City of Manhattan Beach

1400 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach, CA 90266



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 6:00 PM

Adjourned Regular Meeting

City Council Chambers

City Council

Mayor Amy Howorth
Mayor Pro Tem Wayne Powell
Councilmember Mark Burton
Councilmember Tony D'Errico
Councilmember David J. Lesser

A. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Steve De Baets led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Howorth, Mayor Pro Tem Powell, Councilmember Burton,
Councilmember D'Errico and Councilmember Lesser

C. CERTIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA POSTING

City Clerk Liza Tamura confirmed that the meeting was properly posted.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND WAIVER OF FULL READING OF ORDINANCES

Interim City Manager John Jalili asked to move the Sepulveda Bridge matter (Item G4) to the first item on the agenda because the Traffic Engineer needs to leave at 6:30 PM. Additionally, he requested that Council hear the matter regarding the Strand Stairs (Item G6) after Item G4, because consultants are in attendance for the item.

Mayor Howorth clarified that if discussions regarding Item G4 have not been concluded; the item will be tabled and heard later in the evening.

Councilmember Burton said that he has no objection to hearing the presentation, but there are a number of residents who would like to speak on this item who may not be here yet as the matter was scheduled later on the agenda and he would like to give them the opportunity to do so.

A motion was made by Mayor Howorth to approve the agenda as amended above and waive full reading of ordinances.

Councilmember Lesser suggested the option of hearing the matter after 9:30 PM so that residents in attendance can hear his presentation.

Mayor Howorth withdrew her motion and noted that Item G4 will be heard later in the evening when staff and residents are present to hear the matter and that Item G6 will be heard first.

Mayor Howorth ordered approval of the agenda, as amended and waived full reading of ordinances.

E. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS

Viet Ngo commented on an upcoming election in June, 2014 for State Senator, 26th District and encouraged those interested in running to apply before the deadline.

Kathleen Terry announced an upcoming project sponsored by the Manhattan Beach Rotary Club, Stop Hunger Now, on March 29, 2014 at one of the City's elementary schools. More information will be available in the near future and reported that they will be packaging food that will go to families in need. She added that high school students and the public are invited to attend.

Councilmember Burton reported that Matt Williams lost his daughter, Lilly, last year. He stated that Mr. Williams is sponsoring a team called Red Shoes for Lilly for the Torrance Relay for Life and his goal is to raise \$1,000. He encouraged the City family to contribute through the Relay for Life website.

F. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Viet Ngo commented on Mayor Howorth's run for State Senator and Mayor Howorth noted there will be no electioneering in Council Chambers.

Mr. Ngo requested that Mayor Howorth resign as Mayor for the City of Manhattan Beach and stop using public resources for her campaign. Additionally, he commented on Councilmember Burton's offer to transport him to the FBI or District Attorney's office and extended his invitation to Council and staff to go with him to answer to allegations of racketeering.

Mayor Howorth reported she has inquired and does not believe that she is legally bound to resign as Mayor.

Councilmember Burton reported that the U.S. Attorney is a former client of his and stated that he would be happy to arrange transportation for Mr. Ngo to speak with him.

Michelle Remish stated she is glad that the Cultural Arts Department is reconsidering its decision to drop Shakespeare by the Sea and commented positively on the group and plays and noted that it is funded mainly, by private contributions and sponsorships with a small cost to the City. She urged City Council to support the effort and bring back the shows that so many people enjoy.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

Item G6 was heard at this juncture.

6. The Strand Stairs Rehabilitation Project - Project Update and Aesthetic Treatments of Retaining Walls (Public Works Director Olmos).

14-0078

RECEIVE REPORT AND PROVIDE DIRECTION

Public Works Director Tony Olmos presented details of the staff report addressing previous meetings regarding the matter, scope of work, steps taken so far, steps going forward, wall-treatment ideas, design concepts, potential and existing conditions, wall option, project costs and schedules.

Councilmember D'Errico asked regarding the range of costs and schedules and commented on not being able to use Federal funds for aesthetic work.

Public Works Director Olmos clarified that Federal funds allow for minor improvements to the retaining walls and patchwork as well as replacing railings as needed. Staff will incorporate some of the repairs into this project and Public Works Director Olmos added that final costs will be determined when the final designs are chosen. He reported that the costs of adding street identification are not high and they could be worked into the original contract to be covered by Federal funds.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked regarding use of anti-graffiti coating and noted there is no funding for this project in the CIP.

Public Works Director Olmos reported that anti-graffiti coating will be used and that it makes it easy to remove graffiti. Costs for the anti-graffiti coating is approximately \$5,000 per location. He added that staff is willing to commit the un-appropriated funds within the Arts in Public Places Fund for this project which includes approximately \$90,000 and presented various options for City Council's consideration regarding funding. He reported that if City Council desires, staff can include the appropriation of design fees and begin the design process.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell stated that the Arts in Public Places Fund does not include taxpayer dollars as opposed to CIP funds.

Councilmember Lesser noted there is presently no funding for the additional treatments and asked regarding prospective funding sources.

Public Works Director Olmos responded they include the Arts in Public Places Fund and the CIP.

In reply to Mayor Howorth's inquiry, it was noted that the Arts in Public Places Fund is comprised of contributions from contractors. Additionally, she asked regarding Shakespeare by the Sea and it was noted that is funded by another source. Mayor Howorth noted that some of the design treatments may be covered but there may be a need for additional funding of approximately \$30,000.

Public Works Director Olmos reported that depending on the amount, there may be enough funds in the CIP Fund to cover those costs.

Mayor Howorth opened the floor for public comment.

Viet Ngo commented on the amount of Federal funds available for this project and cautioned that anyone who misappropriates that fund without authority of the Federal agency will be prosecuted under the Racketeering Act and for theft and bribery. He commented on a possible conflict of interest and asked that Mayor Pro Tem Powell

abstain from voting on this matter.

Mayor Howorth confirmed with City Manager Jalili that this project qualifies for Federal funding.

Jim O'Callahan, Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce, asked that Mr. Ngo not be allowed to defame him without proof.

