

Message from City Manager Tony Dahlerbruch Regarding September 25, 2018, City Council Meeting

(Post Date: 9/20/18)

One of the most distinguishing qualities of Palos Verdes Estates is our City volunteers that dedicate their time to supporting fellow residents and the public, keeping our City safe and clean, and providing a friendly environment shared and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

As such, we will continue our efforts to recognize and highlight the City's many dedicated volunteers at the City Council meeting on September 25.

Specifically, we look forward to introducing our Parkland Rangers. The Rangers are a terrific group of individuals that serve the community as supplemental support to our Police Department. This program was started three years ago and has proven to be a success for our neighborhood. They patrol the Parkland (both foot and in vehicle), identify public hazards and promote community relations. However, equally as important, the Rangers serve as "eyes and ears" of the Police Department to identify suspicious activity, report crimes in progress, and report conduct or conditions requiring intervention by officers of the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department, or the attention of Streets and Parks.

The City Council will also recognize the graduates of the 2018 Citizens Academy. This program was started three years ago, and provides an interactive and experiential behind-the-scenes view of City operations and services for residents and high school students. Over nine sessions, the class participates in activities ranging from dressing in fire fighter turnout gear and spraying a fire hose to a walk-about through parklands and historical Malaga Cove Plaza. The September 25th City Council meeting will mark the graduation of the class.

After the ceremonial activities, the City Council's business meeting includes a full Consent Agenda as well as Old Business and New Business matters. Two highlights on the Consent Agenda of community significance will be review and approval of the Parklands Committee and staff recommendation for landscaping the triangle at Palos Verdes Drive North and Palos Verdes Drive West, and the appropriation of COPS funds (a State grant for supplemental police operations) for disaster preparedness.

Landscaping the triangle is a high priority for the City. Since State law prohibits watering the former turf on the median, and budget constraints have delayed landscaping improvements, this City gateway has become an eyesore over the years. With the City's positive fiscal position, the City Council approved \$20,000 for this fiscal year to complete the landscaping improvements as soon as possible. The City's goal is to complete the landscaping by the end of October. The new landscape is intended to be in place until a comprehensive traffic study is completed for this busy intersection.

Disaster preparedness continues to be a very high priority of the City. Plans, training and procedures must be enhanced, developed and implemented for the City's response and recovery. The use of the COPS grant funds will provide much needed resources to further this important initiative.

As "Old Business," the City Council will again discuss funding and commencement of the lower Paseo Del Sol Turnaround project, and consider the exchange of Southern California Edison (SCE) "Rule 20A" credits, which have no foreseeable use for the City, for General Funds offered by the City of Rolling Hills. Rolling Hills has offered \$0.60 for every \$1.00 credit, and Rolling Hills is willing to accept \$1 million in Palos Verdes Estates credit. The General Funds we receive, if the exchange is approved by the City Council, can be used in any general-purpose manner. As "one-time" revenue, it could be used, for example, toward reducing the City's unfunded pension liability or an infrastructure project.

As "New Business," the City Council will discuss maintenance of Mirlo Gate Tower House that is being vacated by the caretaker this month. In addition, since the franchise agreement with Athens Services expires in 2019, the City Council will consider a three-year extension.

Finally, the City Council will conduct two public hearings. One is an appeal of the Planning Commission decision for a fence at 2801 Via Segovia. The other is the introduction of an ordinance for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). State law mandates the City allow for ADUs; in turn, the ordinance being introduced tailors the requirement in a manner sensitive and responsive to the City character.

The meeting looks to have much in store of public interest and we hope residents will watch or attend the meeting.

P.S., prior to the Regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., the City Council will be in public session to conduct interviews and decide on applicants to fill the two vacancies on the Investment Policy Advisory Committee. We will meet in non-public Closed Session to discuss employee labor negotiations with the Police Officers Association and the Public Service Employee bargaining groups. The pre-meetings will begin at 5:00 p.m.