



Wednesday, November 4, 2015
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency

CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the South Pasadena Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency was called to order on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., in the Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., Council Chambers, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California, by Mayor Joe.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers/Redevelopment Successor Agency Members Cacciotti, Khubesrian, and Schneider; Mayor Pro Tem/Agency Vice Chair Mahmud; and Mayor/Agency Chair Joe

Absent: None

City Staff

Present: Sergio Gonzalez, City Manager/Agency Executive Director; Teresa L. Highsmith, City Attorney/Agency Counsel; Gary E. Pia, City Treasurer; Anthony J. Mejia, Chief Deputy City Clerk/Chief Deputy Agency Secretary were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Cacciotti gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dawson Galluzzi, 10th Grade, South Pasadena High School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Regular Closed Session of the City Council of November 4, 2015, was called to order at 6:30 p.m., and all Councilmembers were present, by Mayor Joe.

The meeting convened into Closed Session to discuss the following item as listed on the Closed Session Regular Meeting Agenda:

4. Conference with Legal Counsel – Initiation of Litigation
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(4)
Number of Cases: 1

City Attorney Highsmith reported that City Council provided direction to staff regarding the agendaized Closed Session item, but did not take any reportable action.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Kris Morrish, Chair, Planning Commission (PC), presented the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Annual Report of the PC.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Janet Braun, Chair, Public Safety Commission (PSC), presented the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Annual Report of the PSC.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

Clinton Granath, Chair, Public Works Commission (PWC), presented the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Annual Report of the PWC.

Councilmember Khubesrian requested that staff provide an update on the status of Monterey Road at a future City Council meeting, seconded by Councilmember Cacciotti.

5. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Councilmember Khubesrian expressed gratitude to the volunteers who serve on the City's Commissions; congratulated Mayor Joe and Councilmember Schneider for being re-elected, noting that she looks forward to serving another four years on the City Council; displayed PowerPoint slides on the South Pasadena Arts Council's Utility Box Art Program and recently held City Halloween Spooktacular event.

Councilmember Schneider commended the “Yes on Measure L” Committee for their efforts to encourage the passage of the Library Special Tax, noting that the community appreciates the hard work of Director of Library, Arts, and Culture Fjeldsted and library staff; congratulated Mayor Joe and Councilmember Khubesrian for being re-elected, as well as newly-elected South Pasadena Unified School District Board Members Jon Primuth and Suzie Abajian.

Councilmember Cacciotti spoke on his attendance at the Vecinos de South Pasadena’s Dia de los Muertos event, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy meeting, and Golden Streets meeting; noted that he met with Community Services Director Pautsch and the City’s Landscape Contractor regarding the possibility of transitioning towards environmentally friendly landscaping equipment for the Arroyo Seco Golf Course; advised that he attended a dinner hosted by Peter Chan, Mayor, City of Monterey Park, to welcome a Chinese delegation.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud applauded the success of the City’s Halloween Spooktacular event; encouraged staff to work with the Rivers and Mountains Land Conservancy to seek funding for the Arroyo Bicycle Pedestrian Trail; advised that County of Los Angeles staff is developing an ordinance related to holding pharmaceutical companies responsible for disposal of medications; commended the Senior Center volunteers for their efforts to put on programs and provide food services for seniors; spoke on her attendance at the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) Water Committee meeting which it discussed cities’ growing liabilities for storm water compliance; thanked residents for voting in the November 3, 2015, General Municipal Election; noted that a rainwater infiltration and efficient irrigation workshop, e-waste and document shredding event, and California Native Plant Society plant sale will take place on November 7, 2015.

Mayor Joe expressed gratitude to the community for re-electing Councilmembers Khubesrian and Schneider and himself; invited the community to attend the 2015 State of the City Address on December 9, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., in the Library Community Room.

6. CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Gonzalez invited the City Council to attend the Police Department’s Teen Academy graduation ceremony on November 10, 2015; announced that City Hall will be closed starting November 25, 2015 through November 27, 2015, in order for staff to perform critical upgrades to the City’s Information Technology system; displayed PowerPoint slides depicting the new Metro Rapid Bus Shelters which will be installed in South Pasadena.

7. REORDERING OF AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

8. APPOINTMENT TO THE YOUTH COMMISSION

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAHMUD, CARRIED 5-0, to appoint Dawson Galluzzi (10th Grade) to the Youth Commission for a partial school term until June 30, 2016.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Joe opened the Public Comments period.

Christopher Sutton, Attorney, Pasadena resident, advised that the City could use its zoning powers to ensure that vacant Caltrans properties are not the source of speculation; distributed a letter in which he states that City staff advises that grading is not permitted on hillsides with a 30% or greater slope; asserted that the Nansen family is being unfairly prosecuted relative to grading of their property; urged City Council to reconsider its hillside ordinances during the next General Plan update.