Justin Bycheck commented positively on the project and indicated his preference for the sandblasted wave or whale designs. He asked that City Council give careful consideration to the phasing so that not too many stairs are out at a time.

Mayor Howorth closed public comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented on the two separate and distinct projects, funding and the City's work on the retaining walls. He explained the differences between the CIP and the Arts in Public Places Fund and stated, for the record, that he has nothing to do with the latter, regardless of what the speaker stated. He reported his preference for design of the dolphins, whales and one of the wave designs and stated he likes the Rosecrans proposal but does not like the small waves on the right side of the example presented.

Mayor Howorth stated that City Council is not choosing the specific design at this point but rather whether to choose the sandblast, relief or plain treatments.

Public Works Director Olmos stated that a decision regarding the specific design would be helpful to staff.

Councilmember Lesser preferred to keep it simple noting that the beauty is in the beach. He indicated support for simplicity and that no matter what City Council chooses the ocean should speak for itself. He added that he prefers the sandblasting and the wave design including the street names. Additionally, he likes the potential condition photo on 18th street in the presentation and wants to support it as artistic enhancement. He indicated his support for exploring additional funding sources.

Councilmember D'Errico expressed concerns regarding the scheduling and Public Works Director Olmos noted that it will be phased so that access to the beach is still provided.

Public Works Director Olmos added that the sequence of work will be listed in the specifications.

Councilmember D'Errico agreed that simple is better and indicated his preference for sandblasting and the wave design including the street names.

Councilmember Burton agreed with funding from the Arts in Public Places Fund and with using a simple design. He commented on the design used in El Porto and preferred a smaller wave with the sandblasted treatment and including street names that are small. Additionally, he would like to see both projects done together.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell stated he would like to see street names included and commented on the El Porto design. Additionally, he stated preference for the rough surface as opposed to a flat canvas.

Public Works Director Olmos reported that whatever treatment is used, it will still have anti-graffiti coating.

Mayor Howorth noted there is consensus to use the Arts in Public Places Fund as it is available, sandblasting and including the street names. Additional discussion can be had regarding the size of the design but Mayor Howorth reported she likes the design, as presented. She prefers using the wave design throughout but likes the large wave rather than the small waves to keep them proportional.

Councilmember Burton would support the large wave, but not too large.

Mayor Howorth stated she likes the 18th Street design.

In response to Councilmember Lesser's inquiry, Public Works Director Olmos stated that City Council direction is needed regarding the appropriation of \$25,000 for design fees from a specified source so that the schedules for the two (2) projects can be merged. The final design will be submitted to the City Manager and the matter will return to City Council when the project is ready to be advertised for construction.

Discussion followed regarding including the costs of adding a wave design on the side of the stairs and providing renderings with and without a design.

A motion was made by Councilmember D'Errico, seconded by Councilmember Lesser, to direct staff to appropriate \$25,000 from the Arts in Public Places Fund for the design work, use the sandblasting treatment, use the wave on 18th Street as the design, provide options for size of the design, include financial options for a wave design on the side of the stairs and include street names. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Howorth, Powell, Burton, D'Errico and Lesser

1. Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Mid-Year Budget Review (Finance Director Moe).

14-0070

RECEIVE REPORT; APPROPRIATE

Finance Director Bruce Moe provided a PowerPoint presentation addressing the methodology used, mid-year trends and results, property tax, real estate transfer tax, sales tax, transient occupancy tax (TOT), building permit/plan check, business license tax, interest income and other revenues of interest. Additionally, he presented General Fund expenditures and noted that detailed expenditures by Department have been distributed to City Council under separate cover and have been made available to the public. He addressed salaries and wages, employee benefits, contract/professional services, other funds and mid-year budget adjustments including Police/Fire refunding, water/waste water/Metlox and the City Manager's budget as well as steps moving forward. He listed upcoming budget study sessions and presented recommended actions.

In response to Councilmember Lesser's inquiry regarding PERS, the impact of paying off the bond and how it may offset expenditures, Finance Director Moe reported pension obligation bonds were issued in 2007 and will be paid off in 2014/2015. The impact will be \$1 million less of debt service for the pension obligation bonds and one year later, followed by an incremental increase in pension costs that after five years will equate to \$1.7 million per year.

Councilmember Lesser suggested including that information in the next presentation.

In reply to Councilmember Lesser's question regarding CPI and business licenses, Finance Director Moe reported that in the past, when discussing business licenses, City Council has considered how, if changed, voter approval will be necessary if, even one business license holder ends up paying more.

Interim City Manager John Jalili reported that the appropriate forum to discuss the issue of business licenses would be in a study session to review the current system.

Finance Director Moe addressed Councilmember Lesser's question regarding achieving greater efficiencies noting that identifying efficiencies is a year-round process and that staff looks for improvements on an on-going basis.

Councilmember D'Errico commented on the major increases in revenue including property tax, the transient occupancy tax and the use of property money noting that it has nothing to do with efforts by the City but rather improvements in the economy. He expressed concerns regarding the sales and use tax in terms of an economic-development point of view and stated he would like to see how the 2013 sales and use tax compares with the 2014 sales and use tax. In terms of the expense side, he stated that the amount of savings is a result of not being able to fill vacant positions.

Finance Director Moe commented on naturally occurring vacancies no matter how many new positions are approved and that the City may have twenty to thirty vacancies at any one time. He pointed out that how the City performs to budget does not include trends but rather the performance of the prior year.

Interim City Manager Jalili added that with respect to the revenue side of the equation, to say that the City has done nothing, is an underestimation and that the City is a very desirable place because of City Council policies rather than accidentally.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell complimented staff for developing a conservative budget. He commented on the sales tax, referenced DeWitt and asked regarding the related percentage of sales tax.

