Call to Order / Roll Call

6:05PM

Chair Lauing: alright, well let’s get going. I’ll call the meeting to order for the planning and transportation commission special meeting for May 22nd. if you please call the roll?

Oral Communications

The public may speak to any item not on the agenda. Three (3) minutes per speaker.  

Chair Lauing: ok the first item on the agenda is oral communications in which the public can speak on any subject, not on the agenda. I don’t currently have any speaker cards.

Agenda Changes, Additions, and Deletions

The Chair or Commission majority may modify the agenda order to improve meeting management.

Chair Lauing: Ok so we’ll move on if there are any agenda changes or deletions?

Ms. Clare Campbell, Interim Principle Planner: No there are none thank you. If there are any deletions we would be done. Just the one agenda item.

City Official Reports

1. Assistant Directors Report, Meeting Schedule and Assignments

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Chair Lauing: Jonathan Lait is absent tonight and not only was he up until the wee hours in the morning on the Council but he had another conflict. So, Clare is going to be sitting in standing in for him but there is no Director’s report is what he told me.

Ms. Campbell: That’s right. That’s correct.

**Study Session**

Public Comment is Permitted. Five (5) minutes per speaker. 1,3

**Action Items**

Public Comment is Permitted. Applicants/Appellant Teams: Fifteen (15) minutes, plus three (3) minutes rebuttal. All others: Five (5) minutes per speaker. 1,3


**Commission Action:** The Planning and Transportation Commission (PTC) reviewed the 2019-2023 proposed Capital Improvement Plan on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 and determined that based on staff presentation, all of the new Capital Improvement Projects included in the 2019-2023 Capital Budget are consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Plan and recommended forwarding this finding to the City Council Finance Committee and the City Council along with an attachment of Recommendations/Comments for Inclusion in Next Year’s Capital Budget (listed below). Motion was seconded by Commissioner Summa, motion passed 5-1 (Monk)-1 (Alcheck absent)

- Highway 101 Pedestrian/Bike Overpass Project (PE-11011): This project is not realizing promised cost savings from the redesign. If outside parties will guarantee the City and County cost at $15M, then proceed. Otherwise reconsider for cost reasons and because East Palo Alto is building a nearby bike overpass.
- Downtown Parking Management and System Implementation (PL-16002): The project is not aligned with latest PTC and CC direction.
- Embarcadero Rd at El Camino Improvements (OL-15001): This project needs further review in light of public responses to Ross Road and Embarcadero/Middlefield changes.
- El Camino Real Pedestrian Safety and Streetscape Project (PL-18000): The project needs to consider schedule coordination with potential Alma Street closures for Caltrain construction.
- New Downtown Parking Garage (PE-15007) and New California Avenue Parking Garage (PE-18000): Recommend proceeding with project but also recommend a special

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1. Advanced Water Purification Facility (WQ-19003): Construct business plan for delivery of advanced treatment water (RO) output before committing to the project; the payback maybe 100 years, but we don’t know.

2. Wood pole project (EL-19004): Review the sensibility of investing in the replacement of wood poles with undergrounding utilities.

3. Scheduled Vehicle and Equipment Replacement (VR-23000): Reevaluate the care replacement program and consider alternative approaches to provide vehicles for staff use, such as using a rental fleet.

4. Include a new CIP item for capital budget to assess the feasibility of improving bicycle and pedestrian access from East Bayshore Road to West Bayshore Road with improvements such as signage, curb ramps, pedestrian crossing and landscape maintenance.

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Chair Lauing: Alright so then we move to the action items and the one and only action item is to review the proposed 2019 to 23 (Note-2023) Capital Improvement Plan and Comprehensive Plan compliance. And the idea here is as you see from your Packet is that by law the PTC has to review this and recommended that all the planned CIPs are in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan is the primary aspect. I think we have a short Staff report first.

Ms. Clare Campbell, Interim Principle Planner: Yes, great thank you so, Clare Campbell, Interim Principal Planner. I am sitting in for Jonathan Lait tonight so I am going to introduce Tera Mortra the planner who’s been working on the presentation. And she’ll do the presentation for you and then we also have Staff here to help answer questions that you might have tonight.

Thank you.

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Ms. Chitra Moitra, Project Planner: Good evening Commissioners, I’m Chitra Moitra, Planner, long-range planning. Tonight, Staff requests that Planning and Transportation Commission to review the proposed 2019-2023 capital improvement projects and find it consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and forward the findings to the Finance Committee and the City Council.

So, a little briefed background about the CIPs and the budget book. The Capital Budget Book has a list of CIPs with the plan to be executed over the next 5-years. These... The CIPs are selected carefully based on City Council priorities, City-wide infrastructure needs, and other needs. PTC’s role is to review these CIPs for Comprehensive Plan compliance. Section 19.04.040 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code describes PTC’s role on the review. In addition to a review of the projects for Comprehensive Plan consistency the CIP can command on the individual projects, they can suggest improvements that might increase the efficiency of the process, and they can identify any new CIPs which deems to be missing from this year’s CIP list.

The... Once the planning Staff gets the CIPs, the new CIPS, their task is to align it with the different elements of the Comprehensive Plan, figure out the most appropriate goal, policy, and program which matches with it. Staff also add information on the type of Boards and Commissions reviewed required and if any environmental review is required for the project or not. Staff performs an analysis on the most cited elements, the dollar amount of the budgets spent by the elements and based on City Council priorities also.

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So, this year the Capital Budget Book has 209 CIP projects and of this 20 are new. So, the remainder of the projects, the 189 of them, the PTC has already reviewed that at previous years and found them in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. So, as you can see this year out of the 20 new CIPs 11 of them aligns with the Natural Environment Element and 7 them with the Community Services Element. And Goal N-4 of the Natural Environment Element was cited the most, it’s on water resources, and Goal C-4 on maintenance of City infrastructure and facilities was the most cited one from the Community Services Element.

The next slide is the CIP capital budget invested by Comp. [Note-Comprehensive] Plan elements and as we can see that 33 percent is being invested in the Community Services Element, 27 percent by the Transportation Element and 32 percent by the Natural Environment Element.

So, you know a few visuals about the CIPs this is one of the important CIPs, the Loma Verde Trunk line improvements and these are the other examples of some visuals of the others. So, this... In conclusion, again, I can... I repeat that the proposed... all the proposed new CIPs Staff has found them in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan and requests the PTC to forward the findings to the Finance Committee and the City Council. And this year, in addition, we have provided as an Attachment A, a draft letter of which would be modified based on the outcome on todays... tonight’s PTC meetings. So, this letter needs to be signed by the Chair and it has to be At Places tomorrow morning 9 o’clock. Ok so this concludes our Staff presentation and we’d be happy to answer any questions you have. We have with us today Brad Eggleston from Public

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Works and expecting somebody from budget too. Oh, I’m sorry, you were supposed to come here, Kiely over there.

Chair Lauing: Ok are there any public speakers on this item? I didn’t see any. Alright yeah, thanks for pointing out that this is due in about 12-hours which means we do have time to go through 270 CIPS if we choose to and I hope we don’t choose too. So, you see the task in front of us is to essentially agree with Staff on the 20 as the primary goal but we can add or subtract to that so are there any questions of Staff? Do we want to question first of Staff and then we can just light things up? No questions? Ok sorry. Commissioner Riggs.

Commissioner Riggs: I’m fine, go ahead.

Chair Lauing: Oh sorry.

Commissioner Waldfogel: [unintelligible – off mic]

Chair Lauing: Oh, I was just going to see if there any questions of Staff to understand it anymore. No?

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1. **Commissioner Riggs:** I have something I’d like to discuss yeah. I’d like to understand the pole undergrounding program and how the suggested CIP items that are related to electrical poles relate to the undergrounding program. And how we can... it seems a little fiscally irresponsible to spend $7 million or more on new poles when we have an undergrounding program.

2. **Chair Lauing:** Those are in my notes too.

