



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, February 2, 2006

CALL TO ORDER: 7:11 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner Ongerth

PUBLIC ATTENDING: 0

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 5, 2006 Regular Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted (MSC St. John/Alward with a vote of 7-0-0).

CHAIR REPORT: None.

STAFF REPORT: Commissioner Dacey received notification that she was being replaced on the Commission and was not in attendance tonight. However, the Secretary has not been notified of a new appointment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The afternoon of Friday, March 3, 2006 was tentatively selected for a tour of the Corporation Yard. The Secretary will confirm the date with staff at that facility. The tour is primarily for the benefit of new commissioners. Commissioners Edwards, Jackson and Prevo expressed interest, plus any new appointee will be invited. The Secretary has not yet heard back from EBMUD regarding a prospective tour of their Wastewater Treatment Facilities.

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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ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair:** Commissioner Shumer was elected Chair and Commissioner Holland was elected Vice Chair (MSC St. John/Prevo with a vote of 7-0-0).
- 2. Report Back on Possible “Windfall” in FY 2006 Budget:** A copy of the City Manager’s Mid-Year budget report to the Council was distributed. This was considered in combination with Item 3 below.
- 3. Recommendation from Subcommittee on Street Cleaning:** Commissioner Holland reported that the Subcommittee met with key maintenance and engineering staff recently. Their primary recommendation is to fill a vacancy and restore resources to implement full street sweeping of industrial areas in West Berkeley. Of the possible “newfound” revenues reported in the above City Manager report, the Commission recommends that the City give high priority to (1) restoring the aforementioned street sweeping, (2) augmenting the Department’s ability to clean storm drains, and (3) performing capital improvements for repair/replacement of storm drainage facilities. The Chair was authorized to work with the Secretary to send such a recommendation to the City Manager before the February 7, 2006 Council meeting (MSC Jackson/St. John with a vote of 7-0-0).
- 4. Appointment of Chairs for Recently Formed Subcommittees:** Commissioner Holland was designated chair for Street Sweeping, Commissioner St. John for Utility Undergrounding, and Commissioner Jackson for Private Sewer Laterals.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 1. Update on Implementation of Street Sweeping of Claremont Avenue:** Commissioner St. John reported that signs have been fully posted but that residents have indicated that the sweepers have not always appeared as scheduled. Also, the street sweeping maps need to be updated to reflect this change. A follow-up report is requested on the agenda of the next meeting.
- 2. Status Report on Disaster Preparedness:** Director Ford indicated that the Department’s emergency plan has just begun to be updated. There was a recent exercise drill where Public Works was identified to be third in line to activate the Emergency Operations Center, behind the Fire Department and then the Police. She indicated that Public Works has a fully functioning DOC (Departmental Operations Center) at the Corporation Yard. Gil Dong is the City’s overall coordinator in the Fire Department; the Commission would like to invite him to a meeting in the near future. The Commission is also interested in the designation of emergency evacuation routes.
- 3. Comparative Pavement Conditions of Bay Area Cities:** The MTC report contained in the packet was received and noted.
- 4. Report on Legal Claims for Flood Damage:** The report on claims paid in 2003 and 2004 was

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so noted. The Commission would like to see a report on 2005 claims when it is available.

5. Tracking of Repairs to Private Sewer Laterals: The Secretary gave a report on what information may be available from Permit Service Center records on past plumbing permits. The Commission thought it was worthwhile to ask the Secretary to request that such a report be run for each year on the past five years to submit to Commissioners to analyze.

6. Status Report on Creeks Task Force: Commissioner St. John distributed copies of a draft outline for the CTF's final report and provided an oral report.

7. Statements of Economic Interests: The memorandum from the City Clerk was so noted.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

1. Staff Presentations
 - a. Environmental Issues
2. Issues Being Deferred for Now
 - a. Street Lighting Standards (including maintenance)
 - b. Citywide Plan for future Rule 20A Undergrounding Funds
3. Reports from Liaisons to Other Commissions

ADJOURNMENT: 9:23 p.m.