Finance Director Moe noted limitations to the information he is able to provide but that the sales tax ebbs and flows like the price of gasoline.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked regarding how much can be transferred into the CIP and Finance Director Moe responded that details of the CIP will be presented later and that staff has updated the forecast for the next five (5) years going forward. He added that a forecast for 2015 through 2018 is not yet available but will be presented later with additional budget discussions.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented on timing differences such as seasonality and the "triple-flip" as well as the consideration of downtown business and Interim City Manager Jalili responded that it could be considered as part of the mid-year review because staff is currently appropriating funds and will require an appropriation for downtown businesses. He addressed issues that need to be resolved regarding the downtown area.

Finance Director Moe reported that Director of Community Development Richard Thompson has included downtown in the Contract Services Budget for 2014/2015.

Mayor Howorth clarified that the downtown specific plan can also handle the aesthetic plan and verified that Mayor Pro Tem Powell inquiry as to whether parts can be covered by the CIP.

Councilmember Burton stated he would like to move to proceed with an RFP for the Downtown Specific Plan noting that there is a sense of urgency and that City Council should allocate some money and go out for an RPF for a consultant. He thanked Finance Director Moe and his staff for its efforts and expressed concerns about the long view including PERS and reported he views the mid-year budget review as an opportunity to do a better job and review a different approach. He commented on labor contracts being due in the near future and suggested establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to begin looking at those negotiations.

Interim City Manager Jalili noted that is exactly the reason that City Council has a policy of not generating expenditure plans for the surplus.

Councilmember Burton stated there are always more opportunities for savings and efficiencies.

Councilmember Lesser commented on the surplus going into the CIP budget and Finance Director Moe stated that it does not occur automatically noting that it would return to City Council for consideration and approval.

Mayor Howorth opened the floor for public comments.

Bill Victor complemented Finance Director Moe and his staff and reported that the only way to offset costs is to add charges to taxpayers and felt there is another way. He commented on compensation payments and specifically to the Fire Department adding that the City should be reimbursed for those expenses. He stressed the need for the City to watch its expenses.

Fire Chief Robert Espinosa reported that the City gets reimbursed for three accounts:

one is with the City of Hermosa Beach were the Fire Department invoices them for direct costs, one with studios for standby for filming, and for deployments such as for a fire

Steve Packwood commended the Finance Department for its efforts and stated he would like to ensure that as the City moves forward with a building replacement process the reserves are maintained to cover any surprises in the future.

Viet Ngo asked regarding City Treasurer Tim Lilligren noting that he has not appeared before City Council in a long time to provide a report on the City's Finances. He addressed his compensation and alleged it is a misappropriation of public funds. He commented on the TOT, Metlox LLC and business license tax noting that Metlox has not paid business license taxes for several years. He stated the matter should go to the FBI for prosecution.

Mayor Howorth noted that anyone can go to the FBI.

Councilmember Lesser reported that nothing but hateful comments have been made by one speaker. He stated he is troubled because the speaker spews out inaccuracies and that he is not interested in educating himself regarding the truth. He added that the speaker is not only spreading inaccuracies about City Council and staff, but also private citizens.

Jim O'Callaghan, Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce, agreed with Councilmember Lesser's statement that there should be a review of the business license tax. He commented positively on developing a Specific Plan for the downtown area as well as on the sales tax projected loss and stated that it may be a symptom of the need for a larger development plan rather than just the downtown area.

Mark Neumann commended Finance Director Moe and his staff for the presentation. He requested information regarding the effect on the budget from the downturn in sales from the Manhattan Village Shopping Center during its construction noting that sales could decrease 40% to 50% when there is no parking in the Center. He commented on a related study by Larry Kosmont indicating only increases in sales and did not address potential losses in revenue during construction. Additionally, he inquired regarding hiring a consultant when the City has experienced and qualified staff such as Finance Director Moe. He wondered why the City opted for a parking lot at a site where is could have developed a hotel for additional TOT.

Lolli Ramazani commented on a position in the City of Torrance, Business
Development Manager, whose role is to help develop local businesses. She added that there is no equivalent position in the City and suggested City Council consider the matter in the future.

Steve De Baets suggested including a City-wide Traffic Study in the CIP. He added that improvement is needed in signal synchronization and addressed the benefits of having same.

Mayor Howorth noted this matter concerns the mid-year budget review and not the CIP.

Mayor Howorth closed public comments.

Councilmember Burton commented on City Council's responsibilities in terms of looking for efficiencies and reprogramming if there is a critical need. He noted that

surrounding cities are building hotels and have economic development capacity but that Manhattan Beach does not. He suggested adding a position, in the future, for an economic development analyst and stated there is a critical need for a Downtown Specific Plan including North Manhattan Beach, El Porto and the Sepulveda corridor. Additionally he addressed the importance of keeping the long-view in mind in terms of unfunded pensions and being aware of storm-water issues.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell stated his agreement noting that he would prioritize the order for the Downtown Specific Plan including the Rosecrans corridor. He agreed with having staff look for additional efficiencies and on having a long view and addressed storm-water permits, pensions and the Sepulveda corridor.

Councilmember Lesser addressed the City's economic development program noting that City Council has a duty to define what economic development is, what are the City's priorities and what City Council would like staff to do. Regarding the allocation of money for a specific plan, he agreed with setting aside money but stated the need to better define its scope and indicated he would like to discuss it further as an agendized item. He commented on PERS and agreed with the need for workshops to address the matter. Additionally, he did not support forming an Ad Hoc Committee to discuss labor negotiations but thought it should be addressed by City Council, as a whole.

Councilmember D'Errico agreed with previous comments regarding looking at the long view for unfunded pensions and the impact of storm-water. He would like to discuss economic development and have it fall under the Community Development Department adding that most surrounding cities have hired specific people to do economic outreach. He expressed concerns with sales tax being flat and that the downtown area has closed twenty (20) stores in the last two years. Additionally, he noted his support for a City-side business plan in terms of how the City will approach economic development.

Mayor Howorth acknowledged the importance of pensions and storm-water but stated it should be addressed with general budget discussions. She addressed the importance of planning for the future and the downtown specific plan. She noted that City Council has been discussing downtown for a long time but that City Council is not ready to do so at this time. However, she reported that it is a critical issue that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. Additionally, she stated that she wants a specific plan to be put in motion with an RFP for a Downtown Specific Plan, have consultants come in and advise City Council how long the process will be and actions that can be taken right away.

