



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

Thursday, May 3, 2001, 7:00 p.m.
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

MINUTES

Roll Call: 7:05 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Staff Present: Jeffrey Egeberg (Secretary), Rene Cardinaux

Comments from the Public:

James G. Doherty, 6368 Racine Street, Oakland, spoke in favor of utility undergrounding, primarily for seismic safety, and stated that the money saved from tree trimming would offset the cost of the undergrounding.

Announcements:

An informational meeting on Rule 20B undergrounding/Creston Road will be held on May 8, 2001. This will be a full Commission meeting and should be announced and posted as such.

Concurrent with the Civic Center Grand Opening on May 11, 2001, the Public Works Department will have exhibits at Civic Center to commemorate National Public Works Week. The Commission is invited to participate.

Approval of Minutes: April 5, 2001

Commissioner Perry indicated that Action Item #3 should state "Commissioner Perry will attempt to schedule..." The minutes were approved as amended (MSC St. John/Holland).

Information Items:

1. **Restructuring of City Departments:** The City Manager indicated that the creation of a new environmental services department remains a real possibility. With regard to the organization combining capital and maintenance functions proposed for facilities management, the City Manager indicated that this might be a way to address weaknesses in the engineering/maintenance interface in other areas.
2. **Rule 20B Undergrounding Procedures:** Cost data, based on the Tiburon district, is being refined for the May 8, 2001 meeting announced above. No other comparison data has been received.

Action/Discussion Items:

1. **Utility Engineer Vacancy:** The Commission approved a motion (MSC Gartner/Lofton) that a statement to be forwarded to the City Manager indicating the urgency of filling this position to staff the Commission's activities in utility undergrounding. The statement should refer to the Commission's last letter to the Public Works Director and should contain specifics on the position's workload and duties.
2. **Restructuring of Commission Subcommittees:** Chair Piercy stated that last night's joint meeting with the Transportation pointed out the need for in-depth understanding of key topics through the subcommittee activities. Goals and better communication are needed to accomplish this. Each commissioner was polled to ascertain his/her area of interest and background. Staff suggested technical areas where particular emphasis may be needed in the near future. Chair Piercy will proceed to make suggestions on subcommittee assignments for discussion at the next regular meeting.

Items for Future Agendas:

Adjournment: