



MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010, 5:00 P. M.
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
245 E. BONITA AVE.

PRESENT:

Mayor Curtis W. Morris
Mayor Pro Tem Denis Bertone
Councilmember Emmett Badar
Councilmember John Ebiner (Arrived 5:04 p.m.)
Councilmember Jeff Templeman

City Manager Blaine Michaelis
City Attorney J. Kenneth Brown
City Clerk Ina Rios
Assistant City Manager of Community Development Larry Stevens
Assistant City Manager Ken Duran
Director of Development Services Dan Coleman
Director of Public Works Krishna Patel
Director of Parks and Recreation Theresa Bruns

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Morris called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

(For anyone wishing to address the City Council on an item on this agenda. Under the provisions of the Brown Act, the legislative body is prohibited from taking or engaging in discussion on any item not appearing on the posted agenda.)

a. Members of the Audience

In response to Gil Gonzales, Mayor Morris replied that Supervisor Antonovich has budgeted funds for the joint County/City project to widen Foothill Boulevard at San Dimas Canyon Road. He added that the medians on Bonita Avenue are being removed.

Mr. Gonzales expressed concern with dead shrubbery and suggested a method is needed to maintain landscaping throughout the City.

Director Bruns replied that it is a costly endeavor to maintain needle islands, and in an effort to comply with water conservation mandates, staff is in the process of implementing a pilot chip method project versus rock and hardscape.

3. STUDY SESSION

a. Mid-year 2009-10 budget review and Preliminary Report on 2010-11 City of San Dimas Budget.

City Manager Michaelis explained that the purpose of the meeting is to solicit Council input.

Assistant City Manager Duran explained the mid-year budget report to review revised revenue and expenditure projections for the current fiscal year and presented preliminary revenue commentary for fiscal year 2010-11 to help frame the preliminary budget discussions.

Mid-Year Budget Report

Assistant City Manager Duran explained that in September 2009, staff prepared a comprehensive presentation on the fiscal picture of the General Fund and reported that the 2008-09 Financial audit indicated that the General Fund Balance was \$16,902,809. Staff also presented known expenditure cost savings and identified expenditures that were deferred due to the uncertain economy. He stated it is estimated that between the budget surplus, known savings, and deferred projects, the total budget savings of \$1.1 million is in excess of what is anticipated to cover the general fund revenue shortfall. Special Funds are projected to end the year with a positive fund balance.

Mr. Duran responded to Council's questions regarding Transit Occupancy Tax and said long term residents can be monitored through an audit.

In response to Council, City Manager Michaelis stated that staff has taken a conservative approach in preparing the budget and there could be more than \$400,000 in surplus funds due to delayed projects and unexpended funds. He added that upon completion of the annual audit, the surplus fund amount will be known and funds can be set aside for the general plan.

2010-11 Preliminary Budget Preparations

Mr. Duran said staff is preparing the FY 2010-11 budget that maintains current levels of service and minimizes the number of new projects due to uncertain revenue sources tied to the economy.

Administrative Services

Assistant City Manager Duran highlighted the proposed programs for 2010-11 and said the Governmental Access Channel contract is expiring and staff will bring forward a new contract for Council's consideration at their next meeting. Mr. Duran reviewed programs that may result in increased costs including the San Dimas Dial-A-Ride and said staff will be presenting suggestions for service adjustments or fare increases to help control the costs of these services. He added that the Sheriff's Department Contract is expected to increase by approximately 2% and as previously reported, there will be a reduction in the Liability Trust Fund contribution. Staff is in discussions with the City of La Verne to share an intern to assist both cities with Emergency Preparedness. The General Municipal Election will be conducted in March 2011; and it is proposed to replace outdated PC's upon return to the newly renovated city hall.

Mayor Pro Tem Bertone expressed concern with cutting back on programs for the elderly who depend on Dial-A-Ride services.

Mr. Duran stated that staff would bring back recommendations in the next couple of months.

In response to Council, Mr. Duran indicated that he is working with Time Warner to resolve technical problems with Cable transmission.

Mayor Morris suggested postponing PC replacements until Chrome OS is available.

Parks and Recreation Department

Director Bruns stated that Parks and Recreation will continue to utilize available resources in order to effectively deliver services in Landscape Maintenance, Facilities, and Recreation. She highlighted major Landscape Maintenance projects, Facilities Maintenance projects, Recreation projects to be prioritized and completed; Parks and Recreation Commission project list, Golf Course Capital Improvement fund, Vehicle and Equipment replacement, and projects in need of Council direction.

