

UNOFFICIAL UNTIL
APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PASADENA
City Council Minutes
September 15, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.
City Hall Council Chamber
SPECIAL MEETING IN LIEU OF REGULAR MEETING

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

CLOSED SESSION On the order of the Mayor, the special meeting recessed at 5:01 p.m.
to discuss the following closed session items:

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

Name of Case: Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh
Nation v. City of Pasadena

Case No.: LASC Case No. 26STCP02578

Councilmember Jones
arrived at the meeting at
5:30 p.m.

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

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

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 item was not discussed.

On the order of the Mayor, the special meeting reconvened at 6:16
p.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Cole.

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

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Police Commander Bill Grisafe introduced Sergeant Barry Glockson,
as the new Sergeant At Arms. Sergeant Glockson thanked the City
Council for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Mayor Gordo

welcomed Sergeant Glockson and thanked Sergeant Adam Rosen for his service as the previous Sergeant At Arms to the City Council.

Mayor Gordo presented a proclamation declaring September 21, 2026 as Landscapers Appreciation Day in Pasadena, recognizing the vital contributions and skilled services provided by landscapers, with special recognition for the work performed after the Eaton Fire and windstorm. Jose Madera, Director of Pasadena Community Job Center, thanked the City Council for the recognition and encouraged the City Council to support state legislation to help gardeners transition from fossil-fuel-powered equipment to electric tools through grants or loans.

Mayor Gordo presented a proclamation declaring the month of October 2026 as First Tee – Greater Pasadena Month, and expressed his gratitude to First Tee – Greater Pasadena for enhancing the lives of youth through the game of golf. Ron Matthews, First Tee Board Member, and Bob Baderian, Executive Director, both accepted the proclamation on behalf of First Tee – Greater Pasadena and thanked the City Council and the Rose Bowl Operating Company for their long-standing partnership and support.

Councilmember Jones requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Gerald Freeny, the first Black President of the Tournament of Roses, and spoke on his leadership and dedication to the Tournament and the City, spanning over three decades.

Councilmember Cole also requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of James Marrin, co-founder of Pasadena Heritage, and spoke on his passion for architecture and craftsmanship, and helping to preserve Pasadena and its architectural legacy.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

The following individuals expressed concerns regarding the operations and oversight of Rose Bowl Riders, urged the City Council to review such matters, and/or provided other related comments:

- Cornelia Seiffert, Pasadena resident
- Donna Guske, Pasadena resident
- Regina Colombo, Pasadena resident
- Sofia Sotomayor, residence not stated
- Florence Kerns-Wilson, residence not stated
- Colette Shelton, Pasadena resident

The following individuals expressed support for Heritage Housing Partners, spoke on their experiences living in the Heritage Housing affordable homes, and/or provided related comments:

- Blair Miller, Pasadena resident
- Matt Lumpkin, Pasadena resident
- Karina Toro, Pasadena resident
- Andy Walker, Pasadena resident

Maggie Harvey, Pasadena resident
Phlunte Riddle, Pasadena resident
Tunisia Offray, Pasadena resident
Shirely Jackson, Pasadena resident
Andrea Johansen, Pasadena resident
D. DeWayne Riddle, Pasadena resident
Noel Toro, Pasadena resident
Matias Toro, Pasadena resident

Elizabeth McDuffie, Pasadena resident, urged the City Council to reconsider a former settlement agreement related to zoning violations on her property.

The following individuals advocated for the City to establish a sister City relationship with Guanajuato, Mexico and/or provided other related comments:

Rene Gonzalez, Pasadena International Sister Cities Association
Connie de la Torre, Pasadena International Sister Cities Association

Blanca Perez, Pasadena International Sister Cities Association
Blanca Flores, Pasadena International Sister Cities Association
Marisol Ardon, Pasadena International Sister Cities Association
Jesus Morales, Pasadena International Sister Cities Association
Maria Mares, Pasadena International Sister Cities Association
Vilma Torres, Pasadena International Sister Cities Association
Jose David, Pasadena International Sister Cities Association
Civilo Oyos, Pasadena International Sister Cities Association
Jose Hernandez, Pasadena International Sister Cities Association

Manuela Rivas, Pasadena International Sister Cities Association
Carlos Oyos, Pasadena International Sister Cities Association

Simon Gibbons, Pasadena Housing Providers, thanked the City Clerk's Office for their assistance with the submission of a Charter Amendment initiative petition and provided comments

Humaira, Pasadena resident, expressed concerns regarding artificial intelligence and the need for a citywide policy regarding the use of artificial intelligence, and provided comments on a reconciliation commission that will address past injustices against Black and Japanese American residents in Pasadena.

