CITY OF PASADENA
City Council Minutes
October 20, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.
City Hall Council Chamber

OPENING: Mayor Gordo called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. (Absent: Councilmember Jones)

CLOSED SESSION

On the order of the Mayor, the regular meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the following closed session items:

Councilmember Lyon stated a conflict of interest with Closed Session Item B, recused himself from the item, and left the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

Councilmember Jones arrived at 5:34 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8
Property Location: 360 North Arroyo Boulevard, Pasadena, California 91103
Agency Negotiator: Matthew Hawkesworth, Interim City Manager
Negotiating Party: Melanie Sauer of Rose Bowl Aquatics Center; Olivier Mourneau, Event General Manager - Rose Bowl Aquatics Center & Sport Manager – Diving, Los Angeles Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2028
Under negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

Councilmember Lyon returned to the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

AUDIT BY CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.75(a)

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

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

CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL regarding significant exposure to potential litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2): One potential case

The above closed session items were not discussed.

On the order of the Mayor, the regular meeting reconvened at 6:26 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Madison.

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: Interim City Manager Matthew E. Hawkesworth
City Attorney/City Prosecutor Michele Beal Bagneris
City Clerk Mark Jomsky

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

The following individuals advocated for the City to allocate funds to support public art and beautification in the Black Legacy District:
Anthony Manousos, Pasadena resident
Loretta Parks, Pasadena resident

Les Hammer, Pasadena resident, expressed opposition to Measure PFD and provided comments regarding the ads in support of the measure.

Cynthia Cannady, Pasadena 100, expressed concerns regarding the 2025 Power Content Label for Pasadena related to the City's use of fossil fuels.

Yadi, Pasadena resident, urged the City to terminate its contract with Flock and provided comments on surveillance technologies utilized by Pasadena Police Department.

Rene Gonzalez, Pasadena resident, urged the City to establish a sister city relationship with Guanajuato, Mexico.

CONSENT CALENDAR

City Manager/ Executive Director

APPROVE THE RESOURCE ADEQUACY PROGRAM ESTABLISHING RESOURCE ADEQUACY METRICS AND PLANNING RESERVE MARGIN REQUIREMENTS (Water & Power Dept.)
Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:
(1) Find that the proposed action in the agenda report is not a "project" subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21065 and within the meaning of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b); and
(2) Approve the Resource Adequacy Program for the City of Pasadena Water and Power Department ("PWP") which outlines actionable steps to maintain Resource Adequacy and establish planning reserve margins to support grid reliability.

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE GRANT RELATED DOCUMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL'S ABC-OTS 2026-2027 GRANT AWARD AND AMEND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET BY RECOGNIZING REVENUE AND APPROPRIATING $25,000 IN GRANT FUNDS (PPD)
Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:
(1) Find that the project proposed in the agenda report is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the "Common Sense" exemption that CEQA applies only to projects that may have an effect on the environment;

(2) Adopt a resolution authorizing the City to receive grant funds (Resolution No. 10218);
(3) Authorize the City Manager to execute all grant-related documents pertaining to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control's ABC-OTS Grant Program award in the amount of $25,000 (Contract No. 24,553); and
(4) Amend the Police Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Operating Budget by recognizing revenue and appropriating $25,000 in the General Fund (101). (Budget Amendment No. 2027-13)

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE GRANT RELATED DOCUMENTS FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT AWARD AND AMEND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET BY RECOGNIZING REVENUE AND APPROPRIATING $512,200 IN GRANT FUNDS (PPD)
Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:
(1) Find that the project proposed in the agenda report is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the "Common Sense" exemption that CEQA applies only to projects that may have an effect on the environment;
(2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all grant-related documents pertaining to the State of California Office of Traffic Safety Grant (OTS) award in the amount of $512,200 (Contract No. 24,554); and
(3) Amend the Police Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Operating Budget by recognizing revenue and appropriating $512,200 in the General Fund (101) as detailed in the Fiscal Impact Section of the agenda report. (Budget Amendment No. 2027-14)

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE GRANT RELATED DOCUMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 2026-2027 REAL ESTATE FRAUD PROSECUTION GRANT AWARD AND AMEND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET BY RECOGNIZING REVENUE AND APPROPRIATING $10,000 IN GRANT FUNDS (PPD)
Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:
(1) Find that the project proposed in the agenda report is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the "Common Sense" exemption that CEQA applies only to projects that may have an effect on the environment;
(2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all grant-related documents pertaining to the County of Los Angeles Real Estate Fraud Prosecution award in the amount of $10,000 (Contract No. 24,555); and
(3) Amend the Police Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Operating Budget by recognizing revenue and appropriating $10,000 in the General Fund (101). (Budget Amendment No. 2027-15)

City Council

APPOINTMENTS, REAPPOINTMENTS, & RESIGNATIONS

APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN YU TO THE ROSE BOWL OPERATING COMPANY BOARD EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026 (UCLA Nomination)

APPOINTMENT OF DAVID L. WORRELL TO THE SENIOR COMMISSION (District 7 Nomination)

