



**MINUTES
CARSON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2014**

5:00 P.M.

**CONGRESSWOMAN JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD
COMMUNITY CENTER AT CARSON, HALL B
801 EAST CARSON STREET
CARSON, CA 90745**

**THE CARSON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETINGS ARE
BROADCAST LIVE VIA TIME WARNER CABLE CHANNEL 35 AND AT&T U-VERSE
CHANNEL 99 AS WELL AS VIA THE INTERNET AT: [HTTP://CI.CARSON.CA.US](http://ci.carson.ca.us)**

AGENDA POSTED: JANUARY 7, 2014

“In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call the City Clerk’s office at 310-952-1720 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.” (Government Code Section 54954.2)

CALL TO ORDER:

The special meeting of the City Council was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Mayor Dear in Hall B, Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center at Carson, located at 801 E. Carson Street, Carson, California 90745.

ROLL CALL: City Clerk Gause noted the following:

Council Members Present:

Mayor Jim Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Elito Santarina, and Council Member Albert Robles

Council Members Absent:

Council Member Lula Davis-Holmes and Council Member Mike Gipson

Other Elected Officials Present: Donesia L. Gause, City Clerk

Other Elected Officials Absent: Karen Avilla, City Treasurer

Also Present:

Jacquelyn Acosta, Acting City Manager, and staff:

Cedric Hicks, Director of Community Services; Massoud Ghiam, Acting Director of Public Works/City Engineer; Sheri Repp-Loadsman, Planning Officer; Gilbert Marquez, Acting Principal Engineer; Gregory MacDonald, Parkway Tree Supervisor; Richard Garland, Traffic Engineer; Saied Naaseh, Associate Planner; Reata Kulcsar, Senior Engineering Technician; Sylvia Rubio, Council Field Representative, and Yolanda Chavez, Senior Clerk

CLOSED SESSION (Item 1) 5:33 P.M. – 5:55 P.M.

Acting City Manager Acosta presented the Council Closed Session item only.

CLOSED SESSION (Item 1) 5:33 P.M. – 5:45 P.M.

ITEM NO. (1) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR

RECOMMENDATION for the City Council:

1. A closed session will be held, pursuant to Government Code § 54957.6, with the Acting City Manager and Deputy City Attorney, its negotiators(s), regarding labor negotiations with ACE, CPSA, & AME, AFSCME Local 809 as well as Unclassified Management.

ACTION: This item was scheduled for Closed Session.

RECESS:

The City Council was recessed at 5:33 P.M. by Mayor Dear to a Closed Session to discuss the item described on this evening's agenda.

RECONVENE:

The City Council Reconvened at 6:07 P.M by Mayor Dear, with all members present excluding Gipson.

City Clerk Gause noted the following:

Council Members Present:

Mayor Jim Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Elito Santarina, Council Member Lula Davis-Holmes, Council Member Albert Robles

Council Members Absent: Council Member Mike Gipson

Other Elected Officials Present: Donesia Gause, City Clerk

Other Elected Officials Absent: Karen Avilla, City Treasurer

Also Present:

Jacquelyn Acosta, Acting City Manager and staff:

Cedric Hicks, Director of Community Services; Massoud Ghiam, Acting Director of Public Works/City Engineer; Sheri Repp-Loadsman, Planning Officer; Gilbert Marquez, Acting Principal Engineer; Gregory MacDonald, Parkway Tree Supervisor; Richard Garland, Traffic Engineer; Saied Naaseh, Associate Planner; Reata Kulcsar, Senior Engineering Technician; Sylvia Rubio, Council Field Representative, and Yolanda Chavez, Senior Clerk

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

Acting City Manager Acosta provided the Closed Session report as follows:

Council Closed Session Item No. 1

The City staff reviewed with City Council additional information provided by AFSCME and with the coalition of bargaining units. Questions were asked and answered. The City staff also reviewed with City Council additional information. The Council gave additional authority and no further direction was given to negotiate.

WORKSHOP (Item 2)

Item No. 2 was heard at 6:13 P.M.

ITEM NO. (2) WORKSHOP TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE CARSON STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND TO REVIEW NEW DESIGN COMPONENTS AND PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)

Planning Officer Repp-Loadsman provided a brief summary of the staff report and commented that Carson Street Improvement Project is not a stand-alone project it links many of the goals and objectives which have been established by the community and the City Council. Planning Officer Repp-Loadsman introduced the Associate Planner Saied Naaseh.

Associate Planner Naaseh provided a brief presentation on the components and status of the Carson Street Improvement Project. Associate Planner Naaseh referred to a reference sheet which was distributed to Mayor, Council and Staff listing all the pending items which staff is requesting direction. Associate Planner Naaseh introduced Steve Smith of Gruen Associates.

