

**CITY OF PASADENA**

City Council Minutes  
September 23, 2000 - 8:30 A.M.  
Ritz Carlton-Huntington Hotel, Grill Room  
1401 South Oak Knoll Avenue, Pasadena

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**OPENING:** Mayor Bogaard called the special meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Councilmembers:

Mayor Bill Bogaard  
Vice Mayor Joyce Streater  
Councilmember William Crowfoot (Arrived 10:24 a.m.)  
Councilmember Steve Haderlein  
Councilmember Chris Holden (Arrived 10:37 a.m.)  
Councilmember Paul Little  
Councilmember Steve Madison (Absent)  
Councilmember Sidney F. Tyler, Jr.

Staff:

City Manager Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Attorney Michele Beal Bagneris  
City Clerk Jane L. Rodriguez

**OVERVIEW OF CITY OF PASADENA'S TECHNOLOGY PLAN AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)**

Mr. John Pratt, Director of Information and Technology, distributed a handout entitled "City Technology 2000+" and provided an overview of technology projects and the status of various projects. He also discussed the benefits of a Geographic Information System and noted Information and Technology staff have meet with each department to discuss how GIS can meet department needs.

There was no formal action taken on this informational item.

**DISCUSSION OF MOBILITY ELEMENT OF THE GENERAL PLAN**

- A. LOCAL AND REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE**
- B. INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE TRANSIT USE**
- C. DISINCENTIVES TO SINGLE-OCCUPANT AUTO USE**

- D. PARKING SUPPLY MANAGEMENT AND PARKING PRICING**
- E. TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT/AVERAGE VEHICLE RIDERSHIP**
- F. PHOTO REDLIGHT**

Mayor Bogaard provided introductory comments and noted that traffic and transportation are major issues that will benchmark the quality of living in our community in the years ahead. He stated that as the Blue Line comes on board, there will be a challenge to provide enhanced incidental transportation systems that will allow the community to take full advantage of the core transportation provided by the Blue Line. He acknowledged the hard work the Transportation Advisory Commission is doing to address traffic and transportation issues.

The City Manager provided opening comments and introduced Michael Bates, of Mobility Group, and Pat Gibson, consultant overseeing the data collection and review for the City's Mobility Element.

Mr. Bates and Mr. Gibson reviewed written material in the "Transportation Policies Workshop" booklet and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

Councilmember Crowfoot  
arrived at 10:24 a.m.

Councilmember Holden  
arrived at 10:37 a.m.

The City Manager distributed copies of a letter to the Mayor and City Council from the Planning Commission and Transportation Advisory Commission reflecting concerns and recommended policies as a result of three joint meetings the Commissions held on traffic and its relationship to land use and economic vitality.

Mayor Bogaard introduced Roger Gray, Chair of the Transportation Advisory Commission, and Richard Janisch, Chair of the Planning Commission.

Mr. Gray noted the comments from the two Commissions are reflected in their letter, and he emphasized the integration of development projects and the need to view projects simultaneously.

Mr. Janisch stated there is citywide dissatisfaction with current levels of traffic congestion, and there needs to be an infrastructure in place regarding shuttle busses and clusters of parking, and expanding that citywide.

Discussion ensued and individual comments were made pertaining to the need to expand the ARTS bus system; concern that people are not pushed into mass transit by not providing adequate parking; a desire to provide more options to the public rather than more restrictions; and quality of life is improved when it is easier to take public transportation and there is less dependence on automobiles.

It was noted there is a direct relationship to the likelihood of an individual riding the ARTS buses to the frequency, safety and reliability of the ARTS buses.

Vice Mayor Streater expressed concern regarding the quality of the MTA (Metropolitan Transit Agency) buses and suggested that our policy should be trying to get away from reliance on a sole source MTA transit provider. She also suggested ARTS bus routes be increased, including routes to the high schools instead of subsidizing student bus passes on the MTA. Vice Mayor Streater also stressed the need for our high school students to have transportation to Pasadena City College in order to take advanced classes that are not offered at the high schools.

It was suggested the Commission provide Council with recommendations for more bus routes, and recommendations that reflect we are going to encourage people to get out of their cars and circulate around our city by using the ARTS buses.

The Mayor opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Lorna Moore, member of the Transportation Advisory Commission, stated the Commission has discussed expansion of circulator systems out to neighborhoods and our city's borders. She discussed the need for quieter buses, and suggested the buses and bus stops be color-coded or have signage for the specific routes, and noted the need for adequate bus shelters.

The Mayor noted that if routes are expanded, there is an issue of funding, and one source of funding could be charging for the rides.

There was a general consensus of Councilmembers to get specific action items for Council to vote on regarding expansion of the ARTS bus routes, including recommendations on how to pay for expanded routes.

Discussion then ensued regarding the topic of parking, and Mr. Janisch expressed his opinion of having less parking requirements, and noted Mr. Fred Zepeda, member of the Planning Commission, had a differing opinion.

