CITY OF PASADENA
JOINT MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND/OR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
PASADENA CITY HALL
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER S249
APRIL 28, 2025
SPECIAL MEETING

OPENING Chair Gordo called the special Joint Meeting of the Finance Committee and/or City Council to order at 5:24 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Victor M. Gordo (Chair)
Vice Mayor Jess Rivas
Councilmember Rick Cole
Councilmember Tyron Hampton (Arrived at 5:53 p.m.)
Councilmember Justin Jones
Councilmember Jason Lyon
Councilmember Steve Madison (Via Teleconference)
Councilmember Gene Masuda

Staff:

Miguel Márquez, City Manager
Brenda Harvey-Williams, Assistant City Manger
Michele Bagneris, City Attorney/City Prosecutor
Matthew Hawkesworth, Acting Assistant City Manager/ Director of Finance
Greg de Vinck, Director of Public Works
Hayden Melbourn, Principal Engineer
Koko Panossian, Director Parks, Recreation & Community Services
David Reyes, Interim General Manager Water & Power
Joaquin Siques, Director of Transportation
Phillip LeClair, Chief Information Officer
Dan Augustyn, Management Analyst V
Richard Yee, Principal Engineer
Gary Takara, Engineering Manager
Elena Chamorro, Principal Financial Rate Analyst
Jeremy Marquette, Assistant General Manager Customer Service and Technology
Clarence Siruno, Manager of Utility Financial Services
Stacy Jacobson, Financial Rate Analyst
Brad Boman, Engineering Manager
Kelly Nguyen, Assistant General Manager
Lynne Chaimowitz, Assistant General Manager
Stacie Takeuchi, Chief Assistant General Manager
Varoojan Avedian, Assistant General Manager
Phyllis Hallowell, Public Works Administrator

Ozzie Aranda, Management Analyst II
Mark Jomsky, City Clerk
Gloria Acevedo, Recording Secretary

Guests: Michael Ross, Chief Executive Officer, Pasadena Center Operating Company
Jens Weiden, Chief Executive Officer/General Manager, Rose Bowl Operating Company
Derek Doolittle, Assistant General Manager, Rose Bowl Operating Company
Steve Haderlein, President, Rose Bowl Operating Company
Mo Salama, Chief Financial Offer, Rose Bowl Operating Company

NEW BUSINESS: **CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2026-2030 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET**

PUBLIC WORKS

Matthew Hawkesworth, Acting Assistant City Manager/ Director of Finance, provided an opening statement.

Chair Gordo introduced Greg de Vinck, Director of Public Works, who provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions.

The following individuals provided a comment/suggestion on the matter.

Sean Devey, graduate student from Caltech advocated for the CIP budget to have an increased focus on resolution 9977.

Greg Apodaca, reminded the City Council of the devastation of the Eaton Fire, having suffered personal loss and would like to see the CIP budget focus on rebuilding sustainably.

Karen French, is interested in how City priorities are established.

Cynthia Cannady, Pasadena 100, advocated for an increase in Citywide rooftop solar as the proposed budget does not include any plans for any new installation.

Correspondence was received urging the City Council to support the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget aligning with the Climate Emergency Resolution 9977, distributed to the Committee, posted online, and made part of the public record.

Councilmember Jones inquired about the lack of solar projects, the feasibility to defund projects and transfer those funds towards an

increase in street paving, and advocated for the replacement of street signs in District 3.

Councilmember Cole shared his concerns about the methodology for the allocation of the gas tax and on the $400,000 line item for hiring consultants to complete the Street Tree Master Plan (STMP).

Councilmember Masuda expressed his concern for the lack of solar and asked that significant consideration to be given to street lighting and street paving.

Councilmember Lyon suggested that the City might want to consider dipping into the 5% operating reserve fund to pay for an increase in paving projects. He also, wants to have discussions about trees prior to the completion of the STMP.

Councilmember Madison suggested for the City Council look at trees during the current budget cycle as it affects public safety.

Councilmember Hampton advocated for setting aside more funds for the care of the City's roads and asked if it was feasible to use undergrounding funds for the installation of solar on residential homes.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Chair Gordo introduced the item and Joaquin Siques, Director of Transportation, presented a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions.

Councilmember Jones asked how long the electric buses will utilize the Transportation Operations Maintenance Facility located on Hammond Street. Mr. Siques confirmed the date was extended until 2028.

Councilmember Cole requested an explanation on how the department plans to complete the $180 million dollar in programs with only $130,000 in appropriations and suggested to staff to start looking at funding sources outside of grants in the next five-years.

PASADENA WATER AND POWER

Water

Chair Gordo introduced the item and David Reyes, Interim General Manager, introduced Lynne Chaimowitz, Assistant General Manager, who provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions.

Councilmember Masuda, inquired about the feasibility of undergrounding homes in the upper Hastings Ranch that have power lines behind their property. Mr. Reyes responded that prioritization is

given to power lines that are in high fire zones (tiers 2 and 3) and most of these are not behind residential properties.

Councilmember Lyon asked for an explanation on the difference between recommended appropriation listed and the work plan and thanked the department for the increased collaboration with Public Works in completing projects.

Councilmember Cole asked why the department isn't allocating funds for storm water projects, rather than rely on funding from Measure W that is overseen by the Public Works Department, asked about the five wells that are not in service, and if there were concerns with the quality of the water.

Councilmember Hampton inquired about the number of City owned reservoirs in Altadena and asked if there is a plan to underground power to them given, some were compromised during the recent Eaton Fire. Stacie Takeuchi, Chief Assistant General Manager, responded that some of the reservoirs in Altadena were fed by City owned utilities, which allowed for quick repairs, Southern California Edison (Edison) is looking at undergrounding the one reservoir it supports in Altadena.

