

CITY OF PASADENA
City Council Minutes
May 5, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.
City Hall Council Chamber

UNOFFICIAL UNTIL
APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

OPENING:

Mayor Gordo called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
(Absent: Councilmembers Cole, Jones, and Madison)

CLOSED SESSION

On the order of the Mayor, the regular meeting recessed at 5:03 p.m.
to discuss the following closed session item:

Councilmember Cole
arrived at 5:16 p.m.

**CONSIDERATION OF INITIATION OF LITIGATION pursuant to
Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)(one potential case)**

Councilmember Madison
arrived at 5:25 p.m.

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

Councilmember Jones
arrived at 5:27 p.m.

On the order of the Mayor, the regular meeting reconvened at 6:20
p.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Jones.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers:

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

Staff:

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

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Eugene Harris, Police Chief, introduced Jason Van Hecke as the
new Sergeant At Arms and provided a brief overview of his career in
law enforcement. Sergeant Van Hecke thanked Chief Harris and the
City Council for the warm welcome and expressed gratitude for the
opportunity to serve in this capacity. Chief Harris thanked Sergeant
Danny Morris for his service as the preceding Sergeant At Arms.

Mayor Gordo presented a proclamation declaring the month of May
2025 as Bike Month in Pasadena. Scott Johnson, Senior Planner,
Colin Bogart, representative from Day One, and Matt Stumbo,
representative from Pasadena Complete Streets Coalition, spoke on
the benefits of bicycle friendly communities, the importance of Bike
Month, and the various fun activities planned throughout the month.

(2) Adopt a resolution approving of the Road Repair and Accountability Act (SB1) project list for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. (Resolution No. 10123)

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH W. W. GRAINGER INCORPORATED TO FURNISH AND DELIVER PARTS, EQUIPMENT TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$575,000 (Public Works Dept.)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:

(1) Find that the action proposed in the agenda report is covered by the "Common Sense" exemption set forth in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) as CEQA only applies to projects that may have a significant effect on the environment;

(2) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with W. W. Grainger, Incorporated to furnish and deliver Parts, Equipment, Tools, Supplies and Materials, in an amount not-to-exceed \$575,000, which includes the base contract amount of \$500,000 and a contingency of \$75,000 to provide for any necessary change orders. Competitive price bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(H) Contracts with other governmental entities or their contractors for labor, material, supplies or services (Contract No. 33228); and

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

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HD SUPPLY FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TO FURNISH AND DELIVER JANITORIAL MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$1,150,000 FOR FIVE YEARS (Public Works Dept.)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:

(1) Find that the action proposed in the agenda report is covered by the "Common Sense" exemption set forth in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) as CEQA only applies to projects that may have a significant effect on the environment; and

(2) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract, as the result of the competitive bidding process as specified by Section 4.08.045 of the Pasadena Municipal Code, with HD Supply Facilities Maintenance to furnish and deliver janitorial materials and supplies in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,150,000 which includes a contingency amount of \$150,000 for five years. (Contract No. 33225)

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND CONTRACT NO. 32390 WITH RICKY PICKENS AND THE TEAM OF VIOLENCE INTERRUPTERS TO INCREASE THE TOTAL NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT BY \$260,000 TO SUPPORT GANG OUTREACH AND

REAPPOINTMENT OF FELIX BREDEN TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 (District 6 Nomination)

REAPPOINTMENT OF ANN SCHEID TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 (District 6 Nomination)

REAPPOINTMENT OF DAVID DICRISTOFARO TO THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 (District 6 Nomination)

REAPPOINTMENT OF ERIC HOGENSEN TO THE ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 (District 7 Nomination)

REAPPOINTMENT OF IMRAN CHAUDHRY TO CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 (District 7 Nomination)

REAPPOINTMENT OF TUNISIA OFFRAY TO THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 (District 7 Nomination)

REAPPOINTMENT OF JAMES DE PIETRO TO THE PASADENA COMMUNITY ACCESS CORPORATION BOARD EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 (District 7 Nomination)

REAPPOINTMENT OF JENNIFER HIGGINBOTHAM TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 (District 7 Nomination)

REAPPOINTMENT OF LON BENDER TO THE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 (District 7 Nomination)

REAPPOINTMENT OF CY WARREN ESTABROOK TO THE ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 (Mayor Nomination)

REAPPOINTMENT OF MARY MACHADO SCHAMMEL TO THE CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 (Mayor Nomination)

REAPPOINTMENT OF SUZANNE YORK TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025 (Mayor Nomination)

