November-December City Council Roundup

Update by San Bernardino Associated Governments on the I-215 Interchange Project

City Council was provided an update on the Barton Road I-215 Interchange. The Council had several questions about funding, as the project was fully funded, but recent transfers of funds and delays in the project schedule warranted members of the Grand Terrace City Council to request an update from SANBAG (San Bernardino County Associations of Government).

SANBAG staff assured the Council that the transfer of funding from one project to another is normal procedure, as some funds must be used within a certain time frame. So transfer of funds between projects is normal for SANBAG. SANBAG staff indicated that the I-215 project is projected to break ground in August 2017 and will take approximately 2 years to complete. SANBAG stated the project is on schedule and is currently in the process of acquiring the remaining properties for the project.

Thank you,
G. Harold Duffey
City Manager
In Brief

Dog Park Committee Fund Raiser

The City Council of Grand Terrace approved a waiver for the Filing Fees in the amount of Ninety Seven Dollars ($97.00) for the Dog Park Committee Fund Raiser. The Foundation of Grand Terrace Dog Park Committee is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that has held various activities to raise money to fund equipment for the City's Dog Park on Vista Grande Way, including an annual rummage sale fund raiser.

Award of October-2015 Community Benefit Funds to the Friends of the Grand Terrace Branch Library

City Council awarded $1,750.00 in City Community Benefits Fund’s to the Friends of the Grand Terrace Branch Library for children supplies for the Pre-School Activity Program. Friends of the Library will establish a section in the Library for Pre-School Activities. The program will further enhance library experience for our youngest Grand Terrace Residents. The Council has awarded over $3,100.00 in community Benefit Funding this year.

Contract Agreement with Sysco Riverside Inc.

City Council approved contract with Sysco to supply food products to the City’s child care program for one year in the annual amount not to exceed $35,000.00 with the option of two one-year extensions for a total of three years.

October Monthly Check Register

The City Council approved the monthly Check Register Number 10312015 in the Amount of $304,938.96, as submitted, which includes the Check Register Account Index for Fiscal Year 2015-16.

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Payroll costs for the month ending October 31, 2015

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TOTAL PAYROLL FOR OCTOBER 2015 $174,269.93

*The payroll cost for the pay period ending 10/15/2015 were slightly higher than usual (approximately $5,000 higher) due to a final payout for an employee who has left City employment.

November Monthly Check Register

Council also approved the check register, for the period ending November 30, 2015, which was prepared in accordance with Government Code §37202. The total amount of the Check Register was $309,844.72.

Report on I-215 Project: Consultant Update on Barton Road Interchange Progress

City of Grand Terrace hired Interwest Consulting Group to represent the City on the I-215 project. Interwest attends all SANBAG planning meetings on behalf of the City, Interwest informed the Council that several improvement items needed to be addressed by the Council. Items like decorative lighting on the bridge, and architectural features of the bridge. Council directed staff to return with recommendations in the near future. The estimated costs of the I-215 interchange project is approximately $90,000,000 to $100,000,000.

Committee for Naming or Renaming City Facilities

Council Member William Hussey formerly submitted a request to have Pico Park renamed to Veterans Park. Based on City Policy, Mayor established a subcommittee of Mayor Pro Temp. Robles and Council Member Hussey. The subcommittee of the Council has scheduled January 13, 2016 for the meeting. All residents are invited to weigh in on the potential renaming of Pico Park.
The City Council approved the submittal of the City’s Capital Project Needs Analysis (CPNA) to receive approximately $700,000 in Measure I subvention funds. To qualify for the funding the Measure I Strategic Plan requires local jurisdictions annually adopt a Five-Year Capital Project Needs Analysis (CPNA), which documents project or program needs by fiscal year and includes the anticipated funding sources, funding amounts and project phasing where appropriate. The CPNA also demonstrate the availability of development mitigation fair share funds for projects included in the Needs Analysis. CPNA for Valley jurisdictions include projects for the Valley Freeway Interchange and Major Street Programs. SANBAG staff will use these submittals, along with similar information from SANBAG departments, in a cash-flow analysis.

The CPNA, as recommended, identifies one project in the City where funds would improve traffic management, subject to projected availability of funds. This project is the widening of Michigan Street from Commerce Way to Van Buren Street, from two (2) lanes to four (4) traffic lanes.” The Master Agreement for this project was approved by the City Council in May 2010. Staff is currently working with SANBAG to modify the project description to extend the project limits to include the entire length of Michigan Street and modify the number of lanes from Commerce Way to Main Street.

