



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA CONVENED
THIS 29th DAY OF APRIL 2015, AT 6:00 P.M.
AMEDEE O. "DICK" RICHARDS, JR., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET**

1. ROLL CALL

Mayor Joe convened the Special Meeting of the South Pasadena City Council at 6:08 p.m.

Present were City Councilmembers Cacciotti, Khubesrian, and Schneider; Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud; and Mayor Joe.

Absent: None.

Other Officials and staff present: City Manager Gonzalez; Finance Director Batt; Assistant Finance Director Lieu; Planning and Building Director Watkins; Community Services Director Pautsch; Deputy Fire Chief Riddle; Police Captain Neff; Public Works Director Toor; Deputy Public Works Director Furukawa; Director of Library, Arts, and Culture Fjeldsted; Human Resources Manager Ko; Principal Management Analyst Lin; Executive Assistant Demirjian; Interim Chief Deputy City Clerk Kilby; and Deputy City Clerk Jimenez.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Interim Chief Deputy City Clerk Kilby offered the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Special Meeting was held to conduct a Budget Study Session (Session). Mayor Joe made introductory remarks about the purpose of the Session, and stated that no final decision will be made tonight and that the City Council will have at least two more opportunities to look closely at the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 Budget. He invited the City Councilmembers to ask questions after each subject area. He indicated that Public Comment will be taken after the presentation and after the City Council has had a chance to ask staff questions.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Joe said that several individuals in the audience would like to make comments prior to the presentation due to time commitments. With no objection from the Councilmembers, he opened the Public Comments section.

Stephen Glazer, Business Consultant, mvpchannel.net, said mvpchannel.net produces high school sports videos in the Cities of Alhambra and South Pasadena (City), which can be used to promote the City. He was following up on his request made to the City Council at the March 18, 2015, Regular City Council Meeting. Business Consultant Glazer was seeking financial support from the South Pasadena business community and the City.

Shannon Roddy, South Pasadena Resident, and Member, Friends of South Pasadena Dog Park, expressed appreciation to the City for its support for a dog park. He described the benefits of having a dog park and requested that sufficient funds be allocated to allow the Park to be completed. The group's priorities are: 1) Durable and quality turf; 2) Lighting after certain hours; and 3) A double-gated entry system.

Richard Tom, Member, South Pasadena Community Garden Committee (SPCGC), and several other SPCGC members appeared as a group at the podium. Committee Member Tom thanked the City Council for its support of the South Pasadena Community Garden (Community Garden) and provided a status report. He stated more than 60 volunteers helped build the Community Garden beds last week in three hours. Michelle Hammond, Chair, SPCGC, provided a report on the fundraising efforts of the SPCGC, stating that almost \$18,000 had been raised. She responded to Councilmembers' questions, noting that the Community Demonstration Garden is incomplete and that additional funding is needed.

Kathleen Tarr, South Pasadena Resident, urged the City Council to consider offering subsidies to install individual water meters for multi-family dwellings.

Mary Urquhart, Vice-Chair, Public Safety Commission, thanked the City Council for its support of the Emergency Operations Center budget for the upcoming year. She discussed the City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Neighborhood Watch Programs. She acknowledged the City Council's efforts in making the City safer.

Kim Hughes, Chair, Natural Resources and Environmental Commission, expressed appreciation for funds set aside for the urban forest. She cautioned against planting new trees during the current drought and requested additional funding to support Senior Management Analyst. In response to Councilmember Schneider's question about residents being contacted by unscrupulous companies who offer to remove turf, Chair Hughes recommended that residents contact Senior Management Analyst Figoni. Councilmember Schneider asked if various vendors could be vetted.

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

3. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING THE FY 2015-16 CITY BUDGET

City Manager Gonzalez presented the staff report, which included a PowerPoint Presentation, and responded to Councilmembers' questions. He said that although the current financial picture is stable, due to unanticipated California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) costs for retirees, the financial picture will worsen in FY 2015-16. Therefore, numerous cutbacks are being recommended for the upcoming fiscal year.

Councilmember Cacciotti left the Special Meeting at 8:06 p.m. to attend a nearby meeting of the U.S. Corps of Engineers on the restoration of the Arroyo Seco Watershed. He returned at 8:32 p.m.