City Clerk/ Secretary

CLAIMS RECEIVED AND FILED

Claim No.	Claimant	Claim Amount
2027-0083	Brad Griffin	$ 1,000.00
2027-0084	Effie Michaels	35,000.00+
2027-0085	United Rentals (North America), Inc.	35,000.00+
2027-0086	Aaliyah Pointer	35,000.00+
2027-0087	CSM OBO USAA ASO Jeffrey Lain; Tonia Lain	5,599.06
2027-0088	Peter Kaufman	35,000.00+

MOTION: It was moved by Councilmember Cole, seconded by Councilmember Masuda, to approve all items on the Consent Calendar. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: None)

ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

Conduct first reading of "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA AMENDING THE WATER WASTE PROHIBITIONS AND WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE PLANS, TITLE 13, CHAPTER 13.10 OF THE PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE"

The ordinance above was introduced by Councilmember Cole:

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

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT ON AB481 ACQUISITION OF ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER THROUGH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE (LESO) (PPD)

Recommendation: This agenda item is presented for information only. The City Council may; however, take action relating to this item as it deems appropriate following consideration and discussion of the matter.

Gene Harris, Police Chief, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item and responded to questions.

Councilmember Hampton expressed concerns and opposition with the Police Department acquiring another armored vehicle, citing the City's current ownership of a "Bearcat" vehicle, the potential impacts of having multiple large-sized armored vehicles to be used in the

community, and the resulting negative effects this may have on the improved relations developed with residents.

In response to Councilmember Cole's inquiry regarding previous incidents that required the Police Department to borrow an armored vehicle from another agency and the circumstances of the City needing a second armored vehicle, Police Chief Harris explained that the borrowed vehicle was used for protecting officers and potential victims during dangerous operations, responding to armed suspects, and other urgent incidents that involved the SWAT team. Chief Harris emphasized that the primary purpose of the vehicle would be to protect officers and civilians during high-risk events, such as the upcoming LA28 Olympics.

In response to Councilmember Madison's inquiry, Interim City Manager Hawkesworth stated that City Council can direct City staff to not proceed with the proposed acquisition, refer the matter to a Council Committee for further review, or take no action, which would allow City staff to proceed with the acquisition. Councilmember Madison expressed his support noting that the vehicle may be useful in responding to serious emergencies, such as active shooter incidents.

Mayor Gordo expressed support for the item noting that the City does host large events regularly, primarily at the Rose Bowl, and that the equipment could protect members of the public as well as Police Officers and other emergency personnel.

In response to Vice Mayor Rivas' concerns regarding the potential use of armored vehicles during public demonstrations and possibly intimidating peaceful protestors, Police Chief Harris clarified that the vehicle would be on standby in a nearby garage, only to be deployed when necessary and warranted. He reaffirmed that the vehicle is parked out of sight to avoid intimidation of peaceful protestors.

Humaira, Pasadena resident, expressed opposition to the item, noting concerns that more military-style equipment would undermine community trust and that the staff report lacked information on cost, benefits, and the vehicle's effectiveness.

The following individuals spoke in support of the item, emphasized the need for the City to be prepared and equipped for emergencies, and/or provided other related comments:

Michael Arellanes, Pasadena Police Officers Association
Chela Castano, Pasadena resident
James Riehl, Pasadena resident

Yadi, Pasadena resident, stated her opposition to the item and concerns regarding the lack of public discussion and awareness of the proposed acquisition.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that six letters in opposition to the City Council approving the acquisition of an armored vehicle for the Pasadena Police Department were received by the City Clerk's Office, distributed to the City Council, posted online, and made part of the public record for this item.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS

City Manager

Councilmember Jones stated a conflict of interest, recused himself from the item, and left the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

DETERMINE THE BROOKSIDE PARK STORMWATER CAPTURE PROJECT IS CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND APPROVE THE PROJECT DESIGN CONCEPT (Public Works Dept.)
Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:
(1) Find that the Brookside Park Stormwater Capture Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 (Existing Facilities), 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction), 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), and 15332 (In-fill Development Projects) and that there are no features that distinguish the project from others in the exempt classes, and therefore there are no unusual circumstances; and
(2) Approve the Brookside Park Stormwater Capture Project design reflected in the project design plans attached to the agenda report.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that four letters in opposition to the staff recommendation or advocating for an initial study to be conducted at the site, and one letter in support of the staff recommendation, were received by the City Clerk's Office, distributed to the City Council, posted online, and made part of the public record for this item.

Marcus Renner, Pasadena resident, expressed concerns that the proposed project may be located on land that has been filled with rubbish affecting the project's eligibility for a CEQA exemption.

Pilar Reynoldo, Pasadena resident, expressed support for the item and noted the importance of clean storm-water runoff.

In response to Councilmember Cole's inquiry regarding the changes in the sizing of the project, Dawn Petschauer, Stormwater Program Manager, stated that the original project design was refined and reduced in scope as it shifted toward filtering stormwater and returning some water into the Arroyo at the community's request.

She reported that the project is 90% designed, and the City's website will be updated once the final design concept is established.