Interim City Manager Jalili commented on two parts of the planning process for downtown including the appropriation of funds and making a determination as to what will be in the RFP. He addressed the tremendous potential downtown and that there are issues as far as to how City Council would like to approach the matter.

Councilmember Burton asked how long it will take to develop the scope of work for the RFP and Interim City Manager Jalili reported he needs to meet with Planning staff to identify the critical issues but that staff will do its best to develop a timeline. He added that the Community Development Director has dedicated \$100,000 for a Downtown Specific Plan.

Councilmember Burton clarified his comments to Councilmember Lesser.

A motion was made by Councilmember Burton, seconded by Councilmember Lesser to direct the City Manager to prepare an RFP for consultant services to develop a specific plan for Downtown Manhattan Beach, North Manhattan Beach, El Porto and the Sepulveda and Rosecrans corridors, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 and further direct the City Manager to designate what funds those General funds will come from.

City Council continued discussion before the vote.

Interim City Manager Jalili reported that there is an insufficient amount of money if all of the corridors are included.

Councilmember Burton noted this is only for this fiscal year and that additional funds can be appropriate during the upcoming fiscal year.

Interim City Manager Jalili reported that it would be very difficult to combine the work and noted the need for setting priorities.

Councilmember Burton acknowledged that the project will need to be phased. He added that the focus and first priority should be downtown.

Councilmember Lesser indicated wanting a presentation regarding options in terms of the scope and would like to understand the pros and cons while understanding the sense of urgency.

Councilmember Burton amended the motion to include the specific plan for Downtown and develop an RFP for the next fiscal year, for the other areas. Councilmember Lesser agreed as long as it includes staff returning with reports on the specific RFPs. The motion was restated accordingly.

An amended motion was made by Councilmember Burton, seconded by Councilmember Lesser to direct the City Manager to prepare an RFP for consultant services to develop a specific plan for Downtown Manhattan Beach and subsequent RFPs in the next fiscal year for North Manhattan Beach, El Porto and the Sepulveda and Rosecrans corridors, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 and further direct the City Manager to designate what funds those General funds will come from and directing staff to return with reports regarding subsequent RFPs.

City Council discussion continued.

Councilmember D'Errico requested clarification regarding the scope of work in terms of asking staff to give City Council a status of what is happening downtown and what stakeholders are being impacted and how as well as the options that City Council can take to fix those things and that it needs to be done soon.

Councilmember Burton agreed that there is a sense of urgency and as well as a vision of what the future will be.

Mayor Howorth stated that would be part of the value that would be added with a specific plan.

Interim City Manager Jalili affirmed those are the types of items that would be included. He added there is an economic component to the plan as well as a review of the changes that have taken place and the market potential.

Councilmember Lesser noted that Councilmember D'Errico is looking to have the problem defined.

An amended motion was made by Councilmember Burton, seconded by Councilmember Lesser to direct the City Manager to prepare an RFP for consultant services to develop a specific plan for Downtown Manhattan Beach and subsequent RFPs in the next fiscal year for North Manhattan Beach, El Porto and the Sepulveda and Rosecrans corridors, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 and further direct the City Manager to designate what funds those General funds will come from and directing staff to return with reports regarding subsequent RFPs. The motion carried by thefollowing vote:

Aye: 5 - Howorth, Powell, Burton, D'Errico and Lesser

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Powell, seconded by Councilmember Lesser to receive and file the mid-year report for fiscal year 2013/2014 and appropriate \$50,000 from available, unreserved General Fund monies and approve the budget adjustments to the general/water waste/water, parking and CIP funds. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Howorth, Powell, Burton, D'Errico and Lesser

At 8:23 PM the City Council recessed and reconvened at 8:38 PM with all Councilmembers present.

 Award of Contract to Harris and Associates for an Amount Not to Exceed \$52,700 for Preliminary Analyses and Polling for Updated Storm Water Fees, and Street Lighting and Landscaping District Assessments (Finance Director Moe). CON 14-0086

AWARD CONTRACT; APPROPRIATE

Finance Director Bruce Moe provided a PowerPoint presentation addressing a description of the item, background, storm water/street lighting subsidy impacts, storm water, storm water costs, storm water substantive procedural requirement, street lighting landscaping district (SLLD), SLLD funding, substantive procedural requirements, requests for proposal, selection of firm and recommendations.

Councilmember Lesser commented on the amount likely needed for storm water and Finance Director Moe reported that it will depend on the timing and staff may need to return to City Council to increase user fees once the costs have been identified. He added that they should be identified within the next two years.

Councilmember Lesser asked regarding the timing, given that the City's obligation under the storm water fee is not yet known.

Dennis Klinghoffer, consultant, Harris and Associates, addressed ways for handling additional fees going through the process. He added that the initial phase will address how a fee may be developed and commented on MS4 permits noting that the cost of compliance goes up and there are ways to build those increases into the fee structure. He addressed how fees will meet the legal Proposition 218 requirements in terms of how the cost is spread to the different parcels within the City.

Councilmember Lesser expressed concerns with having residents approve a blank check and noted the need for specificity.

Mr. Klinghoffer acknowledged the need for specificity, ultimately going through the 218 process and telling property owners what the maximum fee could be. He presented options for applying the fee and reported that they use the best estimate of what future fees will be.

In reply to Councilmember Lesser's inquiry regarding the possibility of taking money from other funds or reducing other expenditures, Finance Director Moe reported that storm water was established as an enterprise with its own fund recover. He addressed the effect of taking money from other funds on services such as Police and Fire. When money is taken from the CIP, it will reduce capacity for other projects and Finance Director Moe reported that enterprise funds are to reflect the costs from the specific operation.

Interim City Manager Jalili noted that the CIP is "one-time" money and that these expenditures will be on-going.

Discussion followed regarding other tools for raising funds, other than Proposition 218. It was noted that raising funds by raising taxes will require voter approval and will have user fees. Ensuing discussion pertained to best practices in terms of reaching out to the public.