In response to Councilmember Badar's suggestion for an additional dog park at Loma Vista Park, Assistant City Manager Stevens said the State has not released the funds for the planning process to extend Loma Vista Park into the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space area.

In response to Council, Director Bruns elaborated on the overnight campground, splash pad, and said the concept of a BMX Park is brought forward each year.

It was the consensus of the City Council to defer the purchase of holiday lighting for the Martin House, however, they felt it was important to decorate the Walker House with holiday lighting.

In response to Councilmember Badar, Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Ted Powl said Downtown Merchants are willing to invest funds for decorating the Downtown if they can come to an agreement with the City regarding access to power sources.

Mr. Stevens stated he had suggested the Merchants form a subcommittee to work on a proposal and estimated costs to be discussed as part of the budget process.

Public Works Department

Director Patel outlined the Department's anticipated activity and said the Department will continue to focus on a combination of projects that will be carried forward, together with new major projects. He stated that the Public Works Department will continue to manage its prime responsibilities of planning, designing, inspecting private street improvements and maintaining the public infrastructure within the right-of-way, including maintenance of vehicles and equipment. He said that the City's share of stimulus monies in the amount of \$1,085,000 were allocated to the San Dimas Avenue project currently under construction. Staff reviewed the rigid constraints under the current Stimulus Plan (ARRA2) and said staff submitted to the State and FHWA a list of projects in anticipation of receiving additional funding.

Mr. Stevens stated that staff is looking at 5th Street rehabilitation from Acacia Street to San Dimas Avenue and the slurring and cape sealing of city streets since these two projects require only Caltrans review and approval.

In response to Councilmember Templeman, Director Patel replied that the environmental report was approved for the Safe Routes to School grant and he anticipates construction in summer at the conclusion of the school year. Staff is filing authorization with Caltrans to proceed with the construction. He added that part of the design is to raise the intersection by two feet at Amelia and Gladstone and get the storm drain connected.

Director Patel highlighted projects carried to fiscal year 2010-11; major capital improvements projects; special projects; City-wide Speed Zone Study; annual projects; equipment replacement/modification; and projects to track for future consideration.

In response to Mayor Morris, Mr. Patel explained the process for the annual hazardous sidewalk repairs.

Community Development Department

Assistant City Manager of Community Development Stevens said the Department's 2010-11 anticipated activity focuses on long range planning projects, redevelopment and regional planning, and completion of the long range project backlog with existing resources. He said the FY 09-10 budget expenditures are within or less than the adopted budget with the exception of the General Plan update which is on the "Hold" list. However, he felt it would be appropriate to consider how the General Plan should be addressed and to acknowledge upcoming efforts related to SB375. He stated that each year changes in

state law create unfunded state mandates that place additional burdens upon staff resources, and said filling the Planning Manager position has been on hold since November 2009. He added that the City Council had directed staff to develop a more pro-active enforcement program and based upon the type of violation or geographical area, additional resources might be needed. Additionally, SB1608 imposed a new requirement to have a minimum of one Certified Access Specialist and accessibility training mandates for staff. Mr. Stevens said he would bring back to the next study session discussion on the potential façade related program and expected to recommend expenditure of city funds.

In response to Council, Mr. Stevens stated he is aware there are other buildings that have issues with the old western façade and it is staff's intention to review the Towncore guidelines and focus on the historic context.

Mr. Stevens reported that the consultant is working on entry signs and in March staff will bring back options and budget recommendations.

He provided a brief update on the Grove Station and said staff is monitoring the project to get the 14 units completed; he anticipates the NJD project will move forward; and reported the Gas Station wants to do a significant remodel and is looking for assistance.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Bertone, Mr. Stevens replied that Tzu Chi made an offer on the 18-acre parcel at Valley Center. He said staff will monitor the progress of the purchase and report to Council if there are any changes.

Development Services

Director Coleman reported the proactive enforcement program utilizing Parking Control Officers has been successful in dealing with RV violations. However, additional resources will be needed if it is the desire of the City Council to enforce other violations.

Mr. Coleman provided a brief update on Fresh & Easy stating that a considerable number of plans were submitted.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Morris adjourned the special meeting at 6:51 p.m. The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ina Rios, CMC, City Clerk