



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING WITH
SUPERVISOR MIKE ANTONOVICH
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2011, 8:00 A.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CONFERENCE ROOM
SAN DIMAS CITY HALL
245 EAST BONITA AVENUE

PRESENT:

Mayor Curtis W. Morris
Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Templeman
Councilmember Emmett Badar
Councilmember Denis Bertone
Councilmember John Ebner
City Manager Blaine Michaelis

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
Senior Engineer Shari Garwick

ABSENT:

City Attorney J. Kenneth Brown

LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

Supervisor Michael Antonovich
Brian Mejia, Field Deputy
Edel Vizcarra, Deputy
Russ Guiney, Director
Hayden Sohm, Deputy Director
Norma Garcia, Deputy Director
Kandy Hays, Chief of Contracts
Dave Pilker, Department of Public Works
Marcia Mayeda, Department of Animal Care & Control
John Walker, Department of Public Works
John Huang, P.E. City Services Representative
Captain Don Slawson, San Dimas Sheriff's Station
Mahesh P. Parekn, Commissioner
Kandy E. Hays, Chief, contracts, golf & Special districts
Division

San Dimas Sheriff's Station
Captain Don Slawson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Morris welcomed Supervisor Michael Antonovich and his staff and called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m.

2. MEETING WITH SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH

a. Appreciation from the City of San Dimas for the continued support and cooperation from the Supervisor's office, staff, and county departments.

Mayor Morris expressed appreciation for the good working relationship with Supervisor Antonovich and his staff.

b. Items of City interest:

i. Update on the Walnut Creek Open Space Project. Plans and activities of the Tzu Chi Foundation, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the City of San Dimas.

Assistant City Manager of Community Development Stevens reported that the Watershed Conservation Authority and the City jointly acquired from Daniel Singh the 158 acre parcel along Walnut Creek property. The Authority owns 54 acres on the south side of the property, and the City owns six acres from Loma Vista Park to Calle Bandera. He said the Authority has taken the lead and hired ABHE Landscape Architects to prepare a conceptual Master Plan for the property using Proposition 84 funds. The first phase includes site analysis, assessment, and gathering information through a series of stakeholders and steering committee

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meetings with Fish & Game, Army Corps of Engineers, Brian Mejia from the Supervisor's Office, representatives from County Parks and Regional Planning, surrounding Homeowner Groups, City Commissioners, City Council, City staff, and Authority staff. He said there will be three community visioning workshops: the first will be held on Thursday, September 29, the second workshop is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 17, and both will be held in the community building. Time frames have not yet been confirmed, but will most likely be from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.. Mr. Stevens said the plan is to wrap up the project with a third workshop in early 2012.

Assistant City Manager Stevens said access continues to be a problem and staff has been coordinating with and facilitating incorporation of the Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation's thoughts into the visioning process. The Tzu Chi Foundation owns 90 acres of the 150 acres and has also acquired an additional 18 acres referred to as the Butterfly property, which puts them in county jurisdiction with the main campus and in city jurisdiction with the 18 acres. He said staff is coordinating with the County to facilitate the best possible connection of the existing Antonovich trail system, which runs along Walnut Creek.

Councilmember Bertone suggested connecting the Antonovich Trails and Wilderness Park to offer residents the opportunity of walking or equestrian trails that had a destination.

Norma Garcia, Deputy Director, Planning and Development Agency, reported that County staff met with ABHE on June 27, and everyone expressed interest in making that connection and expanding the Regional Trail System in the area. She said staff is looking at constraints and locating feasible land.

Assistant City Manager Stevens said City staff and County staff are working with the Tzu Chi Foundation to get the most feasible trail connection, which is through their property.

In response to Supervisor Antonovich, Mr. Stevens replied that the Master Planning process is anticipated to be completed in the Spring, and contingent upon the conceptual Master Plan design and availability of funds, a determination will be made on how to pursue entitlements and construct improvements. He said most likely they will be looking at a multi-phase development that may end up on the public portion of the project and facility trail connection.

