

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
HELD MARCH 19, 2024**

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Long Beach was held on Tuesday March 19, 2024.

Present were Council Pres. Finn and Council Members Bendo, Lester, and Reinhart. Council Member Fiumara was absent.

Corporation Counsel Dennis Cohen and City Manager Daniel Creighton were also present.

The City Manager, Dan Creighton announced that the project taking place between Long Beach Blvd. and Riverside Blvd. had begun. He added that this project would be the start of bringing in a more attractive and uniform look to the city's central business district. Mr. Creighton then spoke about several other projects including the Pacific Blvd. Playground and the 200 block of East Pine Street and added that he appreciated everyone's patience while these projects are in effect. He then announced that there would be a Council Work Session held on Wednesday, 3/20/24 at 6pm, and some of the topics of discussion would include installing electrical vehicle charging stations along Kennedy Plaza and an update on the Northshore Critical Infrastructure Project. The City Manager then announced several upcoming events that would be taking place throughout the city including:

- Annual Easter Egg Hunt – March 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society “Fun Run” – March 30th
- Long Beach Adult Learning Center Job Resource Fair- April 24th
- Long Beach Public Library – High School Student Job Fair – April 18<sup>th</sup>
- E-Cycling and Shredding Day – April 14<sup>th</sup>
- STOP (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) Program – April 24<sup>th</sup>
- Canal Clean-up Day - TBA

He also informed the residents that H&L Contracting was proposing to close the Meadowbrook Parkway from the Loop to the Wantagh Parkway in both directions for restoration of lane striping from 10pm to 5am, Monday through Friday, beginning on April 15, 2024 and ending on approximately April 26, 2024.

Council President Finn informed the audience that the item on the agenda for the Zoning Board meeting being held on March 21, 2024 consisting of the proposed building on West Broadway between Grand and Lindell Blvd. (658 West Broadway) had been taken off the agenda and would be brought back at a future zoning board meeting.

**The public hearings were held**

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Local Law Amending the Charter of the City of Long Beach Re: Miscellaneous Provisions.

Mr. Creighton noted that this would remove the “Tree Board” from the city's boards and commissions and would combine it with the Environmental Advisory Board.

Council Member Lester asked about the number of members on the Tree Board.

The City Manager replied that there were no members on the Tree Board at the present time, and it had not met for over 10 years.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Long Beach  
Re: Various Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Creighton noted that this item was to remove the Civil Defense Council that is part of the city's Code of Ordinances Boards and Commissions which is not active and combine it with the city's Public Safety Commission.

Council Member Bendo asked about state and federal funding that might be tied to these specific commissions.

The City Manager replied to Mr. Bendo's question.

**The calendar items were read by the City Clerk**

#1 – Local Law Amending the Charter of the City of Long Beach Re: Miscellaneous Provisions

*A hearing had been held on this item already.*

#2 – Ordinance to Amend the Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Long Beach Re:  
Various Boards and Commissions

*A hearing had been held on this item already*

#3 – A "Resolution Adopting a Title VI Policy" was taken off the calendar

#4 – Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Community Development Fund for the  
48<sup>th</sup> Program Year

Mr. Creighton spoke about how this funding would be spent. He then asked Ms. Patti Bourne, Director of Economic Development, to give an explanation on this item.

Ms. Bourne proceeded to describe how the city received an additional \$300,000 from the County.

Mr. Tyler Huffman, Director of Community Development described how the funding would be distributed.

Council Member Lester asked about the money that the Fire Department received for the air compressor.

Council President Finn thanked Mr. Huffman for his efforts on the funding that will be going to some of the upgrades at the Ice Arena.

Mr. Bendo asked about funding for the Sherman Brown Park.

Mr. Huffman noted that the Sherman Brown project did not meet the criteria for this funding and Ms. Bourne noted that the city was looking at other avenues that could be used for the Sherman Brown Park project.

Wanda Brooks – asked about funding for the Magnolia and Leroy Brown Parks.

Mr. Huffman responded to Ms. Brook's question.

Crystal Lake – spoke about the Sherman Brown Playground and the need for this project to be completed.

Mr. Finn asked for clarity on the timeline of the Sherman Brown project.

