

CITY OF PASADENA  
City Council Minutes  
May 10, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chamber

UNOFFICIAL UNTIL  
APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

The virtual meeting was convened pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, and was held solely by videoconference/teleconference

**OPENING:** Mayor Gordo called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Masuda.

**ROLL CALL:**  
Councilmembers: Mayor Victor M. Gordo  
Vice Mayor Andy Wilson  
Councilmember Tyron Hampton (Arrived at 4:47 p.m.)  
Councilmember John J. Kennedy  
Councilmember Steve Madison (Absent)  
Councilmember Gene Masuda  
Councilmember Jessica Rivas  
Councilmember Felicia Williams

Staff: City Manager Steve Mermell  
City Attorney/City Prosecutor Michele Beal Bagneris  
City Clerk Mark Jomsky

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS** Mayor Gordo requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of those that have suffered due to death and illness caused by COVID-19 in Pasadena, the nation, and around the world.

**CONSENT CALENDAR** **APPROVAL OF SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENTS WITH FOOD PANTRY PROGRAMS; COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)-CV FUNDS**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council take the following actions:

- (1) Find that the recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines per Section 15061(b)(3), the "common sense" provision that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment; and
- (2) Approve subrecipient agreements in the total amount of \$485,000, funded with federal CDBG-CV grant dollars, with five food pantry program operators to address households experiencing food insecurity caused by the coronavirus pandemic. (Contract Nos. 31960-NDLON; 31961-First AME; 31962-First United; 31963-FUC; 31982-PSC)

Councilmember Kennedy spoke on the need to provide additional resources to the Pasadena Senior Center (PSC), which is centrally located, and provides the senior community with easy access to the resources provided by the Center.

Steve Mermell, City Manager, responded that staff is currently analyzing the rules and regulations related to federal relief funds, and therefore, additional funding may be awarded to provide support for organizations such as PSC; and responded to questions. Bill Huang, Director of Housing, stated that PSC was provided the full amount of funding requested.

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2022 RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE OF TAXES, FEES, AND CHARGES**

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

- (1) Find that the proposed action is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 (Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges); and
- (2) After conducting a public hearing on May 17, 2021, adopt the Fiscal Year 2022 Schedule of Taxes, Fees, and Charges.

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, reported one letter of correspondence was received by the City Clerk's Office, requesting that fees charged for affordable Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) be discontinued, which was distributed to the City Council, posted online, and made part of the record for the item.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE: REINSTATEMENT OF LATE FEES AND PENALTIES**

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

- (1) Find that the proposed action is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 21065 of CEQA and Sections 15060(c)(2), 15060(c)(3), and 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines and, as such, no environmental document pursuant to CEQA is required; and
- (2) Rescind the suspension of late fees and penalties on City provided services that was approved on March 17, 2020 and not previously approved by other action.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE: RECOGNIZE AND APPROPRIATE \$1,222,000 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET AND INCREASE THE DEPARTMENTAL PERSONNEL ALLOCATION BY 12.0 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT ("FTE") FOR THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY ("ELC") SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM**

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

- (1) Find that the proposed action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2), 15060(c)(3), and 15378, as the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment;
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with the County of Los Angeles to accept and administer federal grant funds

on behalf of the City of Pasadena to expand epidemiology, surveillance, and testing capacity to combat COVID-19; and (Contract No. 23,503)

(3) Amend the Fiscal Year 2021 Public Health Department operating budget by recognizing and appropriating \$1,222,000 in Los Angeles County grant pass-through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and increase the departmental personnel allocation by 12.0 new full-time equivalent ("FTE") limited-term grant-funded positions. (Budget Amendment No. 2021-35)

Councilmember Rivas disclosed that she is employed with the Los Angeles County and does not have a personal interest in this matter.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH INTEGRATED TURBO MACHINERY, INC., FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$479,720 FOR THE REPAIR OF GLENARM TURBINE 5 STEAM TURBINE**

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

(1) Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Existing Facilities; and Section 15302, Replacement or Reconstruction; and that there are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt class and, therefore, there are no unusual circumstances;