The current submittal will fully fund the project through the Planning Specifications and Engineering phase by FY 2019/20 and begin setting funds aside for right of way acquisition that same fiscal year and the following year. The approval of the CPNA will allow the City to qualify for $742,100.00 in Measure I subventions over the five year period for this project. The City’s commitment to obligate development impact fees is a requirement to receive the Measure I funds. The Measure I Five-Year Plan is updated annually and can be modified at any time.

Council approved amendment in the amount of $10,000 to Transportation, Engineering, Planning, Inc. (TEP) contract for traffic engineering consultant services. TEP services include regional transportation planning, such as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and related growth forecasts, the Measure I Capital Improvement Plan; representation and at ongoing Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meetings;

Fee Waiver Request

The Grand Terrace Little League is required to pay $5.00 per child, plus a lighting fee to the City in Facility Use Fees for the season. This year the League had a 10% increase in participants and a total of 325 players. The League owes the City $1,625.00 in fees.

On November 26, 2015, Grand Terrace Little League submitted a fee waiver request of Facility Use Fees. The Council directed staff to work with Little League and bring item back as a Community Benefits Grant.

Potential Truck Routes Reviewed by Council

City Council conducted the first reading and introduction of an ordinance that designates truck routes. It establishes that all residential streets within Grand Terrace are prohibited for use as an official truck route by trucks that are 10,000 pounds (5 tons) or more. It established designated commercial vehicle truck routes:
1. Barton Road (within Grand Terrace city limit)
2. Mount Vernon Avenue from Barton Road to Main Street
3. Main Street from the westerly City limit to Mount Vernon Avenue
4. La Cadena Drive (within Grand Terrace City limit)
Second reading of the Ordinance will be on January 12, 2016 and if approved by the Council the truck routes will be established and take effect on February 12, 2016.

Art in Public Places

City Council conducted a public hearing to introduce the 1st reading of the Public Art Ordinance. As required by the City’s Zoning Code, the Planning Commission first hears a proposed ordinance amending the City’s Zoning Code and forwards a recommendation to the Council. At the October 15th and November 19th Planning Commission meetings, staff presented the Public Art Ordinance to the Planning Commission. At the second meeting, Commissioners passed a resolution recommending with reservations that the City Council discuss the proposed ordinance and consider whether the public art fee should be phased in over time and whether a cap should be placed on the fee.

City Council deliberated and supported the Arts in Public Places concept and noted its merits. However, the Council, like the Planning Commission, questioned if now was the right time to implement an Arts in Public Places Fee. Council requested the item be returned to the Planning Commission for further study.

Council Approves Camera Project

The City Council provided staff direction to implement a surveillance camera program which will cover all points of entry into the City. In addition, the Council suggested staff return with a comprehensive strategy that incorporates License Plate Reader (LPR) Camera’s and networks the existing cameras in City Parks. The Council previously appropriated $50,000 in this year’s budget for the Camera Program. Due to the expense of the LPR cameras ($15,000.00 per lane), there was extensive discussion between the Council on how to proceed with the initial expenditures. LPR Cameras or Surveillance. Council approved implementing surveillance cameras first and adding LPR’s to the system.

Employee Benefits

Council approved extending medical benefit adjustments to grandfathered employees, effective July 1, 2015. The Grandfathered Employees were previously entitled to adjustments in the base medical premiums to cover annual increases. The action approved by Council will adjust medical benefits to match the increase of medical premiums (for the employee only).

Council Approves Interim Arborist Services

The City of Grand Terrace has been using an informal bid process during emergencies to secure the services of arborist firms for tree trimming and tree removal services. The staff report stated that “It was imperative that the City secure a vendor for on-call, citywide tree trimming services with fixed rates through a formal contract. By securing a vendor the City will be prepared to properly maintain our trees and address any arboricultural issues that may arise from the inclement weather of winter, El Niño in particular.” Staff also indicated that it would return in the near future with a full service contract for arborist services, to properly classify and create a pruning schedule for all trees in the City of Grand Terrace.

City’s Facility Rental Policy

The City Manager presented information to the Council regarding interpretation of use of public facilities. The adopted Policy contains various regulations relating to the use of public facilities, and specifically it restricts the use of the Senior Center to senior groups only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Policy allows the City Council or City Manager to waive regulations and/or restrictions within the Policy.

The City Manager indicated that he would grant non-senior groups use of the Senior Center as long as it did not compromise the center’s overall goal – serve the seniors (if an activity clashed with the Senior Club activities) and the activities occurred during regular operating hours. Non-senior groups would not be allowed to use the Senior Center during non-operating hours or use the kitchen. Any use by seniors for memorial services during non-operating hours require proper insurances and a fee for staff to open and close the facility per the policy.
Safety of Neighborhood Streets

The City Council received a number of concerns about the safety of two streets; Palm Avenue and Van Buren. Both streets run east and west and traffic on both streets seem to be moving above a safe level. Engineering traffic studies were completed to determine ways to improve safety and reduce speeds.