Councilmember Hampton also asked about back up plans that will allow the department to provide clean drinking water to residents during natural disasters. Lastly, Councilmember Hampton asked why the department does not pave an entire street when doing work on part of the street.

Councilmember Jones asked how many miles of water distribution main projects are completed annually. Ms. Takeuchi responded that typically its two-and-a half to five-miles; however larger projects, are one-and-a half mile. Councilmember Jones also asked that staff bring options to the City Council on how to allocate additional funds to street improvement projects, as he is not ready to recommend dipping into the 5% operating reserve fund.

Chair Gordo is reluctant to taking money from the reserve funds to fund capital improvement projects as they are reserved for emergencies. Chair Gordo also asked staff to reach out to Edison to explore the opportunity for Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) staff to make repairs to utility owned reservoirs that are powered by Edison.

Power

Councilmember Cole asked for an explanation on how the $13.5 million solar battery storage fund will be utilized in FY 26. Ms. Chaimowitz confirmed, the initial stage will be a construction phase needed to be able to connect the project to the California ISO grid.

Councilmember Hampton asked for clarification that the concrete on Raymond Ave., will be removed and replaced with asphalt. Mr. de Vinck confirmed the street will be repaved; he will use value engineering to determine what material will be used. Mayor Gordo recused himself during this question (2 minutes). In addition, Councilmember Hampton believes incentivizing solar projects for all residents should become part of the CIP budget. Lastly, he thanked PWP for their efforts, in particular with the recent windstorm and Eaton Fire.

Councilmember Lyon believes that increasing solar on City projects should be considered an emergency.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Chair Gordo introduced the item and Phillip LeClair, Chief Information Officer, provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions.

Councilmember Hampton asked about Wi-Fi availability and security at all parks. He also requested for the installation of emergency poles at Brookside Park and around the Rose Bowl, a progress report on the subject should be presented to the Public Safety Committee. Lastly, he asked staff to diversify the electric vehicle charging station's vendors and to look at simplifying the point of sale at all charging stations.

Councilmember Jones requested information on the technology used to protect against data breaches.

Councilmember Madison requested for the department to work with the Pasadena Fire Department and the Pasadena Police Department to identify hot spots that could detect wildfires as well as other public safety dangers.

Chair Gordo recommends the prioritization of technology that supports public safety. The City should count on state-of-the-art technology. He also asked all City departments that have aging technology that support public safety to bring the item to the City Council before failures contribute to a crisis.

PASADENA CENTER OPERATING COMPANY IMPROVEMENTS

Chair Gordo introduced the item and Michael Ross, Chief Executive Officer, Pasadena Center Operating Company, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Chair Gordo expressed gratitude to the Pasadena Center Operating Company (PCOC) Board and Staff for a great job during the recent Eaton Fire. Mr. Ross thanked City staff for their role in getting the Emergency Operations Center up and running very rapidly.

Councilmember Madison asked that the future of the Ice Skating Center be considered in this budget cycle.

Councilmember Hampton pointed out the great job that the PCOC team does in welcoming all event attendees.

ROSE BOWL OPERATING COMPANY IMPROVEMENTS

Chair Gordo introduced Steve Haderlein, President, Rose Bowl Operating Company, who introduced Derek Doolittle, Chief Operations Officer, Rose Bowl Operating Company, who provided a PowerPoint presentation. Jens Weiden, Chief Executive Officer/General Manager, Rose Bowl Operating Company, responded to questions.

Councilmember Cole asked Mr. Weiden to clarify the part the Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation will take in providing funds, the projects that are needed to keep the stadium competitive, and projects necessary to maintain the 100-year-old stadium.

Councilmember Madison thanked the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC) staff and the Board for their efforts, reminded City staff to consider the Rose Bowl outside of just a sports venue, and asked that public services continue to be incorporated. He also reminded the City Council that all projects are thoroughly vetted by the RBOC Board.

Chair Gordo pointed out the important role the Rose Bowl played in the Eaton Fire.

Councilmember Hampton agrees that safety enhancements at the Rose Bowl and surrounding facilities should continue and thanked the Department of Transportation staff for their efforts in installing a safety crosswalk on the corner of Seco St. and Rosemont Ave.

Closing Comments

Councilmember Cole asked the City Council to consider investing in place making to increase future property and tax revenue, needed to fund critical CIP projects, such as investing in fixing City streets and fire safety among others. He gave the example of the investment model the City used when developing Old Pasadena.

Chair Gordo commented on the place making that has been taking place in the City, naming the Playhouse District, North Lincoln Avenue, the Pasadena Convention Center, and City parks as thriving investments.

Councilmember Madison spoke on the investments the City has made on City Hall, the Rose Bowl, the relinquishment of the 710 stub, and asked staff to continue the development of aspirational budgets.

Vice Mayor Rivas commented on the need to see a through line on CIP projects.

Councilmember Hampton would like to see a report on the fluoride content in the City's potable water.

Following a brief discussion, on the order of the Chair and consensus of the Committee, the presentations were received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT:

On the order of the Chair, the special meeting of the Joint Meeting of the Finance Committee and/or City Council was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. in memory of Peggy Sisson, Bob Denham, Edwin "Jed the Fish" Gould, Richard Marthe, and Andrea Donahue.

ATTEST:

Mayor Victor Gordo, Chair
Finance Committee/City Council

Gloria Acevedo
Recording Secretary