

CITY OF PASADENA
City Council Minutes
January 13, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.
City Hall Council Chamber

SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to the Declaration of Local Emergency – Windstorms and Fires issued on January 8, 2025 the meeting was convened and held virtually by videoconference/teleconference.

OPENING: Mayor Gordo called the special meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Hampton. (Absent: None)

ROLL CALL:
Councilmembers: Mayor Victor M. Gordo
Councilmember Rick Cole
Councilmember Tyron Hampton
Councilmember Justin Jones
Councilmember Jason Lyon
Councilmember Steve Madison
Councilmember Gene Masuda
Vice Mayor Jessica Rivas

Staff: City Manager Miguel Márquez
City Attorney/City Prosecutor Michele Beal Bagneris
City Clerk Mark Jomsky

SPECIAL ITEM

FINDINGS TO AUTHORIZE A REMOTE MEETING ON JANUARY 13, 2025 PURSUANT TO THE BROWN ACT (Office of the City Attorney)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:
(1) Find that the action proposed in the agenda report is not a “project” subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21065 and within the meaning of CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b);
(2) Find that the Director of Disaster Emergency Services issued a Declaration of a Local Emergency – Windstorms and Fires on January 8, 2025; and
(3) In accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(1), find that as a result of the ongoing emergency, meeting in person at the January 13, 2025, City Council Special Meeting would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

MOTION: It was moved by Councilmember Hampton, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to approve the staff recommendation.

AYES: Councilmembers Cole, Hampton, Jones, Lyon, Madison, Masuda, Vice Mayor Rivas, Mayor Gordo
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY - WINDSTORMS AND FIRES (Office of the City Manager)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:

- (1) Find that the proposed action in the agenda report is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) "Common Sense" exemption; and
- (2) Adopt a Resolution ratifying the January 8, 2025, City Manager Declaration of a Local Emergency – Windstorms and Fires. (Resolution No. 10109)

MOTION: It was moved by Councilmember Hampton, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to approve the staff recommendation.

- AYES:** Councilmembers Cole, Hampton, Jones, Lyon, Madison, Masuda, Vice Mayor Rivas, Mayor Gordo
- NOES:** None
- ABSENT:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None

CONSENT CALENDAR

City Manager/ Executive Director

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH IMPEX TECHNOLOGIES INC., FOR REPLACEMENT OF NUTANIX SERVER EQUIPMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$754,733 (DoIT)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:

- (1) Find that the recommended actions in the agenda report are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the "Common Sense" exemption that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment;
- (2) Award contract to the lowest and best bid dated November 11, 2024 by Impex Technologies Inc. (Impex), in response to specifications for Lifecycle Hardware Replacement, and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract for an amount not-to-exceed \$754,733 (P.O per staff); and
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to approve no-cost amendments to the subject contract, including durational extensions.

City Council

RESIGNATIONS, APPOINTMENTS, & REAPPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT OF VICTOR M. GORDO TO THE BURBANK-GLENDALE-PASADENA AIRPORT AUTHORITY THROUGH MAY 31, 2025 (City of Pasadena Nomination)

APPOINTMENT OF CY WARREN ESTABROOK TO THE ACCESSIBILITY & DISABILITY COMMISSION (Mayor Nomination)

APPOINTMENT OF GABRIELA PEREZ TO THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (District 4 Nomination)

APPOINTMENT OF DAVID DiCRISTOFARO TO THE DESIGN COMMISSION EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 10, 2025 (Transportation Advisory Commission Nomination)

REAPPOINTMENT OF STEVE MADISON TO THE ROSE BOWL OPERATING COMPANY BOARD (City Council Nomination)

RESIGNATION OF LILA GUIRGUIS FROM THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION (Mayor Nomination)

RESIGNATION OF MAX REYES FROM THE NORTHWEST COMMISSION (District 4 Nomination)

City Clerk/ Secretary	November 18, 2024	City Council Special Closed Meeting (Cancelled)
MINUTES APPROVED	November 18, 2024	City Council
	November 18, 2024	Successor Agency to the Pasadena Community Development Commission
	November 25, 2024	City Council
	November 25, 2024	Successor Agency to the Pasadena Community Development Commission
	December 2, 2024	City Council
	December 2, 2024	Successor Agency to the Pasadena Community Development Commission
	December 9, 2024	City Council
	December 9, 2024	Successor Agency to the Pasadena Community Development Commission

