

CITY OF PASADENA
City Council Minutes
February 8, 2016 – 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chamber

OPENING:

Mayor Tornek called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
(Absent: Councilmember Madison)

On the order of the Mayor, the regular meeting recessed at
5:30 p.m., to discuss the following closed session:

Councilmember Madison
arrived at 5:54 p.m.

**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE REGARDING PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT pursuant to Government Code Section
54957 and CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE with Labor
Negotiator pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6
City Representative: Terry Tornek
Position: Interim City Manager**

The above closed session item was discussed. The Mayor
reported on the action taken by the City Council as part of the
public session below.

On order of the Mayor, the regular meeting reconvened at 6:15
p.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember
Kennedy.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers:

Mayor Terry Tornek
Vice Mayor Gene Masuda
Councilmember Victor Gordo
Councilmember Tyron Hampton
Councilmember John J. Kennedy
Councilmember Steve Madison
Councilmember Margaret McAustin
Councilmember Andy Wilson

Staff:

City Manager Michael J. Beck
City Attorney Michele Beal Bagneris
City Clerk Mark Jomsky

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON
MATTERS NOT ON THE
AGENDA**

Floyd Folven, Pasadena resident, distributed correspondence
with recommendations to the City's budget and debt ratio.

The following individuals expressed concerns regarding
administrative actions and/or the principle at Madison
Elementary School:

Pablo Alvarado, Community Council for Empowerment and Justice at Madison (CCEJAM)
Martha Fregoso, Pasadena resident
Julieta Aragon, CCEJAM
Monica Rosales, CCEJAM
Blanca Silva, Pasadena resident
Julie Titas, residence not provided
Maria Salas, Pasadena resident
Jose Guzman, CCEJAM
Segundo Belmar, CCEJAM

In response to the public comments, Councilmember Gordo asked staff to organize a joint community meeting with Pasadena Unified School District and City representatives to discuss the various concerns raised by the public speakers.

Councilmembers Gordo and Kennedy expressed sympathies and condolences in the passing of Dr. Juan Francisco Lara, educator, scholar, and community member; and requested that the meeting be adjourned in his memory.

**RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM OFFICERS AND
DEPARTMENTS**

APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER

Mayor Tornek reported that the City Council appointed Mr. Steve Mermell to serve as Interim City Manager effective February 15, 2016, with an annual salary of \$260,000, paid in equal monthly installments, with benefits to be provided at Mr. Mermell's current level as Assistant City Manager.

Councilmember Kennedy stated that he would have preferred that the Interim City Manager selection process include a larger pool of applicants for the position, and candidates considered for the future City Manager position should live in Pasadena.

The City Council thanked Michael Beck for his dedication, leadership, and service to the City of Pasadena.

Dale Gronemeier, Eagle Rock resident, spoke in favor of the City Council's proposed action to appoint Steve Mermell as Interim City Manager, and expressed concerns with the Pasadena Police Department.

It was moved by Councilmember Gordo, seconded by Councilmember McAustin, to approve the appointment of Steve Mermell as Interim City Manager effective February 15, 2016, including the compensation and benefits detailed above. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: None)

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT SERVICES FOR THE SELECTION OF A NEW CITY MANAGER IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$35,000

Recommendation:

(1) Find that the recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, per Section 15601(b)(3), the general rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment;

(2) Authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with selected search firm for executive recruitment services related to the selection of a new City Manager in an amount not-to-exceed \$35,000. Competitive bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(F); contracts for unique or professional services; and

(3) Grant the proposed contract an exemption from the Competitive Selection Process pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code, Section 4.08.049(B), contracts for which the City's best interests are served.

Mayor Tornek introduced the item and recommended that the recruitment firm of Bob Murray and Associates be selected to coordinate the City Manager recruitment, and responded to questions.

Councilmember Kennedy suggested that the community have an opportunity to provide input on the new City Manager recruitment and selection process.

It was moved by Councilmember Gordo, seconded by Vice Mayor Masuda, to approve the Mayor's recommendation. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: None)

On the order of the Mayor, the regular meeting of the City Council recessed at 7:28 p.m., to conduct a special joint meeting with the Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education.

Following conclusion of the special joint meeting, on order of the Mayor, the regular meeting of the City Council reconvened at 11:37 p.m. (Councilmember Gordo absent)

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

The following individuals expressed concerns regarding administrative actions of the Pasadena Unifies School District and/or the Principal at Madison Elementary School:

(Continued)

Patricia Guzman, CCEJAM
Skip Hickambottom, CCEJAM
Dale Gronemeier, CCEJAM
Jill Shook, Pasadena resident

Eddie Rivera, reporter for Pasadena Now, announced that the daily news magazine will now be available in Spanish.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Hampton requested an update on the Hahamongna Cooperative Nursery lease agreement.

Councilmember McAustin praised the collaborative efforts between Young and Healthy, PUSD, and University of Southern California mobile dental clinic, which provided free dental services to approximately 120 Pasadena students.

Councilmember Wilson reported on his and Councilmember Hampton's participation in the Leadership Pasadena government session held in the Council Chamber on Friday, February 5, 2016.

The Mayor expressed his gratitude and praise to Michael Beck for his commitment to Pasadena and his dedicated service as the City Manager, and wished him well on his future endeavors.

Michael Beck, City Manager, thanked the City Council, City staff, and the Pasadena community for seven years of rewarding service.

ADJOURNMENT

On order of the Mayor, the regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 11:55 p.m., in memory of Dr. Juan Lara long time Pasadena resident and active community member.

Terry Tornek, Mayor
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:

City Clerk