Mr. Smith began the presentation on the new components added to Carson Street Project.

Council Member Robles asked if the landscaping will be consistent with the environmental conditions in Southern California; and reduce water use by using drought-resistant plants.

Mr. Smith noted that state mandated equipment and vegetation will be used for the landscaping.

Council Member Davis-Holmes asked if reclaimed water lines are already installed on Carson Street.

Discussion ensued on irrigation and reclaimed water for the Carson Street Corridor landscaping. The City Council expressed interest in using reclaimed water; Gruen Associates will design a system that can handle the reclaimed water when it is made available.

Mr. Smith stated that Gruen Associates will verify the connection location and will meet with City Staff. Planning Officer Repp-Loadsman confirmed that staff has been coordinating with West Basin and will provide consultants the information.

Mayor Dear noted that it is wise to install water sustainable irrigation now rather than five years from now when a reclaimed water route becomes available on Figueroa Street.

Darin Morris clarified that there will be multiple points of connect to deliver reclaimed water down Carson Street. Figueroa Street will host the main line branch which will feed various locations down Carson Street where needed.

Mayor Dear asked staff who will be responsible to maintain the landscaping to prevent water waste.

A discussion ensued relating to water sustainability which will include the latest water irrigation system including spray heads and/or rotors vs. drip irrigation or mist. Master valve will detect any breaks and automatically shut off that line.

Council Member Robles expressed concern about using the latest technology versus state requirements which may be outdated.

Mr. Morris confirmed that only the latest technology will be used complying with state requirements of water conservation. One example, the technology used will have sensors to advise the system when it is raining outside and the irrigation system will not water.

Council Member Robles reiterated his concern to only use the latest technology and asked that they include verbiage to assure that after the completion of the project Council will not be advised by outside parties that there was better technology available to conserve water.

Mr. Smith will consult with irrigation specialist and report to staff. Mr. Smith continued with the presentation.

A discussion ensued about the use of large planters and the use of a bridge to allow water to flow.

Mayor Dear asked staff who will maintain the landscaping and maintenance for the proposed curb extensions.

Planning Officer Repp-Loadsman noted that street maintenance crews will maintain the landscaping in the curb extensions.

Mr. Smith continued with presentation and discussion ensued about monuments to be installed at the entrances to the City of Carson from the East and West with lighting.

Council Member Robles requested that cameras as well as "video taping in process" signs be installed on the Carson Street Corridor to ensure public safety.

Planning Officer Repp-Loadsman recommended that cameras be addressed in a separate security plan and include other areas throughout the City; she also recommended that the Sheriff's Department be involved.

A discussion ensued about the installation of wireless remote cameras and the efforts the Sheriff's Department currently have in place throughout the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Santarina asked that the wording "City of Carson" be used opposed to "Carson." The City of Carson will separate Carson, California from Carson, Nevada.

Mr. Smith and Planning Officer Repp-Loadsman noted the use of City of Carson as an option.

(Mayor Pro Tem Santarina exited the meeting at 7:07 P.M.)

Planning Officer Repp-Loadsman noted that the improvements currently being discussed are improvements already approved by City Council in 2012.

A discussion about the new fencing requirements for the property which is owned by the Department of Water and Power/City of Los Angeles; the City of Carson is negotiating with them to lease a small portion of the property to replace the existing chain link fence with an iron fence.

(Mayor Pro Tem Santarina reentered the meeting at 7:09 P.M.)

Mr. Smith continued with the presentation for Carson Street interchange underpass options to brighten the area, seating nodes with bike racks and decorative crosswalks including locations.

Council Member Robles ask if the streets slated for crosswalk improvements were chosen based on funding; if so, what the cost would be to add improvements on additional streets to include Grace Avenue, Dolores Street and Moneta Avenue.

Mayor Dear noted any add-ons after the project has commenced would be more expensive; he instructed staff to provide all additional costs prior to final approval.

Planning Officer Repp-Loadsman stated that staff will provide Council the cost for the additional crosswalks along Carson Street.

Mr. Smith continued with the presentation and a discussion ensued regarding adding marketing logos to the site amenities.

Mayor Pro Tem Santarina would like to see more color.

Council Member Robles stated the site amenities look institutionalized and would like to see other options with color.

Mr. Smith explained that the neutral color scheme will require less maintenance by the City in future years.

Council Member Davis-Holmes advised that Council be careful not to introduce any trendy colors to the proposed earth tone color pattern because it will take away from the classic 21st Century look.

Mayor Dear agreed and asked if the proposed trash cans should be uniform throughout the city. He noted that he would like to see consistency throughout the city.

