

PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMISSION
Minutes of August 27, 2012

COMMISSIONERS

Michael Benbow, Chairperson
Norris Turner, District 1
Denise Gonzalez, District 2
Charles Coronado, District 3
Gene Eldridge, District 4

STAFF MEMBERS

Harry Frisby, Jr., Acting Public Works Director
Keith Lockard, Acting City Engineer
Jeffery Lewis, Assistant City Attorney
Pearlie A. White, Secretary

I. Roll Call of Commissioners and Call to Order by Chairperson

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael Benbow at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call of Commissioners – All Commissioners were in attendance.

II. Approval of Minutes for July 25, 2012

Acting City Engineer, Keith Lockard, reported that the minutes were not fully edited in time for this meeting.

III. Public Comments (comments on items not listed on the agenda). None.

IV. Public Hearings:

a. 10905 S. Spinning Avenue Special Site Wireless Telecommunications Permit

Mr. Lockard recommended that the hearing be opened and allow Mr. Rafael Nunez, NextG Networks, Inc., speak and thereafter questions be asked then close it. Mr. Lockard stated that there was a resolution for their approval if they agree with these permits.

Mr. Lockard went over all the site plans and what the installations would look like on the poles that the Commissioners had in their packet prepared for them by Mr. Lockard.

Chairperson Benbow opened the hearing and asked what is the relationship between the testimony being given here and the applicant, NextG.

Mr. Lockard said the applicant, NextG, is entitled to give testimony and give answers to their proposal to the Commissioners consistent with the ordinance provision.

Chairperson Benbow opened the public hearing.

Mr. Rafael Nunez, representative of NextG Networks, Inc. thanked staff for the opportunity to speak at the Commission. Mr. Nunez discussed in detail NextG operations in Inglewood and where installations were permitted and residents nor City have received no complaints by NextG.

Assistant City Attorney Jeffery Lewis suggested that at this time is for Commissioners to question the applicant, NextG.

Chairperson Benbow was concerned about the installation of the facility being high enough (8 feet off the surface from the ground) to keep public from tampering with the box.

Mr. Nunez said that is the standard California Public Utility Commission, and 8 feet is the requirement for minimum height of facility.

Chairperson Benbow asked if there was any danger to people if someone wanted to jump up to touch the box.

Mr. Nunez stated there is absolutely no danger to the public should someone touch the facility. They are enclosed facilities that are state certified. However, there are some electrical cables running through the box behind the panels so it would depend on the magnitude and level the tampering would be.

Commissioner Turner stated there are 2 main lines one at the bottom at the cable land closer to the ground and one at the top on land line. What is the analogy of using 2 types of line?

Mr. Nunez says it depends on the facility and state requirements of a particular facility.

Commissioner Turner said he was concerned about having a covering of protection to keep children and young people from trying to take it down with a football or something to try and hit it.

Mr. Nunez said there is already a cover on the facility that would protect it from such actions, and that NextG Networks has 24 hour monitoring if it is vandalized. If system is tampered with NextG would know immediately and would be able to repair if necessary.

Mr. Nunez said NextG has facilities throughout California

Commissioner Eldridge asked should not this resolution have come to the Commission before it was approved.

Mr. Lockard replied that the ordinance defines the information that is necessary and appropriate to the submittal that comes to the City. The applicant has an opportunity to appeal to the City Council if they do not agree with the action taken by the Parking and Traffic Commission.

Chairperson Benbow asked if the Commission in any way approving in any way this facility before it gets to the Commission.

Attorney Lewis said no. The Commission is the body that will approve or deny the application. If denied and the applicant wants to appeal, he has the right to appeal to the City Council. PTC can grant and deny this matter. There are 7 findings necessary to approve this matter. The purpose of this meeting is for you to reach the findings so that you may approve this matter.

Commissioner Eldridge said the resolution has already been signed. It appears there is nothing the PTC can do to change it.

Attorney Lewis said there is nothing final about the resolution. The Commissioner does not need to feel locked into it. It can still be changed if the Commission would like to do so. It is free to do so.

Commissioner Eldridge said since no residents showed up to support or not support the resolution perhaps they agree with it.

Commissioner Coronado said this will be a community service and that one of the boxes is located near his resident. Commissioner Coronado asked if there were batteries inside the box.

Mr. Nunez said no, there are no batteries or hazardous materials inside the box.

Commissioner Gonzalez said as is the case on Beach Avenue instead of hanging this facility in the wires at Spinning Avenue, could it be mounted on the side of the pole as it is on Beach.

Mr. Nunez said in this particular area NextG already have their wires on this pole to have it mounted on the pole would require a higher pole and that would require a financial impact.

Assistant City Attorney Lewis said if anyone would like to appeal the approval the Commission just made they have 21 days from the decision of this Commission (the date it was signed) being posted by paying a fee of \$600 and that appeal will go to City Council.

Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to approve the application and adopt the resolution as presented.

Commissioner Turner seconded the motion.

