

CITY OF PASADENA  
City Council Minutes  
January 13, 2020 – 5:30 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chamber

REGULAR MEETING

**OPENING:**

On order of the Mayor, the regular meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Wilson.

**ROLL CALL:**

Councilmembers:

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

Staff:

City Manager Steve Mermell  
Chief Assistant City Attorney Javan Rad  
City Clerk Mark Jomsky

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

The City Council spoke on the legacy and passing of David Robert Wolf, a long time Pasadena resident, architect, and author of Pasadena-centric works that include, *Pasadena Passages*, *"My City,"* and *The Arroyo Link*; and asked that the meeting be adjourned in his memory.

**PRESENTATION BY ASTON T. GREENE, LA METRO,  
INTERIM CHIEF OF SYSTEM SECURITY & LAW  
ENFORCEMENT**

City Manager Mermell summarized the City Council and the community's health and safety concerns related to the METRO Gold Line stations; and responded to questions.

Aston T. Greene, Interim Chief of System Security and Law Enforcement, Christopher Limon, Senior Director, Facilities Maintenance, and Joyce Berar-Garcia, Project Manager, representing LA METRO, presented a PowerPoint presentation on LA METRO's law enforcement and security program, train station maintenance, homelessness outreach and engagement, and community relations; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Gordo asked LA METRO staff to seek out opportunities to work more closely with the City and its partner agencies on the homelessness issue. He also requested information on LA METRO's cleanliness standards vs. industry standards, and how they are applied to transit stations. He also asked staff to provide information on the possibility of entering into a joint or shared jurisdiction agreement with LA METRO so that the City can apply for METRO grants and share in some of the responsibilities (i.e. policing, cleanliness) for transit stations located in Pasadena. Finally, he recommended quarterly walk-throughs that include LA METRO and City representatives at Gold Line stations in the City.

Councilmember McAustin expressed safety concerns with the Allen Avenue station, citing insufficient lighting, which is not user friendly; and asked LA METRO to review the location holistically in coordination with City staff to determine what may be done to improve the location for riders.

Councilmember Madison suggested that LA METRO utilize turnstiles at all of their train stations to ensure each train rider has a purchased train ticket, which may mitigate some of the public concerns.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Greene and his staff for attending the meeting and responding to questions; reiterated the City's and resident's safety concerns related to LA METRO Gold Line trains and stations; and he is looking forward to additional dialogue and collaboration with LA METRO.

#### **RECOMMENATIONS FROM OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS**

#### **ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA, IN RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND IN SUPPORT OF THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (Resolution No. 9762)**

Councilmember McAustin spoke on recognizing the centennial anniversary of the passage of the U.S. Constitution's 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which guarantees equal voting to American women; the support of the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women; and the City's celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ratification of Women's Right to Vote, with events scheduled throughout the year.

The following individuals spoke in favor of the City Council adopting the proposed resolution and/or provided comments:

Beverly Morgan-Sandoz, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)  
Norma Fernandez, CSW  
Armando Perez, Pasadena resident  
Charlotte Bland, CSW

Following public comment, it was moved by Councilmember McAustin, seconded by Councilmember Madison, to adopt the proposed resolution. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: Councilmember Kennedy, Vice Mayor Hampton)

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

Debra A. Johnson, Pasadena resident, spoke on improved cleanliness conditions at Metro Gold Line Stations, and homelessness in the City.

Ozzy Simpson, Sequoyah School student, reiterated his request that City Council to take action to support efforts to address climate change, including the Green New Deal pledge, and to not accept contributions from fossil fuel companies.

Deidra Duncan, Pasadena resident, acknowledged and thanked the Pasadena Police Sergeant Padilla for his assistance with resolving an issue related to serving a restraining order, and working with the community.

Erika Foy, Pasadena resident, spoke on the recent actions of LA METRO to address the Fillmore Station, which resulted in a cleaner station, and on the need for additional police presence on the weekends at transit stations when illegal activities are more prevalent.

Bert Newton, Greater Pasadena Affordable Housing Group (GPAHG), advocated for affordable housing and permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals in the Civic Center.

The following tenants of 215 South Madison Avenue, requested assistance with retrieving relocation fees from the property owners, and access to their personal properties:

Tia Strozier, Pasadena resident  
Alexander Lozano, Pasadena resident  
Sreya Dhar, Pasadena resident  
Joshua Haron Blamenkopf, Pasadena resident

Councilmember Wilson expressed frustration with the property owner not allowing tenants to access their personal belongings and asked City staff to do everything in their power to support the

tenants. Councilmember Gordo requested that City and Housing Rights Center staff meet with the affected tenants to provide information on the City's Municipal Code, Tenant Protection Ordinance, and the City's role in enforcing these local laws.

