

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
HELD JUNE 4, 2024**

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Long Beach was held on Tuesday June 4, 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.

The City Manager, Daniel Creighton began his report by announcing the adoption of the 0% tax increase budget. He thanked the City Council and Union leaders for coming together to help make this possible. Mr. Creighton noted a successful Memorial Day weekend. He then added that due to the many complaints he had received from residents, the city would be cracking down on ocean beach park violations. The City Manager also announced that there was a press conference that took place with the Red Cross regarding hurricane season. He also added that the City would be partnering with Arts in the Plaza and Artists in Partnership to hold “Friday Nights In the Plaza” in Kennedy Plaza and then asked everyone to please join the city and the Joint Veterans Organizations for a Flag Day ceremony on Friday, June 14th at 1:30pm at the Recreation complex.

Mr. Creighton then concluded by sharing some Public Works updates:

- Completion of the 200 Block of East Market Street project
- The beginning of the repaving of Park Avenue between Riverside and Long Beach Blvd.

City Council President Finn thanked the City Manager, the City Comptroller, all the Department Heads and everyone else who participated in working so hard during the budget process.

The calendar items were read by the City Clerk

#1 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Pay Administrative Costs Under the Emergency Tenant Protection Act, Authorizing the Passing on of Administrative Costs to the Owners of the Buildings Included Under Such Act, and Directing the City Comptroller to Make Billing Therefore

Mr. Creighton explained the reason and purpose for this resolution.

#2 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Renew the City’s Agreements for Disaster Management Response and Recovery Consulting Services

The City Manager noted that this renewal agreement would allow for the completion of the ten remaining and ongoing projects from Hurricane Sandy.

Council Member Reinhart asked for a recap on the remaining projects that need completion.

Mr. Creighton noted the following:

- Firehouse stations 1 and 2
- 150 Pine Street
- Water Treatment Plant
- City Hall
- City Garage
- Recreation Senior Center
- Animal Shelter
- Public Records storage
- Police Auxiliary Building
- Waste Water Treatment Plant

Council Member Bendo asked why it was taking so long to complete these projects.

Public Works Commissioner, Joe Febrizio explained that the FEMA public assistance program is unfortunately a very long and drawn-out process. He did note that on the positive side, the city had 52 project worksheets because of Hurricane Sandy, and to date, 42 of those project worksheets have been closed out. Mr. Febrizio also explained the process involved in completing the remaining projects.

#3 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase a Trolley Bus Under a State of Washington Contract

The City Manager explained that this resolution would allow the city to replace one of the Trolley buses.

Council Member Lester asked for clarity on how the trolley buses were used.

Mr. Michael Robinson, Director of Fleet Management noted that the trolley buses are used on the regular route, except for the open trolley which is used throughout the summer months only. .

Mr. Lester asked about the cost of a bus.

Mr. Robinson replied that it cost \$67,000.00 and that 90% of the cost is paid under a grant.

A discussion continued regarding purchasing different types of buses and the cost involved, i.e., Clean Natural Gas (CNG) and Electric.

Amy Rapoport (360 Shore Rd) – disagreed with spending \$67,000.00 for a trolley bus and thought the city should just purchase a regular bus.

Council Member Bendo noted that purchasing the Trolley would only cost the city \$6,700.00 due to the grant that absorbed 90% of the cost vs. purchasing a regular bus.

Octavio (W Walnut St) – spoke against purchasing electrical vehicles and supported purchasing the Trolley that he believed is enjoyed by the residents.

Allison Blanchette – spoke about the type of engines on the trolleys and spoke about sustainable transportation and the lack of infrastructure needed to support other types of vehicles. She also asked what happened to the old trolley.

Mr. Robinson explained that the city could auction it off and anything over \$5,000.00 would go back to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or they could subtract it from the next grant.

Tim Kramer (361 E Broadway) – spoke about EV (Electric Vehicles) vs. Gas vehicles and the costs involved in maintaining an EV.

Mr. Robinson added that a feasibility study and cost analysis was put in the competitive grant application and in the capital plan (with a smaller grant) in the event the city did not get the competitive grant to do the study to determine the cost of the electric vehicle and where to build the facility. He noted that this included an Environmental study as well.

