



Public Works Commission

Special Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes

Thursday, November 15, 2001, 7:00 p.m.
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

ATTENDEES AT PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE REMINDED THAT OTHER ATTENDEES MAY BE SENSITIVE TO VARIOUS ODORS, WHETHER NATURAL OR MANUFACTURED, IN PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS. PLEASE HELP THE CITY RESPECT THESE NEEDS.

Roll Call: 7:04 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Piercy, Broderick, Holland, Shumer, St John, Perry, Campbell, Alward

Absent: None

Staff Present: Jeffrey Egeberg (Secretary), Rene Cardinaux, Lorin Jensen

Comments from the Public:

L.A. Wood spoke on the importance of street sweeping from an environmental perspective and supported the need for an improved policy for naming public facilities.

Announcements: None.

Approval of Minutes: Meeting of October 4, 2001

The minutes were approved (MSC Holland/Shumer) with the following changes:

Discussion and Possible Action Item 1: Add "Voting for the expression of support: Piercy, Alward, Shumer, Holland; abstaining: Broderick."

Information Item 2: Change "...staffing levels are determined off-hand by the number of

ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

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employees...” to “...staffing levels are determined by available funding.”

Presentation: None

Discussion and Possible Action Items:

- 1. Commission on Disability report on Traffic Signals. Validate expression of support voted upon at October meeting:** An expression of support was adopted (MSC Holland/Shumer, Broderick abstaining). Commissioner Broderick indicated she cannot support such an item without knowing its fiscal impact.
- 2. Staff report on engineering staff positions in support of PMS and associated contracts and utility undergrounding:** The draft Council Item for the December 18, 2001 meeting (see Information Item #1 below) includes an additional engineering position to support the increased street maintenance program and an expanded capital paving program, which would be funded from Gas Tax reserves. However, there has been no progress on filling the Utility Engineer position. The Commission will prepare a letter to the City Manager expressing concerns about lack of progress in these two program areas.
- 3. Staff report on costs of traffic signal maintenance and operation:** Rene Cardinaux apologized that the Electrical Supervisor could not attend tonight. Regarding the accessible features discussed in Item 1 above, he indicated that the added maintenance burden is negligible. A staff report on maintenance of all traffic signals and other devices will be presented at an upcoming Commission meeting.

Information Items:

- 1. Status of staff proposals for increased street maintenance and repair activities:** Staff presented a draft Council Item for the December 18, 2001 meeting for increased street pavement maintenance. First of two parts consists of adding a 5-person maintenance crew which will perform overlays (of up to 2 blocks), Class A patching, and crack/slurry sealing. The second involves an increase of \$750,000 annual funding for capital paving. Initially this increase would be provided by AB-2928 funds, and then augmented from Gas Tax reserves, which would also fund the maintenance portion of this proposal. An engineering position would also be added to support both of these expanded efforts.
- 2. Staff recommendations on revisions and expansions to the Clean Stormwater Program and fees to include creek maintenance and street sweeping:** Staff provided a history of the program and a summary of its current condition. The evaluation which has commenced will include options for revising the Street Sweeping Program. Rene Cardinaux stated that street sweeping is presently funded entirely from the Stormwater fee (staff will confirm this at the next Commission meeting). Alternatives will be explored to alter the funding support: possibly the Refuse Fund and/or applying the parking ticket revenues to help support the program. Staff presented, and answered questions, about the models used to calculate the fees, which include “impervious area” factors.

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Creek maintenance is also being considered, with various funding scenarios for creeks on private property. Commission representatives are attending biweekly staff committee meetings developing the evaluations.

3. Staff report on status of GASB 34 compliance and related development of a Geographic Information System (GIS): Staff described recent developments to request the Council approve the consultant contract for Berryman and Henigar at its December 18, 2001 meeting and that the consultant will make a presentation to the Commission in January 2002. It was pointed out that the overall goal of GASB 34 is a “balance sheet” to show a “well-managed” city.

4. Draft policy on naming of public facilities from the Parks and Recreation Commission: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Keleman provided an oral summary of the draft policy included in the packet. She indicated that a 1973 policy is still in effect at this time. The following comments were voiced: only one public facility should be allowed for a given person (Shumer); upgrades should be allowed, i.e. a name may be transferred to a more major facility from a minor one, and the latter renamed for a new person (St John); streets should perhaps never be renamed (Perry). It was also noted that the Public Works Commission should have jurisdiction over the naming of all public facilities, including all streets and public buildings, with the possibility of assigning jurisdiction over waterfront facilities to the Waterfront Commission. The Commissioners comments will be assimilated into one letter addressed to the Parks and Recreation Commission and will be adopted at the next meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

Permanent

1. Right-of-Way: The subcommittee will meet on November 28, 2001.
2. Utilities: There will be a December 1, 2001 press release about the Rule 20B information and meetings. This will also be posted on the website. The first public meeting is planned in December 2001. The subcommittee is also actively working on new Rule 20A guidelines. Finally, a recommendation will be made to the Commission to dissolve the Ad Hoc Undergrounding Subcommittee into the permanent Utility Subcommittee.
3. Facilities & Equipment: The first meeting will be on November 29, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. at the Corporation Yard. A primary topic will be the state of deterioration of parking meters.

Ad Hoc

1. Utility Undergrounding: See Utilities Subcommittee above.
2. Street Sweeping: This topic is being addressed under the Clean Storm Water Program as discussed under Information Item #2 above.

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3. Sewer Program Review: Although no meetings have been held with the Citizens Budget Review Commission, the first request for information from staff is almost ready.

Items for Future Agenda

1. Letter of concern regarding progress in utilities/undergrounding and in street pavement programs.
2. Letter of commentary on policy for naming public facilities.
3. Proposal to merge Ad Hoc Undergrounding Subcommittee into the Utilities Subcommittee.

Adjournment: 9:42 p.m.