



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Room 280-A

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

January 14, 2016
8:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: January 14, 2016 / 08:04 am

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Felsenthal, Pressman, Shalowitz, Vice Chair Wolfe, Chair Aronberg

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Mahdi Aluzri, George Chavez, Mark Cuneo, Chad Lynn, Trish Rhay, Caitlin Sims, Michelle Tse, Audrey Wright

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items not 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.

Speakers: Mark Egerman, Jeff Nathan

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By Order of the Chair, the agenda was approved as amended, moving *Tour of Beverly Hills Water Facilities* last on the Agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of December 10, 2015, Commission regular meeting minutes.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Pressman, SECONDED by Commissioner Felsenthal to adopt the minutes as presented (5-0).

AYES: Commissioners Felsenthal, Pressman, Shalowitz, Vice Chair Wolfe, Chair Aronberg

NOES: None

CARRIED

(Taken Out of Order)

CONTINUED BUSINESS

3. DISCUSSION ON PENALTY SURCHARGE APPEALS PROCESS

Planning & Research Analyst, Ms. Tse provided an update. Due to an increase in the number of appeals and the desire to hear appeals in a timely manner, Staff recommends an independent third party hearing officer also be able to review Level 2 appeals. The Commission discussed the following:

- A third party will not have sufficient background to provide educated reviews.
- Requested clarity on the high numbers and complications that would slow the process.
- Requested Staff support the Public Works (PW) Commissioner during the process.

The Commission does not support this Item; a PW Commissioner is the best choice to hear Level 2 Appeals. Additionally, the PW Hearing Officer needs to receive information from Staff in a categorized manner and a process should be developed for handling the different types of appeals. Staff to review the current process, including an updated surcharge policy, appeal types and the overall process and report back to the Commission in February.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

- **Introduction of New Staff** – New Public Works Services Staff Debby Figoni, Water Conservation Administrator and Vince Damasse, Water Resources Manager, were introduced to the Commission.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

4. UPDATE ON TIERED WATER RATES

Asst. Dir. of Public Works, Ms. Rhay and City Manager, Mr. Aluzri provided an update. The new Water Rate Proposal was presented to City Council at the January 5, 2016, Meeting. Council tabled rates at the, asking Staff to gather additional information and report at a later date to include a financial and performance audit, sunseting and smoothing rates. Staff is working with the City Attorney's Office to complete the process. Once Staff is ready to present, noticing will need to occur. Staff is also working to overcome issues relating to reserves. The Commission noted water rates need to be analyzed separately from the penalty surcharge.

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

- Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Director – Director Dr. Wunderlich provided an update on MWD activities. MWD completed its Integrated Resource Plan; one aspect is to stabilize supply from the Delta Area. Increased amounts of water are to come from within the Region. Concerning subsidies for entities that come up with independent water alternatives, those entities would need to improve supply, not just add wells. Engineering resources can be made available to assist local agencies.

(Return to Order)

2. CAPITAL ASSETS – WATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

City Engineer, Mr. Cuneo provided an update.

- a. **Water Treatment Plant** – Work is 45-50% complete. Starting and testing the facility to occur in March once substantial construction is complete. Challenges are present regarding the chemical feed equipment and control due to changes. Delays in receiving materials occurred. The new target completion date is roughly March 2016.
- b. **Shallow Groundwater Well** – Work is proceeding as scheduled. Pilot wells are underway and zone testing/samples will soon be taken. One well is near complete. Regarding speeding up the approval process, meeting with and keeping the Department of Drinking Water (DDW) updated on the project is an initial step. The City's consultant is to complete testing and forward results to the DDW on a timely basis and maintain regular contact in hopes of moving the process forward.
- c. **Greystone Reservoir Rehabilitation** – The Notice to Proceed was presented to the contractor in December with work to begin in January. Details regarding the schedule to be provided at the February Meeting.

(Taken Out of Order)

PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS REPORTS

5. Update on Water Conservation Efforts

Management Analyst, Ms. Sims and Ms. Tse provided an update. The State Water Resources Control Board is considering modifying drought regulations and water use reduction targets. The City, along with other municipalities, submitted a letter containing reasons for modification; Staff will update the Commission as information becomes available. The drought regulations are extending through October 2016. At the January 5, 2016, Meeting, City Council directed staff to develop a framework for water restrictors. Water conservation enforcement will revert to Public Works Services from Community Development. To date, 455 appeal applications have been received; 45 are Level 2. Concerning Water Tracker registration issues, Staff continues to work with IT. The Commission requests information relating to funds received from water and wastewater connection fees.

(Return to Order)

6. Update on Current Projects - *TABLED*

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

- **Chair's Report** – *None*

(Taken Out of Order)

- **Mayors Cabinet Meeting** – Chair Aronberg attended the Meeting of December 28, 2015; minutes are online.
- **Recognition of Outgoing Chair** – Chair Aronberg thanked Ron Shalowitz for his performance as Chair of the Public Works Commission from October 2014 through December, 2015.

(Return to Order)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

7. **Chair and Vice-Chair Transition – TABLED**
8. **Resolution of the Public Works Commission of the City of Beverly Hills Establishing Rules of Procedure – TABLED**

- **Director's Report**

Ms. Rhay provided an update and details on the January 13, 2016, West Hollywood water main break. Staff will review the age and type of pipe once the event is concluded.

- **Upcoming Events - TABLED**

(Taken Out of Order)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Felsenthal raised the following issues:

- The Commission being informed of large, potential Department contracts.
- City Council's pending decisions on funding for water projects.

(Return to Order)

NEW BUSINESS

- **Tour of Beverly Hills Water Facilities**
Staff, Members of the Public and the Public Works Commission toured Beverly Hills water facilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: January 14, 2016 / *End of Water Facilities Tour – 11:50 a.m.*

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 18th DAY of APRIL, 2016

Sandra Aronberg, Chair