Mr. Klinghoffer reported that the proposed process is similar to what is used on other agencies where information is provided regarding structure and costs after analysis regarding what the costs are and how they will be equitably spread among parcels.

In response to Councilmember Burton's inquiry, Finance Director Moe explained the utility user tax and reported that Manhattan Beach is one of the few cities that do not assess one. They include a percentage of the utility bill (electric, gas, cable and water) and certain groups may be exempted (i.e. seniors). If City Council desires, staff can return with additional information regarding user tax and TOT. He added that staff could include it as part of the contract.

Interim City Manager Jalili commented on his experience with utility user tax.

Councilmember Burton expressed concerns with storm water fees and asked that the matter be addressed in the future.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented on the possibility of an escalator clause to allow for increased costs and asked regarding fees exceeding property-related services when the fees are unknown.

Mr. Klinghoffer reported that a budget is prepared, based on projected costs but revenue cannot exceed the projected cost. Based on the expectation that costs will increase, inflators can be built in to match the costs as long as it can be justified and documented.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell added that if costs decrease the fee will decrease as well and Mr. Klinghoffer responded affirmatively. It was noted that a sunset clause can also be built into the contract and can be addressed as part of the outreach and the polling process.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell noted that this firm did the utility undergrounding assessment analysis and asked if they will be utilized for Districts 12 and 14.

Finance Director Moe reported it has been several years since the City has done undergrounding assessments and noted the need for staff to do its due diligence regarding the matter.

Public Works Director Tony Olmos reported meeting with utility companies to obtain status on Districts 12 and 14 and that there is no revised schedule yet but when it is received, staff will share it with City Council.

Discussion followed regarding the sample size and percentage of the City's population. It was noted that the sample, as proposed (400), typically results in 95% probability (+ or - 5%) of the accuracy of the response and that increasing the sample size does not increase reliability.

Councilmember Burton commented on utility tax and TOT and suggested that polling include these issues as well.

In response to Councilmember Lesser's inquiry regarding including utility tax and TOT in the polling, Mr. Klinghoffer indicated it could be included as part of the polling and from a property owner's perspective. He added that he would have to confirm whether additional costs will be involved.

Councilmember Burton asked that staff research the matter.

Mayor Howorth opened the floor for public comments.

Jon Chaykowski commented positively on efforts to find alternative funding sources

and on staff's ability to do certain tasks. However, he stated he would not support using Harris and Associates as the provider noting that they did the utility undergrounding assessment and had to redo it. He commented on related litigation and appeals on similar cases and reported he has no confidence in Harris and Associates nor would he support awarding them with a contract.

Bill Victor reported he was a plaintiff in the last action on Proposition 218 regarding utility undergrounding and noted mistakes made by Harris and Associates as well as the City. He indicated that Harris and Associates was not a good choice and while they may be the cheapest, they are not the best and are not credible.

Viet Ngo commented on City Council's support of the bond for Metlox and alleged mismanagement of government funds, misappropriation of public funds and money laundering. He opined that Harris and Associates should not be hired to perform this work.

Mayor Howorth closed public comments.

In response to Councilmember Lesser's questions, Finance Director Moe reported that staff is not qualified to perform this work which required specialized training. He added that Harris and Associates is recognized as a leader in this type of work, with a fine reputation and that they have performed successfully in previous work for the City. They are qualified and have the credentials to back it up.

Councilmember Lesser asked regarding a gap in the RFP bids received and if there is another methodology that the City may not be considering.

Finance Director Moe addressed the disparities between the proposals and reported that the more expensive proposal was from a firm that had a more political team involved and that staff felt it was "overkill" from what the City is trying to accomplish.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Powell's questions, Finance Director Moe reported that the proposals were vetted, the two top firms were chosen, and staff had a forty-five minute phone interview with each. He added that it was clear that Harris and Associates was the most qualified and understood what the City is trying to accomplish. Additionally, he commented on the different 218 procedures for storm water and street lighting and landscaping and noted that the funding mechanisms can be different, per City Council's direction.

Councilmember D'Errico stated he respects Finance Director Moe and the team that made the selection and asked for clarification as to the decision even though there were complaints regarding the consultants undergrounding assessment efforts. Finance Director Moe responded affirmatively.

Mayor Howorth verified the action requested according to staff recommendations and commented on enterprise finds not encumbering other funds.

Finance Director Moe added that user fees are periodically reviewed and are designed to cover costs.

Councilmember Burton noted that approval of this item does not mean that the City will not go out for a vote. He addressed storm water fees and would like for staff to return with an analysis of the matter. He added that he will support doing the analysis and having the polling and believed that staff should be directed to return to City Council regarding the TOT and user tax.

A motion was made by Councilmember Burton, seconded by

CouncilmemberD'Errico to award a contract to Harris and Associates for an amount not- to- exceed \$52,700 for Preliminary Analyses and Polling for Updated Storm Water Fees, and Street Lighting and Landscaping District Assessments and direct staff to return to City Council with an analysis of storm water fees as well as TOT and user tax.

City Council discussion continued prior to the vote..

Councilmember Lesser commented on the purpose of Proposition 218 and challenges that City fees do not cover current costs. He added that fees have not been raised in twenty years and that although no one wants to do this, the City has to use professionals to help perform the analysis and ensure that it is done correctly. He expressed concern regarding the chosen contractor but trusts that staff vetted the accusations.

Mayor Howorth asked Mr. Chaykowski to the podium and he reported that there was a court case against the City where the City prevailed and the plaintiffs were planning to appeal but were "frightened away" by the City Attorney's approach. Additionally, he reported on a similar case in Northern California that was appealed and the appeal was upheld, overruling local jurisdiction indicating that the way that they apportioned costs incorrectly, invalidly and inconsistent with benefits to homeowners.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented on structural deficits in the two enterprise funds and because of that, the City has had to subsidize them from the General Fund, which impacts critical services. He expressed concern regarding polling noting that all of the relevant information needs to be available and agreed with the need to do an analysis.