Motion was passed with a 4-1 vote. Chairperson Benbow abstains.

b. Special Site Wireless Telecommunications Permit – 650 W. Beach Avenue

Mr. Lockard went over the request and background for consideration for a permit to allow the installation of an antenna with optical repeater equipment and electrical connection service box to be placed on an existing SCE utility pole within a public right-of-way.

If the Commission approves the installation, it is recommended that the Commission adopt the resolution. If the Commission does not approve it is recommend that the Commission make appropriate findings.

Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to approve the application and adopt the resolution as presented.

Commissioner Turner seconded the motion.

Motion was passed with a 4-1 vote. Chairperson Benbow abstains.

Mr. Lewis was excused from the meeting.

V. Referral from City Council or City Departments:

a. Torrance a Transit Service Route Extension – Crenshaw Boulevard, Imperial Highway, Van Ness Avenue.

Mr. Lockard stated that this item is an informational item regarding the City of Torrance and went over the packet information including the e-mail of Mr. Daly on this subject. He went over maps and boundaries that showed jurisdictional boundaries where the revenue services on Crenshaw and Van Ness near city border with additional stops. Additional stops would be at the existing Metro stops. The bus stops would operate from 5:21 a.m. to 11:23 p.m. Monday through Friday and 6:00 a.m. until 8:57:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

In addition to the service routing they are proposing a dead head routing that would include a portion of Prairie Avenue and Imperial Highway to Crenshaw Blvd and then south on Crenshaw.

The Transit Center brings together the Metro Light Rail line and various bus lines on Crenshaw at the 105 Freeway.

In the e-mail from Mr. Daly, he stated they had been working on these changes for some time and have held hearings also, and they expect to have these changes to their City Council on September 11, 2012 and expect to make these services changes effective October 2012.

Chairperson Benbow asked the Commissioners if there any questions or comments.

Commissioner Eldridge said he and Council Franklin have discussed these changes and he and Councilman Franklin have no objections.

Acting Public Works Director Harry F. Frisby, Jr. commented that these service changes will be an enhancement to the City. It will bring more people from other cities into the City. One of these stops will be right there at Imperial and Crenshaw where the Burlington Coat Factory and a host of other businesses are.

b. Space Shuttle Move – Manchester Blvd., Crenshaw Drive, Crenshaw Blvd.

Mr. Lockard informed the Commissioners of the movement of the space Shuttle Endeavour's passage through Inglewood planned for October 12-13, 2012. It will be transported to the California Science Center for future display.

Mr. Frisby said this is the largest project the City has had. It is fully funded by the Science Center with zero City dollars and money will be paid to the City for permits and other costs to the City. They will be removing trees and for every one tree removed, two will be planted including enhancement to Manchester Boulevard with landscaping and irrigation. City staff will be participating in facilitating this huge project.

Commissioner Turner asked if staff will be hiring any residents of the City for this project other than the Police Department.

Mr. Frisby said the staff will be using internal staff from City. The Science Center not the City will be employing the contractors. However, they have contacted the City for approval of these contractors before hiring them.

There will be approximately 43 street lighting posts being removed and replaced and staff employees will be working on this

In reply to a Commissioner Eldridge question of whether the destructive Fichus trees (to plumbing and sidewalks) will be replaced, Mr. Frisby said Fichus trees will not be replaced but another tree will be chosen that do not damage sidewalk and plumbing.

c. Ash Avenue at Olive Street Temporary Closure Implementation Plan

Mr. Lockard updated Commissioners on status of the Ash Avenue at Olive Street temporary closure. Staff has received 3 bids for traffic device materials and a purchase order has been issued.

d. FY 2011-12 CIP Traffic Projects

Mr. Lockard handed out at Acting Senior Transportation Engineer Chad Sweet's request a list of FY 2011-12 CIP Traffic project and discussed each one individually with the Commissioners.

VI. Commissioner Initiatives:

Commissioner Turner asked why there was no one present from the Police Department.

Mr. Lockard stated Lt. Fried was out of town at this particular date but will return for the next meeting in October.

Commissioner Eldridge received a letter from the property manager of a Wells Fargo Bank regarding an accident near the Bank. He asked if staff has had a chance to look at it.

Mr. Lockard stated staff has not had a chance to make an analysis of this area.

Commissioner Eldridge discussed the problems in this area that are due to the heavy traffic. He asked if a No Left Turn sign could be place there to alleviate some of the heavy traffic problem.

Mr. Lockard said staff will look into the matter.

Chairperson Benbow said he was concerned if any of the large sums of money from the Endeavour project will be used to employ residents of the City. Mr. Benbow said the residents of the City badly need jobs and could benefit from its residents being hired.

Mr. Frisby said he would look into this matter.

Mr. Frisby said right now, the City has received approximately \$41,000 in permit fees. Some of these benefits will be seen in the overhead lines being removed and placed underground.

Commissioner Eldridge asked about hiring of City residents for the Hollywood Park and Forum projects.

Chairperson Benbow said he has been informed that residents from the City will be employed by these two projects.

Mr. Frisby agreed that plans to hire City residents on these projects will be done. Also, Mr. Frisby said some City residents have been hired by Consolidated Deposal Service during this transition.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.