

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes

Thursday, January 8, 2004
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

CALL TO ORDER: 7:08 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Dacey, Holland, Perry, Piercy, Shumer, St. John

Absent: Commissioner Broderick (Leave of Absence)

Vacant: Councilmembers Breland's and Shirek's appointments

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APWA Re-accreditation Reception (February 1, 2004): The Secretary was asked to RSVP positively for all of the Commissioners.

Storm Drain Facilities Demonstration and Tour: The Commissioners expressed a desire to go on the tour soon, especially since we are in an ongoing rainy period. The Secretary will proceed to make such arrangements.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 4, 2003

Under Action Item #2, the first two sentences should be changed to read: "The Transportation Commission has not yet considered this item. Furthermore, it was felt that Task Forces should be formed by the City Council." The revised minutes were then adopted (MSC Piercy/Perry).

STAFF PRESENTATION: Public Works Department Funding (Part 3)

The Secretary reported that, upon collecting data, it was discovered that the original concept of examining planned versus actual expenditures is completely overshadowed by the size of "carry-over" funds each year. Large amounts of budgeted funds are carried forward from one year to the next and are due largely to multi-year projects for which the entire funding is put into the first year's budget. Also, large programs consisting of several smaller projects each year, such as the sewer or the street program, have projects being contracted during the summer "construction season" and may occur after June 30 and thus are "carried over" but are still completed on schedule that year. As an indication of the magnitude it was noted that, for 2003, the base budget (new funding) was \$65

Million and the carry-over was \$58 Million for an adjusted budget of \$123 Million.

Further, to look at FY 2004 and FY 2005, Public Works Director Rene Cardina ux indicated that "Budget Crisis" measures will likely have an even greater effect on the City's budget. The Council is scheduled to hear the City Manager's proposals at their January 27, 2004 meeting. A couple of measures that would impact the Public Works Department is the reduction/elimination of overtime and a mandatory time-off without pay of one day a month for all (non-essential) City employees.

Mr. Cardinaux also mentioned that there are some organizational proposals, while not necessarily resulting in immediate cost reductions, would serve to make operations more efficient. Those affecting Public Works include moving the Transportation Office into the Department, returning the maintenance of parks buildings to Public Works, and consolidating all contract functions in the City.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Solid Waste Commission's Discussion of Litter on Recycling Day: The Secretary reported that he was informed by the other secretary that the subject was discussed only briefly at their meeting last night and would be on for action at their next meeting. In the meantime, they requested more specific information, and Chair St. John will call their chair to respond. Commissioners Holland and Dacey will proceed to develop a more detailed description of the problem in time for the next Solid Waste Commission meeting.

2. Discussion of suggestions to reconsider Commission priorities based on the current City budget crisis: Since the Council will be deliberating budget actions at their January 27, 2004 meeting, this discussion will be held over to the Commission's February 5, 2004 meeting.

3. Feedback from City of Berkeley/UC Forum on "Promoting a Disaster Resistant Berkeley:" The Public Works and other services Quick Reference Call List* was distributed for information in the agenda packet. In the coming weeks, a report outlining the results of the afternoon breakout sessions and specific action items will be available on the Disaster Resistant Berkeley website at <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/disasterresistant/>.

4. University of California Updates:

UC Impact Study: The Public Works consultant working on rate extensions for both sanitary sewer service and stormwater fees has essentially completed their work and has prepared a draft report. This item will be held over to the next meeting when the final report will be available.

Foothill Bridge over Hearst Avenue: The U.C. contact informed the Secretary recently that it will likely be several months before the permit application process is re-activated.

Other: Commissioner Shumer provided an oral report on an informational session she attended regarding a new U.C. hotel at the corner of Shattuck and Center, with discussion of associated creek daylighting, pedestrian malls and more. Secretary Egeberg also mentioned that there is a new “Southside Streetscape Plan” prepared by the University. Commissioners were interested in having that plan brought to the Commission for review.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. Right-of-Way:** A written summary of the subcommittee’s activities for 2003 was distributed in the agenda packet.
- 2. Utilities:** The subcommittee has been preoccupied in recent meetings with developing policies and criteria for private sewer lateral inspection and replacement.
- 3. Ad Hoc: Storm Water and Street Cleaning:** This subcommittee did not meet.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

1. Recommendation of Street Cleaning Program (Ad Hoc Subcommittee)
2. Public Works Commissioner Binder (Broderick & Perry)
3. Citywide Plan for future Rule 20A Undergrounding Funds
(Utilities Subcommittee – currently on hold)
4. Standardization of City Street Lights (Right-of-Way Subcommittee)
5. PWC Work Plan (St. John – Spring)
6. Update on City effort to modify Creek Ordinance (Egeberg)
7. Clarification of City process for initiating/supporting state legislation (Egeberg)

ADJOURNMENT: 9:22 p.m.