Finance Director Moe reported that when the matter is presented at a future meeting, he will ensure that Dr. McClarney is in attendance to address City Council's specific concerns.

Mayor Howorth called for the question.

A motion was made by Councilmember Burton, seconded by Councilmember D'Errico to award a contract to Harris and Associates for an amount not-to-exceed \$52,700 for Preliminary Analyses and Polling for Updated Storm Water Fees, and Street Lighting and Landscaping District Assessments and direct staff to return to City Council with an analysis of storm water fees as well as TOT and user tax. the motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Howorth, Powell, Burton, D'Errico and Lesser

3. Consideration of Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Capital Improvement Plan (Public Works Director Olmos).

RES 14-0008

APPROVE

Public Works Director Olmos presented details of the report addressing background, objectives, description of the 5-year CIP, what qualifies as a CIP project, how to read a CIP, FY13/FY14 CIP public process to date and a recap from the December 10, 2013, City Council meeting.

Finance Director Moe presented details of the fiscal implications for FY14 through FY18.

Public Works Director Olmos presented details of the FY13/FY14 projects five year outlook, water projects five year outlook, FY13/FY14 water projects, streets and transportation five year outlook, FY13/FY14 streets and transportation, facilities (Capital Improvement Fund) five year outlook, FY13/FY14 facilities (Capital Improvement Fund), facilities (Special Revenue Fund) five year outlook, FY13/FY14 facilities (Special Revenue Fund) and recommendations.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked regarding the location and funding for the Skate Park and which CIP year is being adopted at this time.

Public Works Director Olmos addressed "placeholder" funding and reported that the final costs will be known when the final design is completed and the projects go forward for construction.

Interim City Manager Jalili reported that an approved location has not yet been determined.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell reported that the Ad Hoc Committee met last night and that they will be considering the funding mechanism for the project looking into the possibility of private funding, sponsorships and grants.

Public Works Director Olmos reported that City Council direction will be sought regarding the Skate Park. He added that information regarding how the CIP is adopted, but noted there are presently two CIPs and addressed the adoption process for each. He reported that at this time, City Council would be approving the appropriation for this year and the plan for the next four years.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell expressed concerns with the carry-over and noted that the grand total by type does not agree with the grand total by fund. He stated that pier bollards should be first priority and requested clarification of the beach infiltration project.

Public Works Director Olmos responded, adding that the City has a consultant who is working on an enhanced Water Management Plan and is considering what types of projects are necessary to address the City's permit requirements. Staff will return to City Council, in April, with a status report of the project. Currently it is an unfunded project and the amount reported is a placeholder.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell suggested there should be an "unfunded" column within the appropriate worksheet.

Public Works Director Olmos stated that because the project is unfunded, it was difficult to project which year the funds should be allocated.

Councilmember D'Errico asked about the Sepulveda Bridge intersection and the pedestrian improvements at twenty-two intersections, noting they are funded with Federal funds but there is a 10% match of City monies and asked regarding the fund used for the match.

Public Works Director Olmos reported that they are State funds and that the City match is funded through the CIP. In response to Councilmember D'Errico's question regarding the location of the "pathway to the sea", Public Works Director Olmos stated that it is near the El Porto area and is primarily designed for access to the water by people with disabilities. He added that the area will be monitored and appropriate signage will be installed in order for people not to abuse the area. Additional measures will be taken if the area becomes problematic.

Councilmember D'Errico's referenced the triennial pavement management system and stated he would like information regarding the slurry-seal cycle effect.

Additionally, he commented on the bike flashing beacons and asked what it includes and what other projects for which funding is being provided.

Public Works Director Olmos indicated that \$100,000 per year is used as a placeholder for other needed improvements related to bicycles.

Councilmember D'Errico commented on the cost for the City Yard covers to protect materials from the elements and asked if there are other options. He referenced the pier bollards and asked if they will be designed to absorb energy.

Public Works Director Olmos reported looking at similar projects in other cities and stated that covers will need different engineering as the covers will be to protect materials of varying heights. He added that bollards are engineered, specifically to absorb energy.

In response to Councilmember Burton's inquiry, Public Works Director Olmos described how projects get on the CIP.

Interim City Manager Jalili described the process used in other cities.

Councilmember Burton commented on pedestrian improvements and asked regarding prioritization of the projects.

Traffic Engineer Eric Zandvliet reported that the twenty-two locations for pedestrian improvements are covered through a grant and that locations are identified based on the number of pedestrian and bicycle accidents. Staff reviewed the data and the twenty-two locations identified are those with the highest number of accidents.

Councilmember Burton expressed concerns with the corner of 38th and Highland and Interim City Manager Jalili addressed how the project can be added as well as the potential funding source. He added that for safety issues, the City relies on the Traffic Engineer.

Councilmember Burton commented on the lighted beacons and the street striping and stated he would not support the added markings.

Interim City Manager Jalili reported that staff will check on the matter.

In response to Councilmember Lesser's inquiry, Interim City Manager Jalili reported that the matter of aesthetics will be reviewed by City Council at a later meeting.

Mayor Howorth opened the floor for public comments.

Diane Wallace commented on storm drain covers and a grant that is available for funding them. She stated that the Manhattan Village Shopping Center would like to be included in the State grant to purchase storm drain covers. She felt that the item should be a priority for the City.

Bill Victor asked regarding the number of storm drain covers needed.

Public Works Director Olmos reported that they include a drain for debris and that there are not very many in the City. He added there are over 900 catch basins in the City. He added that information regarding the costs will be provided at a later date.

Steve Packwood asked if this process will be completed when the operating budget is presented to City Council for approval. Additionally, he asked for clarity regarding what City Council is being asked to approve at this time.

Public Works Director Olmos reported that the FY14/FY15 CIP will be part of the regular budget process and reiterated recommendations regarding this item. He added that the City has not found any grants to fund storm drain covers.

Mayor Howorth closed public comments.

Mayor Howorth referenced the "pathway to the sea" and asked regarding possible grants available to fund the project.

