

CITY CLERK'S RECORD OF MEETING

City Council Finance & Budget Subcommittee
April 29, 2021

Present: Mayor Horvath, Mayor Pro Tempore Lauren Meister, City Manager Paul Arevalo, Assistant City Manager David Wilson, Senior Management Analyst Christine Safriet, Acting City Clerk Melissa Crowder

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

Public Comment:

- Victor Omelczenko:
 - Inquired about funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.
 - Requested City staff clarify at the May 3rd meeting what the Successor Agency item attempts to accomplish and what it means to West Hollywood residents.
 - Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Item 5.A. Update on the Impact Of Covid-19 on the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget and Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget

City Manager Paul Arevalo provided an update to the subcommittee on the impact of COVID-19 to the City's revenues. He spoke about the City's business community. He discussed the drawdown of the City's reserves and encouraged the subcommittee to replenish reserve funds once we recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

Assistant City Manager David Wilson spoke about the City's 3rd quarter and the proposed 2021-22 budget. He noted that staff is proposing a status quo budget with the exception of staffing for the West Hollywood Park expansion and additional Public Safety costs. He shared the ways the City has addressed the loss of revenue. He noted that the City will receive \$6.9 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan as well as some FEMA funding.

Senior Management Analyst Christine Safriet discussed the FY22 preliminary budget. Her presentation focused on revenue recovery and expenditure growth, including West Hollywood Park, an increase in funding for events, and Public Safety. She also discussed the Measure E sales tax.

Assistant City Manager David Wilson provided an overview on the new West Hollywood Park Aquatics and Recreation Center (Center) and on-going costs for the Center. He spoke about the staffing analysis and needs for the Center. He spoke briefly on the expansion of business support during the economic recovery, including extension of deadlines and waiving of fees.

Senior Management Analyst Christine Safriet provided an overview of the City's outreach teams (MET and social services teams), schedule of when they provide services to the community, and the cost of services.

Assistant City Manager David Wilson responded to Mr. Omelczenko's inquiry regarding the Successor Agency item on the May 3rd agenda. He also addressed the replenishment of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Public Comment:

- Victor Omelczenko:
 - Hiring Freeze
 - The number of full-time employees
 - Halloween Carnaval
 - Pride Budget
 - Entertainment Policing
 - City's reserves

Comments from Subcommittee:

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister inquired about the reassignment of the entertainment policing unit. Director of Public Safety Kristin Cook responded to this inquiry. She spoke about the City's recreation fees and inquired if the City is considering raising those fees. Mr. Arevalo indicated that staff is looking at fees. He also mentioned entities that utilize the facilities that are "for profit" entities and the City is not recovering the costs. Director of Facilities and Recreation Services Steve Campbell noted that staff is bringing an item to update the fees along with other policies and procedures for the new Center. Mayor Pro Tempore agrees with an increase in the fees. She spoke about her inquires on the City's social services outreach teams and expressed her concern with the coverage late at night and on the weekends. Strategic Initiatives Manager Corri Planck responded to Mayor Pro Tempore Meister's concerns regarding the outreach teams hours of service. Mayor Pro Tempore Meister supports not having large events until the City is in a better financial position. She also clarified the City's use of reserves. Finally, she noted her support for the additional public safety funding to address homelessness, residential safety, and business safety.

Mayor Horvath inquired what portion of the City's budget is allocated to public safety. Ms. Safriet responded that it is approximately 21%. Mayor Horvath also inquired about the rental assistance funding. Social Services Manager David Giugni responded that the City has enough funding for the current fiscal year. City Manager Arevalo noted that it is simpler to utilize emergency funds on an as-needed basis since it is difficult to budget how much funding may be needed. Mayor Horvath indicated that she supports continuing nutrition assistance and rental assistance. Mr. Giugni spoke about the City's home delivered meal, grocery delivery, and transportation programs. Assistant City Manager David Wilson noted that staff will provide an update at the June 21st City Council meeting to discuss all of the City's emergency programs. Mayor Horvath inquired about the percent of the City's budget allocated for social services. City Manager Paul

Arevalo noted that staff will provide the percentage at the June 21st meeting. She spoke about events in the City and accommodating businesses for events. She indicated that she would like to see dedicated staff positions for community events. She inquired if there will be another Finance and Budget Subcommittee meeting prior to the June 21st City Council meeting. Mr. Arevalo noted that staff doesn't plan on another Subcommittee meeting unless something arises that staff needs direction. She wanted to ensure City-owned properties are maintained and funding for capital projects is addressed in the budget to get them developed for the uses when they were purchased. Mr. Arevalo responded on the steps that the City has taken. She mentioned homelessness and ensuring adequate funding. Mr. Arevalo shared what the City is doing to address the issue.

Mayor Pro Tempore Meister requested that staff include costs and attendance for community events as part of the budget discussion with the City Council. Mr. Arevalo and Mr. Wilson responded to this request.

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Melissa Crowder

Melissa Crowder, Acting City Clerk