- ii. Storm damage to Golden Hills Road; Consideration of joint project to redirect the road to safer and more reliable route through the County's San Dimas Debris Placement site to avoid losing access to San Dimas Dam due to damage from heavy rains or earth movement. This all-weather roadway provides a County's Flood Control an opportunity for additional fill site as well as a direct access to their facilities in La Verne.**

Director of Public Works Patel provided a Powerpoint presentation of an aerial map disclosing damage to Golden Hills Road, which has been closed to the public since 2005 due to severe erosion and landslides. Director Patel said staff is requesting access to the San Dimas Dam, as well as the San Dimas Basin site for fire protection around the dam, through the County's San Dimas Debris Placement site.

In response to Supervisor Antonovich, Director Patel replied that Golden Hills Road is a narrow, winding road with steep slopes, and provides secondary access, as well as community access, to the San Dimas Debris Placement Site. He said the City is asking for the Supervisor's assistance to move forward with the alignment that provides a prominent access that works in terms of fire safety.

In response to Councilmember Badar, Director Patel replied that the existing Golden Hills Road would be abandoned and replaced with the aligned road.

John Walker, Assistant Deputy Director, Programs Development Division, reported that the paved access road is owned by the Flood Control District and is currently closed to the public. He noted that the Flood Control District/Public Works would be happy to review a proposal that has an engineered preliminary plan proposing the alignment. He said it is possible that the District would allow emergency access in the event that the dip crossing fails again in the future. He added that to operate the alignment as a public road would require an easement from the Flood Control District. Nevertheless, County staff is open to discussing the proposal with City staff if the District believes the proposal is feasible.

City Manager Michaelis said the Flood Control District, and the Cities of La Verne and San Dimas all have an economic benefit and interest in this alignment. San Dimas will take the lead on this project and hopes that the District is amenable to sharing costs acceptable to all for a worthwhile project that will benefit everyone.

iii. Update on the Poison Oak Trail development and the condition of Sycamore Creek Trail.

Director of Parks and Recreation Bruns provided a brief history of the Sycamore Creek Trail, a joint project between the County and the City which was completed in 2006. Director Bruns presented a slide show of the area of Sycamore Creek Trail most impacted by slides and washed out areas from past seasons of storms, and said the Trail is currently closed. She said estimates to clean up the trail have come in at the \$300,000+ range and the City has no plans of reopening that section of Sycamore Creek Trail at this time. Both the upper and lower section of the trail are passable and remain open as connectors to other areas, one of which is Poison Oak Trail.

Mayor Pro Tem Templeman stated that the equestrian community currently uses the streets, and he asked how the County and the City can work together to make the trail safe again for equestrian use.

In response to Councilmember Ebner, Director Bruns replied that a Regional Open Space Grant was used to improve Sycamore Creek Trail.

Director Bruns stated that Poison Oak Trail is an existing narrow trail that runs along the contour of the slope and connects to Sycamore Canyon Road. She said the trail is not equestrian accessible throughout the entire route and several years ago, the City applied for the Regional Open Space Grant and has been working closely with County staff on the process. She said this trail does not run in the bed of the creek and is less likely to have the impacts of flooding, but it does cross the runoff area, which is the one area of issue. The plan is to install some culverts underneath the trail to direct the runoff to the right of the stream. She said that plan meets both the County and City standards. County trails staff has already done a lot of work breaking some of the bed rock and moving it around to assist in the preparation for this trail and movement.

In response to Mayor Morris, Director Bruns replied that the trail is entirely within County property and is being funded by the County Open Space funding source. She said City staff is working cooperatively with County Trails staff to repair the trail. She noted that County staff has moved the broken rock within the last month.

Director Bruns stated that the City is updating our trail specifications and County staff is preparing our right of access permit. The next step is to jointly take the project out to bid and hopefully begin construction within the next three to four months.

Director Bruns said Poison Oak trail is an important connector especially with Sycamore Creek Trail being closed, it allows access up through the back side of Horsethief Canyon Park, and could connect the north section of Sycamore Creek Trail up to the National Forest.

**iv. Update and discussion of expansion plans with Bonelli Park – East Shore RV park;
Hot tubs operations.**

1) Energy Management Grant: Assistant City Manager of Community Development Stevens mentioned that the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments secured an Energy Management Grant through Southern California Edison, and 28 cities in the COG area are using that opportunity to utilize the County's Enterprise Energy Management Information System. He said the grant will pay the County and City's staff costs through June 2013 to implement the system and make it available to each of the member cities. He said the Los Angeles County Internal Services Energy Management Division is in the process of determining what additional materials are needed to install and utilize the system. After this period, the City will have the ability to negotiate whether or not to continue utilizing the system.