3. **Ms. Eggleston:** I’m sorry I don’t think we have anyone from utilities here at the meeting who could really speak to the undergrounding program.

4. **Commissioner Waldfogel:** [unintelligible -off mic]

5. **Chair Lauing:** It’s not a CIP?

6. **Commissioner Waldfogel:** [off mic] Well it’s a CIP but it’s an Enterprise Fund CIP. I mean we can review it but that’s funded by the Enterprise Fund.

7. **Commissioner Riggs:** There’s nothing that would... My understanding is that there’s nothing would prohibit from the City for actually creating a Capital Improvement Program to accelerate it. I mean it’s a 70-year program, there’s nothing that would prohibit us from not wasting money in the interim on installing new poles that will just be removed when we get to

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undergrounding. So, I mean there’s nothing that would prohibit that funding decision from my understanding.

Chair Lauing: Right so that’s something, for example, I think that we could alert in a context of this memo we could alert that that needs another look as a way to getting that visibility to the Finance Committee and the Council.

Commissioner Riggs: Yeah that’d be fine. I think it’s pretty acute.

Chair Lauing: No, I agree. Ok if there’s no question of Staff let’s go back to... I think we (interrupted)

Vice-Chair Monk: Well I had a comment on that same one.


Chair Lauing: Ok, great, now I was just going to ask that because there’s couple lights on and I want to see if there are questions so Commissioner Gardias.

Commissioner Gardias: Thank you and thank you very much for coming. Thank you very, Chitra for the presentation. You don’t need to be introduced, come on everybody knows Chitra and

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Brad thank you very much for coming and seeing us. Last year I made a comment that every
time I see you and this is I think the 5th-year that the summer is coming. And then looking at the
temperatures soaring this coming weekend I think that this is coming true however I have a
couple of question to you. So, I actually this was a... I circled out the same CIP item because I
had identical questions because 11... Item 11 on this short list of 20 project talks about poles
replacement and the prior Item 10 talks about the underground repairs. And then it just
normally Cities migrate from the pole distribution to underground distribution so if this expense
needs to be made that’s fine. I totally understand it but I would like to know what’s the plan for
migration from on pole distribution network to underground? If there is nobody from the Utility
Department can we (interrupted)

Mr. Eggleston: I think I... I’m not an expert but I think I can speak to it at a high level and the
basic situation is that undergrounding utilities is very, very expensive to the point that
ratepayers typically would not want to endure the rate increases that would be required to
have a more accelerated program of undergrounding those utilities. And that’s the primary
reason why currently there are projects kind of one small district at a time that are
implemented by the Utilities Department. But my understanding is that that really at the
current time is proceeding at a pace that’s probably 70 to 100-years to complete the whole City
and it’s really a matter of funding.
Commissioner Gardias: So, is there a plan? From this what I understand you’re saying there is a plan of migration of the utility distribution to underground. Is there one or is there not?

Mr. Eggleston: I’m not sure that there is in the sense that you could say it’s a plan that goes all the way through. To my knowledge, there are these one at a time districts that are being implemented and I think each one takes some number of years to complete.

Commissioner Gardias: Ok would it be possible to ask as an action item to the Staff to pretty much provide the response to Commissioner Riggs and myself to the question that we ask. And the specific question I have is what’s the plan of migration from the over... from the pole to underground?

Chair Lauing: I think we can prepare a list of questions to go to Council generally. I’m going to freelance here a little bit but I saw most of the Council meeting last night and the City Manager said that the undergrounding is a 70 to 100-year project because of funding. So, I’m presuming that this is in here as an interim measure even though it costs a lot of money. Why it’s this number I have no idea but that’s what I heard him say last night.

Kiely Nose, Office of Budget and Management Director: That’s actually exactly right. Good evening, I’m Kiely, I’m the Budget Director so at a very high level that’s exactly what’s

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happening. The plan to underground is a significant capital investment. To accelerate that would mean an upfront cost in capital and so that would dramatically change your electric rates as ratepayers because that is an Enterprise Fund. And so, until we are able to go through this significant change to move toward undergrounding we still are in the business of needing to maintain and replace the poles that are around the City. It’s not like oh one pole has gone out from a maintenance standpoint. Great, let’s go focus our resources there and underground there so we don’t replace that pole. It’s a much more systematic since obviously, we’re pulling up streets and all that other kind of stuff. So, if we want additional information we absolutely can... the Commission can add that in their letter but in general, you’re exactly right ungrounding is a long-term significant investment.

Commissioner Riggs: But there’s nothing that would preclude the Council from designating CIP money to supplement an Enterprise Fund. I mean that is not... I mean it’s a [ unintelligible] money issue.

Ms. Nose: I’m sorry could you clarify for me supplementing (interrupted)

Commissioner Riggs: They could designate projects to supplement Enterprise Funds. They could basically over fund an enterprise account if I’m correct.
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Ms. Nose: So, move General Fund money (interrupted)

Commissioner Riggs: Correct.

Ms. Nose: To the Enterprise Fund to cover these costs. Is that what I’m understanding?

Commissioner Riggs: To expedite... to make the project faster.

Ms. Nose: Understood. Yes, you definitely from an accounting perspective could loan money between different funds if you wanted to mitigate things like rates for an Enterprise Fund. The other thing I would say is it does become a priority from a Council funding perspective on where to dedicate limited resources. And so, on the General Fund side, the Council has made it abundantly clear that the priority is the 2014 Council Infrastructure Plan which we've been talking with the Finance Committee and Council on is already underfunded and so Staff is exploring how we would figure out with the Council to close that funding gap. So, if we were to draw additional resources from the General Capital Fund to dedicate towards expediting this undergrounding project, I think it was Council Member Scharff last night that called it an undergrounding dream, it would be a policy call. A priority of where limited resources should go.
Commissioner Riggs: Accept for some .5 million dollars a year in perpetuity is a hell of a lot of money so I mean (interrupted)

Ms. Nose: Yep, that’s why I say it’s a policy call.

Commissioner Gardias: So, on my side right I’d like to just see the plan and I appreciate the explanation but there’s nothing new that you addressed that I would have known. And this is just a general knowledge and I still appreciate your response; however, I’d like to just see the plan. So, if you could... somebody could just provide me a reference, probably there is already a plan so I can just look it up in my free time. I would appreciate this.

Chair Lauing: Other comments?

Commissioner Gardias: No, can I ask more questions?

Chair Lauing: Yeah yeah go ahead sure.

Commissioner Gardias: So, the other question I have is there any expense on this that is not... that has... is any project on this list that has no fund allocation as we speak? Is there any of

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Mr. Eggleston: All the projects in the Capital Budget are funded for the work that’s at least currently planned in the project if that’s what you’re asking.

Commissioner Gardias: That’s right that’s what I’m asking.

Mr. Eggleston: I don’t believe there are any projects listed in there that are unfunded projects that we’re hoping to fund in the future.

Ms. Nose: Right.

Mr. Eggleston: There may be some projects that at this time are only funding say a feasibility or design phase where the eventual construction costs are not known yet and not yet allocated.

Chair Lauing: Well with the exception that the 20 are proposed ones. The 20 that are called out here as new are proposed for starting this year so those are not officially funded yet, right?

Mr. Eggleston: Right they have proposed funding in the fiscal year ’19.
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that there would be a follow-up. If this project doesn’t meet some threshold I can understand
but just leaving it hanging up in the air it just violates the process as I know. So, with all due
respect, I would like to have this... ask the Staff to pretty much include it in the list and then
provide me and my colleagues with the answer about the future of this project. And what went
wrong?

Mr. Eggleston: Can I ask if you are aware that the project hasn’t been done? I’m assuming
(interrupted)

Commissioner Gardias: Yes, it hasn’t been done. It hasn’t been done. I mean the whole... as you
may know, there is a delay a few months of the golf course and then vicinity... There was delay
in the construction of the golf course and then the vicinity improvements... improvements in
the vicinity of the golf course. So, the reason that I was proposing to add this project because
one this route is going to be opened and secure for the traffic. People from the other side of...
from the residential neighborhood may safely cross to the golf course and also to the bike route
that’s there as well as some other... there’s an athletic center and they may enjoy it as well as
kids. And then as you may know it’s also there are runs... mid-night runs and walks and there’s
also been the run for the water for every day if I remember correctly. And then during those
events, you have a number of people that pretty much that just walk to those events.