Kelly Brinkman, Pasadena resident, expressed concerns regarding the unsafe and neglected conditions of Caltrans-owned properties.

Yadi, Pasadena resident, provided comments on surveillance technology and the use of Flock cameras, and urged the City to develop a policy regarding the use of artificial intelligence.

In response to public comment, Vice Mayor Rivas reported that City staff is working with the City Council to agendaize further discussion on Flock cameras prior to the contract coming up for renewal in February 2027.

CONSENT CALENDAR

City Manager/ Executive Director

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND CONTRACT NO. 32112 WITH FEHR & PEERS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PREPARE TECHNICAL TRANSPORTATION STUDIES, TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$100,000 TO A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$400,000, AND EXTEND THE CONTRACT THROUGH JUNE 25, 2027 (Transportation Dept.)

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 Public Resources Code Section 21065 and within the meaning of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378;
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to amend Contract No. 32112 with Fehr & Peers to increase the contract amount by \$100,000, thereby increasing the total not-to-exceed amount from \$300,000 to \$400,000 and extending the contract by eight months through June 25, 2027 (Contract No. 32113-2); and
- (3) To the extent the amendments to Contract No. 32112 could be considered a separate procurement subject to the Competitive Selection Process, grant an exemption pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code (PMC) 4.08.049(B), contracts for which the City's best interests are served. Competitive price bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(F), contracts for professional or unique services.

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXTEND CONTRACT NO. 17409 WITH OUTFRONT DECAUX STREET FURNITURE, LLC TO CONTINUE BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE AND ADVERTISING THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2028 (Transportation 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 Sections 15378;
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to extend Contract No. 17409 with Outfront Decaux Street Furniture, LLC through August 31, 2028 for an estimated annual revenue generation of up to \$360,000 based on a monthly rate of \$300 per shelter (Contract No. 17,409-9); and
- (3) Grant the proposed extension and exemption from the competitive selection process of the Competitive Bidding and Purchasing Ordinance, pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code Section 4.08.049(B), contracts for which the City's best interests are served.

Humaira, Pasadena resident, advocated for the City to spend funds on campaigns and advertising to increase bus ridership and add shade structures or trees near bus stops.

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN PIPELINE SERVICES TO FURNISH LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF DUCTILE IRON WATER MAINS IN VILLA STREET AND COLORADO BOULEVARD FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$3,871,586 (Water & Power Dept.)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:

- (1) Find that the proposed project referenced in the agenda report is statutorily and categorically exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21080.21 and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 and 15302, and there are no features that distinguish the project from others in the exempt classes, and therefore, there are no unusual circumstances, and no other exception to the exemption applies; and
- (2) Award contract to lowest and best bid, dated July 21, 2026, submitted by American Pipeline Services in response to the bid specifications for Installation of Ductile Iron Water Mains in Villa Street and Colorado Boulevard, and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract for a term of 14 months for an amount not-to-exceed \$3,871,586, which includes the base contract amount of \$3,519,623 and a contingency of \$351,963 to provide for any necessary change orders. (Contract No. 33878)

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH BKF ENGINEERS, PSOMAS, AND TETRA TECH, INC., FOR ON-CALL SURVEY CONSULTING SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$1,000,000 FOR EACH CONSULTANT (Public Works 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; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to enter into individual contracts, as the result of a competitive selection process specified by Section 4.08.047 of the Pasadena Municipal Code with BKF Engineers; Psomas; and Tetra Tech, Inc., for On-Call Survey Consulting Services for a total amount not-to-exceed \$1,000,000 for each consultant over a five-year term. Competitive price bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(F) (contracts for professional or unique services). (Contract No. 33857 – Tetra Tech) (Contract No. 33858 – Psomas) (Contract No. 33859 – BKF)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT – QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30, 2026 (Finance Dept.)

