



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes

Thursday, December 6, 2001 at 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 Alward, Campbell, Holland, Perry, Piercy, Shumer, St John

Absent: Commissioner Broderick

Comments from the Public: None

Announcements: None

Approval of Minutes: November 15, 2001

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

Discussion and Possible Action Item #1: Change "Validate support action..." to "validate expression of support..."

Subcommittee Report (permanent) #2 Utilities: Change "...absolve the Ad Hoc..." to "...dissolve the Ad Hoc..."

#3 Facilities & Equipment: Change "...December 4, 2001 at 5p.m...." to "...November 29, 2001 at 4p.m...."

Presentation: None

ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

To request meeting materials in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter, assistive listening device, real-time captioning or other accommodation for the meeting, call 981-6406 (voice) or 981-6903 (TDD) as soon as possible. Providing at least five (working) days' notice will help to ensure availability at the meeting.

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Discussion and Possible Action Items:

1. **Council referral for consideration of temporary traffic control devices and methods :**
Acting Traffic Engineer Reh-Lin Chen presented a background of the traffic calming program. He explained that the present goal is to provide immediate action through temporary and low-cost methods. Commissioners expressed concerns about giving false expectations when funding may not be available for permanent treatments. They also noted that engineering concerns (such as drainage) and maintenance be included but that funding not be taken away from existing street maintenance budgets. Chair Piercy suggested a process where each proposal need not be formally presented at a meeting of the Commission but would be automatically referred to subcommittee. It was moved (MSC St John/Perry) that Item 2b of Mr. Chen's 12/06/01 memorandum be modified to add the approval of the Public Works Commission.
2. **Consolidation of the Utilities Subcommittee and the Ad Hoc Utility Undergrounding Subcommittee:** The following motion was passed (MSC St John/Perry): Discontinue the Ad Hoc Undergrounding Subcommittee and move its functions and membership to the Standing Utilities Subcommittee. The two subcommittees have significant overlap in leadership, membership and staff support. This results in the Utilities Subcommittee having the following configuration: Carlene St John (Chair), Sara Shumer, Linda Perry and Nancy Holland. Secretary: Lorin Jensen.
3. **Consideration of letter to Transportation Commission on repair of bicycle hazards on city streets:** It was pointed out that Sherman Jackson, Superintendent of Streets, has been in attendance at the Bicycle Subcommittee meetings and stated that reported bicycle hazards are being repaired in a timely manner. The draft memorandum to the Transportation was modified for clarity and was passed (MSC Perry/St John) for transmittal.
4. **Consideration of a letter from the Public Works Commission in support of increased street funding:** The draft letter was adopted (MSC Perry/St John) as written.
5. **Consideration of a letter from the Public Works Commission to the Parks and Recreation Commission commenting on a draft policy for naming public facilities and the appointment of a representative to work with that Commission to finalize the policy:** After discussion, it was decided to convey individual Commissioners' comments informally and to appoint Linda Perry (Chair, Right-of-Way Subcommittee) and Sara Shumer (Chair, Buildings & Equipment Subcommittee) as Commission liaisons to develop the final policy.
6. **Consideration of a letter to the City Manager regarding increased street maintenance:**
This is a duplicate agenda item and is the same as #4 above.
7. **Continued discussion of subcommittee work plans and compilation of an integrated**

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Commission work plan: This is tabled for future discussion.

Information Items:

1. **Staff report on maintenance requirements for traffic signals and all other traffic devices:** Mike Loyola, Acting Electrical Supervisor, provided a summary of traffic signals which they maintained, including maintenance type and frequency. He indicated that there is a total of 126 signalized intersections in the City. Controllers and lamps are serviced on a biennial basis (every two years). There is a significant number of bicycle loop detectors which they also maintain. In response to questions regarding power outages, he indicated that they are beginning to install new power packs, eventually in all controllers over the next several years, which provide power for up to two hours during an outage.
2. **Staff information on current funding sources for the street sweeping program:** This is tabled until the next meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

Permanent

1. **Right-of-Way:** There is no report other than the item earlier on the agenda.
2. **Utilities:** A City-wide informational meeting on Rule 20B undergrounding is scheduled for January 17, 2002.
3. **Buildings & Equipment:** A report on the status of the condition and repair of parking meters is included in the packet. There may be an item on the December 18, 2001 Council agenda for a pilot program to remove the meters on Hearst, Oxford, Bancroft, and Durant for a six-month trial period.

Ad Hoc

1. **Utility Undergrounding:** This subcommittee is being dissolved as discussed earlier..
2. **Street Sweeping:** This subcommittee is being dissolved and this topic will be addressed in the future by the Right-of-Way subcommittee.
3. **Sewer Program Review:** The actual review is currently getting started.

Items for Future Agenda

1. Preliminary budget preparation information for Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004.
2. Continued discussion of subcommittee work plans and compilation of an integrated Commission work plan.
3. Consultant presentation on GASB 34 reporting and asset management.

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Adjournment: 9:53 p.m.