

CITY OF PASADENA  
City Council Minutes  
October 18, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chamber

The meeting was convened and held virtually by videoconference/teleconference.

**OPENING:** Mayor Gordo called the meeting to order at 4:34 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  
Councilmember John J. Kennedy  
Councilmember Steve Madison  
Councilmember Gene Masuda  
Councilmember Jessica Rivas  
Councilmember Felicia Williams

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

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS** Tim McDonald, Library Deputy Director, provided information on the many contributions made to the City's library system by the Friends of the Pasadena Public Library organization, and thanked them for all their support. Janice Segall, President of the Friends of the Pasadena Public Library, thanked the Mayor, City Council, staff and volunteers for their time and work in supporting the City's libraries. Mayor Gordo announced a proclamation declaring October 17 – 23, 2021 as "National Friends of Libraries Week," in the City of Pasadena.

Mayor Gordo presented a proclamation to Manuel Carmona, Deputy Director of Public Health, declaring October 2021 as "National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month" in Pasadena. Mr. Carmona representing Pasadena Elderly and Dependant Adult Liaison (PEDAL) Committee, spoke on the Committee's work and thanked the Mayor, City Council and staff for the recognition.

Councilmember Williams and Mayor Gordo spoke on the passing of long-time Pasadena resident, Myriam Cascella, expressed condolences to her family and friends, and asked that the City Council meeting be adjourned in her memory.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke on the life and the passing of former United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, and expressed sympathy on his passing.

Mayor Gordo reported that pursuant to an order by President Biden, all government offices in Pasadena will lower the U.S. flags to be flown at half-staff in honor of former Secretary of State Powell until Friday, October 22, 2021.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

The following individuals advocated for the City Council to address homelessness by providing affordable housing in the City; and spoke in support of the rezoning of land owned by churches that would allow "by-right" development as a way to increase affordable housing in the City:

Rev. Rochelle Wright-Moore, Pasadena resident

Thea DeGroot, Pasadena resident

Anthony Manousos, representing Making Housing and Community Happen

Marcos Canales, representing La Fuente Ministries-PazNaz

The following individuals expressed concerns with the City Council approving the ShotSpotter system, the Pasadena Police Department, and the Department's policing policies; spoke on controversial incidents involving Pasadena Police Officers; advocated for the termination of Pasadena Police Chief Perez, Officers Dumaguindin, Serrano, Mulrooney, and/or City Manager Steve Mermell:

Kat Ross, Altadena resident

Michael Williams, Pasadena resident

Hiram Cormier, Jr., Los Angeles resident

Heavenly Hughes, representing My TRIBE rise

Jasmine Richards Abdullah, representing Black Lives Matter Pasadena

Adriana Bautista, representing Black Lives Matter Pasadena

Fahren, South Pasadena resident

Evie, Pasadena resident

Carolyn Ghiloni, Sierra Madre resident

Michelle White, Pasadena resident, spoke and advocated for rent control and eviction protections for Pasadena residents who are renters.

In response to Councilmember Hampton's inquiry related to when the discussion on re-zoning of church property will return to the City Council, Steve Mermell, City Manager, stated that the matter would be presented to the Planning Commission in January 2022.

In response to Councilmember Hampton's inquiry related to when the discussion on an internal investigation policy will be agendaized for discussion at a future City Council meeting, Mayor Gordo responded that he will work with the City Clerk to determine a date.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

### **AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A FIBER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH ACCO ENGINEERED SYSTEMS**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council:  
(1) Find that the following proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c) (Existing Facilities);

- (2) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a license agreement with ACCO Engineered Systems for use of City fiber, resulting in up to \$319,485 in revenue to the City over the initial five-year term of the agreement; and
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to extend the agreement for two optional one-year terms in the amount of \$63,897 per extension, for a maximum term of seven years, and revenue up to \$447,278. (Contract No. 23,576)

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH HR GREEN PACIFIC, INC., AND WITH KOA CORPORATION TO PROVIDE AS NEEDED TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES PERMIT PROCESSING AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO- EXCEED \$1,500,000 FOR EACH CONTRACT**

