



Public Works Commission

**REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Thursday, February 1, 2001, 7:30 p.m.
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street**

MINUTES

Roll Call: 7:35 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Piercy, Perry, Gartner, St. John, Alward, Lofton, Holland, Shumer

Absent: Commissioner Broderick

Staff Present: Jeff Egeberg (Secretary), Rene Cardinaux

Comments from the Public:

David Partch is involved in the formation of a Thousand Oaks Undergrounding District, and spoke on the topic of City financial participation in Rule 20B districts.

Announcements:

Special Informational Meeting - Wednesday, February 28, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
2770 Marin Avenue
(Above Grizzly Peak Blvd.)

Department Budget is scheduled to be submitted to the City Manager on Friday, February 9, 2001. The commission requests that it be provided copies as soon as possible thereafter.

Future Commission meetings will start at 7:00 p.m.

Actions and Discussion: *All actions are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.*

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of January 4, 2001 were approved. M/S/C (Perry/St. John)

Action Items:

1. Council Recommendation: Change to Rule 20B Undergrounding Approval Level

Previous figures have been revised as follows: The City's liability at 70% participation is \$270,000; at 90% it is \$90,000 (for residents who are paying neither their private nor public assessment fees). The costs are approximately \$375 per linear foot for the public portion; historically, an assessment of around \$20,000 per house. Another problem is the imposition of the City working on private property. The task force agrees with the subcommittee that required participation be increased to 90%.

Mr. Partch indicated that they are considering an assessment that would pool additional funds to help financially strapped residents. The Public Works Commission does not have authority over Mr. Partch's issues (attached) – he should possibly refer to the State Public Utilities Commission (PUC) or their Council member.

There are three steps for 20B: (1) initial/informational (70%); (2) study (90%); and (3) assessment (90%). It is the sense of the commission that most people will not refuse to pay the entire tax bill. The Commission further understands that the County will not accept partial payments, and that the County will foreclose on property liens within a few years.

Another option is of a Citywide bond, like the BART Underground tracks, however, this discussion should be referred to the City Council. Recommending a different percentage from the task force would prompt a Council debate, if desired. The report was approved as written (M/S/C St. John/Piercy, Alward: No).

2. Expression of Support: Revelatory Landscapes Exhibition

It was M/S/C (St. John/Perry) to recommend to Council that the Commission found no significant objections to the project.

3. Recommended Course of Action regarding Sewer Fund report

The memo to the City Manager was approved as written (M/S/C St. John/Lofton).

4. Council Recommendation: Facility Maintenance Budget Recommendations

Rene Cardinaux distributed the Executive Summary and gave a brief presentation. He noted that there is a presentation to department heads tomorrow morning. The program does not include janitorial nor utilities.

The Commission expressed satisfaction that this is embedded in the budget process already presented in the Commissioner's Budget Workshop. It was M/S/C (Gartner/Shumer) that the Council recommendation was approved as rewritten.

Subcommittee reports:

1. Undergrounding subcommittee meeting next week (the Task Force is on hiatus). Special meeting of the Public Works Commission on 2/28/01 will be an informational meeting for Creston Road.
2. Capital Improvement's Subcommittee report to Council in February should include this subject.

- a) Concerned citizen/Paul Feinstein has prepared a very preliminary informational pamphlet on private sewer laterals and connections. Pilot study is still being deliberated.
- b) Transportation Commission: The proposed Public Works bicycle paving program was presented at a special meeting in January. The Transportation Commissioners, however, appear to be continuing efforts to alter the PMS procedure.
- c) The Commission would like to consider the annual update to the street repair program, via: this subcommittee, at its next meeting.

Information Items:

1. A subcommittee restructuring scheme was distributed for discussion at the next commission meeting.
2. Budget review is on the agenda for the next meeting. Individual recommendations will be submitted to the Council early. A summary will be prepared for the final budget meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

Items for Future Agenda:

1. Budget review

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.