2) Assistant City Manager Stevens said 15 years ago, a Master Plan for Bonelli Park was approved, however, not much improvement had occurred in that time frame. He stated that staff is working closely with County staff on a proposal for expansion of the hot tub operations, which City staff determined is in compliance with the purpose and intent of the Master Plan. Mr. Stevens said there have been preliminary meetings with County staff and representatives from East Shore RV Park about the potential expansion of that operation in a way that is not fully compliant with the Master Plan. Staff recognizes that there are substantive issues that need to be addressed and will discuss what is appropriate with this expansion.

Councilmember Bertone noted that East Shore RV Park would like to exchange some property, most likely Airport Valley, for property near the lake. He and Mr. Stevens were prepared to submit a recommendation to the City Council, however, Director Bruns indicated there are some issues with the expansion project and she requested that no action be taken at this time. Councilmember Bertone would like biologist approval that the site is appropriate for the expansion project. County Parks Department also does not want San Dimas to take any action at this time.

Russ Guiney, Director of Parks and Recreation, said meetings have been held with the operator who has been asked to forego the expansion due to a number of biological concerns, geographic location, and proximity to the airport. Mr. Guiney stated that the operator is asking for an extension of their contract. As an incentive, the operator was asked to come back with ideas on significantly improving the region camp sites, community hall, and utilities. Mr. Guiney said Contracts Manager Kandy Hayes will meet with the operators to hear what their ideas may be about improving the facility. County staff will share those ideas with the City, however, any contract extension or major improvement will have to be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Mayor Pro Tem Templeman said the School District periodically has problems keeping a head count on who is coming from the RV Park at the start of the school year.

Director Guiney said the operator counts on long term tenants for their revenue stream, although none of their contracts exceed 30 days. He said they are aware of the concerns with the School District and will negotiate some limitation on those types of services. County staff is working with the operator to not impact local schools, and other issues that come with long term tenants.

In response to Mayor Morris, Mr. Stevens stated that during the transient occupancy tax audit that was conducted in 2010, it was determined that the East Shore RV Park is one of the facilities that is completely up to date.

3) Assistant City Manager Stevens mentioned that there were a few minor issues experienced with the increased parking fees at Raging Waters. He said in an attempt to avoid paying the parking fees, visitors to Raging Waters have been parking on City streets along Puddingstone Drive, generating complaints from the neighbors. Mr. Stevens stated that the Public Works Department is in the process of re-installing "No Parking" signs in the area, hoping to alleviate the problem and encourage visitors to park in the Raging Waters facility. He said staff will monitor the area for compliance.

v. For information – San Dimas’ position regarding the routing of the High Speed Rail project.

1) City Manager Michaelis provided a brief update on the High Speed Rail project coming through San Dimas. He said the proposed two miles of tunnel will impact a residential area of our community, impacting Senator David Dreier’s House. Staff has been participating in California High Speed Rail Authority open house meetings, and is encouraging the Authority to look at an alignment for the project on the south side of the Interstate 10 freeway and consider tunneling under the cemetery instead of residential areas.

Supervisor Antonovich said local government has no authority on the High Speed Rail project. He said pursuant to the State proposition, the Commission has exclusive rights over land use policies. He added that legislation was introduced to make that Commission more accountable to the communities. Supervisor Antonovich suggested another alternative is to upgrade the Metrolink at a fraction of the cost that would serve more people in a quicker time frame, put people to work, and reduce the negative impacts on the communities.