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

- (1) Find the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3) the Common Sense Exemption (formerly the General Rule) that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment;
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract, based on a competitive selection process pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code Section 4.08.047, for professional or unique services, with HR Green Pacific, Inc., for As-Needed Telecommunications Facilities Permit Processing and Construction Management Consultant Services for a period of five years in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,500,000; and (Contract No. 32168)
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract, based on a competitive selection process pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code Section 4.08.047, for professional or unique services, with KOA Corporation for As-Needed Telecommunications Facilities Permit Processing and Construction Management Consultant Services for five years in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,500,000. (Contract No. 32165)

**AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH KPFF, INC., DBA KPFF CONSULTING ENGINEERS (NO. 31285) FOR ON-CALL STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES; AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH DAHLIN GROUP, INC., (NO. 31319) FOR ON-CALL ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES; AND AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH BLACK O'DOWD AND ASSOCIATES, INC., DBA BOA ARCHITECTURE (NO. 31320) FOR ON-CALL ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES**

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

- (1) Find that the proposed action of amending an existing contract is not a "project" 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, is not subject to environmental review;

(2) Authorize the City Manager to amend Contract No. 31285 with KPFF, Inc., dba KPFF Consulting Engineers, to increase the contract amount by \$160,000 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$660,000; (Contract No. 31285-2)

(3) Authorize the City Manager to amend Contract No. 31319 with Dahlin Group, Inc., to increase the contract amount by \$120,000 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$620,000; and (Contract No. 31319-1)

(4) Authorize City Manager to amend Contract No. 31320 with Black O'Dowd Associates, dba BOA Architecture, to increase the contract amount by \$150,000 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$650,000. (Contract No. 31320-2)

Item discussed separately

**CONTRACT AWARD TO CJ CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION, INC., FOR MISCELLANEOUS SIDEWALK REPAIR 2022 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO- EXCEED \$1,000,000**

Item discussed separately

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PSOMAS FOR MAINTENANCE, MONITORING AND REPORTING SERVICES FOR THE BERKSHIRE CREEK, OAK GROVE, AND LOWER ARROYO SECO HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO- EXCEED \$628,000**

**CONTRACT AWARD TO SELECT ELECTRIC, INC., FOR ADAPTIVE TRAFFIC CONTROL NETWORK – PHASE II TRAFFIC SIGNAL MODIFICATION AT MULTIPLE CORRIDORS, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$1,280,000**

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

(1) Find the project proposed in the agenda report to be categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines in accordance with Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15301, Class 1, minor alterations of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing at the time of the lead agency's determination, and find that there are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt class, and therefore, there are no unusual circumstances; and

(2) Accept the bid dated September 23, 2021, submitted by Select Electric, Inc., in response to the project plans and specifications for Adaptive Traffic Control Network – Phase II Traffic Signal Modification at Multiple Corridors project, reject all other bids received on July 9, 2021 and September 23, 2021, and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract not-to-exceed \$1,280,000 which includes the base contract amount of \$1,122,345 and a contingency of \$157,655 to provide for any necessary change orders. (Contract No. 32166)

**APPROVAL OF FINAL TRACT MAP NO. 082280 FOR CREATION OF 42 AIR PARCELS FOR RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUM PURPOSES AND ONE COMMERCIAL UNIT AT 178 SOUTH EUCLID AVENUE**

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

- (1) Adopt a resolution to approve Final Tract Map No. 082280 for the creation of 42 air parcels for residential condominium purposes and one commercial unit; and (Resolution No. 9869)
- (2) Authorize the City Clerk to execute the Certificate on the map showing the City's approval of said map.

**Recommendation of the Hearing Officer:** The subject tentative map was approved on February 6, 2019 by the Subdivision Hearing Officer. The exercise of the right granted must be commenced within three years, or by February 6, 2022.

**REJECTION OF BIDS FOR K-RAIL REMOVAL FOR ROSE PARADE AND ON-CALL SERVICES**

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

- (1) Find that the proposed action is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(5) and Section 15270 of State CEQA Guidelines; and
- (2) Reject all bids received on October 5, 2021, in response to the Notice Inviting Bids to Provide Services for K-rail removal for Rose Parade and on-call services.