Recommendation: This report is for information. There is no staff recommendation for this item. The City Council may; however, take action relating to this item as it deems appropriate following consideration and discussion of the matter.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR \$3,239,091 WITH THE CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION OPPORTUNITY ACT PROGRAM AND AMEND THE CITY MANAGER'S FY 2027 OPERATING BUDGET BY \$808,267 TO RECOGNIZE AND APPROPRIATE THE FUNDS (City Manager-Career Services)

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 Sections 15060(c) and 15378(b);
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract to receive funding in the amount of \$3,239,091 for a two-year term to implement the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act grant program and execute any related documents necessary to implement the program (Contract No. 24,527); and
- (3) Amend the City Manager's FY 2027 Operating Budget by recognizing revenues and appropriating \$808,267 in the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Fund (Fund 681) and increase the personnel allocation by 2.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) limited-term grant-funded positions. (Budget Amendment No. 2027-08)

FINANCE COMMITTEE: AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS TO ACCEPT FEDERAL COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING OF \$850,000 AND ENTER INTO A SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH PASADENA CITY COLLEGE TO USE FUNDS FOR A NEW FACILITY FOR JOBS CREATION TRAINING AND EDUCATION AND AMEND THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE FISCAL YEAR 2027 OPERATING BUDGET (City Manager's Office)

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 State CEQA Guidelines Section 21065 and within the meaning of Section 15378(b);
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for acceptance of \$850,000 in Community Project Funding, and execute any subsequent agreements regarding this grant award (Contract No. 24,528);
- (3) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a sub-recipient agreement, without competitive bidding pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(H), contracts with other governmental entities, with

Pasadena City College to use funds for a new facility for jobs creation training and education (Contract No. 24,529);

(4) Grant the proposed subrecipient agreement 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; and

(5) Amend the City Manager's Office Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Operating Budget by recognizing revenue and appropriating \$850,000 of federal Community Project Funding. (Budget Amendment No. 2027-09)

City Council

APPOINTMENTS,
REAPPOINTMENTS, &
RESIGNATIONS

APPOINTMENT OF MARLENE DECKER TO THE LIBRARY COMMISSION (District 6 Nomination)

City Attorney

AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GRANT SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH LOS ANGELES CENTERS FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE (L.A. CADA) TO EXECUTE SUBCONTRACTS AND OPERATE PASADENA'S HOME DIVERSION PROGRAM FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$3,677,869 FOR A SERVICE PERIOD UP TO THREE YEARS, FROM OCTOBER 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2028

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 Public Resources Code Section 21065 and within the meaning of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378;

(2) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a Grant Subrecipient Agreement, following a competitive selection process pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code Section 4.08.047, with Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (L.A. CADA) to execute subcontracts and operate Pasadena's HOME Diversion Program for an amount not-to-exceed \$3,677,869 for a service period of up to three years, from October 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028. Competitive price bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(F) (contracts for professional or unique services) (Contract No. 24,530); and

(3) Authorize the City Manager to approve no-cost amendments to the subject agreement including durational extensions.

City Clerk/ Secretary

CLAIMS RECEIVED AND
FILED

Claim No.	Claimant	Claim Amount
2027-0049	AT&T Services, Inc.	\$ 6,151.92
2027-0050	Nancy La Scala	35,000.00+
2027-0051	Gayla Burnside Gordon	1,948.48
2027-0052	Jalen Michael Spicer	8,081.91
2027-0053	John and Anne David	5,040.74
2027-0054	Arman Ter-Grigoryan	35,000.00+
2027-0055	Erica Webster	35,000.00+

2027-0056	Drake Buchanan	35,000.00+
2027-0057	Duplicate to Claim No. 2027-0054	N/A
2027-0058	Tyrone Anthony Cafarchia	850.00
2027-0059	United Restaurants LLC	6,000.00
2027-0060	Nashat Metri	35,000.00+

PUBLIC HEARINGS SET

September 29, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – Consideration of the Recommended General Plan Amendment, Specific Plan Adoption, Zoning Map Amendment, Zoning Text Amendment and Proposed Environmental Determination

October 13, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – Hold Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) Hearing and Adopt a Resolution for the California Municipal Finance Authority (CMFA) for the Benefit of 2K Colorado, LP

MOTION:

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

REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Economic Development and Technology Committee

PROPOSED PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE AMENDMENTS TO ESTABLISH A PILOT MICROENTERPRISE HOME KITCHEN OPERATIONS (MEHKO) PROGRAM (Public Health Dept.)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the City Council:

- (1) Find that the proposed project referenced in the agenda report is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) “Common Sense” exemption and categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15301 (Class 1, Existing Facilities), and there are no features that distinguish the project from others in the exempt classes, and therefore, there are not unusual circumstances, and no other exception to the exemption applies; and
- (2) Direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance within 60 days amending Title 8 of the Pasadena Municipal Code to establish a pilot Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKO) Program for two years.

Manuel Carmona, Public Health Director, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the item, providing information on the pilot program, potential impacts on economic development, and the role of Pasadena Public Health and associated costs.