Mr. Zepeda discussed how peripheral parking has not worked well in downtown Los Angeles. He stated there is a disconnect in the way we process the impacts from development, and stressed the need to look at how we process the mitigations required in our development projects.

The City Manager discussed how technology firms are requesting more parking than what is required in the Code, and noted staff would like to look at making it more difficult to over park. She noted the Code needs to address what the correct amount should

be. Mr. Pat Gibson added that a lot of development projects are requesting additional parking to help market their buildings.

Discussion ensued and individual comments were made regarding development project impacts on traffic; parking demands; the environmental review process for development projects and mitigation of impacts; the need to have a broader perspective of development impacts over the next 15 years and taking that into account in a more significant way; concern whether the environmental impact review process is reconciled with the General Plan, and concern that this process may be used to revisit the General Plan; concern that some major projects are ahead of the Specific Plan for the area; and the need to develop our policies, guidelines and General Plan to have a framework which sets out community goals, so that when decisions are made, they are consistent with those goals and community values.

The City Manager noted we are within development anticipated in the General Plan, but what was not anticipated was that through trip traffic would increase and that other mode splits of commuting (light rail) would stay as stagnant as it has. She stated that since our assumptions have shifted, there will be changes/updates to the General Plan that will come to Council in the near future.

Mr. Pat Gibson added that the General Plan updates will focus on the Downtown/Central District area because there is so much activity going on there. He noted that Council will be provided with information on where we are today with morning and peak hour traffic, where we are today with the projects already approved, and where we are today with the projects approved and with the other projects being discussed, as well as a set of background numbers which will be provided to Council based on various development proposals, and looking at traffic numbers based on biotech build-out. He concluded by stating that it is hoped the background numbers to be presented will be used to evaluate the next set of development proposals, so there is consistent base data that everybody will be using.

The City Manager concluded by stating that decisions will then need to be made as to whether we have additional transit, whether we widen our streets, or whether we cut down on land use.

RECESS

On order of the Mayor, the special meeting of the City Council recessed at 12:05 p.m.

RECONVENED

On order of the Mayor, the special meeting of the City Council reconvened at 1:00 p.m. (Absent: Councilmembers Holden, Madison)

**Conduct first reading of "AN UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA SUSPENDING SECTIONS 9.36.220 AND 9.36.230 OF THE PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO LIMITATIONS ON THE OPERATION OF AMPLIFIED SOUND AND NOISE SOURCES AND SUSPENDING SECTION 3.24.110(A)(23) OF SAID CODE RELATING TO A SUNSET CLOSING TIME FOR NATURAL PARK AREAS IN THE ARROYO SECO FOR SPECIFIED HOURS AND AREAS ON OCTOBER 7, 2000 (HAHAMONGNA WATERSHED PARK, ART IN TENTS)"**

The City Manager summarized the staff report.

Councilmember Little noted the report does not address who is the sponsor of the event.

Vice Mayor Streater expressed concern the report doesn't address who the people are that the event will attract, parking provisions, and exactly where in Oak Grove Park the event will take place, and whether the surrounding neighborhoods have been informed of this event.

At the request of the City Manager, this item was held for later in the meeting in order for staff to obtain additional information.

**DISCUSSION OF CABLE TELEVISION/TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

- A. MARKETPLACE TRENDS**
- B. TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE**
- C. FEASIBILITY OF PASADENA ENTERING THE CABLE TELEVISION/TELECOMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE**

Councilmember Crowfoot noted, for the record, that the City Attorney has looked into whether he has a conflict of interest on this item, and the City Attorney has concluded he does not have a conflict of interest as long as he abides by the code of ethics for California lawyers.

Mr. Robert Person, Assistant to the City Manager, introduced Ms. Jayne Gerdeman, of Telecom Planners, Inc., cable and telecommunications consultant.

Ms. Gerdeman discussed current market trends and how the market is changing, and responded to questions from Councilmembers. She discussed similarities with the City of Nashville, which also has its own utility, and cautioned Pasadena officials that jumping into this market is not as easy as it sounds. She urged the City Council to move slowly and get a good idea of what we would be getting into if we go into this market.

Discussion ensued regarding the desire to have competition for Charter Communications, the City's sole cable provider, and the issue of whether the City desires to put in its own competing

infrastructure, or whether to “woo” in private over builders to put in a competing infrastructure; the need to address what are emerging technologies that we would be in competition with 10 years from now; and concern with the rapid changes in technology.

Ms. Gerdeman stated fiber is here to stay, and if we build it, someone will want to lease it. She urged City officials to:

- Do studies slowly and make executive decisions along the way
- Do an analysis of the community and know what the community wants -- who is using what and what aren't they getting access to that they need for their business or home needs
- Then determine if there is a market feasibility
- Determine the internal/external and future needs of the three biggest users: government, schools, and hospitals/medical centers, as well as the top 30 utility customers.

