



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

City Hall Room 280-A

455 N. Rexford Drive

Beverly Hills, CA 90210

MINUTES

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

October 9, 2014

8:30 A.M.

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Felsenthal, Wolfe, Aronberg, Shalowitz and Pressman.

Commissioners Absent: None

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Pressman.

C. COMMISSION MINUTES

Consideration of the Minutes of the Public Works Commission Special Meeting of August 13, 2014.

MOTION by Vice Chair Pressman, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Aronberg to approve as presented.

Absent objection by the Commission, the Minutes are approved by order of the Chair. **CARRIED 5/0**

Consideration of the Minutes of the Public Works Commission Special Meeting of September 11, 2014.

MOTION by Commissioner Aronberg, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wolfe to approve as amended.

Absent objection by the Commission, the Minutes are approved by order of the Chair. **CARRIED 5/0**

D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

E. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Chair Shalowitz attended the meeting of September 9, 2014.

Other Items of Interest None.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Recognition of Outgoing Chair

Chair Shalowitz thanked Vice Chair Pressman for his prior service as Commission Chair.

2. Status Report – Hazen & Sawyer

Mr. Walker provided an update. Phase One is 90% complete. A draft report, containing recommendations and improvements, will be submitted to Staff then actions on moving forward will be reviewed. Mr. Chavez stated issues arose that prompted the review to bring the City's Water Operation up to the highest level of quality possible. Mr. Lynn stated a final version of the report will be made available once factually correct.

3. Psomas Workshop Follow Up

Mr. Gobas and Mr. Thornton provided an update. Commission feedback is being reviewed. Mr. Gobas suggested a special meeting to cover Commission questions. Vice Chair Pressman proposed an hour from November's meeting be set aside for discussion. Commissioner Wolfe would like responses to questions submitted to Psomas prior to November's meeting. Vice Chair Pressman noted a clear decision on the main goals needs to be determined prior to ranking alternatives.

4. Water Service Obligation to City of West Hollywood

Ms. Tse provided an update. In conjunction with the City Attorney's Office, Staff is researching the City's obligation to provide water to West Hollywood. Commissioner Felsenthal raised the question of West Hollywood's obligation to assist Beverly Hills in conservation and West Hollywood's potential need for more water from Beverly Hills, considering its growth.

5. Water Rate Setting and Budget Schedule

Ms. Tse provided an update. Review should begin no later than December to reach the July 1, 2015, effective dates. Dates are tied in to the Water Enterprise Plan, which will provide input into the budgetary process. Commissioner Wolfe suggests the analysis begin prior to December. Commissioner Felsenthal questioned if Beverly Hills could charge West Hollywood a higher water rate.

G. CONTINUED BUSINESS

1. Status Report – Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Cuneo provided an update. Design and cost estimates for the Plant rehabilitation are complete. Final design is slated for completion by year's end; the project should go out to bid early 2015 with construction in the spring. Physical structural items in the Plant were analyzed (corrosion, maintenance); this project will address those issues. The Plant will be offline four to six months during rehabilitation.

2. Status Report – Foothill Well Project

Mr. Cuneo provided an update. Three proposals have been received and interviews are in process; proposals include design, permit, construction management, geotechnical work and engineering but not construction. The selection of a consultant for the design process is slated for November then Staff will seek City Council approval for an award of contract for the design phase. A Request for Proposals has taken place; no funds have been spent. Vice Chair Pressman questions moving forward on design when the Commission approved \$50,000 toward engineering evaluation. Review of the Water Master Plan (WMP), final design report and ranking must occur prior to spending funds on this project. Based on the Commission's feedback, the objective will be to provide a limited design contract then seek Commission input prior to seeking City Council approval. Mr. Lynn stated \$50,000 is approved at Staff level for Design; further expenditure is approved by City Council, giving the Commission time to make decisions.

3. Reports from Sub-Committees

Conservation & Education Sub-Committee Commissioner Wolfe provided an update. The Sub-Committee is ascertaining penalties and the 10% reduction calculations using Munis. Ms. Tse stated a meeting with Finance is needed to pinpoint Munis' capabilities; currently the system cannot process penalty calculations. Water Conservation Flyers were mailed separately from water bills the week of September 29th. Commissioner Wolfe stated the Water Tracker System soft launch is October 20, 2014. He noted La Cienega Park sprinklers were on during evening hours, creating puddles; the City must conserve water. Proposals for a smartphone app for Triton were received; one more round of discussion is scheduled.