Michael Cano, Transportation Deputy, distributed a map of the High Speed Rail Train project for Los Angeles to San Diego via the Inland Empire Section reflecting options and alternative analysis, including recommendations for what is being proposed and being withdrawn. He said the High Speed Rail Authority is acting on a mandate of speed which dictates the curvature of the lines. He said it is not practical to go 220 miles per hour within an urban zone, however, the benefits become negligible if the speed of the rail drops to 100-120 mph, which is why the rail is proposed to go through communities or tunneling under homes. Mr. Cano said Supervisor Antonovich introduced a motion to the Metrolink Authority to upgrade their lines to go 90-120 mph; providing immediate use, and to study the San Gabriel Valley portion and the lines extension in the future. This proposal was also presented to SCAG who embraced the concept. Mr. Cano highlighted three main factors that the Metrolink can consider in the upgrade: 1) possibly have dual tracks where there are long stretches of single track; 2) grade separations, not just for the noise element, but also safety improvements to enable speeds of 75-90 mph; 3) Positive Train Control, a GPS satellite technology that would allow Metrolink to organize and control its trains. Mr. Cano stated that one concern that should be considered with the High Speed Rail is that once the environmental documents are prepared and approved, even if the lines are never built, the lines on the map are going to impact property values. He stated that the Metrolink Authority fully supported and approved the motion. He added that part of the motion included a replacement for Curt Pringle, and hopefully they can find someone who qualifies who can represent the entire county.

2) City Manager Michaelis said he would like to discuss the issue of temporary events that came up yesterday and is not on the agenda. He said Chamber of Commerce representatives are present to report on this item.

Supervisor Antonovich said his staff has been meeting with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and asked that there be a six months review to see how it has impacted non-County activities.

Mayor Pro Tem Templeman explained that the Health Department has imposed fees on nonprofit organizations for hosting activities. He said San Dimas is very active in community events and the additional fees might mean that the activities will be cancelled.

Karen Gaffney, President/CEO, San Dimas Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber hosts various events throughout the year to showcase businesses and promote the community. She said the Health Department is now charging each vendor a participation fee, in addition to a certification fee, to be an outside vendor and food vendor, and a fee of \$400 is placed on the nonprofit organization hosting the event. Ms. Gaffney said in light of these fees, it might not be worthwhile to host any event considering the amount of staff time spent organizing the activities. She said the Health Department is scheduled to render a decision on this matter this afternoon and hopefully open up the matter for further discussion.

In response to Councilmember Bertone, Ms. Gaffney replied that the Health Department has also mandated that each vendor shall have hot and cold running water stations in lieu of a centralized hot and cold water station. She stated that rental fees are prohibitive for those stations and in many cases not feasible in many of the sites where venues take place.

Ms. Gaffney said that a Health Department Inspector came out two weeks ago to inspect the fire pit for the City's Birthday barbecue since food preparation is no longer permitted outside. She said if the fire pit is not approved, the event would have to be cancelled. She added that as a result of the mandates, the venue for the City's Birthday barbecue has been changed to an indoor event. However, other venues that take place from Farmer's Markets to outside food vendors are being allowed.

Ms. Gaffney said several San Gabriel Valley Chambers are cancelling events and San Dimas Chamber of Commerce is concerned that food vendors will drop out from the annual Western Days event in October due to these constraints. In addition to the above, the Health Department is now requiring restaurants to provide the ingredients for a calorie count for all of their menu items.

Brian Mejia, Field Deputy, said all Chambers of Commerce in the San Gabriel Valley are sharing the same concern and are meeting with the Environmental Chief in Baldwin Park.

c. Items of County interest or concern.

i. Report on the recently adopted County Animal Welfare Ordinance. County representative to explain the provisions and purpose of the Ordinance.

Marcia Mayeda, Director, Animal Care & Control, highlighted improvements made to the Los Angeles County Animal Welfare Ordinance and said that based on a motion by Supervisor Antonovich in 2009, the Ordinance was adopted this year. She stated that a thorough study was conducted on best practices throughout the country and the County came up with a well worded, strong ordinance that helps protect animal welfare and consumers who have pets and may utilize pet facilities. The ordinance addresses three major components: 1) the personal well-being of an individual animal; 2) record keeping requirements in all animal facilities to enable tracking of sick animals sold to the public; and 3) licensing of people selling animals. She stated that the most creative portion of the ordinance is the regulation of commercial breeding facilities and the County has a good animal facility inspection program done once per annum, unless there's a problem with a facility. She outlined requirements for remote facilities including annual medical examinations by a veterinarian for breeding stock, puppies are to be kept until eight weeks of age, individual quarters provided to protect mother animals, require microchips at four months of age or when the animal leaves the property, and require facilities to have an emergency response program. She said as a result of the ordinance, there has been improvement in the care and condition of animals. Animal Care & Control has received a lot of inquiries from other jurisdictions and a number of cities have adopted a similar ordinance. She encouraged San Dimas to adopt a similar ordinance.

