

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
HELD MAY 21, 2024**

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Long Beach was held on Tuesday May 21, 2024.

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

Corporation Counsel Frank Dikranis and City Manager Daniel Creighton were also present.

City Manager, Daniel Creighton began his report and noted there would be a capital plan presentation. He highlighted some of the events that took place over the past weekend:

- Pacific Playground Opening
- Arts Council Porch Fest

He stated that both events were successful and thanked all those city employees who helped make it happen.

Mr. Creighton reminded the audience that the upcoming weekend was Memorial Day weekend and the opening of our beaches and announced that beach passes would be available for purchase.

He also noted some of the upcoming events that would be taking place:

- Farmer's Market – Kennedy Plaza
- City Manager's Race to Remember
- Memorial Day Parade
- 50th Anniversary of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week

The public hearings were held

PUBLIC HEARING: For the purpose of giving citizens an adequate opportunity to publicly present their views on the General Summary of the Capital Improvement Program for the Five-Year Period from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2029

Commissioner of Public Works, Joe Febrizio gave the 2024-2025 capital budget and capital improvement plan presentation. He mentioned that both items were available on the website.

Council Member Bendo had questions regarding several items in the capital budget which included the Central Garage, EMS stretchers, police storage trailer, police records management system, salt storage dome, playgrounds, street sweeper, the parking study, and the sewer upgrades.

Mr. Bendo's questions were answered by Commissioner Febrizio, Fire Commissioner Joe Miller, Ms. Patti Bourne, Director of Economic Development and City Manager, Daniel Creighton.

Council Member Lester asked about the bond rates and what the payments would be on the bond.

Mr. Febrizio replied that would be better answered by the City Comptroller.

Mr. Bendo asked about the money that was already borrowed (old money) and was not being used.

Commissioner Febrizio noted that he, the City Comptroller, and the City Manager work closely when it comes to that situation and how it can become very challenging when it comes to the planning component of projects.

Council Member Reinhart asked about the \$1 million dollar cost for the Salt Storage Dome.

Mr. Febrizio noted that the cost was high, and they were currently working on the design to go out to bid and hoped that the bid would come in lower.

Mr. Reinhart also asked about the new Trolleys that are being purchased with FTA (Federal Transit Administration) money and what was going to happen with the existing trolleys.

Mr. Creighton replied that he believed that the trolleys “age out” and are typically replaced every couple of years.

Council Vice President Fiumara noted that one of the trolleys were quite old and asked if they age out by mileage or years.

The City Manager replied that usually it’s by mileage and years.

Mr. Reinhart felt that it would be beneficial to the city if the older trolleys could be sold. He also expressed his support for and the importance of having a Parking Committee that included residents as part of the parking study. Mr. Reinhart recognized how each neighborhood was specific to the challenges of parking. He then expressed his support about “posting” to recognize how city workers save the residents money by completing a project rather than having a private construction company do the work. Mr. Reinhart thanked Commissioner Febrizio and all the city workers who took part in the renovation of Pacific Blvd. Playground and how important it is in having updated and safe playgrounds throughout our city.

Ms. Patti Bourne then updated the council on the previous question about the trolleys. She noted that Mr. Mike Robinson, Director of Fleet Management, just informed her that the FTA allows the city to replace the trolleys after 10 years and the older ones could be sold for the maximum possible amount.

Mr. Fiumara asked about the Salt Storage Dome and noted that after doing some research, mentioned other scenarios and options that could be beneficial and cost-saving to the city.

Mr. Febrizio responded to Mr. Fiumara’s suggestions and informed the council that voting on the capital plan now was to approve the projects and did not mean they were voting on spending the money. He added that this is a rigid process, and nothing is final until the council approves the borrowing.

Council President Finn asked about the turf resurfacing at the recreation center.

Commissioner Joe Brand replied that the turf was resurfaced back in 2005 and it was time for resurfacing. He added that there should be several competitive bids on it and the city should be able to get a good price.

Council Member Lester asked about the reimbursement on borrowed money and how long it takes.

Commissioner Febrizio did not have that specific information but did note that it takes time to get the money back and varied depending on the project.

Mr. Lester also asked for data on the past cost of borrowing and the refinancing of the BANS's (Bond Anticipation Notes) that presently exist. He asked if they were long term or short-term debt.