In response to Councilmember Cole’s inquiry regarding the estimated cost for the program, which increased from \$175,000 to \$225,000 since the project was previously presented to the EdTech Committee, Public Health Director Carmona reported that after reviewing all responsibilities to launch the program, City staff determined that an additional full-time employee would be needed to ensure the program was adequately staffed and functional.

In response to Councilmember Lyon's inquiry regarding the rationale for regulating MEKHOs differently from brick-and-mortar restaurants, Public Health Director Carmona spoke on disparities based on the volume of meals and noted that most MEKHOs are not serving full meals. He added that MEKHOs would be subject to applicable business-license requirements comparable to restaurants and would receive one inspection per year focused on the home kitchen.

In response to Vice Mayor Rivas' inquiry regarding program funding, Interim City Manager Hawkesworth reported that the cost would need to be incorporated into the City's ongoing operating budget, and that the pilot program would provide more information about actual costs, program demands, and workload.

Councilmember Madison expressed concerns regarding the MEHKO pilot program in terms of zoning implications, parking, sales tax collection, alcohol regulation, and public health oversight.

Councilmember Masuda acknowledged concerns regarding the potential impact on existing restaurants, while expressing support for the proposed program and opportunities for new small businesses.

The following individuals expressed support for MEKHOs, spoke on the program's positive impacts, emphasized the lack of negative impact on brick-and-mortar businesses, and/or provided other related comments:

- Richard Gomeztrejo, residence not stated
- Roger Overstreet, Pasadena resident
- Patrick Haugen, Pasadena resident
- Egor Chumak, residence not stated
- Elianne Rodriguez, Executive Director for LEAF
- Latoya Patillo, Pasadena resident
- Lauren Wolfer, Pasadena resident

Strefan Fauble, Pasadena resident, expressed opposition to the implementation of MEHKO, and raised concerns regarding the program cost to applicant ratio and liability exposure for landlords if customers enter buildings for MEHKO related activities.

Councilmember Cole expressed support for the equity elements behind the MEHKO program, while raising concerns regarding the cost of the program and future economic uncertainty.

Councilmembers Hampton and Jones stated that MEKHOs may already be operating informally in the community and viewed the pilot program as an opportunity for residents to become legitimate businesses.

ORIGINAL MOTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Hampton, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to approve the staff recommendation, amended to add a one-year check-in to review the program's progress and expenditures.

Councilmember Madison expressed opposition to the proposed program, emphasizing concerns relating to neighborhood parking, the development of ADUs, impacts on the quality of life, and the need for the program logistics to be further analyzed.

Discussion ensued regarding the funding cost of operating the pilot program, the promotion of small business opportunities and economic development, the need to regulate businesses that may be operating informally, and potential impacts on local neighborhoods.

Mayor Gordo advocated for the item to return to the Economic Development and Technology Committee (EdTech) for further discussion and analysis on the impacts/consequences of the proposed program.

Councilmember Cole requested that City staff reach out to other cities that have implemented MEHKO programs and gather feedback from their experiences.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

It was moved by Councilmember Lyon, seconded by Councilmember Madison, to refer the matter back to the Economic Development & Technology Committee for further discussion and analysis. (Motion unanimously approved) (Absent: None)

**ORDINANCES –
SECOND READING**

Adopt “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE BY THE CITY OF NOT TO EXCEED \$104,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF CITY OF PASADENA ELECTRIC REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, 2026A SERIES, PAYABLE OUT OF THE LIGHT AND POWER FUND, AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A TWELFTH SUPPLEMENT TO ELECTRIC REVENUE BOND FISCAL AGENT AGREEMENT AND A CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH” (Ordinance No.7479)

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

Adopt “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA AMENDING TITLE 2, ARTICLE I, CHAPTER 2.05, SECTION 2.05.060, AND CHAPTER 2.28, SECTION 2.28.050 OF THE PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE TO HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL ON TUESDAYS” (Ordinance No.7480)

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

BRIEF REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES/ REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Jones expressed concerns regarding the absence of a comprehensive citywide artificial intelligence (“AI”) usage policy. He emphasized the need for a citywide policy addressing the protection of the City’s and residents’ data, appropriate use of AI tools by City employees, and data-security. He also advocated for a separate discussion regarding AI agents being used to carry out City business.

Councilmember Hampton also advocated for the City Council to have a discussion regarding dynamic pricing and proposed requiring businesses to notify customers when facial-recognition technology is being used.

ADJOURNMENT

On order of the Mayor, the special meeting of the City Council adjourned at 9:01 p.m. in memory of Gerald Freeny and James Marrin.

Victor M. Gordo, Mayor
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:

City Clerk