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Chair Lauing: Ok did you have other comments too?

Commissioner Gardias: No thank you that’s it.

Chair Lauing: Ok Commissioner Waldfogel.

Commissioner Waldfogel: I’d like to make a motion, is that appropriate at this point?

Commissioner Riggs: I still have one more question before your motion if that’s ok? I want (interrupted)

Commissioner Waldfogel: Well actually my motion will leave open to later discuss further points because what I’d like to do... I mean I think we all want to get home early. There’s a Warriors game on tonight. So, what I’d like to do is break this into two motions if possible. One is motion to approve the next CIPs with a small caveat on how we phrase that and then the second I propose that we put a series of motions on the table on particular issues that we think need further review whether it’s for this year’s budget or things we’d like added to next year’s budget. If we can get votes on those, those are great and if we can’t we can submit them as individual comments because that’s what the letter also anticipates. So that’s what I would just propose as a format. If that’s ok I’ll go ahead and make the first motion.

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Commissioner Riggs: I actually think it’s better if you don’t mind that if I ask this question because I can’t approve them... I don’t want to approve until I know the answer to this question. Sorry, your cells aren’t lined here but I think on... in the detailed spreadsheet there... the vehicular replacement appears to be zeroed out. Is that zeroed out or is that still on here?

This is VR 23000.

Ms. Campbell: Could you tell us what page you’re on? Which Packet page?

Commissioner Riggs: Three of four Packet Page 917.

Ms. Campbell: Thank you.

Commissioner Riggs: I just want to be sure that... I mean this says zero. I want to make sure that it’s no longer a part of the CIP. Is that correct? It’s on the list.

Mr. Eggleston: So, the CIP when it’s adopted by the City Council is a budget that’s adopted for FY 2019 and then a plan for the remaining 4-years but without that actually being adopted. So, I think what I see here is that this is the vehicle replacement project for fiscal year 2023. It’s been first identified in fiscal year ’19 but the 2019 that’s allocated is zero. And the reason why is

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because it has funding proposed in fiscal year 2023 which is a plan that won’t be formally adopted yet by the Council. I hope that helps.

Commissioner Riggs: Sure.

Mr. Eggleston: There is also a fiscal year 2019 vehicle replacement project in the budget.

Chair Lauing: From previous CIPs.

Mr. Eggleston: No there are… generally each year there’s a vehicle replacement project so there’s a ‘16, ’17, ’18. Some of them if all the vehicles are not purchased within the 1 fiscal year they roll over and still have a budget. So, for instance, I’d have to look at this but we have new funding for 2019 but I believe there’s still some funding that’s being re-appropriated for the projects that were for fiscal year ’18 and fiscal year ’17 where there are still some vehicles and equipment still to purchase.

Commissioner Riggs: Well I’m just… I’m glad you clarified. I’m going to ask that Council consider striking that. We need to be moving towards a fleet based... a rental based fleet. This is not appropriate capital expenditures so that if there are future year expenditures we need to consider actually moving to a different model for this type of infrastructure.

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it’s a progression so I just had a question on that. Just iterating that point. In regards to the Capital Improvement Fund on Page 4 for the animal shelter renovation. Why is it an interim facility?

Mr. Eggleston: What’s going on right now is that the City has a letter of intent with Pets in Need to take over operation of the current animal shelter. And the way that’s trying to be structured is that Pets in Need would take it over. They would begin a fundraising campaign to hopefully eventually to raise enough to build a new animal shelter that would be up to all the standards that they would like to have in a new animal shelter. But as part of at least the draft agreement that’s being discussed the City would provide some funding for some interim capital improvements that they feel are absolutely necessary for them to be able to run the shelter. So that’s what’s represented in that project with the I believe it’s $800,000.

Vice-Chair Monk: Ok, that’d be nice if the City took a more proactive role in having a more permanent solution but I guess that’s what their... the direction they are going. In regards to the electric fund and the power station equipment upgrades on Page 6, it’s not really clear what the close to 9—the close to $.9 million is replacing. Is it just replacing the tanks and the radiators or is it just kind of paint upgrade or what’s happening on that? It’s just not clear. It’s Number 7. I guess that’s also related to Number 8 that all works together.

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Mr. Eggleston: I’m not familiar with the project other than reading about it here but it sounds like there’s equipment that’s in poor condition that needs to be upgraded.

Vice-Chair Monk: Ok just in reading it, it looks like it’s rusty paint so I’m guessing its more than that. I would just hope the Finance Committee would look at it in a little bit more detail. Regards to the Hopkins substation I just don’t know what that is so can you just tell me what 4KV to 12KV means.? If you know.

Mr. Eggleston: It’s 4,000 volts to 12,000 volts.

Vice-Chair Monk: And what’s the (interrupted)

Mr. Eggleston: So those are just different levels of electrical voltage.

Vice-Chair Monk: Yeah that’s apparent but what’s the (interrupted)

Mr. Eggleston: I can’t tell you I’m sorry.

Vice-Chair Monk: Ok.

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1. **Commissioner Waldfogel:** [unintelligible – off mic]

2. **Vice-Chair Monk:** Ok so Commissioner Waldfogel informed me that this whole system is getting upgraded and this might be the last piece of it. Ok and then regards to... it wasn’t clear on what’s happening with the Council Chamber upgrade. I know that came before Council and it’s kind of in process but I definitely support getting (interrupted)

3. **Mr. Eggleston:** I can clarify that a little bit and so you may be familiar that it came to Council probably 6 to 8-weeks ago and there was a lot of discussion about the level of investment. So, the Council actually referred it to the Finance Committee to further evaluate the options and to try to see if there were some ways to reduce the potential cost of the project. So that’s why if you look at this project... the capital project that’s being created here talks about the funding as being placed in a reserve in the project. And so, the idea is it would be available but subject to the Finance Committee and Council’s ultimate decision on what to do with the project.

4. **Vice-Chair Monk:** Ok thanks. In regards to the wood pole replacement, I know that it was addressed by two other Commissioners. My questions to the Finance Committee would be how many do we currently have and over what period of time where they determined to deteriorate because this is $7.5 million over the next 5-years. And given the other circumstances that were alluded to tonight, it might be worth examining that a little further. So, the biggest expense on

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here is the Waste Water Treatment Fund on Page 10. Actually, that doesn’t look correct. I’m sorry it’s Item… I don’t know why I wrote down Page 10. Oh, discusses it but can you just kind of give an overview what’s going on there and what percentage is benefiting South Palo Alto versus the Research Park?

Mr. Eggleston: I’m sorry I’m not sure which project we’re (interrupted)

Vice-Chair Monk: The Wastewater Treatment Fund.

Mr. Eggleston: The advanced water purification facility (interrupted)

Vice-Chair Monk: Yeah, I mean there’s (interrupted)

Mr. Eggleston: Or the secondary treatment?

Vice-Chair Monk: There’s several items that are quite costly. We’re looking at $80 to $100 million so I’m just kind of curious what the overall program is that’s happening.

Mr. Eggleston: Sure, there’s… essentially the wastewater treatment plant as it’s currently constituted was built in about 1970. So, it’s aging and most of it needs to be rebuilt both

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because of its age and condition. But also because of boating on the plant and new regulatory requirements for discharge to San Francisco Bay that the treatment plant has to meet. So, there’s a couple different things, first I’d say there’s other projects that are also large that are not shown here because they were reviewed last year and there’s an overall very significant project for capital improvements and new facilities at the treatment plant. The ones you see here, the advanced water purification facility is a project to essentially use revered osmosis to remove total dissolved solids, essentially the salts from recycled water. So that recycled water can be used more both in the north of Bayshore area of Mountain View where we already have a recycled water distribution system. Mainly the Google are there and also a predominantly in Palo Alto within the Stanford Research Park. And the idea is that City Council set a goal I believe it’s for having a TDS level of 600 mg per liter. We’re currently quite already over that and this would allow less solidity in the recycled water so that’s that one.