April 14, 2025
April 14, 2025

City Council
Successor Agency to the Pasadena
Community Development Commission

**CLAIMS RECEIVED AND
FILED**

Claim No.	Claimant	Claim Amount
2025-0252	Carolyn Heather Halpern	\$ 316.80
2025-0253	Michael L. Reeves	3,600.00
2025-0254	Neiona Smith	35,000.00+
2025-0255	Esperanza Ramirez	35,000.00+
2025-0256	Andrei Paklev	35,000.00+
2025-0257	Stephanie C. Handsome	Not stated
2025-0258	Juan Adair Carino Eugenio	Not stated
2025-0259	Marti Mackey	35,000.00+
2025-0260	Marlena Schwenck	1,000.00
2025-0261	CSM, LLP o/b/o USAA a/s/o Scott Sheldon, Kieran Sheldon	10,000.00+
2025-0262	Carbel Choucair	35,000.00+
2025-0263	Peter Choucair	35,000.00+
2025-0264	Johnnie Taylor	1,230.00
2025-0265	Elizabeth Cortez	10,000.00+
2025-0266	Jennifer Lynn Avila	1,773.00
2025-0267	Westridge School for Girls	1,041.12
2025-0268	Greg Sahattjian	2,296.00
2025-0269	Gavin Baumgardener	35,000.00+

PUBLIC HEARING SET

Item discussed separately

May 19, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Approval of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2025-2029) and the Annual Action Plan (2025)

June 2, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Fiscal Year 2026 Recommended Schedule Taxes, Fees and Charges

June 2, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Disapprove an Application to Designate the Roosevelt School at 315 N. Pasadena Ave., as a Landmark

June 16, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Substantial Amendment to 2024 Annual Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership Act

June 16, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Approve an Application to Amend the Bungalow Heaven Conservation Plan

July 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Renewal of the Old Pasadena Management District Property and Business Improvement (PBID)

MOTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Masuda, seconded by Councilmember Madison, to approve all items on the Consent Calendar, with the exception of Items 1, 6, and 8b. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: None)

MASH employees to assist with year-round brush clearance and trail restoration in the Lower Arroyo.

MOTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Hampton, seconded by Councilmember Madison, to approve the staff recommendation for Consent Calendar Items 1 and 6. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: None)

PUBLIC HEARINGS SET

Vice Mayor Rivas stated a conflict of interest, recused herself from the item, and left the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

May 19, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Approval of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2025-2029) and the Annual Action Plan (2025)

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June 16, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Approve an Application to Amend the Bungalow Heaven Conservation Plan

July 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m. – Renewal of the Old Pasadena Management District Property and Business Improvement (PBID)

MOTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Hampton, seconded by Councilmember Lyon, to approve Consent Calendar Item 8b. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: Vice Mayor Rivas)

PUBLIC HEARING

Vice Mayor Rivas returned to the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Councilmember Jones stated a potential conflict of interest, recused himself from the item, and left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

CALL FOR REVIEW OF THE ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION'S DECISION TO DISAPPROVE THE PROPOSED ARTIST AND CONCEPT ART PLAN FOR 2915 EAST COLORADO BOULEVARD (PASADENA RUSNAK PORSCHE) (Planning Dept.)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:

(1) Find that the overall project was subject to environmental review per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). On July 15, 2024, the City Council adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the overall project and there are no changed circumstances or new information which would require further environmental review. In addition, the proposed onsite public artwork is categorically exempt from CEQA per Section 15303 (Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) of the Government Code; and
(2) Adopt the findings in Attachment A of the agenda report to uphold Staff's recommendation and approve the proposed Artist and Concept Art Plan, with the conditions in Attachment B of the agenda report.

NOES: Councilmember Cole
ABSENT: Councilmember Jones
ABSTAIN: None

**ORDINANCE – FIRST
READING**

Conduct first reading of “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF TITLE 17 (ZONING CODE) OF THE CITY OF PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE TO IMPLEMENT THE LAMANDA PARK SPECIFIC PLAN, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP ESTABLISHED BY THE ZONING CODE (CHAPTER 17.20, SECTION 17.20.020) TO ESTABLISH THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LAMANDA PARK SPECIFIC PLAN, AND MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE LINCOLN AVENUE, EAST COLORADO, SOUTH FAIR OAKS, AND CENTRAL DISTRICT SPECIFIC PLANS FOR INTERNAL CONSISTENCY”

City Attorney Bagneris reported that Councilmember Jones is also recused from this item above due to a conflict of interest based on the location of property owned by the Councilmember.

In response to Councilmember Madison’s request for clarification, Luis Rocha, Planning Manager, reported that portions of the proposed ordinance affecting other Specific Plans beyond Lamanda Park Specific Plan are to make minor technical changes in terms of aligning each Plan within the City’s zoning code. Councilmember Madison and Councilmember Lyon requested that staff provide additional information regarding these changes.

The ordinance above was introduced by Councilmember Lyon.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Councilmember Jones returned to the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION EXTENDING AN INTERIM UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE THAT TEMPORARILY SUSPENDS/MODIFIES ZONING DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND PROCESSES FOR REBUILDING STRUCTURES DAMAGED DUE TO THE EATON FIRE AND TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LAND USE RELATED DEADLINES FOR ENTITLEMENTS AND PERMITS GRANTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE 17 (ZONING CODE), TITLE 16 (SUBDIVISIONS) AND TITLE 14 (BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION) (Planning Dept.)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:

(1) Find that the action proposed in the agenda report, extension of an interim uncodified ordinance to facilitate the rebuilding of structures destroyed by the Eaton Fire, is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to California Public

CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 (Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges); and

(2) Adopt a resolution amending Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 General Fee Schedule to establish fees related to violations for the possession and discharge of fireworks pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code Sections 14.30.030 and 14.30.040. (Resolution No. 10126)

Anthony James, Deputy Fire Chief, provided a brief PowerPoint presentation on the item and responded to questions.

