy Bence, South Pasadena Resident
Marcy Guzman, South Pasadena Resident
Kurt Bollin, South Pasadena Resident

The following individual spoke in support of taking no action regarding placing the proposed UUT Repeal Initiative Measure on the November 3, 2015 General Municipal Election ballot:

Harry Knapp, South Pasadena Resident

There being no additional speakers, Mayor Joe closed the Public Comments section.

In response to Councilmember Cacciotti's inquiry, City Manager Gonzalez stated the City employs approximately 60 sworn public safety employees. He discussed the history of employee salary increases. City Manager Gonzalez explained that no employee salary increases were received for three years prior to the recent salary increase and that certain benefits were taken away.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud's question, City Manager Gonzalez stated the UUT revenue has fluctuated over five years and has not been an upward trend.

Councilmember Khubesrian commented that the City Council committed many hours to consider the City's budget and employees' salaries, and were responsible stewards of the public funds. Councilmember Khubesrian acknowledged the financial constraints that residents were experiencing.

Discussion followed among City Councilmembers and staff regarding grant funding the City has secured, the history of deferred maintenance of capital improvement projects, and quality of services related to the UUT.

Councilmember Schneider encouraged the community to attend the Strategic Planning Community Forum on February 7, 2015, and provide input on how they would like to prioritize projects.

Mayor Joe commented that the City Council is fiscally conservative and makes every effort to balance the priorities of the community. Mayor Joe commented that the City was moving in the right direction and recognized the financial constraints residents have.

MOTION: M/S Khubesrian/Cacciotti to approve the following: 1) Receive and file a Fiscal Analysis Report relating to the Utility Users Tax (UUT) repeal initiative measure (Measure), pursuant to Elections Code Section 9212; 2) Continue to collect and disseminate information regarding the UUT; 3) Direct the City Manager not to agendize the adoption of the Measure (UUT Repeal Ordinance); and 4) Defer the decision to place the UUT repeal initiative measure on a future ballot and investigate further options. By roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Absent: None.

14. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-16 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FOR THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY

Finance Director Batt presented the staff report.

Mayor Joe opened the Public Comments section.

There being no speakers, Mayor Joe closed the Public Comments section.

MOTION: M/S Mahmud/Cacciotti that the City Council, seated as the Successor Agency to the South Pasadena Community Redevelopment Agency (“Successor Agency”), adopt by **Resolution No. 2015-02 SA** the Successor Agency’s administrative budget for the period of July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016. By roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Absent: None.

15. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RECOGNIZED OBLIGATION PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2015

Finance Director Batt presented the staff report.

Mayor Joe opened the Public Comments section.

There being no speakers, Mayor Joe closed the Public Comments section.

MOTION: M/S Mahmud/Cacciotti to adopt **Resolution No. 2015-03 SA** approving the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule for the period of July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 (“ROPS 15-16A”). By roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Absent: None.

16. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INSPECTION AND ABATEMENT OF BRUSH AND NATIVE VEGETATION FIRE HAZARDS AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER TO INSPECT AND ABATE WEEDS, BRUSH AND NATIVE VEGETATION DECLARED TO BE AN EXISTING OR POTENTIAL FIRE HAZARD, AND SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 18, 2015 TO HEAR OBJECTIONS OR PROTESTS TO THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Deputy Fire Chief Riddle presented the staff report and responded to City Councilmembers' questions.

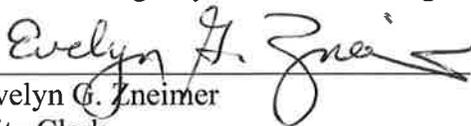
In response to Councilmember Khubesrian's inquiry, Deputy Fire Chief Riddle has not received any protests in the past several years. He indicated that goats are being considered for use on City-owned unimproved property.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud's question Deputy Fire Chief Riddle indicated the cost to homeowners is typically less expensive if the weed abatement is completed by the County of Los Angeles, Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures.

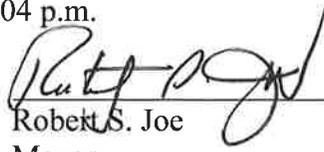
MOTION: M/S Cacciotti/Mahmud to adopt **Resolution No. 7391** authorizing the County of Los Angeles Agriculture Commissioner to inspect and abate weeds, brush, and native vegetation declared to be an existing or potential fire hazard, and schedule a public hearing to be held on February 18, 2015 to hear objections or protests to the vegetation management program. By roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Absent: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Joe adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency/Public Financing Authority at 10:04 p.m.



Evelyn G. Zneimer
City Clerk



Robert S. Joe
Mayor

Minutes approved by the South Pasadena City Council on February 18, 2015.