

City Manager's Post Meeting Summary for January 22, 2019

(Posted 1/23/2019)

The City Council meeting on January 22, 2019 started at 7:30 p.m. and concluded a little before 11:00 p.m.; the 3+ hour meeting can be viewed [here](#). During the meeting, the City Council covered a lot of business and calendared several topics for future meeting agendas. To be scheduled for an upcoming agenda will be the following three topics; please sign-up to receive City Council agendas [here](#) and to be notified when these and all other matters will be considered by the City Council. The three future agenda topics are:

Room Use Policy for the City Council Chambers

Legislative update on cell pole siting and City process for cell site applications

Discussion of specific ideas and solutions (listed in this staff report) for improving the Neighborhood Compatibility review and process

All items on the Consent Agenda were approved. On the Consent Agenda, the Special Event Permit for the annual Little League Parades was noted for requesting the Little League organization to provide in-kind community service to the City in lieu of the special event fee. Also on the Consent Agenda, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the July 2018 through January 2020 compensation for members of the Police Officers Association (POA) was discussed in detail. The oral staff report at the meeting explained the many factors that were relevant to the proposed agreement that primarily provides a 4% salary adjustment effective in February 2019. They included the following points:

In 2017 and 2018, the Police Department employees received no cost-of-living increase (COLA) or salary adjustment while in 2017 the staff agreed to pay 4% of pension costs, effectively reducing their take-home pay.

The annual consumer price index (CPI) is currently over 3%. In 2014, 2015 and 2016, the Police Department staff received a net COLA of 2.25%, 1.25% and 0.25%, respectively. As such, salaries over the past several years have not been consistent with the CPI.

Recruiting and retaining quality police personnel is extremely difficult for the City. There are vacancies and competition for police officers with Police Departments in the South Bay, as well as the Sheriff's Department.

In comparison to other agencies, Palos Verdes Estates police are paid less; a comparison chart on the City's website [here](#) was displayed to illustrate this point.

The full impact of the agreement is an annual cost to the City of the agreement is \$137,436.

The staff report and agreement as published for the City Council meeting can be viewed [here](#).

The City Council agenda included two Public Hearings. As such, the appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of a development application for 421 Via Media was continued to February 12th. The appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of a development application for 629 Via Del Monte was remanded back to the Planning Commission for further deliberation primarily for consideration of the size of the proposed home.

The City Council had three discussion topics as New Business.

The first focused on the City's role in regards to approving and enforcing landscape plans corresponding to development (Neighborhood Compatibility) applications being considered by the Planning Commission. The independent and separate role of the Palos Verdes Homes Association (PVHA) was highlighted as being involved in the process. In conclusion, and recognizing that the City Council and PVHA will be meeting in the near future, it was decided to have this topic on the agenda for the joint meeting of both agencies.

The second topic of discussion was about creating a policy in regards to the use of pesticides. In the conversation, staff noted that the City's existing agreement for contract landscape maintenance will soon be put out for bid. In summary, it was concluded that the bid document would request contractors to submit pricing for typical use of pesticides and for use of non-toxic pesticides and mechanical means to address pest control so a decision based on cost and location of use may be considered in awarding the contract. In the meantime, City staff will be conducting additional research on best practices.

The third discussion was about the ideas and solutions identified at the December 2018 joint meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission for improving the Neighborhood Compatibility review and application process. Recognizing the numerous and variety of thoughts that resulted from the joint meeting, the City Council decided it would meet in a special meeting (date and time to be determined) to talk and formulate specific direction and decisions for moving forward.

Finally, the City Council received a presentation from the City Treasurer on the Quarterly Report of Cash and Investments.

In conclusion, one of the items on the Consent Agenda to "receive and file" was a preliminary calendar of 2019 City meetings that can be viewed [here](#). The next City Council meeting is calendared on February 12, 2019.

Sincerely,

Tony