Tara Kawakami, South Pasadena resident, distributed photos depicting a home being constructed on Orange Grove Place; voiced concerns regarding the height of the new residence, opining that it is incompatible with neighborhood character; recommended that the City reconsider its criteria for determining neighborhood compatibility.

There being no additional speakers, Mayor Joe closed the Public Comments period.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Consent Calendar Item Nos. 10 through 12.

10. MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2015

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of October 7, 2015.

11. CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA GENERAL CITY WARRANTS AND THE REDEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR AGENCY WARRANTS

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the City of South Pasadena Prepaid Warrants Nos. 190783 through 190563 in the amount of \$428,843.96; General City Warrants Nos. 109629 through 190782 in the amount of \$1,111,627.03; Payroll, dated October 23, 2015, in the amount of \$419,927.12. Seated as the Successor Agency to the Community Redevelopment Agency, approve the Redevelopment Successor Agency Prepaid Warrants in the amount of \$441.68 and Payroll, dated October 23, 2015, in the amount of \$5,912.00 (included in the above totals).

12. RE-APPROPRIATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 PURCHASE ORDERS

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the re-appropriation of Fiscal Year 2014-15 Purchase Orders into the City of South Pasadena's Fiscal Year 2015-16 Expenditure Budget.

ACTION/DISCUSSION**13. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING PARKING AND TRAFFIC CONCERNS ON ADELAINE AVENUE**

Principal Management Analyst Lin presented the staff report, requesting that City Council provide direction regarding the parking and traffic concerns on Adelaine Avenue; responded to City Council inquiries.

Mayor Joe opened the Public Comments period.

Amedee Barry, South Pasadena resident, voiced concerns related to lack of parking and hazardous traffic conditions on Adelaine Avenue; asserted that Halvorson's Cleaners and Trader Joe's employees are parking on Adelaine Avenue all day; recommended that a residential parking district be established on Adelaine Avenue.

Peter Ervin, South Pasadena resident, stated that Trader Joe's customers have repeatedly blocked his driveway or used his driveway to load groceries; pointed out that Adelaine Avenue is narrow and difficult to navigate when vehicles are parked on both sides of the street.

Doug Yokomizo, Vice-President of Real Estate, Trader Joe's, South Pasadena resident, stated that Trader Joe's does not oppose the establishment of time-restricted parking on Adelaine Avenue; voiced concern that creating a "residents only" parking district would be problematic, pointing out that it would divert parking impacts to other neighborhoods; stated that Trader Joe's is willing to partner with the City to make safety improvements to Adelaine Avenue.

There being no others desiring to speak on this item, Mayor Joe closed the Public Comment period.

In response to City Council inquiry, City Manager Gonzalez advised that staff is seeking direction whether City Council desires to extend the Gold Line Preferential Parking District, establish time-restricted parking on Adelaine Avenue, or take no further action; suggested that establishing a 1-hour parking restriction would be mindful of adjacent businesses' needs, while addressing residents' concerns regarding all-day parking.

In response to City Council inquiries, Doug Yokomizo and Brent Dunlap, representing Trader Joe's, advised that Trader Joe's is pursuing an off-site parking agreement with Bryant Properties for 10-14 parking stalls to help address its employee parking demand; noted that 18-20 employees are in-store during normal operating hours; explained that several employees utilize public transportation and Trader Joe's offers an employee incentive for public transit expenses; reviewed supply truck route procedures, noting that trucks arrive after 9:00 p.m. and take efforts to minimize noise impacts; expressed willingness to work with Halvorson's Cleaners to utilize its parking when closed.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud questioned whether the City has considered demarking on-street parking stalls, noting that it could assist drivers in parking properly and allow traffic enforcement officers to easily identify parking infractions.

In response to City Council inquiry, Police Chief Miller reported that officers have increased routine patrols on Adelaine Avenue and have not observed an increase in speeding violations; encouraged residents to contact the Police Department when driveways are blocked.

Councilmember Cacciotti suggested that parking enforcement be increased during peak hours to emphasize that blocking driveways is unacceptable; conveyed support for establishing a 1-hour parking restriction on Adelaine Avenue.

Councilmember Khubesrian encouraged Trader Joe's to continue pursuing off-site parking agreements with nearby businesses for its employees; stressed the importance of ensuring that all stakeholders are considered and that reasonable solutions are developed; voiced support for exploring the possibility of establishing a 1-hour parking restriction on Adelaine Avenue; suggested that Trader Joe's consider creating a grocery loading service for customers.