Vice-Chair Monk: What’s the recycled water used for? Is it our drinking water? Is it for (interrupted)

Mr. Eggleston: No, currently it’s for irrigation for landscaped area irrigation. In some instances, it’s used for indoor uses like a toilet and urinal flushing.

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Vice-Chair Monk: So, we’re further purifying water that’s used for landscaping and plumbing type of things?

Mr. Eggleston: That’s correct and really, it’s the landscaping issues where there’s some concern about build-up of salts in the soil and eventual impact on certain plant species, particularly Redwood Trees.

Vice-Chair Monk: Ok thank you. Last question and it has to do with the enterprise resource planning and the customer information systems. What is that if you can enlighten me? That’s under the Technology Fund.

Mr. Eggleston: I think Kiely [Note- Ms. Nose] can best speak to that.

Ms. Nose: Gee thanks, Brad. The Enterprise Resource Planning System, we call it ERP for short, is the financial system for the organization. So, current the City is using SAP as a software system and we’re undergoing an evaluation. We’ve had that system for over a decade so it is the financial backbone essentially of the organization. CIS is the Customer Information System so that’s the utility’s backbone. That’s the backbone that all customer billing and information rolls through and so also that system is currently on SAP and it’s undergoing an evaluation for upgrade or replacement.

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Vice-Chair Monk: Thank you very much and I would be happy to move forward on adopting this but it sounds like Commissioner Waldfogel has a (interrupted)

Chair Lauing: Why don’t you go ahead with your motion Commissioner Waldfogel because we can still discuss it when the motion is on the table.

Commissioner Waldfogel: One more question.

Chair Lauing: Ok. Commissioner Gardias has one more question.

Commissioner Gardias: Quick question or other comment. Vice Chair Monk’s questions triggered some thinking that I had in terms of the irrigation systems. We spent all this money for irrigation systems and then specifically around the water treatment plant as you know there is an irrigation system that uses recycled water and there are of course signs. I don’t really think that this needed. This water should be returned to the creek as the rest of the recycled water is and then pretty much we should just change the greenery into this type that doesn’t need to be watered. I hike there... I’m sorry not hike but I run around this plant every Saturday and Sunday and I see that it’s watered every day probably. And I think this is just a waste just giving that we have a policy of planting... of using plants that pretty much are native to California and that

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they don’t need this much water. So, it just sends the wrong signal and then uses the water in this area unnecessarily. That would be mine... and then you can cut it down this expense. Thank you.

Chair Lauing: Ok Commissioner Waldfogel.

MOTION

Commissioner Waldfogel: Great. I'll just make... let me explain this and then I'll make the motion. Substantially I want to make a motion to push this forward. The only thing I am uncomfortable with is I'm uncomfortable asserting that we’ve determined that these are... that the new capital improvement projects are consistent. I think that we can say that we’ve evaluated this based on Staff’s representations but I’m certainly not in a place to say that all 700 pages of this are consistent with however 500 pages of Comprehensive Plan. You know that’s way above my pay grade so my motion is to amend the letter in Appendix A Packet Page 13 the Planning and Transportation Commission, PTC, was presented 2019-2023 proposed Capital Improvement Plan in May after multiple rounds of Finance Committee review. The PTC did not find any errors in Staffs representations that all the new capital improvement projects included in the 2019-2023 Capital Budget are consistent with the adopted Comprehensive Plan. The PTC recommends forwarding this finding to the City Council Finance Committee and the
City Council. The motion was made by and then last sentence attached to this letter are recommendations from the PTC as a whole which would capture whatever we pass tonight as well as individual Commissioners if anybody wants to submit individual comments for consideration in this and next year’s Capital Budget respectfully submitted. So that... my motion is to... first motion is to advance that as out memo of transmittal.

Chair Lauing: Is there a second to that?

SECOND

Commissioner Summa: I’ll second.

Chair Lauing: Made by Waldfogel and seconded by Summa. So now other discussion? I think you’ve already spoken to it Mr. Waldfogel [Note-Commissioner Waldfogel] but Commissioner Summa did you want to speak to it at all?

Commissioner Summa: Not really. I think I’m comfortable with... I’m comfortable with the approach that Commissioner Waldfogel suggested.

Chair Lauing: Other comments?

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Vice-Chair Monk: I want to make sure that we’re compliant with Section 19.04.040 of our Municipal Code. And so, because we don’t have the benefit of looking at what was proposed I don’t know the exact language that Commissioner Waldfogel proposed but if he’d amendable to language that said something along the lines that it’s we don’t find any lack of conformity to the Master Plan [note- Comprehensive Plan]. Would that be something that you would be willing to entertain as opposed to the way you phrased it? Again, I don’t have it in front of me to (interrupted)

Commissioner Waldfogel: Well the issue is that (interrupted)

Vice-Chair Monk: I just want to ensure that the motion that we’re making would be compliant with what our obligations are under the code.

Commissioner Waldfogel: Right there’s two issues here. One is whether we meet the conditions of 19.04 or what is it? 19.04.040. The second issues is just what we can accurately do and the problem with this is that I’m confident that to the extent that Comp. [Note -Comprehensive] policies are sited in this book that it’s correct. However, I’m not confident that there are other policies that might contradict the ones that are sited so I’m not confident that there’s been 100 percent cross check review. I just don’t know what the status of that is. I mean I’d love a

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Ms. Moitra: For the remaining 189 CIPs which is in the book Staff has reviewed them based on the new Comp. Plan which was adopted by the City Council last year. So, we did go back and checked... cross-checked.

Commissioner Waldfogel: I’m sorry, I’m trying to get my light on. In the cases where there’s a policy that says A. And then somewhere else in the Comp. Plan there’s a policy that says A Prime or not A and there are a lot of places in the Comp. Plan where that’s the case. And I just haven’t been able... you know we haven’t seen a review looking at all of the conditions throughout the Comp. Plan.

Ms. Campbell: So, I think you’re absolutely correct about the point that you’re making that there are many policies within the Comprehensive Plan and you’re always going to find some policy that may contradict a different policy. But what we do is we use the primary policies to help guide us and that’s what we focus on because we have to go with the general intent of what the policy stands for.

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Commissioner Waldfogel: Right but I... have you identified where there are contradictions or conflicts?

Ms. Moitra: Specifically, we haven’t found any contradictions so far and the other things for the new 2030 Comprehensive Plan we had tried our best to eliminate those kinds of contradictions which existed in the prior Comprehensive Plan so kind of took care of that.

Commissioner Waldfogel: I think it’s great that you did that exercise but it’s not captured here in any fashion. So, I mean I’m happy to agree that... I’m happy to agree with your analysis and your representations but I’m not willing to assert that... I mean this original motion I’m not willing to assert that I’ve determined this but I’m willing to agree that you’ve determined this.

Chair Lauing: So, as I understand it with that wording change we’re doing the same thing according to the law and we are referring the complete Comprehensive Plan to City Council and Finance Committee first. So, there’s no change in that approach. Yes?

Ms. Sandra Lee, Assistant City Attorney: Thank you Mr. Chair. Sandra Lee, Assistant City Attorney, I just wanted to note that this is the same process that we undertake every single year where Staff does this evaluation and makes a recommendation to the PTC regarding
conformance to the Comprehensive Plan. And I guess it’s no different so what the code requests is that the PTC review the CIP and make a recommendation... or make some comment to Council regarding the conformity with the Comprehensive Plan. I think Staff would already transmit to Council that they believe that there is conformity with the Comprehensive Plan so what the code is looking for is not just relaying what Staff has represented but what the PTC is concluding after its review of the CIP.