On Palm, it was determined that red curbing along Palm across from the intersection on Country Club Lane would eliminate visibility issues and when incorporated with a three way stop would improve safety. The Council asked if other traffic studies were completed on Palm and staff said that they would review information and return to Council.

Residents on Van Buren repeatedly asked City Staff to address the issue of speeding and drivers blowing through the stop sign on Oriel and Van Buren. A traffic study was completed and determined that the current speed limit is warranted. However, the City’s consultant believes the width and grade of the street are contributing to drivers speeding and going through the stop sign.

Staff also updated the Council on Palm. The resolution for traffic issues on Palm is to place 3-way stop on Honeyhill and Palm and a 3-way stop on Preston and Palm. In addition, the red curbing at Palm and Country Club will be reduced.

An Amendment to Chapter 5.80 (Non-Owner Occupied/Rental Property Program)

Council approved modifications to the Rental Housing Program. Section 5.80.050 Annual inspection fee, includes a Good Landlord/Tenant Program. Owners of well maintained properties that pass inspection for three consecutive years, only pay 50% of the annual fee during the fourth year, those that pass for four consecutive years pay 25% of the annual fee. The 4-year Good Landlord Program will increase to 30%. In addition, Rental Housing Good Landlord Program participants must receive a full inspection after the 10th year in the program.

Staff will no longer conduct the education session entitled “How to Pass your Inspection”, rather than hold an education session, information will be presented on the City’s website. The annual invoices would direct landlords to the website.

Zoning Code Amendment 15-01 Establishing a New Chapter 18.80 Signs

The City Council was asked to weigh in on modification of the City’s sign code to allow certain exceptions to the current sign code for properties adjacent to the freeway. The exception was requested because of speed of vehicles passing along the freeway and the desire for businesses to change their message to attract business from the interstate.

Measure I Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2015-2016 through 2019-2020

San Bernardino County voters approved passage of Measure I in November of 2004, authorizing a one-half of one percent retail transactions and use tax applicable in the incorporated and unincorporated territory of the County of San Bernardino. Measure I revenue can only be used for transportation improvement and traffic management programs authorized in the Expenditure Plans. The Strategic Plan and Expenditure Plan requires each local jurisdiction to annually adopt a Five-Year Capital Improvement Program.

The attached Measure I Capital Improvement Plan includes five rehabilitation projects:

1) Barton Road, Mount Vernon to 100’ west of Canal Street; 2) McClarren Street, Vivenda Court to Canal Street; 3) Robin Way and Warbler Avenue; 4) Glendora Drive and Minona Drive; and 5) Palm Avenue-Slurry Seal, plus four categorical projects:

1) a citywide program to retrofit ADA ramps at selected intersections for FY 2015/16; 2) a $98,200 citywide road improvement program for FY 2016/17; 3) a $100,000 citywide road improvement program for FY 2018/19; and 4) another a $100,000 citywide road improvement program for FY 2019/20 with a total estimated cost for the entire program of $1,639,760.

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Additionally, the Pavement Management Plan (PMP) is also a planning tool for the prioritization of projects. Interwest Consulting Group is currently working on the City’s PMP. The PMP scores the condition of each road in the City (rating from 100-0). This will allow the Council to strategically program road fund resources. In light of the Measure I CIP, Staff asked Interwest to begin an assessment with Barton Road and McClaren Street, to determine if they are appropriately scheduled. Based on Interwest’s assessment, it is appropriate to schedule McClaren Street in this fiscal year.

With regard to Barton Road, there are a few moving pieces. Although it is included in the CIP for overlay maintenance this fiscal year, Staff has inquired if this overlay project could be incorporated into the I-215 Interchange Project. Interwest’s assessment has determined that the Barton Road overlay could be deferred to allow inclusion in the Interchange Project. The later overlay may require some additional thickness, pavement planning and/or the removal and replacement of distressed pavement areas. However, Interwest believes the savings gain from adding the Barton Road Overlay Project to the I-215 Interchange Project will result in a reduced cost for the Barton Road Project. In future years, and particularly in the next CIP cycle, the CIP recommendation will be updated.

In addition, City Staff and Interwest have also engaged CalTrans and SANBAG to incorporate undergrounding of utilities on Barton Road. The City of Grand Terrace has approximately $880,000 in Rule 20A (money collected by Edison on utility rates for future undergrounding of utilities). If the project can successfully include undergrounding, then all power poles on Barton Road from Michigan to the I-215 will be placed underground.