**RESIGNATIONS,  
APPOINTMENTS, &  
REAPPOINTMENTS**

**RESIGNATION OF SUSAN KRANWINKLE FROM THE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION** (District 3  
Nomination)

**APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN LIPIRA TO THE DESIGN  
COMMISSION** (Historic Preservation Commission Nomination)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

September 27, 2021

**CLAIMS RECEIVED**

Claim No. 13,773	Tina Pasternack-Weiss & Lawrence Weiss	\$	4,500.00
Claim No. 13,774	Cesare Safieh		1,769.67

**PUBLIC HEARING SET**

**November 1, 2021, 5:00 p.m.** Approval of the Sale and Transfer of City-Owned Real Property at 130 W. Howard Street and 1556 Navarro Avenue to San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity ("SGV Habitat"); Entry by City and SGV Habitat into a Proposed Disposition, Development and Loan Agreement for the Development of a Two-Unit Affordable Homeownership Project

It was moved by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Vice Mayor Wilson, to approve all items on the Consent Calendar, with the exception of Item 4 (Contract Award to CJ Concrete Construction,

Inc.), and Item 5 (Authorization to Enter into a Contract with PSOMAS), which were discussed separately:

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

**CONSENT ITEMS**  
**DISCUSSED SEPARATELY**

**CONTRACT AWARD TO CJ CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION, INC., FOR MISCELLANEOUS SIDEWALK REPAIR 2022 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO- EXCEED \$1,000,000**

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

- (1) Find the project proposed in the agenda report to be categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines in accordance with Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15301, Class 1, minor alterations of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing at the time of the lead agency's determination, and find that there are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt class, and therefore, there are no unusual circumstances;
- (2) Reject the bids received on May 12, 2021 in response to the Notice Inviting Bids for Miscellaneous Sidewalk Repair 2021 Project; and
- (3) Accept the bid dated September 16, 2021, submitted by CJ Concrete Construction, Inc., in response to the Plans and Specifications for Miscellaneous Sidewalk Repair 2022; reject all other bids received; and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract not-to-exceed \$1,000,000 which includes the base contract amount of \$842,850 and a contingency of \$157,150 to provide for any necessary change orders. (Contract No. 32169)

Kris Markarian, Acting Director of Public Works, provided information on staff's outreach to local business/contractors, bids received for the item, sourcing of materials for the project, and the Pasadena MASH Program; and responded to questions.

City Manager Mermell provided information on the number of Request For Proposal (RFP) notifications that were distributed, including to local companies; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Hampton expressed concerns with the requirements in the RFP, which he believes to be too prohibitive for local contractors; requested additional information on contractor license requirements for concrete work within the public right-of-way; and spoke on the need to encourage local business participation in the City's procurement and bidding process.



In response to Councilmember Kennedy's inquiry related to the direction to staff, Mayor Gordo responded that he will ask staff to distribute information on the regulations, and request Councilmember Hampton, Chair of Economic Development and Technology Committee, to determine if a discussion on outreach to Pasadena businesses on formal solicitations should be agendaized for discussion.

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Vice Mayor Wilson, to approve the staff recommendation:

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

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PSOMAS FOR MAINTENANCE, MONITORING AND REPORTING SERVICES FOR THE BERKSHIRE CREEK, OAK GROVE, AND LOWER ARROYO SECO HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$628,000**

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

- (1) Find that the project proposed in the agenda report to be categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines in accordance with Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 15061(b)(3), the General Rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract, as the result of a competitive selection process, as specified by Section 4.08.047 of the Pasadena Municipal Code, with Psomas for Maintenance, Monitoring, and Reporting Services for the Berkshire Creek, Oak Grove, and Lower Arroyo Seco Habitat Restoration Projects in an amount not-to-exceed \$628,000, which includes the base contract amount of \$546,150 and a contingency of \$81,850 to provide for additional services as deemed necessary for a maximum total contract length of five years. Competitive price bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(F) (contracts for professional or unique services). (Contract No. 32163)

Following a brief discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Kennedy, seconded by Vice Mayor Wilson, to approve the staff recommendation:

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

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING: APPEAL OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS' DECISION ON CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 6816 REGARDING THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1827 EAST VILLA STREET**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council cancel the public hearing to allow staff to re-notice for a future meeting date.

Following discussion, on the order of the Mayor, and consensus of the City Council, the public hearing on the item was cancelled.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: APPEAL OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS' DECISION ON HILLSIDE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT NO. 6838 REGARDING THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1820 LINDA VISTA AVENUE**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council:  
(1) Adopt the Environmental Determination that the project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(9); Administrative Code, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities); and  
(2) Overturn the Board of Zoning Appeals' decision and approve Hillside Development Permit No. 6838.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that 34 copies of the notice were posted and mailed on October 4, 2021; and one letter in support of the staff recommendation and one letter (including a video) in opposition to the staff recommendation, were received, distributed to the City Council, posted on-line, and made part of the public record.