Councilmember Cole expressed concerns regarding a CEQA exemption for the proposed project and the amount of concrete involved, and advocated for less intrusive, more natural watershed management alternatives. Stormwater Program Manager Petschauer reported that the concept for the project has been substantially reduced, and after refinement and working with environmental consultants, a CEQA exemption was deemed appropriate. She also explained that additional landscaping was limited by the tenants' and community's preference to preserve the usage of the existing parking lot.

MOTION:

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Hampton, seconded by Councilmember Masuda, to approve the staff recommendation. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: Councilmember Jones)

Councilmember Jones returned to the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Councilmember Lyon stated a potential conflict of interest with the item, recused himself from the item, and left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

RESCIND THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2026, NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF THE ROSE BOWL RIDERS LEASE, AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ISSUE A NOTICE OF LEASE TERMINATION TO ROSE BOWL RIDERS, PROVIDING A DEADLINE TO VACATE BY JANUARY 31, 2027

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:

(1) Find that the proposed action in the agenda report is categorically exempt from CEQA under "Existing Facilities" exemption (per Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19, Class 1, Section 15301) there are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt classes, and therefore, there are no unusual circumstances;

(2) In response to an apparent demand to cure or correct the September 21, 2026 Notice of Termination of the Rose Bowl Riders Lease, rescind the September 21, 2026, Notice to Terminate the Lease; and

(3) Authorize the City Manager to issue a minimum 30-day notice of lease termination to Rose Bowl Riders with a deadline to vacate by January 31, 2027.

Interim City Manager Hawkesworth introduced the item and provided a timeline on previous lease amendments with the Rose Bowl Riders.

The following individuals advocated for the City to resolve leasing matters with Rose Bowl Riders and Myrtle Hill Farms in a transparent manner and establish a long-term lease, and/or provided other related comments:

Mia Timblin, Rose Bowl Riders
Kristina Timblin, Rose Bowl Riders

Nora Allenman, Rose Bowl Riders
Reese Molina, Rose Bowl Riders
Amy Molina, Rose Bowl Riders
Tilda Landerer, Rose Bowl Riders
Meg Wade, Rose Bowl Riders
Libby Rohs, Rose Bowl Riders
Stefani Galvagni, Rose Bowl Riders
Sofia Galvagni, Rose Bowl Riders
Heather Kodama, Rose Bowl Riders
Antonia Szabari, Rose Bowl Riders
Angela Lowell, Rose Bowl Riders
Charles Calix, Rose Bowl Riders
Todd Hedrick, Rose Bowl Riders

Duncan McIntosh, Tarzana resident, expressed concerns regarding whether the individuals advising on the issue had practical experience managing equestrian facilities.

City Clerk Jomsky reported that four letters expressing concerns with the various organizations representing Rose Bowl Riders, spoke in support of the staff recommendation, and/or advocating for other operators to lease the site, four letters in opposition to the staff recommendation, and thirteen letters from one individual requesting documentary evidence and legal justification for the City terminating the Rose Bowl Riders lease, with all letters received by the City Clerk's Office, distributed to the City Council, posted online, and made part of the public record for this item.

Councilmember Hampton expressed concerns regarding the reported communication gaps between the City and Rose Bowl Riders that may have occurred.

In response to Councilmember Hampton's inquiries, Koko Panossian, Parks, Recreation, and Community Services (PRCS) Director, reported that the relocation deadline is January 31, 2027, the City is monitoring and reviewing the City of Los Angeles' equestrian-facility solicitation process for tips and guidance on best practices, and that City of Pasadena is seeking temporary operations to ensure the remaining horses receive appropriate care during the transition.

Jeffrey Hernandez, Real Property Manager, provided information on the City's bids to improve the facilities for boarders, including fencing and railings, once the current tenant vacates the property.

Councilmember Hampton advocated for the City to release a new RFP on February 1, 2027, following the anticipated January 31, 2027 vacancy date, and to make the application period 30 days. He also asked for a more transparent process, directing staff to provide better communication with future facility operators and users.

In response to Mayor Gordo's request for clarification regarding public benefit, Real Property Manager Hernandez reported that the free riding lessons under the program benefits were not provided through Rose Bowl Riders in 2025 and 2026 due to a failure to provide proof of insurance and coverage satisfactory to the City's standards, which resulted in the City using an alternate provider to conduct free riding lessons.

Councilmember Madison expressed opposition to the process of extending contracts through successive amendments and emphasized the importance of improved contract oversight and liability protection.

With regard to public correspondence received, Councilmember Cole expressed concerns that threats of litigation make transparency and public discussion more difficult. He noted the City's fiduciary responsibility to manage public property appropriately and stated his support for approval of the staff recommendation.

Councilmember Hampton advocated for a transparent timeline for the RFP process. Interim City Manager Hawkesworth affirmed the City's commitment to issue a new RFP by February 1, 2027, work on finding interim operators to manage the property, and communicate any delays in the process to the City Council.

MOTION: Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Cole, seconded by Vice Mayor Rivas, to approve the staff recommendation. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: Councilmember Lyon)

ADJOURNMENT On order of the Mayor, the regular meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Victor M. Gordo, Mayor
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:

City Clerk