Public Works Director Olmos reported that given the timing for implementation of the project, applying for grant funding will delay the process.

Councilmember Lesser stated he is prepared to move forward with this item.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell agreed regarding the importance of this item and noted that the resolution needs to state that City Council is funding the current year and approving the outgoing four years.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lesser, seconded by Councilmember Burton to adopt Resolution No. 14-008 approving the FY13/FY14 Capital Improvement Plan, to un-appropriate \$22,582,972 in placeholder CIP funds from the FY13/FY14 Operating Budget and to appropriate \$5,871,725 in actual project funds for the FY13/FY14 CIP less \$150,000, as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Howorth, Powell, Burton, D'Errico and Lesser

At 10:20 PM the City Council recessed and reconvened at 10:29 PM with all Councilmembers present.

4. Sepulveda Boulevard Bridge Widening Project - Project Update and Bridge Aesthetic Treatments (Public Works Director Olmos).

14-0077

RECEIVE REPORT AND PROVIDE DIRECTION

Public Works Director Tony Olmos presented details of the report addressing background and scope of work, project justification and traffic analysis, project status, bridge-widening alternatives and bridge retaining walls and concrete barrier aesthetic treatments.

Traffic Engineer Eric Zandvliet provided details of the project justification and traffic analysis.

In response to Councilmember Lesser's questions, Traffic Engineer Zandvliet commented on causes of accidents at the specific street segment noting that one is the merging required into the fourth lane from the third lane and its countermeasure would be to allow the lane to go through. The second reason for accidents is rear-end collisions caused by a combination of stopping from Rosecrans and stopping from 33rd Street and noted that the number of rear-end collisions will decrease by adding capacity in the intersection. Additionally, he reported on the need to consider other driveways for the mall. He reported that a lane for acceleration and deceleration would be beneficial on Rosecrans in reducing traffic but noted that it would be nice to have it, but it is not necessary.

Councilmember D'Errico referenced the traffic study and asked regarding the effects on intersections south of Marine.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that by going northbound along PCH, more and more traffic is added at each intersection and that the number of cars at each intersection dictates the number of lanes necessary on a street and that a constraint exists with the three lanes at Rosecrans.

Relative to cut-through residential traffic, Councilmember D'Errico reported hearing numerous concerns regarding residential traffic on the west side of Sepulveda and that no complaints have been received regarding residential traffic on the east side of Sepulveda. He asked regarding relevant data regarding the matter.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that there are many complaints regarding Meadows, cut-through off Cedar and Peck. Additionally, he addressed turn lanes in new malls. He stated that when designing new malls, traffic studies are conducted and turn pockets are created based on the expected volumes.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented on the number of accidents occurring because of the trap lane on 33rd Street and commented on another trap lane at El Segundo and Rosecrans. He asked if accident rates will decrease upon removal of trap lanes.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that he does not know the answer, specifically, and would need to look it up.

In response to Councilmember Burton's inquiry regarding traffic studies related to impacts from the mall construction, Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that a study has not been done but stated the need to ensure that the construction routes do not impact the bridge project.

Public Works Director Olmos addressed the traffic impacts from construction of the bridge project and continued with the presentation addressing project status,

bridge-widening alternatives and bridge retaining walls and concrete barrier aesthetic treatments. He reported the hiring of a City Engineer, Joe Parco who will take on the project as soon as he comes onboard.

Councilmember D'Errico commented on traffic going northbound over Marine and on a fourth lane that goes by the last entrance to the mall. He added accidents occur there because of the trap lane and asked whether staff has considered making that fourth lane into a dedicated turn in/turn out lane for the mall.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet stated that turning that into an acceleration/deceleration lane could be considered but does not help in terms of capacity. He added that it is expensive as work is being added to the bridge and commented on conflicts related to outbound movements. He stated he does not feel there will be enough benefit at Manhattan Beach Boulevard or anything south of Marine.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Powell's inquiry, Public Works Director Olmos reported that the funds must be used for this project and cannot be used for another. He listed grants received and their respective amounts and addressed extensions. He added that the total amount of City funds to be used for this project is approximately \$4 million. Additionally, he noted that the bridge, in its current condition, is safe but noted the need to upgrade it to current standards.

Councilmember Burton commented on the retention of the fourth lane near the mall and the entry point related to the bridge.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented on the seismic capacity of the bridge, and in the case of a big earthquake, if the bridge comes down, residents will be cutoff through a major access point in the City. He added according to an expert, any bridge that has not been seismically upgraded is dangerous.

Public Works Director Olmos noted that it will depend on the size of the event and noted that seismic standards have become more stringent after the Northridge earthquake. He added that if the bridge were unsafe, CalTrans would not allow it to remain open.

Interim City Manager Jalili commented on the need for funding since there are many bridges that are unsafe and need retrofitting.

Public Works Director Olmos added that bridges are evaluated every two years.

Interim City Manager Jalili noted that isolation is a critical issue and that the biggest concern is that safety vehicles may not have accessibility.

Mayor Howorth opened the floor for public comments.

Patrick McBride felt that the project is a bad idea, holistically. He stated that it would cause gridlock for about two years during construction to Aviation, Sepulveda and Highland and that funds would be better used in supporting the poor. He referenced articles regarding increases in traffic and expressed concerns with the amount of money being spent while other projects are not being taken care of. He listed negative impacts and noted that money should be spent on traffic-calming measures, instead. He stated that much of the staff report is false.

Mayor Howorth commented on the capabilities of the Traffic Engineer.

Unknown speaker commented on the amount of money being invested by Metro on

this project. He stated that Metro is in full support of the project and would like to see it move forward.

Mark Neumann asked what right-of-way needs to be acquired and that he was promised that consideration will be given to noise and dust and would like to see that in the design of the bridge.

Public Works Director Olmos listed the right-of-ways that need to be acquired and have spoken with those concerned. He added that many tasks cannot be started until the City receives an authorization from CalTrans. He reported that he will follow up with Mr. Neumann regarding his concerns.