Planning Officer Repp-Loadsman stated that Carson Street will be the hub and should have its own identity.

Council Member Robles noted that he believes the flat gray colors of the site amenities are unappealing. Mr. Morris explained that the color on the presentation slides do not represent the actual color. Samples will be provided prior to going out to bid. Mr. Morris continued with the plant palette presentation portion.

Council Member Robles asked if all the plant palettes are drought tolerant.

Mr. Morris replied that all plants will be drought tolerant and continued with presentation.

A discussion ensued on which destinations should be included on the way finding signs.

Council Member Robles recommended that the signs be precise and state the specific locations in the proposed way finding signs such as Carson Community Center and City Hall.

Associate Planner Naaseh clarified the signs exiting the freeway will be generalized for visitors. However, as the visitors get closer to specific sites the signs will be sight specific in order to keep continuity.

Mr. Smith presented the new components to the project.

Council Member Davis-Holmes prefers simplicity to the custom bike racks.

Mayor Pro Tem Santarina asked if the proposed custom bike racks will accommodate more bikes than the typical bike racks.

Staff stated they are unsure about the number of bikes each rack will accommodate; they will vary based on the type of rack.

Council Member Robles stated he liked the custom bike rack idea and, if possible, make them proprietary to Carson.

Mr. Smith stated that he did not foresee any reason why the bike racks cannot be exclusive to Carson.

Mayor Jim Dear proposed that the consultant require a better material to be used on the utility box graphic wraps than neighboring cities.

A discussion ensued on the different art options on the utility box graphic wraps and identification of the utility boxes that are owned by the City.

(Council Member Robles exited the meeting at 7:53 P.M.; and reentered the meeting at 7:55 P.M.)

Mayor Dear asked whether a seating node would have been proposed in the sculpture garden if it were not for the sculpture garden.

The Mayor directed staff number each item 1 – 12 on the reference sheet provided in Council Agenda packet. Mayor and City Council unanimously approved the following items; however, if funding allocations are low, Item 5 of the project is not required:

- 1) **Custom bike racks.**
- 2) **Entry lights features at Figueroa.**
- 3) **Utility box wraps with historical photos and paint.**
- 4) **Adding 2 median public art pieces and deleting future public art locations.**
- 5) **Enhanced seating node at sculpture garden.**
- 6) **Implementation of Bike Master Plan by adding white sharrow designations (as recommended by Planning Commission).**

- 12) **City Hall landscaping and entry design including ADA access to the City Hall entrance (Option A or Option B) (Changes are a result of Carson Street and Avalon Boulevard intersection improvements).**

Mr. Smith continued with the presentation on the site and landscape modification on both Option A and Option B.

Mayor Dear asked about the crosswalk being off centered with the proposed sidewalk setback.

Mr. Smith stated that the crosswalk will be off centered slightly.

Council Member Robles stated that he is opposed to approving the plan if the crosswalk is not straight.

Planning Officer Repp-Loadsmann noted that staff will anticipate the design so that it will accommodate future plans and avoid a crooked crosswalk.

Mayor and City Council stated their opposition to any improvements that will require having an off-centered crosswalk in front of City Hall.

(Mayor Pro Tem Santarina exited the meeting at 8:05 P.M.; and reentered the meeting at 8:07 P.M.)

Mr. Smith continued with presentation.

A discussion ensued regarding ADA requirements.

Planning Officer Repp-Loadsman stated that Engineering has confirmation that the existing ramps and the entry doors in front of City Hall are not ADA compliant.

ACTION: Reference sheet Item No. 12 approved Option B on motion of Dear, seconded by Santarina and unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Robles
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Council Member Gipson

9) Avalon parkway and median landscaping including landscaping outside right of way in 2 properties, sidewalk improvements.

Mr. Morris addressed the possible locations for landscaping opportunities along North Avalon Boulevard.

Planning Officer Repp-Loadsman stated the City is requesting authorization to negotiate with the Carson Sherriff's Station and the owners of the mobile home park to acquire permission to upgrade their property in exchange they will be responsible for the maintenance.

ACTION: Reference sheet Item No. 9 approved on motion of Dear, seconded by Santarina and unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Robles
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Council Member Gipson

7) Ralph's Shopping Center and Renaissance at City Center traffic signal and reserving right to close median opening closure on Carson Street if there are future accidents

ACTION: Reference sheet Item No. 7 approved on motion of Dear, seconded by Santarina and unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Robles
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Council Member Gipson

8) Bus Shelter designs (color: smoke grey or dark red; back design: gradient punch, gradient punch with Carson, slot-square);

Mr. Smith continued with presentation regarding Bus Shelter design (color: smoke grey or dark red; back design: gradient punch, gradient punch with Carson, slot square); and a kiosk on one side with future advertisement opportunity).