CLAIMS RECEIVED AND FILED	Claim No.	Claimant	Claim Amount
	2025-0116	Keira Myles	\$ 10,000.00+
	2025-0117	Frankie Parias	35,000.00+
	2025-0118	Joel Martinez Alvarez	2,000.00
	2025-0119	Dale Barnett	88.00
	2025-0120	Stacie M. De Armas	99.00
	2025-0121	Dante Lee Harrell	35,000.00+
	2025-0122	Tania L. Gilbert	35,000.00+
	2025-0123	Collins Oboh	7,000.00
	2025-0124	Mary Anderson Williams	5,957.81
	2025-0125	Susan Arebalo	35,000.00+
	2025-0126	Davit Yakhshibekyan	7,465.25
	2025-0127	Marianne Lamutt	400.00
	2025-0128	Raymond Dilanchyan	35,000.00+
	2025-0129	Lynda Dianne Kennedy	2,500.00
	2025-0130	Anne Molina	10,000.00
	2025-0131	Wenlin Luo	818.71
	2025-0132	Alfredo Bojorquez	8,500.00

MOTION: It was moved by Councilmember Hampton, seconded by Councilmember Masuda, to approve all items on the Consent Calendar.

AYES: Councilmembers Cole, Hampton, Jones, Lyon, Madison, Masuda, Vice Mayor Rivas, Mayor Gordo
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC HEARING

Councilmember Jones stated a conflict of interest, recused himself from the item and left the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

FULLER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT, DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT CANCELLATION, TENTATIVE PARCEL MAP, AND GENERAL PLAN LAND USE ZONING MAP AMENDMENTS (Planning Dept.)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council cancel the public hearing, which will be noticed again to occur on February 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Councilmember Hampton, seconded by Councilmember Cole, to cancel the public hearing.

AYES: Councilmembers Cole, Hampton, Lyon, Madison, Masuda, Vice Mayor Rivas, Mayor Gordo
NOES: None
ABSENT: Jones
ABSTAIN: None

ORDINANCE – SECOND READING

Councilmember Jones returned to the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

Adopt “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA AMENDING TITLE 13, CHAPTER 13.04 OF THE PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE, THE LIGHT AND POWER RATE ORDINANCE TO REMOVE DIRECT ACCESS AND RELATED TARIFFS AND TO AMEND LONG-TERM CONTRACT PROVISIONS (Ordinance No. 7441)

The ordinance above was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Cole, Hampton, Jones, Lyon, Madison, Masuda, Vice Mayor Rivas, Mayor Gordo
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

UPDATE – CITY RESPONSE TO WINDSTORMS AND FIRES – CITY MANAGER AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS STAFF

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:
(1) Consider updates from City staff and provide direction if desired by the City Council; and

(2) Find that, if direction is given to staff, it would not be a “project” subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21065 and within the meaning of CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b).

City Manager Márquez provided a brief recap on the windstorm event and the Eaton fire that occurred and began on January 7, 2025. Chad Augustin, Pasadena Fire Chief, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the windstorm and wildfire event timeline, recapped the City’s preparation efforts, and gave a status update on the City’s ongoing disaster response and emergency operations. Eugene Harris, Pasadena Police Chief, provided an update on the disaster response by the Pasadena Police Dept, noting that the incident command post has been in operation for the entirety of the disaster. Fire Chief Augustin also reported on the rapid expansion of the fire and the resources gathered to assist firefighting efforts. City Manager Márquez reported that the City is working with numerous agencies (FEMA, Red Cross, Kaiser, etc.) to offer resources and support to victims, and thanked members of the community for coming together to help one another and extended deepest gratitude to all the firefighters and first responders for their service and heroic efforts.

Councilmember Hampton advocated for the City to look into grants to incentivize residents to build ADUs, reduce or waive parking permits, and partner with the Pasadena Rental Housing Board to assist fire victims with securing temporary housing while they are displaced and preparing to rebuild.

David Reyes, Acting General Manager of Water and Power, provided an informational update issues related to water quality in the impacted areas of Pasadena. Stacie Takeguchi, Assistant General Manager, reported on water quality testing efforts, and shared that a large portion of the areas under the Do-Not-Drink advisory have been cleared, noting that City staff is working diligently to restore service to all other areas. Acting General Manager Reyes reported that the City is distributing bottled water during the Do-Not-Drink period, and will continue to do so until drinking water quality is restored to all residents.

Councilmember Jones advocated to have a standing committee item on the next Municipal Services Committee agenda to discuss the recovery and rebuilding efforts for the community. He also suggested having an expedited permitting process that would allow victims to rebuild faster.