(2) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract, without competitive bidding pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(C), contracts for labor, material, supplies, or services available from only one vendor, with Integrated Turbo Machinery, Inc. ("Integrated") for the repair of Glenarm Turbine 5 ("GT-5") steam turbine for an amount not-to-exceed \$479,720, which includes the base contract amount of \$417,148 and a 15% contingency of \$62,572 to provide for any necessary change orders; (Contract No. 32026)

(3) Appropriate an additional \$479,720 from the Power Fund to Capital Improvement Project No. 3236 entitled "Power Production Facility Improvements" to fund expenses for this contract; and (Budget Amendment No. 2021-36)

(4) 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.

RESIGNATIONS,  
APPOINTMENTS, &  
REAPPOINTMENTS

**APPOINTMENT OF LESLIE ROSENTHAL TO THE LIBRARY  
COMMISSION** (District 6 Nomination)

## CLAIMS RECEIVED

Claim No. 13,716	Beltran & Beltran Accident Attorneys representing Maria Lopez	\$ 25,000.00+
Claim No. 13,717	Janet H. Kwuon	25,000.00+
Claim No. 13,718	Alan Dressler	9,750.00
Claim No. 13,719	Downtown LA Law representing Charles Ervont Grays	25,000.00+
Claim No. 13,720	David Garcia	2,398.00

## PUBLIC HEARING SET

**June 7, 2021, 4:30 p.m.** - Appeal of the Board of Zoning Appeals' Decision on Modification to Conditional Use Permit No. 6222 Regarding the Properties Located at 3420 and 3500 N. Arroyo Blvd (Arroyo Seco Canyon Project)

It was moved by Vice Mayor Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Masuda, to approve all items on the Consent Calendar:

AYES: Councilmembers Kennedy, Masuda, Rivas, Williams, Vice Mayor Wilson, Mayor Gordo  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Councilmembers Hampton, Madison  
ABSTAIN: None

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilmember Hampton connected to the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

The following individuals expressed concerns with the Pasadena Police Department and Police Officers; advocating for the termination of Police Chief John Perez; expressed concerns and commented on Pasadena Police Departments recommended Capital Improvement Project budget; requested the City Council agendize the officer involved shooting of Anthony McClain, and/or spoke on the need for funding for the Pasadena Central City Library and housing the homelessness, from the following individuals:

Allen Shay, Pasadena resident  
Jane Ward, representing Showing Up for Racial Justice  
Olden Denham, Pasadena resident  
Heavenly Hughes, representing My Tribe Rise  
Jasmine Abdullah Richards, Black Lives Matter

Councilmember Kennedy requested that at a future closed session discussion related to the officer involved shooting of Anthony McClain, be agendized, with Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney, to brief the City Council on the allegations of a firearm being moved at the crime scene.

Councilmember Hampton spoke on the need for such discussions to occur in a public setting; and requested that the matter be agendized at a future Public Safety Committee meeting. He advocated for the City Manager to commence a national recruitment for a new Police Chief; and requested an update on the recruitment process.

Councilmembers Hampton and Kennedy recommended that the City's Community Police Oversight Commission (CPOC) be involved in the hiring of a new Police Chief. Councilmember Kennedy spoke on the need for the City Council to expedite the impaneling of their appointee members to the CPOC.

In response to Mayor Gordo's inquiries related to litigation, investigations, and administrative review on matters related to officer involved shooting of Anthony McClain, Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney responded that staff will respond to those questions at a future City Council meeting.

The following individuals advocated for a comprehensive approach to affordable housing throughout the City; and for the City Council to rezone land owned by churches and other religious organizations to allow for the building and providing of additional affordable housing:

Jill Shook, representing Making Housing and Community Happen  
Bert Newton, representing Making Housing and Community Happen

Vice Mayor Wilson requested an update on the rezoning of land owned by churches and other religious organizations. He would like to move forward with this matter prior to updating the City's Housing Element.