Commissioner Riggs: Well then let me make a specific recommendation. On Page 20 you could have very well nixed all of the projects underneath the different sections of the Comprehensive Plan and illustrated how they are consistent. This is actually... I have to say I think this is very poorly done.

Commissioner Waldfogel: But I think if we just say that we haven’t found any errors in Staff’s analysis that should be good enough. I mean the thing is this process is forcing us to do something... I would never sign a contract representing that I’ve done something that I haven’t done. And that’s what your memo is asking me to assert that I’ve don’t something that we can’t have effectively done in this 30-minute discussion but we can say that we haven’t found any errors. That’s a true statement.

Chair Lauing: Other comments? Oh (interrupted)

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Vice-Chair Monk: I guess I have a question (interrupted)

Chair Lauing: Commissioner Summa is up next.

Commissioner Summa: Yes, so I wanted to point out that we got two additional big things from Staff on the 9th for the original meeting that this was scheduled for that had more information than the supplement that we were given for this meeting. Including a justification that was pretty thorough for each project if you wanted to look it up. So, I’m... and all the policies that they used so this little one that we got last Thursday wasn’t as thorough as our initial information.

Chair Lauing: Is your light on? No. Ok, so Commissioner Gardias is your light on?

Commissioner Gardias: This was just a comment to the discussion that I propose to remove the sentence that says that we reviewed the documents for errors because that’s not truly true ascertainment. That it’s not a true statement and it would put us in the... it would put understanding on the Council... it would make understanding within the eyes of the Council Members that we did this work which we have not done.
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Commissioner Waldfogel: [unintelligible -off-mic]

Commissioner Gardias: Yes, please, yes.

Commissioner Waldfogel: The sentence is that the PTC did not find any errors in Staff’s representations but the things is that’s really all we know. I mean we have not determined... are you comfortable determining that this book is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan which is another big book? Have you done that work?

Commissioner Gardias: Well but we’ve reviewed this prior year and I believe we stated that it is comprehensive and this statement (interrupted)

Commissioner Waldfogel: But it’s a Comp. Plan [Note – Comprehensive Plan].

Commissioner Gardias: I understand right but we know the Comprehensive Plan so we’ve done the work every year and this is just incremental addition of the 20 new projects. And I understand that the Comprehensive Plan changed but we know the content of the plan. However, I oppose the statement specifying that we reviewed this for errors because we have not done. I’d rather say that it reconciles with the Comprehensive Plan because I believe that it does. When I reviewed this and when we were reviewing this for years and I can state this as a

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fact that it does reconcile with the Comprehensive Plan. However, I cannot state that we reviewed it for errors, thank you.

Chair Lauing: Ok I just want to make a comment on this. I think this motion seems reasonable. I think that we did review the other CIPs in prior years and it’s not reasonable to review 230 pages but I don’t think it’ a problem that we’re taking the representation of Staff. I mean we’re trusting Staff’s judgment and we looked at the 20 individually, we asked some questions as you can see about whether they should be there but in terms of the actual 20 can you find a justification that they are consistent with the Plan? I think you have and my personal view of it is that those 20 are consistent but I’d be supportive of the language that’s there right now. If we need to tweak it to get other folks on board we could look at that. Other comments?

Commissioner [note - Vice-Chair] Monk?

Vice-Chair Monk: I agree with Chair Lauing’s position that this has been done every year and what’s different about this year that we wouldn’t approve it? The 20 that were presented to us have been represented by Council or rather by Staff as being in conformity with the Master Plan [note – Comprehensive Plan]. I do have a question to the City... Assistant City Attorney regarding the code where it says that we shall review each project for conformity. So, I think that the code is a little burdensome as written and maybe you can let us know how literally we need to be in our transmittal to Council while maintaining compliance with the code requirements?

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Ms. Lee: Thank you Mr. Chair [Note – Vice-Chair Monk]. I would say that the Commission may well keep with its past practice to review the new CIPs and to the extent that the Commission identifies any other projects... existing projects that they feel are out of conformance that they may do so. However, it’s not necessary for you to go through all 200 or so CIPs that the Commission has reviewed previously.

Vice-Chair Monk: I might not be understanding you. It says that we reviewed each project for conformance so wouldn’t that... wouldn’t the code be suggesting that we review the entire CIP?

Ms. Lee: Yes, many of those projects... actually, all of those projects other than the 20 that are presented have been reviewed by the PTC. They may have been predecessor of yours but they have previously been reviewed by the PTC for conformance with the Comprehensive Plan. And so, it’s not necessary to every year go through each of those projects to determine whether or not they are in conformance still. So that’s why the Commission typically just focuses on the new projects.

Vice-Chair Monk: And that still holds true even though we have a newly adopted Comprehensive Plan?

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Ms. Lee: Well I think Staff has represented that they have done that review of the prior projects and so I mean to the extent that the Commission wants to accept that representation you may do so. If not then you can make another determination in your letter.

Vice-Chair Monk: Based on what Chair Lauing mentioned and given that I’m not entirely clear what Commissioner Waldfogel’s motion is I have a proposed alternate motion that I might make.

Commissioner Waldfogel: [unintelligible - off mic]

Vice-Chair Monk: Ok so maybe if there’s a way that we could see the motion? I can’t vote on it because it was quite lengthy and I don’t know what is different.

Chair Lauing: Could you reread it Commissioner Waldfogel and if you want to add some changes?

MAKER MADE AN AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION

Commissioner Waldfogel: [Off mic] Based on the discussion let me propose a change. Let me propose that we just base off of Packet Page 13 and after the word determine, the second sentence say and determined based on Staff’s representation.

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Vice-Chair Monk: I think the issue that you have Commissioner Waldfogel and correct me if I am wrong is that we... it’s saying that we actually did review it. So, isn’t that really the crux of your concern?

Commissioner Waldfogel: [off mic] well we’ve reviewed but we haven’t determined. The only thing we’ve... the only thing we [unintelligible] determining is what’s based on Staff’s representation. We’re not in a position to make a determination except based on what Staff has represented to us.

Vice-Chair Monk: I don’t know that I’m comfortable putting this on Staff and taking all of the responsibility off us to make the determination when it’s incumbent upon us to make that finding. So that’s not something that I could support.

Chair Lauing: Commissioner Gardias.

Commissioner Gardias: I’d like to make a substitute motion to (interrupted)

Chair Lauing: Did you say a substitute motion or substitute wording?

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1. **Commissioner Gardias:** Substitute... well there’s a motion on the floor right and it’s been seconded so (interrupted)

2. **Chair Lauing:** Right.

3. **Ms. Lee:** Can I clarify something?

4. **SUBSTITUTE MOTION**

5. **Commissioner Gardias:** I’d like to propose a substitute motion to adopt a... that would pretty much follow the language as it has been provided to us in the Staff’s document to... do you want me to read it?

6. **Chair Lauing:** No, no.

7. **Commissioner Gardias:** It’s on the page.

8. **Chair Lauing:** No, I just want to make sure that you didn’t... you weren’t trying to reword the motion that’s on the table. You wanted to go a different direction.

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Commissioner Gardias: No, I’m ready to accept the verbiage that’s stated in the document.

Chair Lauing: Ok, that’s fine. Just to clarify it procedurally.

Commissioner Gardias: That’s a substitute motion.

Chair Lauing: So now it needs a second.

Vice-Chair Monk: I don’t know what the motion is.

Chair Lauing: The motion is exactly as the documented has printed.

Vice-Chair Monk: May I make a suggestion? I think as a matter of order could we maybe make the motion that we determined that the capital improvement projects don’t lack conformity with our Comprehensive Plan and we recommend moving this finding to City Council and the City Council Finance Committee. And vote on that motion and then separately make a motion in regards to the language of the transmittal letter?