The City Council made the following recommendations for the FY 2015-16 Budget:

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud requested the following: 1) A review of the list of proposed streets scheduled for repair in FY 2015-16; 2) An evaluation of the condition of Grevelia Street and a recommendation that street repairs focus on arterials; 3) In regard to the Community Garden, that Park Impact Fees be utilized instead of water conservation funds; and 4) To have the General Plan Update completed sooner than its scheduled timeframe and for less money (perhaps \$400,000). She recommended allocating funds for a parking study in the upcoming Budget. Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud indicated support for the following: 1) A five-year Street Improvement Program; 2) Community fundraising for the Dog Park; 3) The South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce's request for an increase in Business Improvement Tax (BIT) funds; and 4) Adding \$100,000 per year to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Designated Reserves. She opposed allocating funds to the Tree Replacement Fund. Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud inquired about the South Pasadena Public Library (Library) Information Technology (IT) upgrade; City Manager Gonzalez responded that when a Library IT evaluation has been completed, the City could consider using undesignated reserves.

Councilmember Cacciotti requested a study be conducted about the possibility of installing a "cycle way" on El Centro Street, seconded by Councilmember Khubesrian. He emphasized implementing the City's Low-Emission Vehicle Purchasing Policy when purchasing new Police Department vehicles. He said that hybrids are obsolete and plug-in hybrids or electric vehicles are preferable. Councilmember Cacciotti recommended adding amounts to many of the existing Reserve Funds, such as the following: 1) Maintenance Yard/Community Center in the amount of \$50,000; 2) The EOC in the amount of \$50,000 to \$100,000; 3) Library Expansion in the amount of \$50,000; and 4) Tree Replacement/Management in the amount of \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Councilmember Schneider recommended that an inventory of dead trees be conducted and that \$150,000 to \$200,000 be allocated to the Tree Replacement/Management Designated Reserve Fund. He advised that \$65,000 per year be put aside for Fire Department vehicles. He indicated support for the following: 1) To allocate \$100,000 per year for the next two years to EOC Designated Reserves, which will permit the EOC to be completed; and 2) The Public Works Commission's recommendation to research the following forms of street improvement funding options: General Obligation Bonds and a Special Assessment District.

Councilmember Khubesrian asked that the proposal for the Community Demonstration Garden be brought to the City Council at the May 20, 2015, or June 3, 2015, City Council Meeting. She indicated support for the alternative funding options for street repair and asked that this be brought back to an upcoming City Council Meeting. She acknowledged the efforts of staff to prepare the Budget presentation. She said staff incorporated input from the community that was provided during the Strategic Planning sessions. As a result, she indicated support in financing such community requests as the Dog Park and the Community Center.

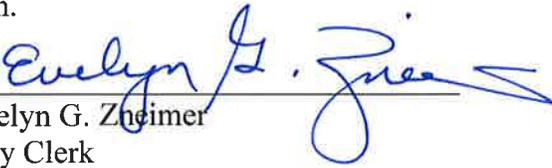
Mayor Joe opened the Public Comments section.

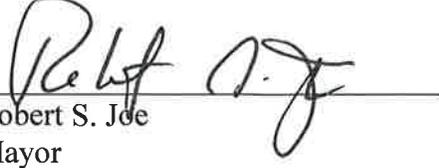
Carrie Adrian, South Pasadena Resident, in regard to reserves, said the City can never have enough reserves. She expressed appreciation for the City's tight budget in light of unanticipated costs. Resident Adrian stated it did not make sense to rebuild Grevelia Street for another two years due to trucks traversing the Street during reconstruction of the Garfield Reservoir. Although she indicated support for researching alternative ways of funding street repair, she stated the City must make certain it can handle the cash flow. First, the City must deal with the Utility Users Tax. She acknowledged the efforts of City Manager Gonzalez and Finance Director Batt in preparing the Budget presentation.

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

Discussion continued. Recommendations of specific Councilmembers for the FY 2015-16 Budget are summarized above.

Mayor Joe adjourned the Special Meeting of the South Pasadena City Council at 8:53 p.m.


Evelyn G. Zueimer
City Clerk


Robert S. Joe
Mayor

Minutes approved by the South Pasadena City Council on May 20, 2015.