Mr. Febrizio replied that these questions would be better answered by the City Comptroller and extended her apologies for not being present.

Mr. Lester then asked about the high-pressure sand filter and sewer system projects.

Commissioner Febrizio replied to Mr. Lester's questions.

The City Manager reminded the council that it was important to know that the vote on the capital plan is for approving the projects and the bonding authorization will be a separate vote needing approval from the City Council at a later date.

Mike Delury – Spoke in support of the item and asked about the replacement of the water mains in the “Walks.”

Tom Knag (20 December Wk) – Spoke in support of the item.

Liz Treston (37 Wyoming Ave) – Spoke in support of the item and asked that the hazard mitigation project for the bulkheads on Clark Street be reconsidered.

Sara Madenessi (340 W Chester St) – Asked why we included repairs to City Hall when the comprehensive plan states that City Hall may be moved to the Stop and Shop property.

The City Manager replied that it was still questionable about moving City Hall and there were repairs that needed to keep the building operational, regardless of the decision.

A very emotional resident spoke about an ongoing issue at the Stop and Shop parking lot, and she was referred to the Police Commissioner for assistance.

Lynn Cris – commented on the renovation of Kennedy Plaza and asked why this needed to be done. She also asked about the relocation of the central garage.

Ms. Bourne responded by explaining that this was part of a grant that would help bring Kennedy Plaza up to date to make it more useful and be able to be utilized year-round. She continued explaining the different phases and steps that took place and that it was 100% funded by the state.

Commissioner Febrizio replied to Ms. Cris's question regarding the Central Garage and noted that a study was being done to build a new Central Garage at a different location.

Ms. Bourne added that under the direction of the City Manager, the city was doing a more extensive grant search and application process, and being more strategic in looking at what is needed.

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, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

The City Manager noted that he prepared the errata sheet presentation based upon the questions and comments he received from the City Council individually. He then explained how the errata sheet worked and began his presentation.

On behalf of John Mooney, President of the CSEA and the CSEA employees, Mr. Sean O'Neill thanked the City Manager, the City Comptroller, Commissioner Joe Febrizio, and the City Council for their hard work and efforts that went into this budget.

Council President Finn noted that one of the main priorities of this council was to present a balanced budget at a 0% tax increase and based on the input from all the Council Members and the work that the City Manager and City Comptroller put together, this was achieved. He thanked them and commended them for this success. Mr. Finn also acknowledged CSEA for their cooperation and help with the budget process and was pleased with no layoffs and cuts in service. He concluded by saying that this was a victory for the residents and the taxpayers of Long Beach.

Council Pres. Finn made a motion to adopt the errata sheet into the proposed budget and make changes to the following items:

- In section 1- change the expenditure figure of \$104,775,085.00 to \$104,685,861
- In section 3 - change the amount of real estate taxes required from \$60,115,884.00 to \$59,494,403
- And the Homestead tax rate from \$24.5357 per \$100 assessed valuation to \$24.2821 per \$100 assessed valuation
- And the non-Homestead tax rate from \$43.8389 per \$100 assessed valuation to \$43.3857 per \$100 assessed valuation

It was seconded by Mr. Reinhart and was passed with four affirmative votes. Council Member Lester Abstained.

Council Member Bendo made a motion to correct the following in the line A8170.51103 for Street Maintenance:

- Overtime Salaries: change the Proposed Budget from 410,000 to 220,000 and the Adopted Budget from 390,000 to 200,000.

It was seconded by Mr. Reinhart and was passed with four affirmative votes. Council Member Lester Abstained.

Ronald Paganini – asked if four firefighters were hired within this budget and how many total firefighters were now employed. He expressed his concern about future costs to the city.

The City Manager spoke about the present Fire Department agreement and the contractual obligations.

The calendar items were read by the City Clerk

#1 – Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of a Capital Improvement Program for Five Years from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2029, Inclusive

A hearing was held on this item already.

#2 – Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2024 and Ending June 30, 2025, Appropriating Sums Set Forth Therein and Determining and Fixing the Real Estate Tax Levy

A hearing was held on this item already.

#3 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a License Agreement with LI Greenmarkets, Inc., for the Purpose of Hosting a Farmers Market

Council Pres. Finn made a motion to change the cost for each day from \$75 to \$100. It was seconded by Mr. Reinhart and was carried unanimously.