The Mayor reported that this item will be remanded to the Board of Zoning Appeals' (BOZA) with the consent of the applicant and by direction of the City Council in accordance with due process.

Motion:

Following a brief discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Madison, seconded by Councilmember Kennedy, to close the public hearing:

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



Motion:

It was moved by Councilmember Madison, seconded by Councilmember Kennedy, to remand the matter to the Board of Zoning Appeals' (BOZA) with the consent of the applicant:

AYES: Councilmembers Hampton, Kennedy, Madison, Masuda, Rivas, Williams, Vice Mayor Wilson, Mayor Gordo

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTION RELATED TO GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWING MACHINES**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended, that following a staff presentation and City Council discussion, the City Council either:

- (1) Direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend Title 9 (Public Peace, Morals and Welfare) of the Pasadena Municipal Code to prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowing machines within Pasadena;
- (2) Refer the matter to the Public Safety Committee for further consideration;
- (3) Provide City staff with direction on the matter; or
- (4) Take no action.

City Manager Mermell provided a PowerPoint presentation on the item and responded to questions.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that 54 letters/emails (including one letter on behalf of eight community organizations) expressing concerns, providing suggestions, and/or stating support for an ordinance prohibiting the use of gas powered leaf blowing machines in Pasadena, and one letter urging the City Council to vote no prohibiting the use of gas powered leaf blowing machines, were received by the City Clerk's Office, distributed to the City Council, posted on-line, and made part of the public record.

Councilmember Madison advocated for staff to follow Assembly Bill-1346 Air Pollution, which will require states to adopt regulations related to gas-powered tools by July 1, 2022 and ban sales by 2024; phase out two-stroke engines for gas powered leaf blowing machines; and conduct an analysis on the difference of the carbon footprint from switching from gas to electric operating leaf blowers.

Vice Mayor Wilson stated that he believes the matter should be agendaized at a future Public Safety Committee meeting, and is supportive of taking a closer look on the matter. He asked staff to provide information on the hardship the new legislation will have on small lawn business owners and the City's ability to provide grant funds or micro loans for such businesses.

Councilmember Kennedy asked staff to identify alternatives to publically funded programs where business owners can turn in gas powered leaf blowers for destruction and the City can provide a rebate for a portion of costs associated with purchasing leaf blowers that emit the least amount of noise and carbon dioxide.

Mayor Gordo advocated for staff and organizations such as the Pasadena Community Foundation to raise funds for grants that would support a City replacement program for gas powered leaf blowers in Pasadena, and an ordinance banning the use of gas powered leaf blowers. He also recommended that the matter be agendized at a future Public Safety Committee meeting.

The following individuals spoke in favor of banning gas powered leaf blowers, and provided comments:

Jill Shook, representing Making Housing and Community Happen (MHCH)  
Cheryl Auger, Pasadena resident  
Wes Reutimann, Pasadena resident  
Anthony Manousos, representing MHCH  
Una Lee Jost, Pasadena resident

Councilmember Williams advocated for staff to return to the City Council with an ordinance banning gas powered leaf blowers, and recommended that staff look at the South Pasadena ordinance as a model. She asked staff to include in the ordinance regulations phasing out the use of gas powered leaf blowers by a certain date, and provide education seminars and any available rebate information to the public. In addition, she advocated to limit the use of electric leaf blowers to walkways only to avoid blowing contaminants into the environment. Councilmember Williams stated that she believes the City should set an example to the community by using electric leaf blowers on City properties.

Vice Mayor Wilson requested information on the benefits of limiting the use of electric leaf blowers and asked staff to look at both the gas and electric leaf blowers in a comprehensive review of the City's current and proposed ordinances.

Following discussion, on the order of the Mayor, and consensus of the City Council, Mayor Gordo will work with staff to determine which Committee of the City Council the matter will be agendized for review and additional consideration.

*On order of the Mayor, the meeting recessed at 6:40 p.m. and reconvened at 6:43 p.m.*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS**

## **STATE HOUSING LEGISLATION AND GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council receive this report on the relationship between State housing legislation and the City's ongoing efforts to implement the 2015 General Plan and provide further direction to the Planning and Community Development Department on carrying out key citywide goals and policies.