In response, City Manager Mermell expressed sympathy for the tenants plight, reiterated that the City has not red tagged the building, and provided information on the resources provided to the tenants. He also agreed to facilitate a meeting between the tenants and the property owner.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PASADENA, IPC (USA) INC., AND TRUMAN ARNOLD COMPANIES FOR PURCHASES OF RENEWABLE DIESEL FUEL**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council:

- (1) Find that the proposed contract is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3); and
- (2) Approve and authorize the City Manager to execute the Consent to Assignment Agreement between the City of Pasadena, IPC (USA) Inc., and Truman Arnold Companies for Purchases of Renewable Diesel Fuel. (Contract No. 31446-1)

### **REJECTION OF BIDS FOR CITYWIDE TREE AND STUMP REMOVAL**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council:

- (1) Find that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines in accordance with Article 19, Class 1, Section 15301, Existing Facilities, Subsection (h), which exempts maintenance of existing landscaping; and
- (2) It is recommended that the City Council reject all bids received on October 30, 2019 in response to the Notice Inviting Bids for citywide tree and stump removal for the Department of Public Works.

### **AUTHORIZE PURCHASE ORDER WITH SENSITIVE INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY DBA DESERT INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY, TO FURNISH PLUMBING SUPPLIES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$270,000**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council:

- (1) Find that this action is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3), the General Rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment; and

(2) Accept the bid dated November 26, 2019, submitted by Sensitive Industrial Supply dba Desert Industrial Supply (Desert Industrial), in response to the specifications to furnish plumbing supplies, reject all other bids received, and authorize the issuance of a purchase order with Desert Industrial in an amount not-to-exceed \$270,000 over a three-year period with the option of two one-year extensions in the annual amount of \$90,000, at the discretion of the City Manager, for a maximum total contract length of five years and a total contract amount of \$450,000.

**RESIGNATIONS,  
APPOINTMENTS &  
REAPPOINTMENTS**

**RESIGNATION OF KIM FERREIRA FROM THE COMMISSION  
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN EFFECTIVE JANUARY 21, 2020**  
(District 7 Nomination)

**RESIGNATION OF DEBORAH RAUPP FROM THE SENIOR  
COMMISSION** (District 7 Nomination)

**APPOINTMENT OF BERNARD HALLORAN TO THE URBAN  
FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** (City Nomination)

**MINUTES**

November 25, 2019  
December 2, 2019  
December 9, 2019  
December 16, 2019  
December 23, 2019  
December 30, 2019  
January 6, 2020

**CLAIMS RECEIVED**

Claim No. 13,444	Erica Kirby	\$	1,400.00
Claim No. 13,445	Wilber & Associates O/B/O State Farm Insurance Co as subrogee for Stephanie Athea		4,906.22
Claim No. 13,446	Ronnie Brown		Not stated
Claim No. 13,447	Rodolfo Morales		Not stated
Claim No. 13,448	Aynalem Mekonnen Wolde		Not stated
Claim No. 13,449	Progressive County Mutual Insurance Company as subrogee for Scott Hung		15,654.66
Claim No. 13,450	Geico as subrogee for Kari Reichert		6,433.95
Claim No. 13,451	Law Offices of Quang Van Tran, representing Tuong Huu Hien		25,000.00+

Claim No. 13,452	Law Offices of Richard De Anda, representing Nour Milla-Mahamed	4,290.93
Claim No. 13,453	Mingzhe Li	2,451.00
Claim No. 13,454	Timothy J. O'Shea, Esq., representing Edgar Ruiz Gomez	Not stated
Claim No. 13,455	Sky Law Group, A.P.C., representing Ioanna Korneeva	25,000.00+
Claim No. 13,456	Pasadena Business Park, LLC	21,800.00
Claim No. 13,457	Eddie Kouyoumdjian	25,000.00+
Claim No. 13,458	Oshea Orchid, Public Employees Legal, LLP, representing Tim Sell	Not stated
Claim No. 13,459	Keun Young Chung	905.00
Claim No. 13,460	Linda Hess	359.61
Claim No. 13,461	Chopurian Law Firm, representing Aziz Azizian	25,000.00+
Claim No. 13,462	Kurosh Raftari	1,708.78
Claim No. 13,463	Bernice Brightbill	50.00
Claim No. 13,464	Matthew Schwartz	Not stated
Claim No. 13,465	Driscoll & Omens, representing Natalie Sanchez and a Claimant Class	Not stated

## PUBLIC HEARING SET

**January 27, 2020, 7:00 p.m.** - Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) Hearing and Resolution for the California Municipal Finance Authority (CMFA) for the Benefit of Standard Villa Raymond Venture LP

**February 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m.** - Appeal of Board of Zoning Appeal's Decision to Approve Revocation of CUP No. 5535 - Pasadena Lots 70, LLC

**February 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m.** - Zoning Code Amendment: Playhouse District Parking Requirements

Ozzy Simpson, Sequoyah School student, spoke in opposition to the agreement between the City of Pasadena, IPC (USA) Inc. and Truman Arnold Companies, expressing concerns with the production of renewal diesel fuel that uses palm oil, which causes deforestation in various countries.

Following public comment, it was moved by Councilmember McAustin, seconded by Councilmember Wilson, to approve all items on the Consent Calendar. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: Councilmember Kennedy, Vice Mayor Hampton)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **PREDEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW OF A PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ZONING DISTRICT AT 491-577 SOUTH ARROYO PARKWAY**

**Recommendation:** This report is intended to provide information to the City Council; no action is required.

David Reyes, Director of Planning and Community Development, provided introductory comments, and Luis Rocha, Senior Planner, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item, with both responding to questions. Jennifer Paige, Deputy Director of Planning, responded to questions related to the proposed project being evaluated as an institution, and the need for additional review and evaluation of the proposed project.