Councilmember Schneider conveyed support for exploring a 1-hour parking restriction on Adelaine Avenue, noting that he is opposed to extending the Gold Line Preferential Parking District.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud recommended that Trader Joe's encourage employees and customers to bike to the store, noting that additional bicycle storage may be necessary; requested that Trader Joe's install signage reminding customers of the importance of being a good neighbor.

Mr. Dunlap, representing Trader Joe's, advised that signage will be installed related to neighborly behavior, to not block driveways, and advertising bicycle parking; noted that Trader Joe's would be willing to fund the painting of on-street parking stalls.

Mr. Barry, South Pasadena resident, suggested that a parking restriction of 30-minutes be established, pointing out that Trader Joe's advised the average customer only takes 15 minutes to shop in the store.

City Manager Gonzalez advised City Council that a 30-minute parking restriction would be problematic due to limited parking enforcement resources, noting they would have difficulty completing an enforcement cycle in 30 minutes.

By consensus, City Council directed staff to move forward with establishing a 1-hour parking restriction on Adelaine Avenue and demarcation of on-street parking stalls.

City Council encouraged Trader Joe's to pursue securing off-site parking for employees and to install signage encouraging customers to be respectful of adjacent neighborhoods, to avoid blockage of residential driveways, and to advertise bicycle parking.

14. DIRECTION REGARDING THE STRUCTURE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA FINANCE COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION TO RE-ESTABLISH IT AS A COMMISSION

Finance Director Batt presented the staff report, requesting that City Council provide direction whether the Finance Committee should be re-established as a Commission; responded to City Council inquiries.

City Treasurer Pia conveyed support for re-establishing the Finance Committee as a Commission; opined that City Council should regularly review members' performance at the time of term expiration; suggested that the Committee's normal practices be formalized into the Commission's bylaws, including listing the City Treasurer as an ex-officio member. In response to City Council inquiry, City Treasurer Pia recommended that City Council establish membership criteria broadly to ensure that membership consist of individuals with a variety of expertise.

Mayor Joe opened the Public Comments period.

Carrie Adrian, Chair, Finance Committee, questioned whether terms and term limits are appropriate for the Finance Committee, noting that it can take a member an extended period of time to become acquainted with the City's finances; opined that membership criteria should be broadly defined as to avoid excluding otherwise qualified applicants.

There being no others desiring to speak on this item, Mayor Joe closed the Public Comment period.

Councilmember Khubesrian noted that the Finance Committee already acts in a capacity similar to other City Commissions, including receiving support from a Staff Liaison and City Council Liaison; recommended that City Council formalize the Finance Committee by re-establishing it as a City Commission; expressed support for establishing terms, term limits, and membership criteria for the Finance Committee, noting that it may be necessary to allow for extended terms.

City Manager Gonzalez advised that staff will conduct a peer review of Finance Commissions in other cities' and that the matter will be agendized for Finance Committee discussion related to purview, number of meetings, and membership criteria before returning to City Council with proposed ordinance amendments.

Following discussion, MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, CARRIED 5-0, to direct staff to proceed with re-establishing the Finance Committee as a City Commission and to return to City Council with the appropriate ordinance amendments.

REPORTS

15. FISCAL YEAR 2015-16 STRATEGIC PLAN FIRST QUARTER UPDATE

Assistant to the City Manager Demirjian narrated a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Strategic Plan Fiscal Year 2015-16 Update - Quarter 1" and responded to City Council inquiries.

Mayor Joe opened and closed the Public Comments period, there being no one desiring to speak to this issue.

Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud stated that the City's objective related to water efficiency should be modified to indicate that it is "on target" rather than "completed," noting that City Council has requested that staff return with recommendations to further improve the City's water efficiency efforts.

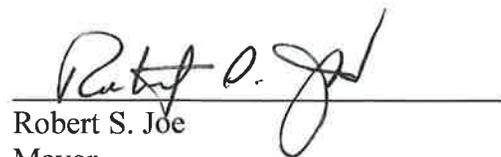
Councilmember Khubesrian requested that the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce provide an update regarding the Economic Gardening Project at a future City Council meeting.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CACCIOTTI, SECOND BY COUNCILMEMBER KHUBESRIAN, CARRIED 5-0, to receive and file the first quarter update of the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Strategic Plan, as amended to reflect Objective No. 3 related to water efficiency programs as being "on target."

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Joe adjourned the Joint City Council/Redevelopment Successor Agency at 9:40 p.m.


Evelyn G. Zneimer
City Clerk


Robert S. Joe
Mayor

Minutes approved by the South Pasadena City Council on December 2, 2015.