City Manager Mermell provided introductory comments, and David Reyes, Director of Planning, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item, with both responding to questions.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that three letters in support of a review and revision of the General Plan; two letters in support of the current draft of the East Colorado Specific Plan; three letters providing comments related to the Central District; 2 letters expressing concerns with the City moving forward with the staff recommended changes to the various plans; and one letter in support of staff's report on the housing crisis; with all letters received by the City Clerk's Office, distributed to the City Council, posted on-line, and made part of the public record.

The following individuals provided comments on the item:

Anthony Manousos, representing Making Housing and Community Happen (MHCH)

Jasmine Richards Abdullah, representing Black Lives Matter Pasadena

Nina Chomsky, Pasadena resident

Erika Foy, representing Madison Heights Neighborhood Association

Councilmember Kennedy spoke on the City's need for additional tax revenue and to allow development that is consistent with the density and height in the surrounding area.

Councilmember Madison expressed frustration with the state lumping Pasadena with other communities who are less focused on affordable housing issues, and forcing broad-sweeping mandates for residential developments, which will result in negative impacts on the quality of life to residents. He strongly advocated for the City to join the initiative of other municipalities being circulating related to restoring local level zoning control and decision making. He spoke in favor of moving forward with a track that would allow the City to provide solutions that are best for Pasadena, and resist unfunded top-down state mandates.

Councilmember Williams supported comments made by Councilmember Madison and stated that she believes the best path forward is to support the General Plan implementation, Option 2: Continue updating the Specific Plans by adjusting densities presented in the Round 3 draft Specific Plans to account for a potential density bonus, while also taking into consideration potential new commercial development. In order to address potential concerns over the maximum densities identified in the General Plan range, this option would also include a concurrent General Plan Amendment to match Specific Plan densities. She advocated for the General Plan to be amended in consideration of changes in the City (i.e. design guidelines, the acquisition of the 710 Freeway stub, environmental impacts, empty office space, the pandemic, and individuals working from home, etc.).

Mayor Gordo expressed concerns with the various state initiatives that restrict or circumvent local authority; and voiced support for the General Plan implementation, Option 2, which will allow the City Council to make adjustments to zoning legislation as it is able. He requested that Councilmember Madison, Chair of the Legislative Policy Committee, agendaize for discussion the City joining an initiative with other municipalities that is currently being circulated related to restoring local zoning control to local officials.

Vice Mayor Wilson and Councilmembers Rivas and Hampton voiced support for the General Plan implementation, Option 2.

Councilmember Rivas asked staff to highlight any suggested amendments for each Specific Plan that resulted from the staff recommendation.

It was moved by Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Kennedy, to support the General Plan implementation, Option 2: Continue updating the Specific Plans by adjusting densities presented in the Round 3 draft Specific Plans to account for a potential density bonus, while also taking into consideration potential new commercial development. In order to address potential concerns over the maximum densities identified in the General Plan range, this option would also include a concurrent General Plan Amendment to match Specific Plan densities:

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

## **ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

**Conduct first reading of “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA ADDING SECTION 2.05.230 (NO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMIT) TO TITLE 2 (ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION), ARTICLE I (CITY COUNCIL AND ITS ADJUNCT RESPONSIBILITIES), CHAPTER 2.05 (CITY COUNCIL) TO THE PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE”**

Mayor Gordo spoke in support of the first reading of the proposed ordinance and stated that campaign contribution limits in other jurisdictions (i.e. Los Angeles, Los Angeles County) provide protections for incumbents, which limits the viability of any real campaign challenges to incumbents.

In response to Councilmember Williams’ inquiry related to independent expenditures account, City Clerk Jomsky noted that his office focuses on candidates and their committees during the campaign process, and provided information on the Fair Political Practices Commission required forms to be completed related to independent expenditures; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Williams expressed concerns with the barriers and lack of transparency that happens when members of the public attempt to gather information about independent expenditures.

Councilmember Rivas spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance related to No Campaign Contribution Limit, stating that the current limit of \$4,900 is sufficient for Pasadena elections and no action will allow the state’s campaign contribution limits to remain in place.

Vice Mayor Wilson asked the Ad Hoc Committee to look at what the City Council can do to help provide information on independent expenditures, strategies other municipalities have implemented, including limitations on other financing sources; and additional campaign reform measures.