Ms. Gerdeman provided additional advice that if the City wants to bring true competition into the community, it needs to study what we can do and how we can do it better than the current providers, and also understand what we do right. She further defined what specifically needs to be studied:

- What leverage or potential competitive advantage the City has to be a possible provider of telecommunications infrastructure and applications to the community
- Look at our legal qualifications to do this and legal documents that give us the authority
- Look at how we function as an electric company, because the utility will be needed as it has the poles and right-of-ways
- Make sure the Public Works crews can handle the additional workload in building the infrastructure
- Whether the City can administratively handle the billing process, as the billing will need to be separate from the utility billing
- Need staff that understands the federal laws
- Whether the City has the right staff that could handle this new utility

Councilmember Haderlein was excused at 1:41 p.m.

Ms. Gerdeman stated the first thing that needs to be done is a telecommunications needs assessment/feasibility study of where the state of telecommunications is at in Pasadena -- what is everybody currently doing and where does everybody want to go? She noted this would involve various workshops and meetings in neighborhoods, as well as an active appeal to work with the business community, and also looking at the City operations. She stated that out of this feasibility study, information would be provided as to the types of networks the City may want to consider building infrastructure for, or the City may determine after this study it does not want to get into the market.

Ms. Gerdeman suggested that if Pasadena does a feasibility study, it would be advisable to also partner with Burbank and Glendale

Councilmember Holden  
arrived at 2:00 p.m.

and study whether it would be worth building a fiber optic ring around the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport to attract satellite businesses for an economic development approach around the Airport, and noted that is where the money is.

In response to questions, Ms. Gerdeman estimated it would cost approximately \$200,000,000 to put the infrastructure in place, and this would not include staff and operating costs. She noted that to do a complete feasibility study would cost approximately \$300,000.

Discussion ensued regarding doing a feasibility study, partnering with others, and whether the cost of the feasibility study could be passed on or shared by a partner.

Councilmember Holden stated this is an issue that requires leadership and vision, that it will not be an easy decision, and noted that Council is not close to making a decision until it has further information.

Councilmember Tyler stated he would like to know what would be involved for the City of Pasadena to be a cable provider, and suggested that further information be provided on what our assets are that are of potential value to other telecommunications providers that may want to do business with the City.

The City Manager offered to review the prior agenda report and recommendations presented to Council earlier on this topic, and see if any revisions are needed to the report based on today's presentation and discussion.

There was a general consensus that there needs to be an identification of our assets before we begin to assess whether to spend more time on the issue.

The Mayor noted that today is not the last time this topic will be discussed, but the Council is not at the point right now where it is saying it wants to spend \$300,000 for the feasibility study.

**Conduct first reading of "AN UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA SUSPENDING SECTIONS 9.36.220 AND 9.36.230 OF THE PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO LIMITATIONS ON THE OPERATION OF AMPLIFIED SOUND AND NOISE SOURCES AND SUSPENDING SECTION 3.24.110(A)(23) OF SAID CODE RELATING TO A SUNSET CLOSING TIME FOR NATURAL PARK AREAS IN THE ARROYO SECO FOR SPECIFIED HOURS AND AREAS ON OCTOBER 7, 2000 (HAHAMONGNA WATERSHED PARK, ART IN TENTS)"**

The City Manager responded to questions raised earlier in the meeting regarding the promoter of the event and discussed details of the proposed event.

Councilmember Streater expressed her disappointment that the information was not presented in the agenda report, concern that Council is hearing about this event at the last minute, concern with neighborhood impacts, and stated she would not be supporting this ordinance.

Mayor Bogaard stated he shared Councilmember Streater's concerns.

The above ordinance was offered for first reading by Vice Mayor Crowfoot:

AYES: Councilmembers Little, Tyler, Vice Mayor Crowfoot, Mayor Bogaard

NOES: Councilmembers Holden, Streater

ABSENT: Councilmembers Haderlein, Madison

**(First reading failed)**

With first reading of the ordinance failing, the City Manager noted the event will go forward without the art component, or the event may get scheduled earlier in the day.

#### **COUNCIL AGENDA PLANNING**

Due to time constraints, it was suggested this item be scheduled at a future meeting during the dinner hour in the Council Conference Room (with the item listed on the agenda and open to the public).

Councilmembers noted the Mayor has begun to give time estimates for certain items on the agenda, and it was noted this helps in keeping the discussion focused. It was also suggested that the Mayor remind Councilmembers when they have spoken too long.

Concern was expressed that there is not always sufficient time to discuss closed session items. It was suggested that closed session information be provided in advance, if possible, and that there be a more manageable number of closed session items on the agenda.

On order of the Mayor, the special meeting of the City Council adjourned at 2:52 p.m.



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Bill Bogaard, Mayor  
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:



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Jane L. Rodriguez  
City Clerk

JR:C:\DATA\MINUTES.00\SEP-23SP.WPD