Chair Lauing: No, that’s not the substitute motion that’s on the floor. So first we have to get a second to that so if there’s no second then (interrupted)
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Vice-Chair Monk: But we haven’t made a preliminary finding of whether or not we want to advance this or not and yet we’re already talking about changing the language of the letter. So, we’re kind of talking about this (interrupted)

Chair Lauing: No, we’re just dealing with the substitute motion right now. The substitute motion is to adopt it as printed and there’s... right now there’s no second. So, if we don’t have that then we’re going to go back to the regular motion and continue that discussion. So, seeing no second (interrupted)

Vice-Chair Monk: I’m will to second it I’m just wasn’t clear... so Commissioner Gardias your recommendation is or your motion is to keep the Attachment A?

Commissioner Gardias: Is to adopt the language that’s (interrupted)

Vice-Chair Monk: Of the letter as is?

Commissioner Gardias: Exactly.

Ms. Lee: Mr. Chair?
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Vice-Chair Monk: Well I think saying that we determined all implies that we’ve actually looked at every single thing and we really know every detail of it. So, I’m more comfortable signing off on something that takes out that high burden so I would say determine that and take out the words all of and just have it reading and determined that the new capital improvement projects. So, I would take out those two words, all of and then I would second the motion.

Chair Lauing: Alright the maker is going for that?

Commissioner Gardias: Agreed.

Chair Lauing: Any other discussion? I don’t particularly see that that helps all or not or whatever so I don’t see that helpful. Yeah, Commissioner Waldfogel speaking to the substitute motion.

Commissioner Waldfogel: Yeah speaking to the substitute motion. I mean look my core issue is that we’re representing something that we haven’t really done. If the expedient way to get the votes tonight is just to push this forward because we’ve always done it that way, fine let’s do it that way but I just want to flag that this is a rep. [note-representation?] that I think is slightly responsible for us to make based on this process. Based on a 30-minute public discussion of a
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VOTE

Chair Lauing: Any other comments on the substitute motion? No? Ok. Alright, so we’ll put that to a vote. All in favor of the substitute motion raise your hand? Three and opposed? Three so it doesn’t pass which means we go back to the original motion.

Chair Lauing: So, the original motion at this point has after determined based on Staff’s representation and then the rest of the wording is the same.

Commissioner Waldfogel: The seconder didn’t agree to that change. Ok, so it does.

Chair Lauing: Does it make it more palatable to others if we said something like we’ve reviewed the 20 new ones? I’m not word-smithing here or we can just try the current motion if there’s no

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other discussion or suggestions. And the second part of your plan here as I understood it was to talk about other things that we want Council and Finance Committee in reverse order to take a look at? Right, ok so let’s go with the original motion which is the document that’s here after determined its comma based on Staff representation comma. Is that correct? Ok. So, all in favor of that motion as read (interrupted)

Vice-Chair Monk: I’d like to speak to that, please?

Chair Lauing: Sure.

Vice-Chair Monk: The thing is that Staff hasn’t represented or recommended... did you say... you said something different. Commissioner Waldfogel (interrupted)

Chair Lauing: Based on Staff representation.

Vice-Chair Monk: See... is that what your language was, representation? I just think it’s problematic because it’s our responsibility to have reviewed it as well so I think it needs to be discussed a little bit further. Also, on the second part of the letter what’s the motion that was made by whom because we were just talking about a letter? So, I don’t know if that makes a difference. I guess they fill that in later. That might be a side issue

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Vice-Chair Monk: But we haven’t had a Commissioner that made a motion (interrupted)

Chair Lauing: This is the motion right now. Commissioner Waldfogel made it and Commissioner Summa seconded it. So, Staff wants a letter from the Chair summarizing the action. Just a transmittal letter.

Commissioner Waldfogel: (unintelligible – off mic)

Chair Lauing: Right so where I was going relative to your comment Vice-Chair Monk was that if it made it more palatable we could say something like review the Capital Improvement Plan with special reference to the new 20.

Commissioner Waldfogel: (unintelligible -off mic)

Chair Lauing: I don’t know I’m just trying to (interrupted)

Commissioner Waldfogel: (off mic) I’m not sure that changes anything.
Chair Lauing: Ok where I was trying to go was just to get to vote but I’m trying to be a peacemaker.

Commissioner Waldfogel: [off mic] Well I think... do we have support for it?

Chair Lauing: Let’s go, let’s take a vote now. All in favor of the original motion please raise your hand. Five. And opposed? One. Ok, so that passes 5-1 with a minor change to the document that needs to be signed.

MOTION PASSED 5(Summa, Riggs, Lauing, Waldfogel, Gardias)-1 (Monk) -1 (Alcheck absent)

Chair Lauing: Ok good now I think that the next part of this... Sorry, Commissioner Riggs?

Commissioner Riggs: Well I actually feel like Commissioner Monk got shhshed a little bit so I would like... I don’t... did you have other things that you were going to say?

Vice-Chair Monk: Are you asking me to speak to my descent?

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Commissioner Riggs: I would love to hear your descent although I would... I thought we were...

I thought you have more to say before we voted so I would... may we hear from Commissioner

Monk to speak to her descent?

Vice-Chair Monk: I’m just concerned that we might not be compliant with what the code is asking us to do and I would encourage Assistant City Attorney to confirm that the motion that we made and that the transmittal that we’re planning on will meet sufficient requirements to move this onto the next step a dot please let us know. And I fully agree with the intention and the basis and the rationale behind Commissioner Waldfogel’s motion. It makes sense and it’s accurate and so I am dissenting for reasons other than my... I don’t disagree with the motion. I’m just concerned that it isn’t going to allow us to be in compliance with our obligation and even though it is feasible for us to have reviewed this. We were given this Packet a month ago and it’s our job even though we’re not paid to do it, it’s our job to do it and just because you didn’t do it doesn’t mean we weren’t supposed to do it. So, if you didn’t do it then don’t vote on it but... or if you don’t trust Staff’s representations that they reviewed it for us then don’t vote for it. But to say that it’s not feasible for us to review when we’ve had the opportunity to review it and it’s our role to do it to me is not an accurate assessment so that’s why I am not comfortable putting in this additional language. Because I think it’s our responsibility to review the projects and transmit the letter in the format that was provided. Thank you.

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1. **Chair Lauing:** Commissioner Riggs continue.

2. 

3. **Commissioner Riggs:** Thank you Commissioner Monk [Note- Vice-Chair] and I would just add that I didn’t really want to vote for this because I felt like that we didn’t have enough information. And I feel like a lot of this stuff that’s in here should not be in here and I have specific... I think there are things in here that are absolutely wrong. They were given to us, we did not have the opportunity for feedback so if I have... I appreciate your comments Commissioner Monk [Note- Vice-Chair] but I think this process have seen poorly managed. And I actually think it should be done differently in the future. There should be an opportunity to dialog some of these things because we have some... we had 11 percent utility increase last year and we’re giving $1.5 million a year in perpetuity... it appears to be in perpetuity to a pole program which just based on my knowledge of the bonding could be... you know we could bond $35, $40 million. I don’t know. I just... I have some big problems and this should have been a better process. It was not rolled out appropriately to us.

4. 

5. **Ms. Lee:** Excuse me Mr. Chair may I make a comment?

6. 

7. **Chair Lauing:** Go ahead.

8. 

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Ms. Lee: Ok I just wanted to remind the Commission about the scope of the Commission’s role with respect to the CIP. This is not really an opportunity to dialog about whether or not these specific projects should be going forward or not. It’s really supposed to be focused on whether or not the projects are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and if you... if the Commission has ideas on how to more efficiently deliver these projects and if the Commission has any ideas about other projects that they believe should have been included in the CIPs. So, the decisions regarding whether or not these projects go forward are ultimately Council decisions and there are specific areas where the Council has asked for Commission feedback.

Commissioner Riggs: This is the first time we’ve ever had a discussion about this, this year.

Vice-Chair Monk: Just to clarify my descent. I do support moving this on and my descent was in regards to the language based on Staff representation. I just wasn’t comfortable with that language but I do support adopting this and moving it on. And I also agree however with Commissioner Waldfogel’s initial underlying premise that it’s not reasonable for someone to sign off on something that they haven’t fully reviewed. And I think that’s the crux of the issue and I think it is something that we should discuss and have a further analysis or a better process so that we’re more comfortable agreeing to and signing a document that we’re... that we’d actually reviewed it and we know the contents of it fully. Because I don’t think we fully, as a

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other Commissions and it’s very helpful for communications and understanding when these things come up. So, I will talk to Jonathan Lait about that and see if we can get that thing incorporated.

