

As we head toward the Thanksgiving holiday, we have much to be thankful for. The quote of the night by the Mayor, concluding the meeting, was “Hug your family; there have been lots of losses this week.”

Coincidental with the devastating fires in the State, the City Council meeting started with a presentation by our NART (Neighborhood Amateur Radio Team) volunteers for communications for a disaster response, and approval of grant funding for an emergency callback system for the City to connect with residents in an emergency situation. It was also expressed that the City’s thoughts are with the communities and residents of Paradise, Malibu, Calabasas and others that have been so directly impacted by the fire.

The City Council meeting primarily consisted of 4 discussion items.

The first discussion item was about maintaining the Mirlo Gate Tower House recently vacated by the City’s caretaker of 30+ years. This is a historical structure since the founding of the City that serves as the gateway ingress and egress of the City. A private group along with the Palos Verdes Homes Association has applied to the State and Federal Government to designate the structure as a historic landmark; the City Council supports the application and will be sending a corresponding letter. The local Palos Verdes Historical Society has already designated it as a historic structure. For preserving and maintaining it, the City Council also directed that a new caretaker be selected.

The second discussion item was the Palos Verdes Golf Club, one of several jewels of the community that serves as a wonderful recreation, social, dining, and special event venue for residents and the public. With approval of the Club’s budget requests and following a detailed presentation of the Club’s capital investments that are planned to upgrade and refresh the facility, the City Council discussed a contract extension for the concession. The Club is seeking 14 more years beyond the remaining 6 years in their agreement. Based on the Club’s commitment to improving the facility, notably including improvements for the disabled, the City Council directed that an extension be on the December 11, 2018 agenda for consideration.

Much discussion then ensued for one of the other recreational venues and concession operations in the City, the Palos Verdes Stable. In early September, the City made it known that it was interested in receiving concessionaire proposals for operating the Stable. Like the other concessions, the City intends that the Stable serve the public interest, provide services in recognition of being a community-wide asset, not cost the City money, and not serve one particular constituency. Two proposals have been received. The City Council’s discussion focused on how to evaluate them. Following interviews and a background check, both proposers will be asked to make a presentation to the City Council on November 27, 2018. Following the November 27 meeting, negotiations will begin for selecting a concessionaire.

Finally, in recognition of serving in the public and community interest, the City Council concluded that the upcoming Finance Advisory Committee meeting on November 29, 2018 should be held in the City Hall Council Chambers where residents have historically expected City meetings and the meeting should be live-streamed on the City’s website for real-time transparency of City activities and consistent with the other City committees. To support the Finance Advisory Committee’s request for a more conducive working space and dialogue, the meeting will be around tables below the dais so everyone (Committee members, staff, and public) are on the same level and there is tabletop to spread-out materials.

There were many other important matters addressed by the City Council on the Consent Agenda and with the presentation of the Quarterly Investment Report. We invite you to watch the video that can be found [here](#).

Thank you for reading this summary, and please don't hesitate to call the City if you have questions about an item on the agenda.

Sincerely,

Tony