In response to Vice Mayor Wilson's inquiry, Mayor Gordo stated that he or staff will provide an update on the matter at a future City Council meeting.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING: CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2022 – 2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET AND ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2022 – 2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET**

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

- (1) Find that the proposed actions are not "projects" as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21065 and Section 15378(b)(4) and (5) of the State CEQA Guidelines and, as such, are not subject to environmental review;
- (2) Open the public hearing on the City Manager's Recommended Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 – 2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget;
- (3) Close the public hearing and formally adopt the FY 2022-2026 CIP Budget; and
- (4) Adopt by resolution the City's FY 2022 – 2026 CIP Budget as summarized in Exhibit B contained in the resolution and any



changes passed by a motion of the City Council. (Resolution No. 9836)

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, opened the public hearing; reported that the public hearing notice was published in the Pasadena Press on April 15, 2021; and 21 emails/letters providing comments related to various projects in the City, were distributed to the City Council, posted on-line, and made part of the public record.

City Manager Mermell presented an introductory PowerPoint presentation summarizing the agenda report, and responded to questions. Ara Maloyan, Director of Public Works, continued the PowerPoint presentation on Public Work's recommended four new projects; Laura Cornejo, Director of Transportation, continued the PowerPoint presentation on the Transportation Department's one new project; and Gurcharan Bawa, General Manager of Water and Power, continued the PowerPoint presentation on Water and Power Department's five new projects; with all responding to questions.

City Manager Mermell provided information on staff's actions, including structural engineering analysis and peer review of the City's Central Library building, and will return to the City Council with an update and information on strategies to address the retrofitting of the building

Councilmember Hampton requested that during the assessment of the Pasadena Central Library building, staff ensure all options are considered, including condemning the basement of the building and utilize technology and structural tie-in's to support the building in case of a serious earthquake.

Mayor Gordo asked staff to provide information on short and long term options to preserve the building; as well as plans to maintain the Central Library's services and inventory.

In addition, Mayor Gordo asked staff to provide the City Council with the schedule of public outreach events for the Greenway (Bike Boulevard) implementation. Councilmembers Hampton and Williams, and Mayor Gordo spoke on the need for robust outreach to allow for community input on the corridor design, safety impacts, and maintenance related to the Greenway (Bike Boulevard) project to promote consensus building and ensure the community will embrace the project.

Vice Mayor Wilson suggested that the City Council consider allocating some of the City's, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to the City's Capital Improvement Projects. He asked staff to provide information on the Pasadena Police Department's Mobile Command Center (MOC) usage history, including the number of days the unit was used and

for what functions were performed during usage. In addition, he advocated for staff to begin converting the City's bus fleet to electrical buses; and reported that the Sunset Reservoir project will be presented at the next Municipal Services Committee for additional analysis and discussion.

Councilmember Kennedy advocated for funding to upgrade and renovate the Pasadena Police Department building; and voiced support for Councilmember Hampton's request for staff to consider and evaluate all available options, including repairing only what state law requires, in order to open the Pasadena Public Library given its importance to the City. He asked staff to consider seeking private donations from the community to retrofit the building.

City Manager Mermell informed the City Council that there is ample time to allow the engineers to conduct their analysis; and the City Council will determine what the correct solution is for the Pasadena Central Library building, similar to the decision related to the retrofit project of the City Hall building.

Councilmember Masuda spoke in favor of staff moving forward with the installation of a signal light at North Craig Avenue and Orange Grove Boulevard.

The following individuals provided comments/suggestions on the various City Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), including advocating for the retrofit of the Pasadena Central Library Building, expressing concerns with remodeling and dedicating scarce resources to the Pasadena Police Department's building, and opposed the proposed Mobile Operations Center funding:

Robert Karatsu, Pasadena resident

Sonja Berndt, Pasadena resident

Breathe Justice

Jasmine Abdullah Richards, Black Lives Matter Pasadena

Adriana Bautista, Pasadena resident

Mayor Gordo asked staff to prioritize the traffic signal installation at North Craig Avenue and Orange Grove Boulevard, and Orange Grove Boulevard and North Sunnyslope Avenue. He stated that if staff is unable to achieve grant funding for the two traffic signal installations, or rededicate available funds, staff should provide the City Council with alternatives to fund the installation of the signal lights.

