



Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes**

Thursday, June 2, 2005

North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue

CALL TO ORDER: 7:08 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Dacey, Edwards, Holland, Jackson, Ongerth, Prevo, Shumer,
St. John

Absent: Commissioner Alward (Leave of Absence)

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the May 5, 2005 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted (MSC Holland/Dacey with a vote of 5-0-1, Ongerth arriving late, Edwards abstaining).

CHAIR REPORT: None

STAFF REPORT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There is a conference on June 14, 2005 in Oakland on Integrated Pest Management. Commissioners are invited to attend, for which the City will receive credit toward its compliance with the Alameda County Clean Water Program. Any interested commissioners should contact the Secretary for arrangements.

PRESENTATION: None

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Update to Annual Street Repair Policy: A motion was passed (MSC Dacey/St. John with a

ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

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PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING

June 2, 2005

vote of 7-0-0, Ongerth arriving late) to (1) delete the last paragraph of the Secretary's memorandum to the Commission which contained an error; (2) to recommend that the Council accept the five year street paving plan which was based on a \$2.3 million budget for FY 2006, but strongly urge Council to support the City Manager's proposed additional \$1.6 million of "one-time" funding, and delineate the specific benefits thereby deriving, and (3) to authorize a subcommittee, consisting of Commissioners St. John and Shumer to work with the Secretary to finalize and submit the Commission report to the Council.

2. Council Recommendation regarding AB 1623: The proposed Council recommendation was approved as submitted (MSC St. John/Holland with a vote of 6-0-1, Ongerth arriving late, Prevo abstaining).

3. Recommendation regarding Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Improvements in West Berkeley: The Commission decided to take no action on this item at this time.

4. Possible Revision to the Commission Agenda Process for Information Items: The Commission decided not to change the agenda process but to add the notation on each agenda that the vote to move the item for action may be taken at the time that the item is scheduled to come up.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Use of biodiesel fuel in city vehicles: Staff from Public Works, Bill Ivie, and the Ecology Center, Dave Williamson, described the current situation on biodiesel usage. Although the Ecology Center had been on "B100" (100% biodiesel) for over four years, all city vehicles, including the Ecology Center, are presently on "B20" (20% biodiesel) temporarily. As soon as the current repairs of the fueling station are completed, they will return to B100. It was noted that B100 is currently more expensive because the pricing is determined by the state of the produce market, not the petroleum market, which has also seen recent increases. It was also noted that the federal government's \$1.00 per gallon of gas tax rebate will soon be in place. The city is also evaluating CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) as being an also clean fuel and currently more cost effective.

2. Update on Possible Relocation of Clean City Program: Director Cardinaux stated that the proposed relocation to the Transfer Station has been postponed for at least a year. Although it makes sense from environmental, organizational, and efficiency standpoints, there are too many management changes taking place at this time.

3. Discussion of Public Works impacts of the published 2020 LRDP Litigation Settlement Agreement between the University of California and the City of Berkeley: It was noted that the Mayor's Press Release did not make it clear that the \$200,000 annual payment to the Sewer Fund was actually a decrease from the approximately \$500,000 that UC had been paying in the past and that it is \$1.9 million less than anticipated in the City's 2006 budget. The agreement also provides that the cost of a full time planner for 4 years and the City's cost of planning may be taken from this \$200,000 rather than from elsewhere in the budget (e.g. the Planning

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING

June 2, 2005

Department), further reducing UC's contribution to the sewer fund. The Commission would like to recommend that "one-time" funds cover this deficit in 2006. The Commission recognized that the 3% rate increase, passed by the Council on April 26, will now, without the fair share anticipated from UC, no longer be adequate to fund the sewer program. The Commission would recommend that the Council continue to give serious consideration to using future "one-time" funds for infrastructure projects. This item was moved to Action (MSC Dacey/Jackson with a vote of 7-0-0, Holland departing early). It was then moved (MSC Jackson/Dacey with a vote of 7-0-0, Holland departing early) to authorize a subcommittee, comprised of Commissioner Dacey, to work with the Secretary to finalize and submit a Council recommendation to this effect.

4. Discussion of Public Works impacts of the City Manager's published Proposed Biennial Budget for Fiscal Years 2006 & 2007: Director Cardinaux described the Department's \$7,000,000 budget cut, and loss of 24 positions, in the FY 2006 budget and that the response time of the engineers and disaster emergency response capability will be the major negative impacts of these cutbacks, due to the shortage of qualified senior-level professionals. He pointed out that most of the cutbacks are already essentially approved, with the exception of the potential "one-time" funding sources. There was extensive discussion about the level of funding cutbacks to the Public Works Department vs. other City Departments.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

1. Council Recommendation on Private Sewer Lateral Program (July 2005)
2. Council Recommendation on Sanitary Sewer Program and Workers Compensation Charges (July 2005)
3. Staff Presentations
 - a. Sanitary Sewer System
 - b. Environmental Issues
4. Issues Being Deferred for Now
 - a. Street Lighting Standards (including maintenance)
 - b. Recommendation regarding Street Cleaning Program
 - c. Citywide Plan for future Rule 20A Undergrounding Funds
4. Reports from Liaisons to Other Commissions

ADJOURNMENT: 9:30 p.m.