I think the other part of the agenda tonight that’s been raised and not formally in a motion yet is that there may be some of these things that we feel that in the current Comp. Plan [Note: Comprehensive Plan] such as poles should get another look. And I think that was going to be the intent there so I’m happy to go that direction now and come up with not 50 things but a few things that we want to have... take a look at. Did you want to make that into a formal motion?

Commissioner Waldfogel: [off mic] No. Can I just say that for something like poles I would actually recommend referring that to the Utilities Commission because that’s really within their purview.

Commissioner Riggs: I would suggest that the entire budget devoted to utilities needs an evaluation. If you go to the open data portal you can see year over year we have an escalation in expenses that exceed inflation. And yet we’re throwing all this at... there are... our rate increases aren’t... it should be something the Utility Commission but it’s conflated with the Capital Improvement Budget because we’re actually spending capital improvement money. So, I think it’s an appropriate discussion that needs to be highlighted.

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**Commissioner Waldfogel:** Except that’s coming out of their fund and it’s coming out of their revenue basis... out of their rate base so that’s why I would recommend referring it to them. And perhaps there’s some meta-issues about that but poles are being paid for... my understanding is poles are being paid for out of that Enterprise Fund... out of the utilities Enterprise Fund. Probably what, Electric Fund? Yeah and I mean if we’re going to dig into this I mean my understanding is that the highest priority capital project for the utility would be the 230KV intertie if they can make that happen. And that would be a $50 million give or take project but it’s not currently funded. Am I close to, right?

**Ms. Nose:** What I can confirm for you is that the appetite for capital improvement across the utility is far greater than the funds that are available. So, whether it’s that investment in the substations, whether it is undergrounding, you know everything is about priorities and capacity frankly. And so, figuring out what is the highest priority of the Council, of the residents, of the ratepayers and what is necessary from a safety perspective. A lot of what is happening on a capital side in utility is associated with safety. We need to make sure... utilities are extraordinary can be dangerous and so we need to make sure that the infrastructure is supporting the usage.

**Commissioner Waldfogel:** Nobody [unintelligible] safety as a priority and the other thing just since I spent a number of years working on this is that the underground districts also have fine

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Chair Lauing: Ok so the list items that I’ve heard raised so far is this wood pole replacement relative to the underground, the auto fleet needs to move to a different model, Council Chambers may need to be looked at but it may already be being looked at, other things to add to that list?

Vice-Chair Monk: I was just curious what we’re doing in regards to investing in technology that is going to be dealing with our traffic and congestion issues and parking? Is that in here somewhere?

Chair Lauing: Yep.

Vice-Chair Monk: So, I would support (interrupted)

Mr. Eggleston: Yes, it is in there.

[unintelligible] list spans. They don’t... you know they have 20-30-year lifespans. They need to be rebuilt so there’s actually an ongoing cost. You know we’re not expanding underground districts we’re just rebuilding existing underground districts and that’s been an ongoing theme and that’s one of the reasons undergrounding Citywide is a 70-year... what is the term? Dream? Goal.
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Vice-Chair Monk: More creative solutions.

Mr. Eggleston: It’s in other preexisting projects that were reviewed by the Commission in past years. There’s automated parking guidance systems.

Chair Lauing: Commissioner Gardias do you have others?

Commissioner Gardias: No so I don’t have other comments. I’m only interested in including in the letter the project that we accepted last year and then really request Staff to move with the improvement of accessibility to the athletic center and golf course from the gas Shell station to East Bayshore Road and improve this access.

Chair Lauing: So, what was that called so I can just put it on the list? Edgewood something? What did you call it?

Commissioner Gardias: Could you repeat this?

Chair Lauing: What did you call that? Edgewood something.
1. **Commissioner Gardias:** Yeah so last year we talked about the route (interrupted)

2.

3. **Chair Lauing:** I just need the title so we can research it.

4.

5. **Commissioner Gardias:** It is bike and pedestrian route between Edgewood Shopping Center, specifically gas Shell station that needs a crosswalk and then over the bridge across to East Bayshore.

6.

7. **Chair Lauing:** Ok great. Other (interrupted)

8.

9. **Ms. Campbell:** If I could interrupt you? I just wanted to read what we had for last year. Would that be helpful with regarding this specific item?

10.

11. **Chair Lauing:** About the Edgewood thing?

12.

13. **Ms. Campbell:** Yes.

14.

15. **Chair Lauing:** Ok sure

16.

17. **Ms. Campbell:** This is what we had written in with the letter. So, include a CIP item for the 2018

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Capital Budget to assess the feasibility of improving bicycle and pedestrian access from East Bayshore Road to West Bayshore Road with improvements such as signage, curb ramps, pedestrian crossing, and landscape maintenance. So that’s what we had noted from last year. Would you say that’s still accurate?

Commissioner Gardias: Same stuff.

Chair Lauing: Ok great that’s exactly what I wanted to document. Down here any other suggestions for any specifics? Commissioner Summa did you have (interrupted)

Commissioner Summa: Just a comment about the pole thing. I understand your point that you would prefer a future in where we’re undergrounding the neighborhoods rather than replacing poles but my understanding of reading this is that the poles need to be replaced time to time because they’re no longer safe for the people who have to go up them and fix things. So, what this is about I think is making sure the poles we have because we can’t get rid of them all tomorrow will be safe mainly for the workers. And if they fall over they’re also a huge danger for everyone so I think we’re conflating two separate issues with that though I really care that you care about what the heck is going on with undergrounding our utilities but I think they are two separate issues.
Chair Lauing: Ok. Commissioner Waldfogel.

Commissioner Waldfogel: If only there was a button that would do this. Just a list of things that I would flag. I don’t know whether we want to take votes on them or if we just want to flag some items. A couple my colleagues mentioned the advanced water treatment project. I think it’s a great project but I think it would be great to wrap a Business Plan around this project because I suspect the payback on this is infinity. And it would just be good to understand that because my understanding is that we’re charging less money for more expensive water that’s running through an RO plant and then pumped uphill. So, it doesn’t sound like good Business Plan but anyhow let’s understand that.

The... then let me just go through a list of a couple other items. Some of these are from previous years but I want to flag... the first one I want to flag is the High 101 ped/bike overpass projects. It came to this Commission a few months back on the premise that the revised design would save money. It’s not saving money. I mean we’re... it’s gone from $13 million to $18 million. I think the report says it will probably go up from there so I would flag that however we got here is not a good thing and maybe we should rethink this. Especially since CPA is building a bike overpass within a mile of that project so we should be careful about that.
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The Downtown Parking Management Program that’s in here I’m not sure that what’s in here is aligned with the latest PTC and CC reviews because we certainly didn’t approve downtown paid parking and it appears that there’s a project here to pay for downtown paid parking. Just want to be careful that we’re not getting ahead of ourselves.

The Embarcadero Road at El Camino project, focusing on transportation because we are the Planning and Transportation Commission, I think that needs further review in light of some of the public response to the Ross Road and Embarcadero and Middlefield traffic changes but we need to be really cautious before we spend that money.

El Camino Real pedestrian safety and streetscape project, again great project however if the Caltrain undergrounding goes as planned and some of the options for Caltrain grade crossings will lead to closing Alma for a number of years. I don’t know which options that we’re selecting but if Alma is closed for a number of years we’ll be deterring traffic onto El Camino. I don’t want to do anything to screw up circulation on El Camino so we need to coordinate those projects and timing on those projects.

