

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024, AT 4 P.M. IN THE THEATER CONFERENCE ROOM, 9955 FREMONT AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, CALIFORNIA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson (Chair); Council Member Martinez (Committee Member); City Manager Starr; Director of Economic Development Agency Fuentes; Director of Public Works/City Engineer Heredia, Executive Director of Engineering/Major Projects Manager Hoerning; Director of Community Development Diaz, Project Manager Ortega, Acting Chief of Police Reed

Absent:

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to cancellations of all PWC meetings after October 2023, there were no meeting minutes to approve.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT — None

V. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATES/ITEMS

A. OPERATIONS

1. MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

An Activities Report for October, November, and December 2023 was included with the agenda. There were no questions or issues with the report.

There were more than 100 service requests than the usual average in October. The City received a new CNG Combo Sewer Truck which was backordered for 18 months and purchased for the cost of \$591,000. Altogether the City Council made a \$750K investment to purchase heavy equipment and vehicles. Public Works assisted with the Halloween event, the Holiday Ornaments, Christmas Decoration, and Veteran's Day.

- 2. ADDITIONAL ITEMS** —A flashing stop sign was recently installed on Vernon and Orchard. An illegal 55 gallon ground spill was cleaned up on Fremont Avenue & Mission Boulevard.

B. FACILITIES

1. MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

A Facilities Activities Report for October, November, and December 2023 was included with the agenda. There were no questions or issues with the report. Inspections for A/C and heating units will begin soon.

C. ENGINEERING DIVISION

1. Saratoga Park Update

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Heredia reported that the City Council approved the plans and they can begin to move on to the design of the facility based on comments received. It will take one year for designs to be completed; three to four months for advertising; and one and a half years for construction.

2. City Library & Fire Stations Remodel Updates

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Heredia reported the outdoor reading room will be remodeled. The existing restrooms at the library will be brought to Code to become ADA compliant, and two additional ADA compliant restrooms will be added.

There will be a meeting in two weeks to discuss the layout of the firefighter dorms.

VI. POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE/ITEMS — None

VII. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROJECT UPDATES/ITEMS

Director of Community Development Diaz reported the City is focused on completing the State mandated ordinances, hiring a new code enforcement officer, and have planned to recruit another planner.

VIII. CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

A. LOCAL PROJECTS

1. Reeder Ranch Park

Project Manager Roberto Ortega reported that the project is 50% completed. Construction began in Summer 2023 and is set to finish mid-April 2024. Landscaping will start soon.

2. Sunset Park

Executive Director of Engineering Hoerning reported that the park is still under construction and blocked off for public safety. Plans for underground utilities are in progress and there is a scheduled completion date set before June 2024.

3. Alleyway Improvements

Director of Public Works Heredia reported that the City received five bids on January 16th and a decision will be made at the next City Council Meeting.

4. Arrow Highway & Fremont Avenue

Executive Director of Engineering Hoerning reported that a Kick-off meeting is set for February 5, 2024 and the submittal phase is in progress. There will be restrictions throughout the entire project process which will last 70 calendar days.

B. REGIONAL PROJECTS

1. I-10 Corridor Project

City Manager Starr reported that the project's completion date was set to be extended to mid-Summer 2024 over multiple change orders submitted by the contractor which has amounted to higher costs than initially projected. Residents can expect a 55-hour lane closure to work on inside lanes between January 26th and January 29th around Mills and Monte Vista Avenue.

IX. COMMITTEE AND CITY MANAGER ITEMS

City Manager Starr reported that the easements for the **San Antonio Creek Trail Project** will be brought before the City Council to enter into agreements with property owners who will sign easements and resolve right-of-way issues along the length of the trail.

He noted that the **Foothill Gold Line** project is stalled because the office of Assembly Member Rodriguez refused to carry out legislation citing that the transfer of property to the City violates the State Constitution as a gift of public funds. The City of Montclair has refuted that claim with sufficient evidence, however the property has since been put up for auction as excess land. Conversations with the State are currently ongoing and the City of Montclair will seek a grant to purchase the property.

City Manager Starr lastly noted that rulings backed by the Federal Supreme Court may affect how all cities approach the homeless crisis.

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 4:31 p.m., Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting of the Public Works Committee.

The next meeting of the Public Works Committee is scheduled to be held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2023.

Submitted for Public Works Committee approval,



Uhura Mckenzie
Transcribing Secretary