Mr. Lester asked about the sizes of the different trolleys and the costs.

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

Nate Epstein (200 Blackheath Rd, Lido Beach) – spoke in support of expanding public transportation and how difficult it was driving throughout the city during the summer season.

#4 – Resolution Adopting a City of Long Beach Federal Transit Administration Safety Plan

The City Manager noted that this resolution would allow the city to be in compliance with the (FTA) Federal Transit Administration.

Council Member Reinhart asked if there had been anything added this year that helped the city to remain in compliance.

Mr. Creighton noted that there were some non-significant updates made but for the most part, it was in line with what it was before.

Council Member Bendo asked who the Chief Safety Officer was.

Mr. Creighton replied that it was Michael Robinson, Director of Fleet Management.

Mr. Bendo also noted that the plan called for employee training and wanted to know if this training was done internally.

Mr. Robinson replied that it was done internally.

#5 – Resolution Approving the Reimbursement of Various Volunteer Fire Department Expenses

The City Manager explained that this resolution would approve management controls for the volunteer fire department expenses to be reimbursed only upon submission and approval by the city manager or the comptroller.

Editor's Note: Items 6, 7 and 8 were all called together

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

#7 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Repair of a 2006 Vactor Truck from the Sole Source Provider

#8 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Repair of a 2015 Vactor Truck from the Sole Source Provider

Mr. Creighton gave a thorough explanation of these items and supported repairing vs. purchasing new trucks.

Commissioner Joe Febrizio spoke about the cost of a new truck being \$650,000 - \$700,000 and could take up to 2 years to obtain one.

Mr. Lester asked if the city investigated purchasing used Vactor Trucks.

Mr. Dave Koenig, Chief Mechanic of the Central Garage replied that they did look online, and a used Vactor Truck would cost around \$245,000.00 that would have more mileage and hours than the ones the city already owned.

A discussion continued regarding the maintenance and age of the trucks.

Council Member Reinhart asked how much it would cost to rent a truck.

Mr. Febrizio replied that it would be \$35,000 per quarter.

Mr. Lester asked how long it would take to repair the trucks.

Mr. Koenig replied that the newer truck would be repaired in approximately two to three weeks and the 2006 truck would probably take two months since there was more work that was needed on that truck.

Commissioner Febrizio noted that these trucks were probably the most important pieces of apparatus that the city has because they are used in so many situations. He then introduced Mr. Barry Weed, Superintendent of Sewer Maintenance.

Mr. Weed thanked the council for putting this item on the agenda and stated that this was something he was pushing for 2 years. He also added that the trucks are used in many ways and are always in need of maintenance which is why this resolution is necessary.

Council Vice President Fiumara asked for clarity on the monthly cost and what repairs are being done on the trucks when they are sent out.

Mr. Koenig replied to Mr. Fiumara's questions.

Council Member Reinhart asked about warranties for the different parts.

Mr. Koenig responded to Mr. Reinhart's question.

The City Manager also stated that the city should get at least another 10 years' worth out of these trucks.

Mr. Koenig replied yes – adding if not 20 years.

Mr. Weed added that there are things that the department can do to help in maintaining the trucks including lining the tank once its repaired.

Mr. Bendo asked about a contingency plan during hurricane season in the event the truck is needed, and it is tied up for repairs.

Mr. Koenig noted that if that should this be the case, the city could get a truck on a short-term rental.

Tim Kramer (361 E Broadway) – offered suggestions on maintaining parts of the trucks.

#9 – Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase Salt (Mineral Crushed Rock) Under a New York State Contract

Mr. Creighton noted that this resolution would allow the city to purchase replacement salt for the upcoming snow season.

Eileen Hession – questioned the snow removal overtime money and the cost of the salt. She also asked about the salt enclosure for storing the salt.

Mr. Creighton replied that this would cover the whole snow season and the supply is good for one year. He also noted that there was a grant put in place to help pay for the storage enclosure unit for the salt.

Mr. Fiumara also responded to Ms. Hession's remarks regarding the unspent snow removal overtime money.

The City Manager then clarified that the unspent overtime money in item six is the money that is being transferred to pay for the VAC truck.