Councilmember Madison spoke on the need to coordinate the proposed project and LA METRO's possible mobility improvements for the Gold Line at the California Boulevard crossing.

Councilmember Gordo requested that staff procedurally conduct (as soon as possible), a side-by-side analysis to determine what would be allowed by right to the developer, absent a Plan Development (PD), if the City Council were to decide not to approve a PD, so the community, City Council and Commissions may understand the possibilities with and without a PD.

Following discussion, by consensus of the City Council, and on order of the Mayor, the information was received and filed.

Item was pulled from the agenda

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONCESSION PERMIT NO. 11869 LOCATED AT 253 SOUTH LOS ROBLES AVENUE**

## **INFORMATION ITEM**

### **TRANSPORTATION PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

**Recommendation:** This report is for information only. No City Council action is required.

Laura Cornejo, Director of Transportation, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Department's performance measures, including analysis process, service levels, mobility element, adoption of the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) mitigation measures, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) application and review; and responded to questions. Mike

Bagheri, Transportation Development Manager, and Joaquin Siques, Traffic Manager, responded to questions related to the City-wide transportation projects "Needs List," outreach to developers related to fees, and the Transportation Department's software used to calculate levels of service.

Theresa Fuentes, Assistant City Attorney, responded to questions related to the development of the Traffic Reduction and Transportation Improvement Fee (TR/TIF), and cumulative impact analysis of the City's General Planning Environmental Impact Report.

In response to Councilmember McAustin's and Mayor Tornek's inquiries, Ms. Cornejo responded that staff will return with information on the baseline model and conditions, the VMT thresholds, the initial "Needs List," how TR/TIF's have been applied, and an analysis on the projects funded to determine if the City's transportation needs are being met.

Councilmember Gordo requested information that includes a cumulative amount and a breakdown of funds the City has been able to leverage with respect to TR/TIF (including non-CEQA related fees). He also requested that the baseline and condition of the TR/TIF "Needs List," and appropriate standards for TR/TIF's (including the appropriate fee waivers), are presented to the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) for analysis, discussion, and feedback.

The following individuals provided comment related to the City's Department of Transportation Mobility Element, including mitigation and performance measures:

The following individuals spoke in favor of City Staff utilizing Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) to assess traffic impacts and/or provided comments:

Topher Matthers, Pasadena resident  
Eric Sawyer, Pasadena resident  
Wesley Reutimann, Pasadena resident  
Blair Miller, Pasadena resident  
Emanuel Najera, Pasadena resident  
Jonathan Edwards, Pasadena resident

The following individuals expressed concerns with staff utilizing VMT to assess traffic impacts, and/or spoke in favor of a Level of Service (LOS) assessment program, and/or provided comment:



Andrew Salimian, Pasadena Heritage  
Ken Perry, Pasadena resident  
Andy Gooden, Pasadena resident  
Erika Foy, Madison Heights Neighborhood Association  
(MHNA)  
Josh Drake, Pasadena resident

Following discussion, by consensus of the City Council, and on order of the Mayor, the information was received and filed.

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

Chikobill H. Udewliwy, Pasadena resident, spoke on her being a victim of identity theft, and requested assistance with her utility bill.

The Mayor responded that staff will contact Ms. Udewliwy to discuss her concerns.

John Brace, Pasadena resident, made various inquiries related to water use and the possibility of a water crisis.

The Mayor responded that staff will contact Mr. Brace to discuss pending legislation related to water use and respond to his inquiries.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

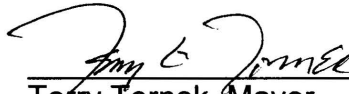
Councilmember McAustin reported on the "Women Win the Vote" Celebration, held on January 11, 2020 at the Central Library, where various presentations were made; spoke on the 2020 Rose Parade float, and stated that she will be hosting a candidate forum for City Council District 2 candidates on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at the Central Library.

Councilmember Madison also spoke on the Rose Parade and corresponding events, acknowledged and thanked Lisa Farber, President of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association, and City staff for their participation in another successful New Year's Day in Pasadena; and on the Pasadena Partnership, Homeless Count to be conducted on January 21-22, 2020. He requested that the City Attorney provide a briefing on claims related to tree branches falling on vehicles and causing damage, and determine methods to prevent such issues.

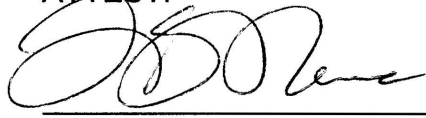
The Mayor echoed appreciation to staff and all individuals involved in making the New Year's Day events a success; and invited the public to the Mayor's State of the City to be held on January 16, 2020 at John Muir High School.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On order of the Mayor, the regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 11:00 p.m., in memory of Mr. David Robert Wolf.

  
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Terry Tornek, Mayor  
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
For City Clerk