Mr. Morris added the quality of the metal is a natural, polished finish, perforated laser cut allowing the opportunity to engrave "Carson" into the back panels.

A discussion ensued about sidewalk setback potentials along Carson Street and Avalon Boulevard to ensure ADA compliance.

Council Member Robles asked if the bus shelters are the property of MTA, if so, have we explored funding from MTA to pay for the bus shelter design.

Council Member Robles recommended that oppose to the word "Carson" on each bus shelter, why not allow businesses to buy the bus shelters and put their logos as a way to recoup funding.

Mayor Pro Tem Santarina stated that in lieu of "Carson" he preferred to see "City of Carson".

A discussion ensued about ownership, funding and bus shelter options.

Mayor Dear asked about the timeline for the bus shelters and if the City had time to solicit the business community.

Mr. Morris advised that the back panels of the bus shelters are interchangeable for any future program that the City adopts. However, the Mayor and Council do need to provide direction as to the color and background they prefer.

Mayor Dear requested graffiti resistant material.

ACTION: Reference sheet Item No. 8 approved Option 1 on the bus shelter with "City of Carson" on motion of Dear, seconded by Robles and carried by the following vote:

Ayes:	Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, and Council Member Robles
Noes:	None
Abstain:	Council Member Davis-Holmes
Absent:	Council Member Gipson

10) Destinations for pedestrian and auto oriented way-finding signs.

Associate Planner Naaseh continued with the presentation and stated that staff has noted Council Member Robles' concerns that the signs are precise and specific locations be included in the proposed way finding signs such as Carson Community Center and City Hall.

ACTION: Reference sheet Item No. 10 approved on motion of Dear, seconded by Santarina and unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Robles
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Council Member Gipson

11) Deletion of the fence for Carson Street interchange underpass. Approval of rock slope design and painting the underpass for Avalon and Carson underpasses;

A discussion ensued requesting additional options.

Mr. Smith presented additional options.

Mayor Dear requested the installation of lights and the underpass to be painted.

Council Member Robles asked about mural options.

A discussion ensued regarding the details of various rock options provided.

ACTION: Reference sheet Item No. 11 approved on motion of Dear, seconded by Santarina and carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, and Council Member Davis-Holmes
Noes: Council Member Robles
Abstain: None
Absent: Council Member Gipson

Planning Officer Repp-Loadsmen confirmed that staff will provide the costs for the three additional crosswalks on Dolores Street, Moneta Avenue and Grace Avenue to the Mayor and Council.

A discussion ensued about synchronized street lights to prevent heavy traffic flow on the alternate routes during the construction.

A discussion ensued regarding installation of fiber optics during construction.

Mayor Dear asked that staff consider the length of discussion required prior to re-introducing the remaining items at a Special City Council Meeting.

Council Member Davis-Holmes recommended that staff meet with Mayor and City Council individually on the remaining items to address any concerns before the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS CONSENT (Item 3)

ITEM NO. (3) CONSIDERATION TO NEGOTIATE AN EXTENSION OF THE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH PENSKE TRUCK LEASING CO., L.P. FOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR SELECTED HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS, CITY BUSES AND TRAILERS (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)

Item No. 3 was heard at 6:08 P.M.

Acting Director of Public Works/City Engineer Massoud Ghiam provided a brief summary on the staff report.

Council Member Davis-Holmes questioned the staff recommendation to extend contract until 2015.

Acting Director of Public Works/City Engineer Ghiam responded by explaining that the contract will expire mid-year and the additional time will allow staff time to request for bids during the following fiscal year. In addition, he noted that staff will seek Council's direction prior to the expiration of the contract.

At 6:13 P.M. Mayor requested that roll be called for purposes of voting.

City Clerk Gause noted the following:

Council Members Present:

Mayor Jim Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Elito Santarina, Council Member Lula Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Albert Robles

Council Members Absent:

Council Member Mike Gipson

RECOMMENDATION for the City Council:

1. AUTHORIZE staff to negotiate an extension of the maintenance agreement with Penske Truck Leasing Co., L.P. for the period April 5, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

ACTION: Item No. 3 was approved on the New Business Consent Calendar on motion of Dear, seconded by Santarina and unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Dear, Mayor Pro Tem Santarina, Council Member Davis-Holmes, and Council Member Robles
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Council Member Gipson

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 8:57 P.M. by Mayor Dear with Gipson absent.

Mayor Jim Dear

ATTEST:

City Clerk Donesia L. Gause