

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL
UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL

ADJOURNED SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

March 5, 2019
3:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Small reconvened the special budget meeting of the City Council at 3:01 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall with all Council Members present.

Present: Thomas Small, Mayor
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Vice Mayor
Göran Eriksson, Council Member
Alex Fisch, Council Member
Daniel Lee, Council Member

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Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Michelle Weiner.

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Community Announcements by City Council Members/Information Items from Staff

Council Member Eriksson observed that Steve Rose had passed away one year ago, noting that Mr. Rose had set many things in motion that the City is now benefitting from.

Mayor Small reported the passing of former Fire Chief George Sweeney in December and he announced the memorial service.

MOVED BY MAYOR SMALL, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT WHEN THIS MEETING IS ADJOURNED, THAT IT BE ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF GEORGE SWEENEY.

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Joint Public Comment - Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Small invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the City Council:

Mark Lipman discussed the search for funding; bank fees and interest payments paid by the City; he reminded the City Council that he had previously proposed creating a public bank for the City; he discussed environmental awareness; he suggested that the City no longer purchase plastic water bottles and proposed a single use plastic ban; and he reported that climate scientists assert that the greatest damage being done to the planet is damage to the ocean.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding contributors to greenhouse gases within local control; acidification of the ocean; the Reach Building Code update; municipal banking; other cities examining independent banking; referring the issue to the Finance Advisory Committee; the Zero Waste Plan launched for all City facilities; the Green Purchasing Policy; efforts of Ballona Creek Renaissance; and collaboration with other cities on the banking issue.

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Receipt and Filing of Correspondence

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEE, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR SAHLI-WELLS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

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Action Items

Item A-1 (Continued)

CC:HA:PA:SA - (1) Presentation and Consideration of Current and Proposed Work Plans for City Departments; and (2) (If Desired) Direction to the City Manager as Deemed Appropriate

Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director, provided highlights of the 2018-2019 Public Works Department Work Plan, and he discussed the proposed Work Plan for 2019-2020.

Mayor Small invited public input.

The following members of the audience addressed the City Council:

Michelle Weiner, Bike Culver City, expressed appreciation to Public Works staff; discussed connectivity; safety; inclusion of the Downtown Connector in the budget; public input; the consultants; the need for north/south lanes in the City; she asked the City to adopt the Metro Bike Share Smart Bike System; discussed equity; increased participation; implementation of Vision Zero and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan; the Culver City Hall Garden as an educational opportunity; and expanding organic waste collection to multi-family dwellings.

Jim Shanman, Walk n' Rollers, discussed making the part time Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator a full time position and expanding it to be a Mobility Coordinator; he discussed safety; the need for more crossing guards; creating safer intersections; Art Walk; holding more open streets events; building community; cut-through traffic; safety; working with area cities to develop a media campaign; outreach to businesses and employees to encourage being good neighbors and good commuters; traffic reduction; incentives to encourage rethinking commutes; and he suggested learning from the Universal model.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding right of way use planning; aesthetic symmetry for installations on lights and structures; interaction with Los Angeles and the Great Streets project; opportunities for collaboration; the Downtown Connector; grant opportunities; outreach; curbside hazardous waste collection; creative

crosswalk design; changes in the bus ways; fighting block by block to make things safe for children; expanding the project for the next application; the Go Human project; finding a lower cost interim solution for the Downtown Connector; bad connections; providing access to businesses; contested right of way; Vision Zero; shared mobility devices; aggressive driving in the Hayden Tract; Fox Hills; using City parking facilities to prioritize carpools; the Adaptive Traffic Control project; traffic monitoring cameras; the sewers; the response team; funding; livable growth; providing options; utility boxes; making sidewalks pedestrian friendly; the Right of Way Use Plan; National Traffic Management Plan (NTMP) scheduling and prioritization; educating residents regarding waste management and collection; the microgrid; self-sustained power generation; deferred maintenance for fixing the streets; uneven surfaces; scooter riding; average Pavement Condition Index; funding from SB1; arterials vs. residential streets; the backlog; maintenance; capital projects; concrete vs. asphalt; making a path for active transportation; street damage around utilities; standards; recycling and composting in low density multi-family units; creating a bicycle network as quickly as possible; studies already conducted; the need for options and safety measures now; creative use of lower tech solutions that keep people safe; implementation of the 15 mile per hour zone state requirement around schools; visibility of signage; the upcoming solid waste rate study; changes in the recycling market; the need for Zero Waste on a City-wide basis; discontinuing single use; taking advantage of the catastrotunity; the polystyrene ban; bicycle and pedestrian measures using Traffic Demand Management (TDM) and leveraging funding from development for active transportation funding; focusing on moving cars safely and providing more options; prioritizing pedestrian crossings; designing sidewalks around trees; support for having a full time Mobility Coordinator position; the Metro Bike Share model; the need for reliability; private market solutions for mobility; curbside composting; the bike gap on Sepulveda; the importance of learning how to sort waste; encouraging restaurants not to use single use products; not producing waste in the first place; the need for personal commitment; actions of other countries; changing the design code; creative collaboration between departments; the Rancho Higuera NTMP; the City Hall Gardens project; the Ballona Creek Environmental Impact Bond; nationwide issues with trees and streets; and the timeline for Platform 2.

