

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2009**

A. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission of the City of Manhattan Beach, California, was held on the 27th day of August 2009, at the hour of 6:30 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue, in said City.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Adami, Vigon, Stabile, Silverman, and Chairman Gross.
Absent: None.
Staff Present: Danna, Lt. Harrod, Sgt. Mason.
Clerk: Weeks.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

08/27/09-1 July 23, 2009

Assistant Planner Danna noted an August 27, 2009 memorandum relating Traffic Engineer Zandvliet's corrections to the Parking and Public Improvements Commission minutes of July 23, 2009.

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Stabile/Adami) to approve the Parking and Public Improvements Commission minutes of July 23, 2009 as amended.

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

08/27/09-2 Review of Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Needs

Public Works Director Arndt presented the staff report. He provided detailed information on the condition of the City's water and sewer systems and the capital needed to repair operational deficiencies in the systems. Mr. Arndt shared information about the City Council's recent discussion of possibly increasing water and sewer rates to help pay for the needed repairs, to be further considered at the Council meeting on September 1, 2009.

Chairman Gross stated his impression that the water and sewer rate increases appear to be huge, but the absolute amounts would be very small, and that the structure of the increases would take persons with financial needs into account.

Public Works Director Arndt advised that the anticipated water rate increases would be approximately \$2.00 to \$6.00 per month and the anticipated sewer rate increases would be approximately \$5.00 to \$7.00 per month. He explained the request for proposal (RFP) process that led the City to contract with AKM Consulting Engineers to complete a master plan for the City's water and sewer systems. Mr. Arndt called attention to the importance of the Parking and Public Improvements Commission assisting in community outreach for the anticipated water and sewer rate increases and he clarified that the Commission would not play a role in setting the rates.

City Engineer Finton gave a detailed presentation on the City's water and sewer systems, including their condition; the improvements needed over the next 20 years; and the estimated improvement costs, which would total approximately \$165,000,000 (\$126,000,000 for water and \$39,000,000 for sewer, both over a twenty-year period).

Public Works Director Arndt provided information about procedures for providing water to the community in the event of a disaster affecting the City's water supply.

Audience Participation

There were no requests to speak.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Silverman commented that enhancements to be made to the City's water system would assist in ensuring an uninterrupted water supply during disasters, which could help in the difficult task of selling water and sewer rate increases to the public.

Commissioner Adami agreed to the importance of citizens being informed about the City's ability to provide water in the event of a disaster as a result of the improvements to be made to the system. He noted that people with low incomes generally object to rate increases; voiced his understanding of a Federal grant for the use of reclaimed water that would pay for a water reclamation facility; entertained the idea of comparing the baseline water cost with other cities'; and mentioned the possibility of making the needed repairs in less than 20 years should there be no objections to the increases.

Public Works Director Arndt advised that the water rate increase would be controlled by the use of less water; that the City does not qualify as a low-income area to receive Federal assistance; that Staff's presentation to the Council will include a comparison of the baseline water cost with other cities'; and that there are essentially no grant monies available for projects such as this. However, the West Basin Municipal Water District is working with the City relative to reclaimed water.

Chairman Gross related his understanding that the rate increases would be tiered with income taken into consideration; that the water rate increase would be minimal if an effort is truly made to reduce use; and that the Council will further discuss rate increases in the future. He observed that staff might have underestimated the community's willingness to pay for water and sewer rate increases and he suggested that the topic of public outreach for water and sewer rate increases be placed on a future Parking and Public Improvements Commission meeting agenda.

Commissioner Vigon noted that one way to reach the \$165,000,000 needed for the water and sewer deficiencies would be to repair instead of replace in order to reduce costs.

Public Works Director Arndt advised that items to be repaired will be on a case-by-case basis and that some decisions will be based on technology which was not available when the City's water and sewer systems were assessed many years ago.

Commissioner Adami suggested the idea of developing advisory committees composed of citizens to discuss various topics associated with water and sewers, which would report back to the Parking and Public Improvements Commission, similar to the advisory committees formed to develop Los Angeles International Airport's master plan.

Chairman Gross related his understanding that it would be within the Council's purview to form advisory committees which would report directly to the Council.

Commissioner Adami entertained the idea of recommending to the Council that two to three advisory committees composed of citizens be formed to discuss water and sewer issues.

Community Development Director Thompson advised that the Parking and Public Improvements Commission is essentially a public works commission which considers parking as well and he noted the huge influence the Commission could have on the community with regard to water and sewer rate increases. Mr. Thompson affirmed the Commission's ability to hold a public hearing on this topic.

Public Works Director Arndt stated staff's willingness to review the proposed water and sewer rates at a future Commission meeting and to provide clarification about rate studies. He explained the Council's process for adopting rate increases which, he anticipated, would become effective January 1, 2010.

The Commission received and filed the staff report.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Gross expressed his appreciation of the Staff presentation.

08/27/09-3 City Council Review of Pending Traffic Engineering Studies

Assistant Planner Danna related staff's recommendation to receive and file the City Council's work plan for traffic and right-of-way projects.

MOTION: Commissioner Stabile moved to receive and file the City Council's work plan for traffic and right-of-way projects. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Silverman and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Assistant Planner Danna reviewed the Commission's upcoming schedule, which reflects priorities directed by City Council.

The Commission briefly discussed procedures for noticing the Commission's consideration of metered parking at Sand Dune Park and procedures for receiving public input. The Commission entertained the idea of inviting Staff members having relevant knowledge to attend the meeting during which metered parking at Sand Dune Park will be discussed.

Assistant Planner Danna verified that the Commission's consideration of metered parking at Sand Dune Park will be properly noticed and that it will be a workshop type venue.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS

08/27//09.4 Parking Meter Revenues and Traffic Violations Revenues Report

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Lt. Harrod came forward to provide input on discrepancies in the "Parking Meters and Violations Revenues Report." He noted the large amount of traffic/parking activity during summer and expressed appreciation for the community services officers' efforts. Lt. Harrod invited the Commissioners to an upcoming DUI Task Force on September 28, 2009 at Rosecrans and Redondo Avenues; noted the Police Department's commitment to keeping a strong presence in the Downtown area; and related his intent to invite officers involved in the effort Downtown to a Parking and Public Improvements Commission meeting.

Commissioner Adami commended the professionalism of an officer he recently witnessed issuing a traffic citation on Manhattan Beach Boulevard.

08/27//09.5 Chairman Gross Re Party/Holiday Fireworks' Show

Chairman Gross invited his fellow Commissioners to a party at his home to view the annual Holiday fireworks' show on December 13, 2009.

08/27//09.6 Commissioner Stabile Re Utility Undergrounding

Commissioner Stabile requested updated information on utility undergrounding which, he contended, is one of the Commission's charges.

Chairman Gross stated his understanding that utility undergrounding is not within the Commission's purview. He shared his knowledge on the status of utility undergrounding in Manhattan Beach.

Assistant Planner Danna affirmed that utility undergrounding is part of the original description for the Parking and Public Improvements Commission.

H. STAFF ITEMS

08/27//09.7 Planning Assistant Danna Re El Porto Parking Lot

Planning Assistant Danna recommended that the Commissioners listen to the City Council's upcoming discussion on September 1st of options for changing traffic circulation at El Porto Parking Lot.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.