

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
HELD MAY 11, 2021**

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Long Beach was held on Tuesday, May 11th, 2021.

Present were Council President Bendo and Council Members Delury, Mandel, McInnis and Treston.

Deputy Corporation Counsel Richard Berrios and City Manager Donna Gayden were also present.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, public attendance was suspended for this meeting. The following notice was posted prior to the meeting:

In light of current health concerns and as per Gov. Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 we are making the following changes for this Council Meeting:

- **Public attendance for this meeting will be suspended.** A live Stream of the meeting will be available on our YouTube channel. Please visit [longbeachny.gov/councilmeetings](https://www.longbeachny.gov/councilmeetings) for the link to our YouTube channel.
- Anyone wishing to directly participate in the meeting was provided with a link to the Zoom meeting

The public hearing was held

PUBLIC HEARING: For the purpose of giving citizens an adequate opportunity to publicly present their views on the General Summary of the Proposed Budget for the year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

City Comptroller, Inna Reznik gave a power point presentation on the General Summary of the Proposed Budget for the year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Council President, John Bendo noted that the tax levy was being reduced by 1.5 percent, a significant drop in the tax levy increase.

Roy Lester (72 Boyd St) – asked several questions regarding the proposed budget including new positions and overtime.

The City Manager, Donna M. Gayden and the City Comptroller, Inna Reznik both answered all questions. Deputy Corporation Counsel, Rich Berrios also answered a portion of Mr. Lester's questions regarding Corporation Counsel.

Brian Wells – thanked everyone for the resolution honoring the LB Police Officers and asked about the defunding of the narcotics task force and spoke about the importance of this department and the safety of the community. Mr. Wells asked the City Council to please reconsider the elimination of these positions very carefully.

Commissioner Walsh responded to Mr. Well's concerns and ensured the audience that the Police Department was addressing all the needs of the city in an effort to keeping everyone safe.

Kevin Heller – asked about the additional positions that were added to the budget and asked about the process of the addition of positions and raises that were not previously budgeted for.

Ms. Gayden explained that there was money in the contingency fund to help bring people's salary up to minimum wage.

Mr. Heller also asked about the retainer fees and if the state would be helping with those costs.

Ms. Gayden noted that the city has conversation with the state on an ongoing basis and they are aware of what the city's needs are. She also added that the city was told to move ahead.

William Doepper – asked about the new fees for the beach passes and the senior citizen pricing. He also asked about the layoffs the previous year and then the rehiring as well as salary increases.

Council President Bendo responded to Mr. Doepper's question regarding the beach pass fees.

City Manager, Donna M. Gayden responded to his question regarding the layoffs and the rehiring of staff.

Council President Bendo concluded with his opinion on how important it was to bring in professional people with the right skills to help fix things financially.

Council Member Delury also noted that it takes a lot of financial ability to be able to manage the city effectively and when money is spent the correct way, there is a good return on the investment. He also noted how amazing it was that the tax rate was lowered as much as it was based on this presentation and thanked everyone for their hard work.

The calendar items were read by the City Clerk

An item was added by unanimous consent to the agenda:

#1 – Resolution Honoring the Members of the Long Beach Police Department

Police Commissioner Walsh noted that May 15th was Law Enforcement Officer's Day and this year, there were 264 Police Officers that were killed in the line of duty, and it was one of the highest totals in the history of the United States. He went on to speak about the bravery and dedication of all police officers and thanked the City Council and the Long Beach Community for giving this recognition to all law enforcement who work to ensure the safety and security of all.

Ed note: This item was called out of order before the public hearing

The voting portion of the meeting was then begun.

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

(RES. #84/21)

Resolution Honoring the Members of the Long Beach Police Department

There being no further business before the Council, Council Pres. Bendo made a motion to close the meeting. It was seconded by Ms. Treston and was duly closed, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

Dated: May 12, 2021

David W. Fraser
City Clerk