Chief Assistant City Attorney Javan Rad provided information related to the City’s ability to restrict independent expenditures; and responded to questions.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that 33 letters (including one letter with 140 signatures) advocating for campaign finance reform, expressing strong concerns and opposition to the propose ordinance, and providing comments on the matter, were received by the City Clerk’s Office, distributed to the City Council, posted on-line, and made part of the public record.

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the first reading of the proposed ordinance on No Campaign Contribution Limit:

Ellen Finkelppearl, Pasadena resident  
Denise Robb, Pasadena resident  
Una Lee Jost, Pasadena resident  
Tracy Heverly, Pasadena resident  
Imogene Campbell, Pasadena resident  
Kathy Kunysz, representing League of Women Voters-  
Pasadena Area  
Rocco Robinson, Pasadena resident  
Dr. Andrea Ramirez, representing Greenhouse Therapy Center  
Gabriel Ramirez, El Monte resident  
Heavenly Hughes, representing My Tribe Rise  
Michelle White, representing Affordable Housing Services  
Sam Morrissey, Pasadena resident  
Cheryl Auger, Pasadena resident  
Allen Shay, Pasadena resident  
Wes Reutimann, Pasadena resident  
Aimery Thomas, Pasadena resident  
Sonja Berndt, Pasadena resident  
Pat Amsbry, Pasadena resident  
Tyler Smith, Pasadena resident  
Anthony Manousos, Pasadena resident  
Julie McKune, Pasadena resident  
Jill Shook, representing Making Housing and Community  
Happen  
Ryan Bell, Pasadena resident

At the request of Councilmember Hampton, City Clerk Jomsky, provided information on the City's Tax Payer Protection Act (TPA) contribution restrictions, tracking, and maintaining TPA reports; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Masuda stated that he supports the state's campaign contribution limits.

Councilmember Madison spoke on the need for staff and the City Council to continue to analyze and consider the matter at a future Legislative Policy Committee, Ad Hoc Committee, or City Council meeting.

Councilmember Williams noted to include in the discussion the timing of any amendments to campaign contribution limits, given that the City's 2022 election cycle is starting, with candidates already collecting campaign contributions.

Councilmember Kennedy spoke in support of the proposed ordinance, which restores the previous status quo of no limits in Pasadena.



Councilmember Hampton advocated for the City Council to amend the City's TPA provisions to prohibit contributions from any employee bargaining unit or major organization (i.e. cannabis and large developers organizations); and to legally reduce the number of independent expenditures allowed in Pasadena City Council elections.

Following discussion, Councilmember Madison asked staff to agendaize the matter at the next Legislative Policy Committee.

Following discussion, on the order of the Mayor, and consensus of the City Council, the matter was sent to the Legislative Policy Committee for further review.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

On order of the Mayor, the meeting recessed at 9:43 p.m. to discuss the following closed session (Absent: None):

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

**Name of Case: Phelps v. City of Pasadena**

**LASC Case No.: 19STCV02742**

**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 Properties: 1500 E. Villa Street**

**Agency negotiator: Steve Mermell**

**Negotiating parties: Brian McDonald**

**Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment**

**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE REGARDING PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 and CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE with Labor Negotiator pursuant to**

**Government Code Section 54957.6**

**Employee Title and Unrepresented Employee: City Clerk**

**City Representative: Victor Gordo**

**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE REGARDING PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 and CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6**

**Employee Title and Unrepresented Employee: City Attorney/City Prosecutor**

**City Representative: Victor Gordo**

**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: Victor Gordo  
Position: City Manager**

The above closed session items were discussed, with no reportable action at this time.

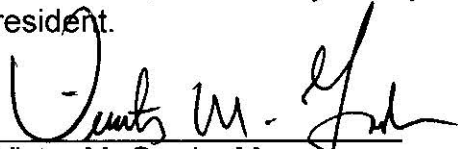
**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS  
pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6  
Agency Designated Representatives: Jennifer Curtis and  
Steve Mermell  
Employee Organization: Pasadena Fire Fighters Association  
(PFFA), Local 809**

**CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS  
pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6  
Agency Designated Representatives: Jennifer Curtis and  
Steve Mermell  
Employee Organization: Pasadena Firefighters Management  
Association (PFMA)**

The above closed session items were not discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On order of the Mayor, the meeting of the City Council adjourned at 12:34 a.m., in memory of Myriam Cascella, long-time Pasadena resident.

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

ATTEST:

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