

City Manager's Meeting Summary for January 9th City Council Meeting

(Post Date: January 10, 2019)

The City Council meeting on January 9, 2019, started with the delightful introduction of the Montemalaga School Student Council who led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was a warm and friendly introduction of four young future leaders who are already making a difference in our community. We want to thank their families, the school Principal and the PTA president who were additionally with us at the meeting.

The City Council also honored the memory of Gregory Sarmanian. Mr. Sarmanian, a Palos Verdes Estates resident who passed away on December 24, 2018, served in WWII at the Battle of the Bulge where he earned a Distinguished Service Cross, our Nation's second highest military decoration for valor. We were joined by his family at the meeting for the recognition.

The Assistant Fire Chief followed with remarks about our current and future efforts to address the potential of fires. He recognized that in the wake of the Woolsey fire, residents and the public who walk local trails in parklands see dead trees and shrubs and in turn, have expressed concern to the Fire Department and City staff. The Chief noted that dead trees and shrubs in open space does not increase the likelihood of wild fires; however, for the protection of lives and property (structures), clearance around structures is necessary. In reference to these remarks, it was stated that in early March, the City with the Fire Department will host a town hall meeting for educating residents about the things they can do in and around their homes for fire safety, to address evacuations, and explain preparation and prevention strategies among other topics. When the date, time and location of the meeting is determined, the information will be posted on the City's website and transmitted through media channels. Finally, the Chief noted that the Fire Department is working with the City to enhance brush clearance in some parkland areas, and he highlighted the updated webpage on the City's website. The new webpage has a lot of valuable information for residents, especially the "Ready, Set, Go" Guide. The webpage can be found here.

Thereafter, the City Council proceed with its business as listed on the agenda.

Of note, the City Council rescheduled its action regarding the settlement of the Parklands lawsuit, listed on the agenda as #17 "Consider Proposed Settlement Ending Lawsuit Entitled Citizens for Enforcement of Parklands Covenants and John Harbison V. City of Palos Verdes Estates, Et Al. and Resolving Dispute over 2012 Agreement Among PVPUSD, PVHA, City & Luglianis. The Proposed Settlement would affect the City's Bluff Cove Properties (Located at 1009, 1015, 1017, 1101, 1105, 1117, and 1121 Palos Verdes Drive West) and property adjacent to 900 Via Panorama". To address this in a timely manner and based on calendaring challenges, the proposed settlement to resolve the lawsuit was continued to January 11, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. In explaining the short delay in schedule, it was noted that following a negotiated and mediated settlement, the City Council is ready to take action on this matter. While the City has been advised that the other parties have agreed to the terms, there were some last minute questions that have to be resolved that necessitated the continuance. Notice of this item on this agenda was sent to properties within 500-feet of 900 Via Panorama and the Bluff Cove properties, posted on both properties, on the posted and e-blasted agenda, included in the City Manager's pre-meeting summary on the City website and e-blasted and circulated by other parties. The notice boards are being updated to reflect continuance of the item January 11th, the City Manager's post-meeting summary

herein obviously includes this information, and the public in attendance at the meeting was advised of the continued meeting date, time and location.

In reference to the City Council's goals and continual efforts to enhance public engagement, access to information, connection to government, and transparency, OpenGov (for financial transparency) and Questys (for document retrieval) were presented at this meeting. In the presentation, staff noted their simultaneous benefit to the City organization; they provide the public with direct and immediate access to information which saves time and money in responding to public records requests. OpenGov can be accessed [here](#) and Questys can be accessed [here](#). They will both be continually updated with new data and documents. We hope you find them useful and beneficial.

Finally, also in support of the City Council's additional goal of enhancing public engagement and in partnership with the Davenport Institute, our new Public Engagement Toolbox was presented. Going forward, the toolbox is an internal guide to assess and establish the appropriate means and methods – based on the availability of staff and the budget – for informing, consulting and collaborating with the public on matters to be addressed by the City Council. We are very appreciative of the Davenport Institute for its guidance and insight on this important value of public participation in local government. The staff report and Public Engagement Toolbox can be viewed [here](#).

The City Council meeting was approximately two hours. For a full explanation of OpenGov, Questys and the Public Engagement Toolbox, the video can be watched [here](#).

Thank you, Tony