Steve Lance, South Bay Cities COG, noted this is a regional project and addressed its significance and safety considerations. He commented on safety concerns and other projects that are not addressed by this specific project. He added that improvements along Sepulveda may need several projects. He encouraged City Council to approve the proposed improvements.

Dianne Wallace spoke in support of the project and reported on traffic east of Sepulveda noting that it gets very congested in the afternoon.

Bill Victor stated this project is more important than the Manhattan Village Center project and noted that doing both projects at the same time will exacerbate problems for the City.

Jon Chaykowski commented on his experience in the area and stated that creating a fourth lane along the Manhattan Village Center will cause a bottleneck problem. He commended the Police Department for citing people relative to that lane and stated that the project, as intended, will have great benefit to the City. He addressed the need for consideration of how right turns will be made and possible issues with people driving through the area.

Steve Packwood commented positively on the project but expressed concerns regarding traffic impacts due to construction of the Manhattan Village Shopping Center and the subject project, simultaneously. He referenced the Center's parking management plan noting that no consideration has been given to the impacts of the bridge project.

Mayor Howorth closed public comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell noted that he has followed this project for a long time and commented on the funding noting that the money must be used for it. Scrapping it at the "eleventh hour" would be absurd. He addressed safety and traffic convenience and congestion and commented on traffic accidents in the area as well as the need to retrofit the bridge for seismic activity. He reported that adding the lane will improve accessibility by emergency vehicles and stated this is a great project and there is no reason to stop it.

Councilmember D'Errico responded to comments made by speakers and noted that the Traffic Engineer claimed there will be no benefit to Sepulveda Boulevard going south. Additionally, he addressed traffic on the east side of Sepulveda

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet reported more cars will be able to get through in the northbound direction at Sepulveda and Rosecrans so not as much "green time" will be needed and more "green time" can be devoted to other directions at Rosecrans. He added that southbound traffic on Sepulveda in the afternoon rush hour traffic will

change incrementally because of signal synchronization.

Interim City Manager Jalili added that it will depend on how many light changes people will have to sit through.

Councilmember Burton expressed concerns with trying to do the Manhattan Village Shopping Center and the bridge project at the same time and stated that the timing appears to be off. He acknowledged there is political pressure by various agencies and reported that Highway 1 is dangerous. He expressed concern with increasing speeds and addressed challenges with removing the deceleration lane adding that it will present a safety issue for residents. He added that he doesn't see the benefits justifying the amount of money needed for the project. Councilmember Burton suggested that it would be a good idea to make the existing lane a dedicated deceleration lane. He added that he cannot support the project at this time.

Councilmember Lesser asked whether both projects can be undertaken at the same time and Public Works Director Olmos commented on his experience coordinating project development. He added that it is a matter of coordination and careful planning and that there are many successful ways of coordinating the projects.

Traffic Engineer Zandvliet reported that as part of the Manhattan Village Shopping Center project, the developer is required to have a traffic management plan during construction which should address traffic problems using routes that are away from other shopping center traffic. Those actions will minimize the amount of conflict between the shopping center and the Sepulveda Bridge project.

Councilmember Lesser stated he is in favor of the project, commented on existing bottlenecks and noted that the project addresses safety issues and will improve traffic in the area.

Mayor Howorth indicated she supports the project and noted this is a regional concern and there needs to be other intersections improved in order to add value. She noted there is a benefit to the region and there is a risk to the region if the project does not move forward. She commented on political pressure and noted this is for the common good. She acknowledged concerns regarding constructing the Manhattan Village Shopper Center project and this project at the same time but stated that there will always be disruptions with any construction project. She added that the project would not be moving forward concurrently if City Council had acted sooner. The City could wait, but the City may lose the funding and there is no guarantee that the shopping center schedule will be the same. She added the need for increased communication and acknowledged Mr. Neumann's comments, adding that she would like to see an update on the issue.

Councilmember Lesser commented on the City's process for obtaining the funds.

Councilmember Burton indicated there is not benefit to the region and reiterated his concerns regarding the elimination of a dedicated lane used by residents.

Regarding the design, it was noted that CalTrans needs to go through their process before a decision on the design is made.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Powell, seconded by Councilmember Lesser to approve proceeding with the Sepulveda Bridge widening project. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Howorth, Powell and Lesser

Nay: 2 - Burton and D'Errico

 Presentation of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2014-2015 to Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Five Year Capital Improvement Plan (Public Works Director Olmos). 14-0075

RECEIVE REPORT

Mayor Howorth proposed continuing the aforementioned item and Interim City Manager Jalili suggested placing it on the March 4, 2014, agenda.

Mayor Howorth declared that Item No. 5 will be continued to the March 4, 2014, City Council meeting.

6. The Strand Stairs Rehabilitation Project - Project Update and Aesthetic Treatments of Retaining Walls (Public Works Director Olmos). 14-0078

RECEIVE REPORT AND PROVIDE DIRECTION

The aforementioned item was heard prior to Item No. 1 on the agenda.

H. OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

I. OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS, COMMITTEE AND TRAVEL REPORTS, FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Howorth stated the need to hold a study session on the matter of water and storm water. Councilmember Burton agreed.

Councilmember Burton stated he would like the City Manager and Public Works Director to meet with the water replenishment district prior to the study session.

Councilmember Lesser commented on the importance of having the City Attorney present during meetings.

Mayor Howorth agreed and City Attorney Quinn Barrow noted that is enough direction.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell suggested addressing the water desalination proposal during the study session as well.

Councilmember Burton commented on the importance of a sense of congeniality among Councilmembers.

J. ADJOURNMENT

At 12:09 AM, the February 25, 2014, City Council Adjourned Regular Meeting was adjourned to the 4:30 PM Adjourned Regular City Council Closed Session Meeting of March 4, 2014, in the City Council Chambers followed by the Regular City Council Meeting at 6:00 PM.

	Wide Demons
	Vida Barone
	Recording Secretary
	Amy Thomas Howorth
	Mayor
	•
ATTEST:	
Liza Tamura	
City Clerk	