CITY OF PASADENA
MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
PASADENA CITY HALL
100 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER S249
MAY 12, 2025
SPECIAL MEETING

OPENING Chair Gordo called the special Meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 3:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Victor M. Gordo (Chair)
Councilmember Rick Cole
Councilmember Tyron Hampton (Arrived at 3:36 p.m.)
Councilmember Gene Masuda

Staff: Miguel Márquez, City Manager
Brenda Harvey-Williams, Assistant City Manger
Arnold Lee, Chief Assistant City Attorney
Matthew Hawkesworth, Acting Assistant City Manager/ Director of Finance
Alex Souto, Deputy City Manager
Tiffany Jacobs-Quinn, Director of Human Resources
Hayden Melbourn, Principal Engineers
Koko Panossian, Director Parks, Recreation & Community Services
Sam De Sylva, Police Lieutenant
Tim Park, Budget Administrator
Rachelle Razon, Senior Administrative Analyst
Byanca Banaga, Senior Administrative Analyst
Gloria Acevedo, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was moved by Councilmember Masuda, seconded by Councilmember Cole, to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2025, Special Finance Committee Meeting (Motion Unanimously carried) (Absent Councilmember Hampton).

NEW BUSINESS: **AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE GRANT RELATED DOCUMENTS FOR THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT AWARD AND AMEND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2025 OPERATING BUDGET BY RECOGNIZING REVENUE AND APPROPRIATING $34,390 IN GRANT FUNDS**

Chair Gordo introduced Sam De Sylva, Police Lieutenant, who provided a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions.

Councilmember Cole suggested for staff to provide all relevant details about the subject in the agenda reports.

Councilmember Masuda asked about the number of stolen vehicles that are recovered each year by the automatic license plate reader technology.

It was moved by Councilmember Cole, seconded by Councilmember Masuda, to approve staff's recommendation and forward the item to the City Council for consideration. (Motion Unanimously carried) (Absent: Councilmember Hampton)

APPROVE THE ALLOWABLE USES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ENTITIES ALLOWED TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR THE BUILDINGS WITHIN HAHAMONGNA WATERSHED PARK ANNEX AREA REPORT

Chair Gordo introduced the item and Koko Panossian, Director Parks, Recreation & Community Services, presented a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions.

The following individuals provided a comment/suggestion the matter.

Charles Thomas, representing Outward Bound Adventures
Brandon, Hammerli, representing Climate Resilience Education and Environmental Center
Emily Hopkins, representing Climate Resilience Education and Environmental Center (Side Street Projects)
Samantha Johnson-Yang, representing Climate Resilience Education and Environmental Center (Tongra SBBMI)
Heavenly Hughes, Pasadena Resident
David Weeshoff, representing Pasadena 100
Marcus Renner, Pasadena Resident
Dr. Julianna Delgado, Pasadena Resident
Leigh Adams, Pasadena Resident
Laurel Siegel, Pasadena Resident
Tim Martinez, Pasadena Resident
Heather Wu, representing Climate Resilience Education and Environmental Center
Ana Sodviver, representing Climate Resilience Education and Environmental Center

Gloria Acevedo, Recording Secretary, reported that four letters of correspondence were received, which were distributed to the Committee, posted online, and made part of the public record.

Chair Gordo pointed out the buildings were not intended for rehabilitation, by resolution, the City purchased the land in 2005 and determined the space would be used as a park or recreation space. He also shared that in 2022, the City explored the option to rehabilitate the buildings and convert them to a career technical education center in partnership with Pasadena City College (PCC); however, that use did not meet the criteria outlined by the Metropolitan Water District transfer deed and the adopted City resolution. Chair Gordo cautioned the Committee to move forward with a Request for Proposal (RFP) only after the City Attorney's office reviews the transfer deed from Metropolitan Water District, the City adopted resolution, and explores the feasibility to amend the documents, if restrictions don't allow the use of the space, other than for outdoor/recreation. The action would prevent the selected entity from experiencing legal challenges.

Councilmember Hampton requested clarification on the cost estimates outlined in the agenda report and on the condition of the buildings when acquired. He recalled that at one-point, Interim City Manager, Cynthia Kurtz, explored the possibility to use the site as an educational center in partnership with PCC, and asked that the RFP, move along in an expediated manner. He also pointed out that this is a great opportunity to hire and train locally. Councilmember Hampton also asked City Manager, Miguel Márquez, if the City can support the $9 million dollars estimated that are needed for this project. Mr. Marquez indicated the goal is to have the successful proposer of the project to provide the funding, the City would remain as a partner.

Councilmember Cole thanked Mr. Panossian for a great presentation. He echoed Councilmember Hampton's remarks regarding moving forward with the RFP and agreed with incorporating Chair Gordo's recommendation to review the legal requirements for the use of the space.

Mr. Márquez committed to returning the item to the full City Council on June 2, 2025, with answers to the questions raised by the Committee and a plan to expediate the RFP process.

It was moved by Councilmember Hampton, seconded by Councilmember Cole with the recommendation to approve the potential demolition of the buildings, explore any legal restrictions on the property (including the feasibility to amend the deed restrictions and the resolution adopted by the City Council for the use of open space),

expediate the issuance of the RFP, and forward the item to the City Council for consideration. (Motion Unanimously carried) (Absent: None)

BUDGET WORKSHOP FY 2026 RECOMMENDED OPERATING BUDGET

OPERATING BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:

A. HUMAN RESOURCES
B. CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

On the order of the Chair and consensus of the Committee, the item was moved to the May 29, 2025, Finance Committee Meeting.

INFORMATION ONLY: Pasadena Center Operating Company Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) and Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID)

On the order of the Chair and consensus of the Committee, the item was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT: On the order of the Chair, the special meeting of the Meeting of the Finance Committee was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor Victor Gordo, Chair
Finance Committee

Gloria Acevedo
Recording Secretary