



MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2005, 4:30 P. M.
CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
245 E. BONITA AVE.

CITY COUNCIL:

Mayor Curtis W. Morris
Mayor Pro Tem John Ebner (arrived at 4:53 pm)
Councilmember Denis Bertone
Councilmember Sandy McHenry
Councilmember Jeff Templeman

City Manager Michaelis
City Clerk Rios
Assistant City Manager Duran
Community Development Director Stevens
Public Works Director Patel
Parks and Recreation Director Bruns
Senior Engineer Garwick
Planning Manager Hensley

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Morris called the meeting to order at 4:46 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

STUDY SESSION

- a) Receive a report on the Gold Line Station Phase II

Public Works Director Patel presented an analysis outlining advantages and disadvantages of Option A-Northwest corner of Bonita Avenue and Cataract Avenue (Existing M&E Property) and Option B-Eucla Avenue (Existing Henkel and McCoy property) for City Council's review and consideration to approve alternate Metro Gold Line Station and Parking Location.

Staff recommended that the City's preferred Gold Line Station and parking structure be located at the following:

- a. Eucla Avenue (existing Henkels and McCoy property)
- b. With the alternative preference being the northwest corner of Bonita Avenue and Cataract Avenue (existing M & E property)

Director Patel responded to Council's questions concerning parking space size; traffic impacts; acquisition of property; cost of property; access; and additional parking for full build-out.

Mayor Pro Tem Ebner suggested the Vue Sign property as an alternate site. As he owns property in the area, he recused himself and left the conference room at 5:18 p.m.

Councilmembers discussed alternative sites including Vue Sign property and San Dimas Avenue/Arrow Highway, where Fox Development has proposed a mixed use development.

Mayor Morris asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak.

Staff and Council responded to **Alline and Ron Kranzer** concerning the City's commitment to pay \$5 million whether or not a station and a three-story parking structure are built; timing schedule; and additional costs for amenities on the parking structure.

Mayor Pro Tem Ebiner returned at 5:27 p.m.

There being no one else wishing to speak, it was moved by Councilmember Bertone that Henkels-McCoy property be considered as the preferred station location, with Vue Sign as the alternate location. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Templeman and carried 4.1. Councilmember McHenry opposed the motion.

b) Bonita Avenue/Cataract Avenue Grade Crossing

Mayor Pro Tem Ebiner excused himself as he owns property in the area and left the conference room at 5:29 p.m.

Public Works Director Patel reported that at the November 9, 2004 study session, he offered three alternatives to mitigate and overcome the potential traffic problems in connection with the Metro Gold Line Station and Parking Location. Director Patel presented two additional alternatives for Council consideration for the Bonita Avenue/Cataract Avenue Grade Crossing: Alternative A - True Roundabout and Alternative B - Re-alignment of Bonita Avenue.

Staff believes in pursuing the investigation and consideration of the grade separation to be evaluated at the intersection due to its unique diagonal rail alignment crossing over two major arterial streets, as LRT has the potential to adversely impact traffic flow in the heart of the downtown. Staff recommended that Council authorize staff to retain a consultant to assist in developing and challenging MTA criteria for an above street grade separation at Bonita Avenue and Cataract Avenue crossing.

At **John Sorcinelli's** suggestion of subgrade crossing, staff responded that a Southern California Water pipe is located 20 feet below the intersection.

Council discussed in detail the advantages and disadvantages of the two options and agreed that public safety was paramount. It was the consensus of the Council that it did not envision a grade separation at Bonita Avenue/Cataract Avenue intersection. It was their recommendation to continue through further conceptual alternative layouts that provide for safe and orderly traffic and pedestrian movement through the intersection with minimum delays and impacts to the city.

Mayor Pro Tem Ebiner returned at 5:50 p.m.

c) Receive a report from the Bonita Avenue Corridor Committee.

City Manager Michaelis reported that for several months, a group of downtown business owners have been meeting to explore the improvement of the Bonita Corridor. Work has been divided into two phases: short term improvements and long term ideas. He said Committee members will summarize their goals for the short term improvements. Mr. Michaelis reported that \$90,000 has been budgeted for the Exchange Place cross walk improvements.

1) **Wally Nikowitz** provided a brief report on the Bonita Corridor and how the local merchants have joined in promoting the downtown image. He cited pedestrian crossing safety concerns due to speeding motorists at Bonita Avenue/Exchange Place and Monte Vista/Bonita Avenue. He provided some pictures of Monrovia downtown and proposed some solutions that included stop signs; converting Exchange Place into an alley walkway; and the use of bump outs to calm traffic. Mr. Nikowitz also mentioned that there is a problem with available parking in the downtown..

Director Patel reported that a study had been conducted on Exchange Place/Bonita Avenue as well as Monte Vista/Bonita Avenue and the request for stop signs did not meet the warrants. He indicated that plans are to have crowd control sidewalks with enhanced landscaping; seating areas; street lights for better pedestrian visibility; concrete brick paving in the center of town; eliminating left turn to restrict access; and to have only one crosswalk.

Mr. Ron Kranzer stated that motorists will find another location through town to avoid the calming effect. He said what Mr. Patel is proposing with bowouts, more illumination, and one crosswalk versus two, will go a long way in addressing the problem.

To minimize impacts on the Merchants, it was the consensus of the City Council that staff identify the effects of shutting down Exchange Place and that Community Development Director Stevens and Public Works Director Patel meet with the Committee members to discuss the design.

Mr. Nikowitz reported on the Farmers Market, and indicated that they are working through their issues. They both share concerns with Security and teenagers who may be intimidating customers. He said Chris Detriville attends their meetings and he will work with her on Security issues. He would like to work with Parks and Recreation Director Theresa Bruns to create an alternate gathering place for the teens. Director Bruns stated that the community event draws everyone including teens to the Marketplace. Councilmember Templeman referred him to Sergeant Wineinger for patrolling issues.

2) **Bill Emerson** addressed some landscaping concerns in the downtown core. He said Eucalyptus trees are planted too close together and in summer, when the trees are in full bloom, they obstruct businesses. Additionally, roots continue to be a problem. He provided some suggestions for Council's future consideration.

Mr. Sorcinelli asked City Council to consider the Monrovia examples provided.

Mayor Morris requested Mark Rheude, Landscape Maintenance Manager, and Parks & Recreation staff to attend Bonita Corridor meetings. It was the consensus of the City council to continue discussion of this issue at a future study session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. to the regular City Council meeting.

Mayor of the City of San Dimas

ATTEST:

City Clerk