In response to Councilmember Lyon's inquiry regarding the fines, Tim Wellman, Chief Assistant City Prosecutor, reported that if an individual was in possession and discharging fireworks, they would be fined for discharge only. City Attorney Bagneris added that California Government Code imposes limits on fine amounts.

Councilmember Hampton advocated for stronger enforcement of fines to minimize the dangers of fireworks.

MOTION:

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Lyon, seconded by Councilmember Cole, to approve the staff recommendation. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: None)

PUBLIC HEARING

OPENING OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED OPERATING BUDGET (Finance Dept.)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:

- (1) Find that the action proposed in the agenda report are not "project" subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 21065 and within the meaning of Sections 15060(c) and 15378(b);
- (2) Open the public hearing for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Recommended Operating Budget; and
- (3) Continue this public hearing to each subsequent regular meeting of the City Council at 6:00 p.m., until June 9, 2025, or such other date as the City Council may determine, at which time the City Council will be asked to close the public hearing and adopt the FY 2026 Recommended Operating Budget.

Matt Hawkesworth, Acting Assistant City Manager/Finance Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 noting key revenue and expenditure changes and responded to questions.

Sonja Berndt, Pasadena resident, expressed concerns that the City's budget approval process is flawed by presenting department presentations at committee meetings instead of the City Council meetings, and she inquired about funding allocation to address homelessness.

without revisions that clearly state goals to reach Carbon Free by 2030 and providing comments on the matter, which were distributed to the City Council, posted online, and made part of the public record for the item.

City Manager Marquez introduced David Reyes as the new General Manager for Pasadena Water & Power. The City Council congratulated General Manager Reyes on his new role with the City.

General Manager Reyes provided a brief overview on the electrical undergrounding projects and responded to questions.

In response to Councilmember Madison's inquiry regarding the tiers and the timing of undergrounding within districts, General Manager Reyes reported that the City utilizes the Cal Fire zone maps to identify the fire hazard zones in the different tiers and has correlated undergrounding projects to these tiers. He added that City staff will provide a presentation on undergrounding high voltage lines and other utility lines at a future Municipal Services Committee meeting.

MOTION: It was moved by Councilmember Hampton, seconded by Councilmember Madison, to close the public hearing related to the street lighting and electrical undergrounding program.

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

MOTION: It was moved by Councilmember Hampton, seconded by Councilmember Madison, to approve the staff recommendation for the lighting and electrical undergrounding program.

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

Mayor Gordo and Vice Mayor Rivas returned to the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Councilmember Cole expressed concerns regarding unfunded needs and advocated for the City Council to establish capital project priorities prior to receiving the proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

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

Resolution 9977 goals of carbon-free energy, reliability, affordability, and equity:

- a. Procurement of external renewables and storage resources, with a focus on resource diversity;
 - b. Accelerated development of local solar and storage resources within the PWP service territory;
 - c. Development of demand-side programs and rate structures to encourage load flexibility, managed electric vehicle charging, and other cost-effective demand response;
 - d. Preservation of the Glenarm Power Plant as a “backup” resource for reliability that operates only under a narrow set of conditions; and
 - e. Pursuit of a balanced position in the California Independent System Operator (“CAISO”) wholesale energy market, allowing for limited sales and purchases to manage imbalances in supply and demand;
- (4) Direct staff to continually evaluate and implement approaches to achieve the City’s goals set forth in Resolution 9977 by the end of 2030 and to utilize the 2028 Waypoint (“Waypoint”) to develop a revised Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) that is consistent with state requirements and Resolution 9977.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that 49 letters were received by the City Clerk’s Office in support of the Municipal Services Committee’s recommendations, the accelerated development of local solar, the demand side programs for load flexibility developed by City consultants, and advocating for the City Council to move forward with the transition to carbon free electricity by 2030, and/or providing comments on the matter, which were distributed to the City Council, posted online, and made part of the public record for this item.

Councilmember Jones provided a brief recap of the discussions had by the Municipal Services Committee regarding the City Council’s policy direction on carbon free energy and the proposed Optimized Strategic Plan. General Manager Reyes provided a PowerPoint presentation on the item, highlighting City plans and operations to achieve goals set by Resolution No. 9977 and associated costs.

Councilmember Cole expressed enthusiasm for the proposed Optimized Strategic Plan and utilizing Glenarm as a reliable backup. He also supported future implementation of solar energy on municipal buildings. He advocated for the City to encourage the private sector to invest in solar energy and support solar projects for residents who may not be able to afford the expense.

In response to Councilmember Madison’s inquiry regarding the utilization of Glenarm power station, General Manager Reyes stated that the plant would be utilized under limited circumstances (i.e. to meet demands during heatwaves, transmission system issues, etc.) and maintained as a natural gas power plant for the time being.