



**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2005, 5:30 P. M.**  
**CITY MAINTENANCE YARD**  
**301 SOUTH WALNUT AVENUE**

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**CITY COUNCIL:**

Mayor Curtis W. Morris  
Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Templeman  
Councilmember Denis Bertone  
Councilmember John Ebiner  
Councilmember Sandy McHenry (arrived at 5:57 p.m.)

City Manager Michaelis  
City Clerk Rios  
Assistant City Manager Duran  
Public Works Director Patel  
Parks and Recreation Director Bruns  
Public Works Maintenance Superintendent Campbell  
Public Works Maintenance Supervisor Bishop  
Public Works Leadworker Gentry

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Morris called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

**2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- a. Members of the Audience

No one

**4. STUDY SESSION**

- a. Street name sign replacement program – review new size requirements, design options (lettering and colors), and provide direction.

Public Works Director Patel thanked the City Council and reviewed the style, color, and font size of signs as the city replaces all four-inch signs to six-inch signs over a five-year period. He reported that in April, 2003, the State of California adopted Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control that mandated all cities in the state to comply with the uniform street name sign program by year 2012. Additionally, in 2004, the Federal Highway Administration issued a notice as a proposed amendment to the M.U.T.C.D. that will now include a standard for maintaining a minimum sign retro-reflectivity. Staff recommended that the City Council consider continuing with a street name sign program based on the San Dimas Brown, transparent sheeting on a medium to high-grade reflective white sheeting with a playbill font legend per

Exhibit "A." Staff further recommended that at a future study session after Council has selected a color and font, to review more shapes, styles, and variations that show positions of the City logo, letters, etc. and to review the estimated costs of the various signs.

In response to Councilmember Bertone, Director Patel responded that on streets with speed limits of 25 miles per hour or less the lettering height could be a minimum of four inches high, including residential areas. He stated that some streets have existing signs with six inch lettering.

In response to Councilmember Ebiner, Director Patel stated that lettering height on existing street name signs should be at least six inches high in capital letters or six inches in uppercase with four and one-half inch lower-case letters. He indicated that signs with four and one-half inch lettering located in the town core do not comply and will have to be replaced. He added that in the 25 miles per hour areas, the lower case lettering could be three and one-half inches.

In response to Mayor Morris, Director Patel replied that with the exception of mounted signs, most signs have lettering that average six inches.

In response to Councilmember Bertone, Director Patel stated there are approximately 1,200 signs citywide and the goal over a period of five years is to start north end of the city and replace approximately 300 signs annually.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Templeman, Director Patel indicated that one sign costs approximately \$65. City Manager Michaelis said it might be possible to use gas tax funds and over a five year period, it would cost approximately \$20,000 per year.

Director Patel said as signs are installed, the goal is to also work on the GIS program to locate signs and have the data recorded as part of recordkeeping.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Templeman, Superintendent Campbell said some poles would need to be replaced. He stated that ten percent are routinely maintained and replaced.

Councilmember Bertone stated he preferred lettering that is simple, clear and easy to read versus fancy lettering. Director Patel said he would look at the font style and upper and lower case lettering. He indicated that some cities elect to have a mixture of upper and lower case lettering, while others prefer only capital letters.

In response to Mayor Morris, Director Patel said the reflective material has a ten year warranty and the color on the signs will last approximately ten years if one color is used on the sign, logo, and lettering. He said typically the logo fades first.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Templeman, Director Patel said staff intends to keep the 100 block and not just the street name on the signs.

Director Patel believed that installation of signs could be phased in with a balanced maintenance program.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Templeman, Director Patel said the existing standards are adequate. The change is proposed for streets with speed limits greater than 40 miles per hour and staff will look at including retroreflectivity, a new standard proposed by the Federal Highway Administration.

In response to Councilmember Ebiner, Director Patel said the dark background would not be reflective, only lettering is reflective or illuminated. He added that the particular signs he recommends would have a white border around the brown color to distinguish San Dimas from neighboring cities. He mentioned that all existing poles are San Dimas Brown.

Director Patel invited the City Council to go outside to the courtyard to view the various signs presented on four display boards, as well as a display with several examples of signs used in area cities. He said some of those signs presented do not comply with M.U.T.C.D. standards.

Councilmember Ebiner suggested changing the color from brown to blue and white. He would like a distinctive sign with a pop out logo similar to the signs in the City of Diamond Bar. Director Patel stated that Diamond Bar sign logos fade quickly.

Superintendent Campbell said staff is looking to replace signs that do not meet the new standards.

Councilmembers discussed using small capital lettering; all upper-case lettering; other markings could be smaller; deleting "California" from the logo; and using the complete logo.

Mayor Morris mentioned that the road is not marked "STOP" on Walnut by the stop sign. He suggested having someone examine stop signs citywide. Councilmembers agreed that someone should conduct a study of all stop signs in the city.

It was the consensus of the City Council to use a small reflective logo; one and one-half inch top and bottom border; street numbers; signs should be practical, not ugly; and signs should be legible.

Councilmember McHenry felt it was important to have a highly legible sign for public safety. He stated that various areas of the city need improving, trees hanging in front need to be trimmed.

Mayor Pro Tem Templeman stated that the community expects a highly visible approach. He is not critical of the font as long as it is visible, not cluttered.

Staff was directed to provide additional samples incorporating the suggestions by the City Council and at a future study session make those sample signs available for Council review and consideration.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m. The next meeting is August 9, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

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Mayor of the City of San Dimas

ATTEST:

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City Clerk