



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, April 2, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: 7:06 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Allen, Alward, Henry, Holland, Kojan, Nelson, Schueler, Soto-Vigil, Threet

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the regular meeting of March 5, 2009 were approved as submitted (MSC Allen/Schueler with a vote of 8-0-1, Nelson abstaining).

CHAIR REPORT: New Commissioner Jerry Threet was welcomed and invited to speak briefly about his background.

STAFF REPORT: The timing of the Commission's report to Council on Utility Undergrounding has been delayed to allow for a response from Caltrans on funding the undergrounding of Ashby Avenue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The tour of the Corporation Yard for New Commissioners has been arranged for April 10, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Public Hearing: Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP): Staff introduced John Larsen, who is a consultant hired to assist in updating the SSMP, as well as assisting the City in the process of an audit on April 7– 8, 2009, by the US Environmental Protection

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location.

To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6346(V) or 981-7075 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date.

Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

Agency (USEPA). Mr. Larsen handed out a copy of the Plan that will be submitted to Council for adoption in May 2009. He proceeded to provide a description of the background and the contents of the Plan. He concluded by answering questions posed by Commissioners.

2. Presentation by AT&T on Deployment of “Uverse” Cabinets and Discussion of Proposed New Telecommunications Ordinance: Barbara Leslie and Karen Bowles of AT&T described the upcoming installations for “Project Lightspeed” by (1) distributing a map of the existing “SAI” infrastructure, (2) explaining that 70 – 90”VRAD” boxes would be installed within about 100’ from the existing SAI boxes, (3) circulating a photo of what the VRAD boxes will look like, and (4) providing samples of public notice materials they plan to use. Staff representatives, Donna Lasala and Herschel Hollie, were present to help answer questions. AT&T explained why undergrounding of the boxes is not a viable option. Regarding existing capacity on overhead poles, AT&T indicated that they will proceed to take care of the crowded conditions and possible safety issues on certain poles that were identified by the Commission. They also pointed out that Project Lightspeed could actually reduce the amount of overhead facilities. The presentation ended upon the conclusion of any further questions posed by the Commissioners. A subcommittee was then formed to explore regulation, such as franchise authority, of the public right-of-way. A concern was expressed about uses of the public right-of-way for nonessential services such as television. Commissioners Kojan, Holland, Soto-Vigil and Threet were appointed to the subcommittee.

3. Street Repair Policy Proposal: A minor modification was made to the submitted version contained in the packet, whereas in the Mission Statement, “safe” was added before “surface conveyance.” The amended version was then adopted (MSC, Nelson/Soto-Vigil, with a vote of 9-0-0). The item will not be submitted until after the next Commission meeting when more information may be available regarding uncertainties about funding sources and a trial installation of permeable pavers.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. American Recovery & Reinvestment Act: Staff reported that the only funding secured at this time is the approximately \$1.7 million that will be applied toward paving University Avenue from San Pablo to Sacramento.

2. Budget Constraints on Public Works Capital Improvement Program: Proposition 1B funds are still frozen at the State level, which would be applied to the next phase of University Avenue, east of Sacramento, when released. Local capital allocations from the City’s General Fund, for 2009 streets and sidewalk projects, are also on hold as a reserve against State shortfalls.

FUTURE AGENDAS

May 2009: Street Repair Policy (continued); Update on Rule 20A Recommendations
June 2009: Staff report on street lighting (deferred from May)

ADJOURNMENT: 9:23 p.m.