Commissioner Joe Febrizio of the Department of Public Works reminded Ms. Lake about the meeting that took place recently with her and several others regarding the Sherman Brown Playground and other park projects. He added that one of the issues that came up was adding exercise equipment to the park and he was in the process of speaking with the company regarding that request. Mr. Febrizio also noted that one of the obstacles that take place is getting the equipment delivered in a timely manner which can hold things up.

The City Manager also added that the main goal is getting this project right, but each time the design is changed, it delays the project.

Council Member Reinhart asked that the public be kept updated on the progress of this project.

Helen Dorado-Alesi – commented on the general public use of the Ice Arena and asked if more hours could be added for public use. She also asked about the lack of skate rentals and if CDBG money could be used to purchase more skates. Ms. Alesi then suggested some of the CDBG funding go to the non-profit sector in the city.

Ms. Bourne spoke about providing funding to the non-profits in the future and explained why it could not happen at this time. She also added that when her department hears about certain grants, she does share it with the non-profit organizations who have access to them.

Mr. Crieghton added that the city was looking at ways to offer these types of organizations the opportunity for grant funding.

Mr. Reinhart noted that aside from taking money that is available to make improvements at the Ice Arena, there is also an action plan to better service the community which included the possibility of public skate teen nights and other things that might engage the children more.

Judi Vining – spoke about financial support for non-profits and increasing the use of the Ice Arena for public use.

#5 – Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

Mr. Ray Flammer, Tax Assessor, explained the reason and purpose for the transfer of these funds.

#6 – Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

Mr. Flammer explained that this transfer was for the purchase of a new copy machine.

Council Member Lester asked about the consultant line in the budget and the purchase of the copier. He then asked for clarity on purchasing vs. leasing of copiers.

Mr. David Fraser, City Clerk explained how the city actually saves money in the long run by purchasing the copiers.

Mr. Lester had several other questions and a discussion ensued regarding topics on the copier(s).

#### #7 – Resolution Authorizing Amendments to the Urban Development Fund Budget Years 2014-2023

The City Manager noted that there was unspent money during 2014-2023 in certain line items and this would allow the city to draw down these funds during the ongoing years.

Ms. Bourne gave the background of these particular funds and spoke about how these funds could be used.

Mr. Huffman explained how the funds would be transferred and how they would be allocated.

Council Member Lester asked for clarity on the funds being used for actual salaries.

Ms. Bourne and Mr. Huffman described how the funds would be allocated.

James Hodge (95 E Fulton St) – spoke about Urban Development monies that were unspent and how it should be allocated to benefit the lower income part of the community and non-profit organizations.

The City Manager noted that this is an area that is being looked into, as well as how the city can get additional monies from the county.

Ms. Bourne provided clarification on Urban Development funding and its allocation.

Mr. Lester had several questions regarding the Stop and Shop property and the taxes they pay.

Mr. Flammer replied to Mr. Lester's questions.

Crystal Lake – spoke about the eminent domain and gentrification that took place in the past and how funding should be used in a timely manner.

#### #8 – Resolution Adopting the City of Long Beach Program for Public Information

Mr. Creighton explained how Long Beach participates in the National Flood Insurance program and the community rating system which allows for a 15% reduction. He noted that this resolution could result in a reduction in flood insurance premium ratings by up to 20%. The City Manager recognized Commissioner Joe Febrizio, Commissioner Scott Kemins and others for working to get this program certified.

Council Member Reinhart asked for information on how the plan works to fulfill this requirement.

Commissioner Febrizio gave a full explanation and background of the plan and the program and how it benefits the residents of Long Beach.

Council Member Lester asked about the timeline involved before this program takes effect.

Mr. Febrizio replied to Mr. Lester's question.

Mr. Bendo asked what the highest flood insurance class rating the city could receive.

Commissioner Febrizio replied that he would get that information and report back.

Kevin Reilly – commended the city on its hard work to help save money for residents.

Liz Treston – thanked everyone who assisted in making the savings possible and noted the amount of paperwork involved in the process. She then suggested making some corrections to the draft copy that was included in the resolution.

#### #9 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase License Plate Reader Equipment Under New York State Contract

Acting Police Commissioner, Rich DePalma described the equipment and how it will help with enforcement and safety.

Mr. Lester asked about the yearly cost of this equipment and its useful life.

Acting Police Commissioner DePalma noted the cost to be \$12,000.00 and added that they purchased this same equipment back in 2015 and it's still going strong and still getting good results.