Regarding the City's response to conserving water, Mr. Chavez stated a preliminary report of the City's water meters and usage will be available to the Commission in November and that residents can report leaks via the City's website. The goal is education and voluntary compliance. Ms. Tse stated Stage B penalties will not be enforced until the City's financial system is ready. Reports of violations are being tracked and followed up on. Regarding the City's conservation efforts this year compared to last year, Mr. Cartagena stated the City reported for June and July; usage has increased over last year for those months. Ms. Tse stated West Hollywood is implementing and enforcing the same restrictions as Beverly Hills.

Street & Sidewalk Improvements Sub-Committee Vice Chair Pressman stated data from a 2013 RFP was analyzed. A smaller, 3.5 million dollar plan has been identified. The project will begin mid-2015.

4. Outstanding Action Items from Previous Meeting

Mr. Cartagena provided an update. Status is as follows:

OPEN	CLOSED	ONGOING	ON HOLD
	65	26, 46, 51, 54, 56, 63, 64.	34

5. Capital Improvement Program Projects Under Public Works Management None.

6. Discussion of Future Agenda Items and Areas of Priority

Commissioner Felsenthal asked that each Commissioner's view of the extent of conservation desired be established, that the idea of outsourcing for project completion be looked into and whether bids can be requested from firms already holding City-specific knowledge can be discussed. He requested Staff provide reports to the Commission faster, especially when decisions pertaining to those reports are sought.

H. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Vice Chair Pressman noted water bills are lacking data; he asked when the City's version can move forward.
- Regarding center medians on Sunset Boulevard from Whittier to Rodeo Dr., Chair Shalowitz asked if turf removal and/or drought resistant plants are possible to see if feasible and pleasing to the eye. Commissioner Wolfe stated this is high on the Conservation & Education (C&E) Sub-Committee agenda. It is not cost feasible, but rebates reduce the expense. Ms. Tse will meet with Community Development to discuss artificial turf, share information with the C&E Sub-Committee then bring the topic to the Commission.
- Chair Shalowitz noted Team Beverly Hills takes place November 5th from 5:45 – 9:00 p.m. for Public Works. Commissioners Felsenthal, Aronberg and Wolf will join. Ms. Tse will send out reminders.

I. COMMENTS FROM STAFF

- Mr. Chavez provided an update on the MWD Tour. On Friday October 17th, start time is 6:00 a.m. The bus leaves Public Works at 6:30 a.m. Regarding water lines, some lines running through Beverly Hills are not City lines. The main line that recently broke twice belongs to DWP; they will be replacing it up to the City limit. Staff is actively engaging MWD and DWP regarding this issue.
- Regarding work plan item and priorities discussed at the City Council Study Session on October 7, 2014, Council stated items are to be directed to Staff then submitted to Council liaisons for review. The City Manager's Office will provide a memo outlining the process. Regarding conservation, Staff is working to update the Water Conservation webpage and prototype displays for City businesses.

J. ACTION ITEMS

- The Commission requests a copy of the initial Hazen & Sawyer report when ready.
- Chair Shalowitz requested *Water Service Obligation to City of West Hollywood* remain on the agenda.
- Chair Shalowitz requested *Water Rate Setting and Budget Schedule* be placed on November's agenda.
- Chair Shalowitz requested the Commission be kept informed as the Plant process continues.
- Chair Shalowitz requested information about the City's conservation efforts be provided to the Commission.
- Chair Shalowitz requested a conservation representative of West Hollywood be invited to the next Meeting.
- Vice Chair Pressman requested the Street & Sidewalk Improvements Plan be provided to the Commission.
- Vice Chair Pressman requested a report covering what the new water bill will look like.
- Chair Shalowitz requested *Beverly Hills, West Hollywood Water Usage Compared* on November's agenda.

K. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Shalowitz, with the consent of the Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Passed and approved

This _____ day of _____, 2014

Chair Shalowitz