Councilmember Cole advocated to have a lengthy City Council discussion with public input and staff recommendations on rebuilding efforts as recovery efforts proceed. He commended the firefighters and first responders for their tremendous efforts.

In response to Vice Mayor Rivas' inquiry regarding masks and personal protective equipment (PPE), Manuel Carmona, Acting Public Health Director, reported that the City has ordered PPE and will organize distribution for the community once received. In response to Vice Mayor Rivas' inquiry regarding price gouging, Michele Beal Bagneris, City Attorney/City Prosecutor, reported that price gouging during the City's Declaration of Emergency is illegal and that the City's Prosecutor's Office will pursue prosecutions if necessary.

Councilmember Lyon expressed gratitude and commended City staff for their unwavering leadership during the disaster. In response to Councilmember Lyon's inquiry regarding the clean-up process, Greg de Vinck, Public Works Director, reported that staff is currently working on contracts to hire additional assistance to clear the streets and impacted areas, and noted that the clean-up process may take up to 6 weeks to clear, pulverize, and haul away debris. He reported that a site at Hahamonga Park has opened for residents to drop off their own green waste debris caused by the windstorm and wildfire.

Councilmember Madison expressed gratitude for the heroic efforts of the first responders and the community's efforts to help one another. He advocated for all committees to have discussions on the windstorm and wildfire event, within their own appropriate subject matter, and report back to the full City Council. He also suggested improving communication efforts in the event of another local emergency.

Denise Everhart, representing the American Red Cross, provided an update on the sheltering at the Pasadena Convention Center, commended City staff on the extraordinary efforts to open this shelter and respond so efficiently and effectively to the needs of the community, and reported that the Red Cross will be offering hygiene, mental health, financial assistance, and other disaster recovery resources as well.

Mayor Gordo praised City staff's preparation for the windstorm and the ability to seamlessly transition to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in response to the windstorm.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that the 14+ letters advocating for a rent freeze and/or establishing an eviction moratorium as a result of the Eaton Fire, and 3 letters urging the City to waive Rent Control provisions to encourage property owners to offer temporary housing to tenants displaced by fires, and other related comments, were received by the City Clerk's Office, distributed to the City Council, and posted online.

The following individuals advocated for property owners of vacant properties to clean up dead trees, branches, and debris to mitigate fire risk:

Emily Duncan, Pasadena resident
Ashley Sanders, Pasadena resident

The following individuals advocated for a rent freeze, eviction moratorium, and other tenant protections for displaced individuals, and/or provided related comments:

Ryan Bell, Pasadena resident
Brigitte Rooney, Pasadena resident
Swantje Willms, Irvine resident
Ash Riveire, Pasadena resident
Dar Azimi, Pasadena resident
Seanna Morgan, Pasadena resident
Jane Panangaden, Pasadena resident
Joe Castel, Pasadena resident
Anthony Manousous, Pasadena resident
Jo Pimienta, Pasadena resident
Natalia Govoni, Pasadena resident
Dan Huynh, Pasadena resident

Allen Shay, Pasadena resident, requested that the underground utility program of the City be reemphasized to protect against future fire disasters, and the City's water supply be discussed by the City Council.

The following individuals advocated for temporary revisions/waiver of provisions related to Rent Control in the City Charter to allow property owners to provide temporary rental housing for those displaced by the Eaton fire without being subject to relocation assistance at the end of the tenancy:

Anthony Edson, Pasadena resident
Simon Gibbons, Pasadena resident

Christine Lenches-Hinkel, Pasadena resident, advocated for soil stabilization and remediation to ensure proper management of the pulverization of green waste, and for the City to implement preventative measures for possible mudflows.

Nina Chomsky, Pasadena resident, expressed safety concerns and inquired about implementing a curfew for areas under evacuation orders within the City.

Jill Shook, Pasadena resident, inquired about the scope of damage within the City caused by the disaster, and expressed concerns regarding the future sale of impacted properties that

belong to African American families and vulnerable members of the community.

Yadi, Pasadena resident, expressed concerns regarding the cause of the Eaton Fire, the safety of the water and air, and the City's communication efforts to provide updates to the public.

Tim Martinez, Pasadena resident, advocated for the City to conduct air quality testing and expressed concerns regarding contaminated water in the City's water supply.

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

ADJOURNMENT

On order of the Mayor, the special meeting of the City Council adjourned at 6:18 p.m., in honor of the victims of the Eaton fire in Altadena and Pasadena.

Victor M. Gordo, Mayor
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:

City Clerk