



Yucaipa City Council Seeks to Improve Road Maintenance *Discusses Safety, Transparency and Takes Other Actions During 5-Hour Meeting*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 14, 2023

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Yucaipa, CA - From increasing its investment in road maintenance to discussing public safety measures, the Yucaipa City Council (Council) acted on a score of significant items during a busy, five-hour long meeting on Monday, March 13th.

Increasing Investment in Road Maintenance

Residents have urged the Council to make road maintenance a priority. Responding to resident concerns, the Council took two actions. First, it approved an update to its Pavement Management Plan (PMP). Then it directed staff to go out to bid to build a list of contractors to help fix potholes.

Every year, the Council updates its PMP to select which roads to maintain and provide funding. Staff reported that the City's road conditions exceed industry standards. Its roads earned a combined Pavement Conditions Index (PCI) score of 64, compared to the industry standard of 60. Looking to build on this success, the Council allocated more than \$3 million to road maintenance for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Fixing potholes can help prevent vehicle damage and further damage to the roads. To fix potholes with urgency, the Council asked staff to build a list of on-call contractors. These contractors will supplement City crews in times of need.

"We're investing money into our roads. It's a priority for us," said Mayor Justin Beaver. "We have a lot of roads. We're not a small city, and it takes time to get to it. But we're being aggressive with it."

The PMP undergoes a major overhaul every five years. The overhaul begins with a scientific study to assign a PCI score to each road in the city. Staff use the study to recalibrate its maintenance priorities. Road surveys begin soon, and staff will be inviting residents to help develop the next five-year plan.

Council Sets Direction on Public Safety, Transparency

The Council held several study sessions on public safety and transparency. Study sessions help the Council to discuss an idea, ask for public comments, and provide direction to staff without taking a specific action. Staff use the Council's feedback to develop proposals that address points of concern. The Council will consider formal proposals at a later meeting. City staff invites residents to share their input on these items as it develops its proposals.

Aggressive Solicitation

Residents have expressed concerns related to aggressive solicitations for money, like panhandlers. Aggressive solicitation can make its targets feel uncomfortable and unsafe. Council directed staff to develop an ordinance to protect residents from aggressive solicitation. Such protections must be crafted with care to follow free speech protections.

Camping

Residents have complained about people camping in public areas, preventing children from using park equipment and blocking walkways and driveways. The Council also asked staff to update its camping ordinance in light of recent court rulings. Yucaipa's camping ordinance was adopted in 2015, before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in *Boise v. Martin* in 2018. That ruling found it unconstitutional for cities to enforce anti-camping laws against homeless individuals who have no other available shelter.

Smoking in Public

The Council also discussed enhanced regulations on smoking in public. Looking to cities for inspiration, the Council discussed smoking restrictions beyond state law. State law prohibits smoking in workplaces, restaurants, bars, and other enclosed spaces. The Council did not come to a consensus on a policy direction.

Sunshine Ordinance

Local agencies must hold open meetings, according to state law. State law also requires cities to make records available to the public upon request. But, state law doesn't require cities to broadcast meetings or make records available online. The Council directed staff to develop a "sunshine ordinance" implementing best practices for transparency and accountability.

Some of the provisions discussed by the Council include posting on the City's website all labor agreements and approved service contracts, streaming a video broadcast of Council meetings, and making public all meetings that pertain to the General Plan and/or zoning with at least one council member present.

Other Council Actions

Every year, the City undergoes a financial by an external external firm. The basic financial statements with other financial information form the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The Council received the ACFR, which included an unmodified audit opinion from its external auditors.

A current hazard mitigation plan helps protect life and property within the City. Thanks to grant funding, the Council approved, a revised plan. The plan helps the City to mitigate potential hazards and qualifies it for federal disaster mitigation funds.

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