Downtown and Cal. Ave parking structures my understanding is that the price tags have gone way up. I would recommend proceeding on those projects but I would also recommend if this is within our purview a special assessment in the parking assessment.
districts to recover the cost difference between in-lieu fees that have been paid in and the actual cost per space. So, if the in-lieu fees have paid say $30,000 and the actual cost of the structures is $80,000 per space we should go in with a special assessment. So, I don’t know if that’s in our scope or not and that’s my list. So how do... do we want to just get the lists on the table or (interrupted)

Chair Lauing: Yeah, I think we’ve got those lists on the table and the simplest way to do it is not to do a lot of debate here, is just pass along. There’s about 8 things now that I can just type up and send along to the Finance Committee in the morning.

Ms. Campbell: I think we need to have that incorporated with our letter so maybe is there a way that we can... I see you have your computer.

Commissioner Waldfogel: I can email you that list if that’s helpful.

Ms. Campbell: And maybe we can incorporate your items with his list.

Chair Lauing: They weren’t mine but I read them off and we can stay afterward and get this all coordinated so it’s done instantly.

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Ms. Campbell: Thank you.

Chair Lauing: Because I think... I don’t... I personally I don’t feel like we need to debate these and vote on them.

Commissioner Waldfogel: I’d rather not.

Chair Lauing: I think it’s just a list of things for them to look at. It’s more efficient that way.

Commissioner Riggs: I’ll second that approach. I think this is not in our purview.

Chair Lauing: Particularly not tonight.

Commissioner Summa: [off mic] I would agree.

Chair Lauing: Alright. Great so we’ll go with that approach.

Vice-Chair Monk: I support all the items that Commissioner Waldfogel mentioned with the exception of the parking structure moving forward as is. I think that probably needs a little
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Approval of Minutes

Public Comment is Permitted. Five (5) minutes per speaker.¹³
Committee Items
Commissioner Questions, Comments or Announcements

Chair Lauing: So, the next item on our agenda is generally approval of minutes but I don’t think a copy went out so that won’t be an item and I don’t think there’s any Committee meetings. Sorry Committee items?

Looking at the future agenda I had a brief conversation with Jonathan this evening and looking at May 30th the 3877 El Camino Real Tentative Map will be presented but that’s a very short item. And the Vesting Tentative Map for 21515 [Note-2515?] El Camino is not going to be ready. That’s been pushed so the substantive agenda item for the May 30th meeting is a study session on parking requirements for multi-family housing. It’s not likely that anything else is going to sneak onto the agenda because we’ve got to get the Packet out in 2-days so just to kind of give a heads up of May 30th. He did note to me that there are a lot of other moving parts so we can’t get any visibility on the 13th right now.

Vice-Chair Monk: As far as future agenda item go could we request some sort of an update on the TMA or from the TMA on what they’ve been doing and what their [unintelligible] have been? I don’t think they have ever presented to us and also where are we at on the ordinance... weren’t they suppose to come back to us on a parking study? Is that what the May 30th is that you were referring to at the multi-family or is that different?

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Chair Lauing: May 30th is just the multi-family housing. That’s not downtown parking.

Vice-Chair Monk: I thought they... on the ordinance (interrupted)

Commissioner Waldfogel: [unintelligible -off mic]

Chair Lauing: There’s a parking study but it’s (interrupted)

Vice-Chair Monk: Wasn’t the consultant going to come back at that May 9th meeting and go over (interrupted)

Commissioner Waldfogel: [unintelligible -off mic]

Vice-Chair Monk: Is that coming to us on May 30th then?

Commissioner Riggs: [off mic – unintelligible] parking study?

Commissioner Waldfogel: Yeah,

Commissioner Riggs: Really?
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2. Commissioner Riggs: I... can you give us an update on beyond on that because I’m out of the country that meeting and I think I may be out of the country the next meeting.

3. Chair Lauing: The 13th is supposed to be Housing Work Plan outstanding issues and framework for an ordinance.

4. Vice-Chair Monk: Which date?

5. Chair Lauing: Sorry? That’s the 13th. That’s the theory, that’s when that Housing Work Plan item was scheduled and the PTC bi-laws is now tentatively scheduled for there. It was pushed out.

6. Commissioner Riggs: Alright so I will be gone for the meeting of the 30th presenting a National... I will be out of the country for the 30th and the 13th.

7. Chair Lauing: The next one is the 27th and it’s too uncertain at this point.
Spokespersons that are representing a group of five or more people who are identified as present at the meeting at the time of the spokesperson’s presentation will be allowed up to fifteen (15) minutes at the discretion of the Chair, provided that the non-speaking members agree not to speak individually.

1. The Chair may limit Oral Communications to 30 minutes for all combined speakers.
2. The Chair may reduce the allowed time to speak to three minutes to accommodate a larger number of speakers.

Vice-Chair Monk: Commissioner Riggs are there dates or is there... I know we have an official set calendar but since there are meetings that you are missing that are quite important. I mean is it worth it to see if it makes sense to change the date of one of these meetings?

Commissioner Riggs: I would like to be there for the parking hearing but I don’t set the schedules.

Commissioner Waldfogel: [off mic] I mean I think if we do this we’re going to end up... I mean (interrupted)

Chair Lauing: Light.

Commissioner Waldfogel: Yeah, I mean in principle I think that we should find a way to accommodate people’s schedules. I think that as we get into this we’ll find that this... the Housing Work Plan will end up running until some time middle of next year. And if that’s just the cadence that we can support then that’s the cadence we can support.

Commissioner Riggs: I would say Commission Monk [note-Vice-Chair] I’m not worried about the Housing Work Plan because I think that’s going to be... that’s a really ongoing dialog. It has a lot of moving pieces and we’ve already talked about it in I think a couple meetings so.

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Chair Lauing: Ok. Are there any other, excuse me, comments from Commissioners on anything?

Vice-Chair Monk: You know I just saw that Staff was starting to leave I actually did have a question on the Comp. Plan [note – Comprehensive Plan] and CIP. It had to do with... and I’m sorry I didn’t ask about it earlier but I was kind of curious how it supports or doesn’t support the Sustainability Implementation Plan which I’m just becoming familiar with myself. If you can speak to that a little bit Clare?

Ms. Campbell: I’m sorry I actually couldn’t give you any background on that.

Vice-Chair Monk: Was that one of the Staff members that just walked off?

Ms. Campbell: Yeah, I think so, yes. I’m sorry.

Vice-Chair Monk: Who would be the person to follow up on that?

Ms. Campbell: Do you think you could perhaps email me your question and I can definitely get back to you with the right information.

Vice-Chair Monk: Thank you.

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Ms. Campbell: Thank you.

Chair Lauing: Ok if there are no other comments from Commissioners then... Commissioner Gardias.

Commissioner Gardias: A quick question what’s the status of the... of setting up the meeting between PTC and the City Council?

Chair Lauing: I don’t know. I’ve been gone so I don’t know but we’ll check that out. Ok if there are no other comments we stand adjourned. Thank you.

Adjournment

9:45pm
Palo Alto Planning & Transportation Commission

Commissioner Biographies, Present and Archived Agendas and Reports are available online:  
http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/boards/ptc/default.asp. The PTC Commission members are:  
Chair Ed Lauing  
Vice-Chair Susan Monk  
Commissioner Przemek Gardias  
Commissioner William Riggs  
Commissioner Michael Alcheck  
Commissioner Doria Summa  
Commissioner Asher Waldfogel

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View online: http://midpenmedia.org/category/government/city-of-palo-alto or on Channel 26.
Show up and speak. Public comment is encouraged. Please complete a speaker request card located on the table at the entrance to the Council Chambers and deliver it to the Commission Secretary prior to discussion of the item.
Write to us. Email the PTC at: Planning.Commission@CityofPaloAlto.org. Letters can be delivered to the Planning & Community Environment Department, 5th floor, City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301. Comments received by 2:00 PM two Tuesdays preceding the meeting date will be included in the agenda packet. Comments received afterward through 2:00 PM the day of the meeting will be presented to the Commission at the dais.
Material related to an item on this agenda submitted to the PTC after distribution of the agenda packet is available for public inspection at the address above.

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