#10 – Resolution Authorizing the Retention of Outside Counsel

Mr. Creighton explained that this would allow the city to hire outside counsel to represent the city in zoning issues.

Eileen Hession – welcomed Mr. Dikranis as Corporation Counsel and suggested the city do much less settling of cases and more going to court to win. She added that the city should have less outside counsel and allow the corporation counsel to handle more cases in-house.

Corporation Counsel, Frank Dikranis explained the reasons why this would be a conflict of interest in this particular case, and the importance of having outside counsel present on behalf of the city.

Christina Kramer – welcomed Mr. Dikranis and asked about hiring outside counsel to represent the community in the offshore wind.

Mr. Dikranis explained that the city had hired a firm to negotiate with Equinor to settle and grant the lease when the city was in favor of the project. He then added that since things have

changed, the City Council had directed him to take a strong position and it was strongly stated that the city was not going to grant the lease. Mr. Dikranis continued to explain the city's position and the need to have outside counsel represent it.

Ms. Kremer asked if it could be possible to put a committee together to confer with the attorneys who will be taking on the case.

James Hodge (95 E Fulton St) – welcomed Mr. Dikranis and asked him to guide the city in many areas that could possibly save the city money. He specifically mentioned the topic of the MLK eviction situation.

The City Manager explained that the city was working with the MLK Board to help come to some type of an agreement.

#11 – Resolution Authorizing Publication for Hearing of an Ordinance Authorizing Financing for Various Capital Projects in and for the City, Stating the Estimated Total Cost Thereof is \$22,369,395

Pres. Finn made a motion to change in section one the figure of \$8,245,424 to \$8,245,414. It was seconded by Mr. Reinhart and was passed unanimously.

A Public Hearing will be held at City Hall, 1 West Chester Street, Long Beach, New York, on June 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

#12 – Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings of May 7, 2024 and May 21, 2024

Council Member Bendo made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Mr. Reinhart and was carried unanimously.

The voting portion of the meeting was then begun.

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. #81/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Pay Administrative Costs Under the Emergency Tenant Protection Act, Authorizing the Passing on of Administrative Costs to the Owners of the Buildings Included Under Such Act, and Directing the City Comptroller to Make Billing Therefore

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. #82/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Renew the City's Agreements for Disaster Management Response and Recovery Consulting Services

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

(RES. #83/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase a Trolley Bus Under a State of Washington Contract

Council Member Lester 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. #84/24)

Resolution Adopting a City of Long Beach Federal Transit Administration Safety Plan

Council Member Bendo 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. #85/24)

Resolution Approving the Reimbursement of Various Volunteer Fire Department Expenses

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. #86/24)

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. Fiumara, and it was duly adopted, all five council members present voting in the affirmative.

(RES. #87/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Repair of a 2006 Vactor Truck from the Sole Source Provider

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. #88/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into an Agreement for the Repair of a 2015 Vactor Truck from the Sole Source Provider

Council Member Bendo 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. #89/24)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase Salt (Mineral Crushed Rock)
Under a New York State Contract

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. #90/24)

Resolution Authorizing the Retention of Outside Counsel

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

(RES. #91/24)

Resolution Authorizing Publication for Hearing of an Ordinance Authorizing Financing for Various Capital Projects in and for the City, Stating the Estimated Total Cost Thereof is \$22,369,395

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

Dated: June 5, 2024

David W. Fraser
City Clerk

Good and Welfare

Ron Paganini – 62 Harmon St

Spoke about overtime, the paid Fire Dept, the Long Beach Housing Authority and the proposed off shore wind farm.

Amy Rapoport – 360 Shore Rd

Spoke about the LIRR station and about the placement of mulch around trees in the municipal parking fields

Nathaniel Epstien

Spoke about the Police Dept

Christina Kramer

Spoke about the proposed off shore wind farm

Tim Kramer – 361 E Broadway

Spoke about retail store vacancies in Long Beach and about debt service in the budget

Rev. Ron McHenry – 35 Oak Ct

Spoke about an incident involving the LBPD

James Hodge- 95 E Fulton St

Spoke about an incident involving the LBPD