Councilmember Hampton reiterated his request that the Pasadena Police Department's CIP budget be presented at a Public Safety Committee meeting, and specifically requested information on the Mobile Operations Center, for further review and discussion.

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Vice Mayor Wilson, to close the public hearing:

AYES: Councilmembers Hampton, Kennedy, Masuda, Rivas, Williams, Vice Mayor Wilson, Mayor Gordo  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Councilmember Madison  
ABSTAIN: None

Following further discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Vice Mayor Wilson, to approve the staff recommendation, amended by directing the City Manager and Police Chief to provide a detailed explanation of the approved Pasadena Police Department's Capital Improvement Project budget appropriations at a future Public Safety Committee meeting:

AYES: Councilmembers Hampton, Kennedy, Madison, Masuda, Rivas, Williams, Vice Mayor Wilson, Mayor Gordo  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS**

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FIRST TRANSIT, INC., FOR PASADENA FIXED ROUTE AND DIAL-A-RIDE TRANSIT SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$41,068,924 FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM FROM JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026 WITH OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS**

Mayor Gordo announced that this item has been removed from the agenda and will not be considered. The item will be presented to the Municipal Services Committee at a future meeting for discussion and consideration prior to returning to the City Council.

#### **INFORMATION ITEM**

**PREDEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW OF AN EIGHT UNIT MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PROPOSED AT THE CORNER OF LINCOLN AVENUE AND CANADA AVENUE (CALTRANS RIGHT-OF-WAY PROPERTY AS DESCRIBED IN THE AGENDA REPORT)**

**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 Martin Potter, Planner, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item, and responded to questions.

Councilmember Kennedy stated that he would like to ask the applicant if they are considering other uses for the proposed site besides residential. He expressed safety concerns and possible



needed amendments to the City's General Plan and Lincoln Avenue Specific Plan related to the proposed project. Councilmember Kennedy also expressed concerns as to why City staff was not notified that the property was for sale by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Mayor Gordo requested that staff determine the number of lots in the City that are owned by Caltrans, or other state agencies; the City's rights to purchase such properties; and the process for Caltrans, or other state agencies, to dispose of such properties. He suggested that the proposed design of the building might be improved, noting that it appeared to him to be too "boxy" and not complimentary to the surrounding neighborhood.

Councilmember Hampton spoke on the need for staff and the developer to conduct significant outreach to the community related to the proposed project, including the design.

William Pournamdari, representing the applicant, provided information on the project, including their land designation request, and preliminary design concept; and responded to questions.

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

**ONE YEAR REVIEW OF INCLUSIONARY HOUSING ORDINANCE UPDATES AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONCESSION MENU FOR DENSITY BONUS PROJECTS**  
**Recommendation:** This report is for information only, there is no action required by the Council.

David Reyes, Director of Planning and Community Development, provided introductory comments, and Andre Sahakian, Senior Planner, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item, and responded to questions.

Vice Mayor Wilson requested that staff provide data on the number of individuals that have paid the inclusionary housing in-lieu fees when this item returns to the City Council.

Councilmember Williams expressed appreciation to staff for the well thought out policy implemented by the Planning Department staff; and asked staff to explore excluding workforce or middle income units from the calculation of inclusionary housing to promote workforce housing development.

Nina Chomsky, Pasadena resident, spoke on the need for staff to address developers intent to avoid reducing the scale and help with the character of a building by using Planned Developments.

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

**CLOSED SESSION**

On order of the Mayor, the special meeting recessed at 8:21 p.m. to discuss the following closed session (Absent Councilmember Madison):

**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL regarding pending litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)**

**Name of Case: Diondra Williams, et al. v. City of Pasadena, et al**

**USDC Case Nos.: 2:20-cv-09042-VAP-AS**

The above closed session item was discussed, with no reportable action at this time.

**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6**

**Agency Designated Representatives: Jennifer Curtis and Steve Mermell**

**Employee Organizations: Pasadena Police Officers Association (PPOA)**

The above closed session item was not discussed

**ADJOURNMENT**

On order of the Mayor, the special meeting of the City Council adjourned at 9:25 p.m., in memory of all those that are ill and have lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Victor M. Gordo, Mayor  
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:

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