Sol Blumenfeld, Community Development Director, indicated that revisions and corrections to the Work Plan had been distributed to Council Members; he presented a status report on the 2018-2019 Community Development Department Work Plan; and he discussed the proposed Work Plan for 2019-2020.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding housing programs; foreign direct investment for particular projects; and past programs.

Mayor Small invited public input.

The following member of the audience addressed the City Council:

Mark Lipman clarified that he was not speaking on behalf of the Committee on Homelessness; discussed serving people with less money; growth of the homeless population; the inadequacy of conventional business models; the inability to build the way out of the housing crisis; creating more disparity in the housing situation; land costs; artificial inflation; land banking; group homes; preserving residential communities; Rapid Rehousing subsidies; rent control; concern with people being priced out of housing; and the need for two more staff members in the Housing Department to implement programs.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding the long history of underbuilding in the market; the need for affirmatively below market affordable housing programs; the loss of the walkway due to the construction and the requirement to make accommodation; the pedestrian diversion plan; Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH); land banking; redevelopment funds; appreciation for the pursuit of Reach Codes; getting fossil fuels out of multi-family homes; SB50; vacancy rates; the Economic Development Action Plan; the Service Center; the Permit Center; staffing vs. use of consultants; soft story structures; the many years of Economic Development without affordable housing; the importance of building housing; focusing on anti-displacement measures; an observation that Culver City is the only City in the area without rent control; the inability of subsidized housing to solve the problem; the missing middle; the importance of keeping people in their homes; preserving the last remaining mobile home park; incorporating equity into economic development; retaining people and businesses in the City; Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) reports; outreach before making changes to the Farmers Market; a

suggestion to move the Farmers Market to Culver Boulevard in front of City Hall on Sundays; Media Park; establishing a Tea House rather than another coffee place; encompassing the Transit Oriented District (TOD) within the Arts District; Lafayette housing; maintenance; leveraging investments; the mini park on National and Washington; maximizing Metro space; policy decisions; the Urban Land Institute (ULI) program; and accelerating policy change.

Serena Wright Black, Assistant City Manager, provided an update on the status of the 2018-2019 Administrative Services Department Work Plan and a presentation on the proposed Work Plan for 2019-2020.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding making campaign finance information on local elections easily accessible to the public; passport processing; increasing participation by employees in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) program; the wellness program; mental health; incentives; making materials available in English and Spanish as well as other languages based on City demographics; activating the space next to the Wende Museum; collaboration with Cultural Affairs; support for the Art in Public Places booklet developed by Cultural Affairs; the rate of attrition City-wide; the aging workforce; vacancies; positions that are difficult to recruit for; the student intern program; competition for talent; the economy; staffing and the growth of the Art in Public Places program; the Jobs Vision Success program; the 2020 Census; the updated Creative Economy Report; equity work; increased displacement and inequity with the growth in the economy; repairing divides of the past; employee events; motivation; consolidated elections; transparency; increased outreach; expanding implicit bias training; the upcoming election; and the new arrangement of departments.

Onyx Jones, Chief Financial Officer, introduced Finance Department staff; presented highlights of the 2018-2019 Finance Department Work Plan, and she discussed the proposed Work Plan for 2019-2020.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) audit; business taxes; pension issues; amortization periods; strategic prepayments; a suggestion to establish a subcommittee to create internal controls and processes updates; CalPERS; unfunded liabilities; declining Utilities Users Tax (UUT); new employees; scaling up the tax on gas over time to provide economic incentives to

decarbonize buildings in Culver City; Moss Adams; consolidated elections; clarification that the fiscal year does not need to be changed; transparency; trust; identification of trends; quantification of what is being paid in bank fees and debt service; the actions of other cities; raising the earnings credit; working to minimize fees; investigating a municipal bank solution; indirect benefits from different economic activity; serving those without banks; collaboration between Finance and Economic Development; collaborating with strategic partners for the 10-year forecast; and the General Plan Update.

Jesse Mays, Assistant to the City Manager, provided highlights of the proposed 2019-2020 Work Plan for the City Manager's Office.

Discussion ensued between staff and Council Members regarding streaming meetings on other platforms; Culver Connect; creating an enterprise fund; appreciation for the leadership and professionalism of the City Manager; equity; the General Plan process; increased communications; language access; ensuring that no meetings are held that cannot be accessed through public transit; child care access; effective use of resources; CCUSD interest in meeting space and providing services; the Downtown Connector; creating a Mobility Coordinator position; the Fox Hills Community Conversations; the Short Term Rental discussion; communication with the Police Department; reorganization suggested by the General Plan process; the long term fiscal outlook; opportunities provided by a recession; reorganization within the existing complement of staff; vacancies; minimizing growth in the total personnel count; long term fiscal prudence; and inviting employees into the General Plan process.

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Public Comment – Items Not on the Agenda

Mayor Small invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Items from Council Members

None.

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Council Member Requests to Agendize Future Items

None.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:25 p.m., the City Council adjourned in memory of George Sweeney to March 11, 2019.

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Jeremy Green
CITY CLERK of Culver City, California
EX-OFFICIO CLERK of the City Council
Culver City, California

THOMAS SMALL
MAYOR of Culver City