Councilmember Bertone stated that the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments passed a statement unanimously endorsing the ordinance and encouraged staff to start the process of adopting an animal welfare ordinance.

In response to City Manager Michaelis, Ms. Mayeda replied that the County enforces the ordinance in Los Angeles County incorporated areas and contract cities. She mentioned that San Dimas is not a contract city and suggested that the City contact Inland Valley Humane Society to enforce the local ordinance. She added that the inspection fee, starting at \$250 per inspection, is passed on to the operators; additional inspections are \$40.00. She encouraged the City to adopt the entire ordinance to have tools in place in the event of an emergency.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Templeman, Ms. Mayeda replied that they have an outstanding team of volunteers who undergo hours of training and work closely with the Fire Department, Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol to evacuate animals during a fire. They have an agreement with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and are finalizing Memorandums of Understanding with other agencies to board the animals during an emergency.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

a. Members of the Audience

- 1) Mitchell Crawford appreciates the support and cooperation between the City and the County.
- 2) Don Green said he does not know what the expansion is about and suggested Bonelli Park not change its name.
- 3) Bob Hardcastle thanked Supervisor Antonovich for everything he does for the equestrian community. He participates in annual equestrian events and hopes the door is not closed on Sycamore Creek Trail. He said he is encouraged to hear that Poison Oak Trail will be developed.
- 4) Mayor Pro Tem Templeman said a property owner who lives by the site is extremely conscious of the environment and is willing to assist in cleanup of the trail, however, he is restricted by the Army Corp of Engineers' regulations on the Blue Line. Mr. Templeman is confident that the two jurisdictions can jointly resolve some of those issues.

b. City Representatives

- 1) At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Templeman, County representatives introduced themselves.

Deputy Director Norma Garcia announced that Supervisor Antonovich funded the Department to create the first County Trails Guidelines Manual that was approved by the Board in May.

- 2) Mayor Morris said San Dimas Canyon Park and Nature Center is a well-used and maintained park.
- 3) Councilmember Bertone expressed concern about Title 10 related to vicious dogs in the Ordinance. He distributed for Ms. Mayeda's future review a copy of an article from Best Friends Animals Society.
- 4) Mayor Morris expressed his appreciation for Supervisor Antonovich's support of the liability trust fund, which generated \$10 million in revenue to all contract cities and \$200,000 for the City of San Dimas.

c. County Representatives

- 1) Supervisor Antonovich stated that there have been some proposals to move a portion of the Fifth District into the First District due to a decreased County population, according to the 2010 census. He said at least three members support the Boundary Review Committee's recommendation, and the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on August 9 and vote on August 16, 2011. He stated that there is a possibility that the district map will be challenged in court.

In response to Councilmember Bertone, Supervisor Antonovich replied that four votes are required, and if the plan does not achieve the four votes, the Tax Assessor, Sheriff, and District Attorney will determine the new boundary lines.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Templeman, Supervisor Antonovich replied that in order to keep the districts equal, the Fifth District may lose cities on the west side. He stated that his district works with all segments of the community and he would like to keep the open door policy at all levels of communication.

In response to Councilmember Bertone, Field Deputy Mejia thanked Mayor Morris for the letter of support during the Boundary Review Committee's review of the maps.

2) Supervisor Antonovich reported that the State has shifted responsibility of early release of parolees from state prison to the County. He stated that the County will be tasked to provide similar services for inmates with reduced funding and he anticipates that crime will spike in the upcoming year.

3) Supervisor Antonovich expressed his pleasure in working with the City Council and staff in San Dimas and other communities in his district. Supervisor Antonovich expressed his appreciation for all the work performed by his County staff and City staff.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Morris adjourned the special meeting at 9:54 p.m. The next Regular Session meeting of the City Council will be held on August 9, 2011, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ina Rios, CMC, City Clerk