The City Manager explained that this resolution would allow the LI Greenmarkets, Inc. to continue to provide a Farmer’s Market in Kennedy Plaza for the residents and visitors of Long Beach.

Mr. Lester expressed his concern that the city wasn’t receiving its fair share for the use of Kennedy Plaza for this particular event.

Mr. John McNally, Director of Public Relations, spoke about the benefits of having these events for the city and the residents. He also noted how other municipalities are paid for these types of events.

Mr. Lester continued to express his opinion on how the city should be the organizer of the event and receive the money from the vendors instead of LI Greenmarkets, Inc.

Council Vice President Fiumara noted that it would cost the city more to take on the coordination of this event. He gave several examples, i.e., insurance, setup, and cleanup. He also added that this event was more of a “quality-of-life” purpose for the residents it serves.

Mr. Bendo asked if the city was incurring any costs for having this event.

Mr. McNally replied that the city was not incurring any costs.

Mr. Bendo asked about the COVID guidelines within the contract and if they were still needed.

Corporation Counsel, Frank Dikranis replied that he believed it was deleted.

Council Member Reinhart added that the Farmers Market and Arts in the Plaza are events for the residents and the city should provide the space needed to help provide these services.

Bernardita Shulac Stern – asked if the Farmer’s Market could move their hours to start later in the day for those who do not get home in time.

#4 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a License Agreement with Arts in the Plaza, Inc., for the Purpose of Hosting Arts in the Plaza

Council Pres. Finn made a motion to change the cost for each day from \$50 to \$100. It was seconded by Mr. Reinhart and was carried unanimously.

The City Manager explained that this item was to amend and increase the cost for this event.

Council Vice President Fiumara once again, noted that the purpose of the Arts in the Plaza was more of a quality-of-life purpose enjoyed by the residents and believed it would not be a huge moneymaker for the city.

Council President Finn added that the Arts in the Plaza was an essential component of the city’s cultural make-up. He added that as a musician and person who appreciates art in all forms, he felt that this was something that Long Beach *could not* and *should not* live without.

#5 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Renew a Records Management System for the City’s Police Department

Mr. Creighton explained that this item would renew the contract for the Police Department’s Records Management System. He noted that this was a one-year extension since the Police Department was currently looking to get a new Records Management System.

Mr. Bendo asked for clarity on the cost stated in the contract.

Police Commissioner DePalma clarified the cost.

#6 – Resolution Authorizing Settlement of an Action Brought by Kevin Holian and Debra Holian Against the City of Long Beach

The City Manager explained the purpose of this resolution.

Before the voting portion of the meeting, the City Clerk delivered to each member of the City Council the Letter of Review performed by the Office of the State Comptroller (within ten days after the filing of said report)

The voting portion of the meeting was then begun.

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

(RES. #75/24)

Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of a Capital Improvement Program for Five Years from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2029, Inclusive

Council Pres. Finn introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution (as amended), seconded by Mr. Reinhart, and it was duly adopted by four affirmative votes. Council Member Lester voted No.

(RES. #76/24)

Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2024 and Ending June 30, 2025, Appropriating Sums Set Forth Therein and Determining and Fixing the Real Estate Tax Levy.

Council Member Reinhart introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution (as amended), seconded by Mr. Fiumara, and it was duly adopted by four affirmative votes. Council Member Lester voted No.

(RES. #77/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a License Agreement with LI Greenmarkets, Inc., for the Purpose of Hosting a Farmers Market

Council Member Bendo introduced and moved the adoption of the following resolution (as amended), seconded by Pres. Finn, and it was duly adopted by four affirmative votes. Council Member Lester voted No.

(RES. #78/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a License Agreement with Arts in the Plaza, Inc., for the Purpose of Hosting Arts in the Plaza

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

(RES. #79/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Renew a Records Management System for the City's Police Department

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

(RES. #80/24)

Resolution Authorizing Settlement of an Action Brought by Kevin Holian and Debra Holian Against the City of Long Beach

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

Dated: May 22, 2024

David W. Fraser
City Clerk

Good and Welfare

Ron Paganini – 62 Harmon St

Spoke about the proposed off shore wind farm
and about City Council Meetings

Liz Treston – 37 Wyoming Ave

Spoke about flood insurance

Caren Reskin

Spoke about the proposed off shore wind farm