#### #10 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Charitable Donation

Council Pres Finn made a motion to remove the word "Volunteer" from the item. It was seconded by Mr. Reinhart and was carried unanimously.

The City Manager explained that this was to accept a donation of two Jet Skis to be used by the City of Long Beach Fire Department.

Eileen Hession – thanked Dr. Pamela Banks for the donation.

Mike Delury – thanked Dr. Pamela Banks and suggested reallocating these types of agenda items to the beginning of the agenda at future meetings. He also asked if these jet skis could be used by lifeguards during the beach season.

Fire Commissioner Joe Miller replied that the Lifeguards have 3 jet skis that already deploy on the beach and that these jet skis will be used by the fire department to cover not just the beach, but many other areas.

James Hodge (95 E Fulton St) – thanked Dr. Banks for the jet skis donation. He then spoke about how valuable volunteers are.

Council President Finn and City Manager, Dan Crieghton thanked Dr. Banks for the generous donation.

#11 – Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting of March 5, 2024

Council Pres. Finn made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Reinhart and was approved unanimously.

#12 – Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

Mr. Creighton described the reason and purpose for this transfer.

**The voting portion of the meeting was then begun.**

Council Member Reinhart introduced and moved the adoption of the following local law, seconded by Pres. Finn, and it was duly adopted, all four council members present voting in the affirmative.

(L.L. #III/24)

Local Law Amending the Charter of the City of Long Beach Re: Miscellaneous Provisions

Council Member Bendo introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Reinhart, and it was duly adopted, all four council members present voting in the affirmative.

(ORD. #3085/24)

Ordinance to Amend the Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Long Beach Re: Various Boards and Commissions

Council Pres. Finn introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bendo, and it was duly adopted, all four council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #34/24)

Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Community Development Fund for the 48<sup>th</sup> Program Year.

Council Member Reinhart introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Pres. Finn, and it was duly adopted, all four council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #35/23)

Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

Council Member Bendo introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Reinhart, and it was duly adopted by three affirmative votes. Council Member Lester voted No.

(RES. #36/23)

Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

Council Pres. Finn introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Reinhart, and it was duly adopted, all four council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #37/23)

Resolution Authorizing Amendments to the Urban Development Fund Budget Years 2014-2023

Council Member Lester introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Pres. Finn, and it was duly adopted, all four council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #38/23)

Resolution Adopting the City of Long Beach Program for Public Information

Council Member Reinhart introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bendo, and it was duly adopted, all four council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #39/23)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase License Plate Reader Equipment Under New York State Contract

Council Member Lester introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution (as amended), seconded by Pres. Finn, and it was duly adopted, all four council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #40/23)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Accept a Charitable Donation

Council Member Bendo introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Pres. Finn, and it was duly adopted, all four council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #41/23)

Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

There being no further business before the Council, Council Member Lester made a motion to close the meeting. It was seconded by Pres. Finn and was duly closed, all four council members present voting in the affirmative.

Dated: March 20, 2024

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David W. Fraser  
City Clerk

**Good and Welfare**

Liz Treston – 37 Wyoming Ave

Spoke about the Bus Patrol ticketing program and asked about the audited financials

Ron Paganini – 62 Harmon St

Spoke about overtime, firefighters being sent to the Fire Academy and taxes

Russell Blank – 96 Wisconsin St

Thanked the LBPD traffic division for their help with parking enforcement and the LBPD for dog enforcement

Jennifer Sarafin

Spoke about the Rapid Act and issues with the proposed wind farm project

James Hodge – 95 E Fulton St

Thanked Dr. Banks for the jet ski donation, thanked women for women's history month and spoke about the use of urban development money

Michael Delury – 6 June Wk

Spoke about the planning board

Judi Vining – 410 e Broadway

Spoke about the drug take back day event

Crystal Lake – 206 E Market St

Spoke about environmental justice

Michal Zakai – 321 W Beech St

Spoke about issues at the public library

Paula Banks-Davis – 270 W Bay Dr

Spoke about her donation (see item #10) and about street lights on W Bay Dr

Eileen Hession – 516 W Beech St

Spoke about the Historical Society fundraiser, the Magnolia Senior Center fundraiser, the High School play and a library event

Jackey Odem – 237 W Pine St

Spoke about the MLK center and Sherman Brown Park